

Fall 2023

# Oswego News

The official newsletter of the Village of Oswego, Illinois

## Community Investment

The latest infrastructure improvement projects p. 8

Village's portion of the tax bill p. 3

Wine Off the Fox returns Labor Day weekend p. 5

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**OSWEGO NEWS**

Oswego News is the official newsletter of the Village of Oswego, published quarterly and mailed to more than 15,000 Oswego postal customers. Please direct comments, suggestions and questions, including advertising to:

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- PUBLIC WORKS** 630-554-3242
- VILLAGE CLERK** 630-554-3259
- UTILITY/WATER BILLING** 630-554-2282

*Cover image: Traffic lights on U.S. Route 34/ Washington Street at the intersection of Main Street.*

FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT



*New Beginnings*

FALL IS MY FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR; it has always symbolized a new beginning to me. Growing up, fall always meant new friends to meet at school, new experiences and endless possibilities. As the cool breeze begins to sweep through our beloved Village, I'm delighted to share some important updates and developments that will sweep through our community.

I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Karen Novy as our new Village Trustee. Karen replaces Luis Perez who moved out of state for work. With her extensive experience in community engagement and dedication to making Oswego a better place for all residents, Karen is a valuable addition to the Village Board. Please join me in welcoming and supporting her as she begins her service to the residents.

It has also been a busy time for infrastructure improvements in our community. In this newsletter, you'll find more information about the investment the Village is making to both maintain our infrastructure and plan for future growth. See page 8 for more information.

One of the biggest projects under way is the work to widen Wolfs Crossing. The construction of a roundabout at Harvey Road is the first of 10 segments planned that will ease traffic congestion and enhance connectivity in the area.

Another big accomplishment, a goal 25 years in the making, is the installation of two new downtown traffic signals that were turned on July 27. These signals will improve pedestrian safety and are synchronized to optimize traffic flow through the downtown. But it's not just the new things that are exciting. We are also committed to continuing to maintain our roadways. This year's road resurfacing project is in progress, targeting key roads that need attention, providing smoother and safer driving experiences.

Also downtown and part of the Village's ongoing investment in its water infrastructure, a new water main is being installed along Van Buren. Once finished this fall, it will enhance water pressure to residents and businesses alike. The project also includes the construction of new curbs, sidewalks and additional public parking in the area.

Looking ahead, don't forget to mark your calendars for one of my favorite events of the year, the Oswego Christmas Walk, on Friday, December 1. This annual event is a time of joy and celebration, bringing together the community to enjoy festive decorations, holiday performances and family fun.

Finally, as we bid farewell to the warm summer days and welcome the vibrant colors of autumn, let us cherish the spirit of togetherness and gratitude that define Oswego. I am incredibly proud to serve as your Village President and remain committed to making Oswego a place everyone can call home.

  
 Ryan Kauffman  
 Oswego Village President



## NEW TRUSTEE

The Board of Trustees approved Village President Ryan Kauffman's appointment of Karen Novy at a special meeting on July 5. The vacancy was created by the resignation of Trustee Luis Perez in May.

Novy will serve until the 2025 Consolidated Election, at which time a candidate will be elected to complete the remaining two-year term of the vacant seat.

The public is always invited to attend Village Board meetings. Meetings are usually scheduled on the first and third Tuesdays of the month: 6 p.m. Committee of the Whole, and 7 p.m. Village Board. Meetings are also live streamed and available for viewing afterwards. Visit [oswegoil.org/watch](https://oswegoil.org/watch).



## VILLAGE'S PORTION = 1.63% OF TAX BILL

**DID YOU KNOW...** Less than 2 cents of every dollar you pay in property tax goes to the Village of Oswego?

Your property dollars are split between many different local government bodies to provide services you use every day, including schools, libraries, fire protection and more.

The Village of Oswego receives the second smallest share of the property tax of any taxing district to which Oswego residents pay. Of your total property tax bill, just 1.63%, or less than two cents of every dollar, goes to the Village of Oswego to provide services such as police protection, road repairs, snow removal, brush pick up, and water delivery.

### Where do your property taxes go?



## VIDEO GAMING

The Village Board discussed video gaming at its July 18 Committee of the Whole meeting. As of July 2023, the Village has 26 active gaming licenses in Oswego. Twelve of the licenses are held by gaming cafes, while the remaining licenses allow businesses including restaurants and gas stations to operate gaming machines. Gaming cafes are defined as establishments where the primary revenue source comes from gaming.

The Village receives 5% of the revenue from video gaming and collected more than \$432,000 in 2022. Gaming revenue is deposited in the Village's general fund.

To learn more about video gaming in Oswego and view a map of gaming locations, visit [oswegoil.org/gaming](https://oswegoil.org/gaming). To share feedback on video gaming in Oswego, please contact Village President Ryan Kaufman and Village Trustees by email and attend Village Board meetings: [oswegoil.org/villageboard](https://oswegoil.org/villageboard).

Year	2021	2022	JAN-JUNE 2023
Annual Revenue (Village Share)	\$322,042	\$432,601	\$268,810
Number of Gaming Cafes	5	8	12
Total Gaming Licenses	17	23	26



## Another great summer at Venue 1012

*Music, food and plenty of fun all summer at the Village's amphitheater*

RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES have been putting down blankets and setting up chairs to watch, listen, sing and dance to a variety of music genres and movies at Venue 1012's Summer Event Series. The summer series again featured a mixture of free concerts and movies at the Venue, along with bigger-name acts.

Countless friends and family have met at the new entertainment venue to catch up, have a few cold drinks, and savor local food from The Popcorn Shop,

Hells BBQ, Darkhorse Catering, Seb's Street Snacks and Freddie's off the Chain. Event-goers enjoyed beverages from Oswego Brewing Co. and Fox Valley Winery, showcasing the best of what Oswego has to offer.

Wine Off the Fox offers one more chance to enjoy Venue 1012 this summer. Watch for our announcement of next year's line up in future newsletters by subscribing to the Village's email newsletter or checking [venue1012.com](http://venue1012.com).



### THANK YOU TO VENUE 1012 SPONSORS

Anchor Bar  
 Benesch  
 Brain & Sons Heating & Air Conditioning  
 Diga-Talk+  
 Euclid Beverage  
 First Place Rental  
 Floral Expressions  
 Groot Industries  
 The Law Office of Aaron J. Vanagaitis, LLC

Metronet  
 The Pet's Home  
 Premiere Mailing & Printing  
 Prohibition Junction  
 Quick Signs, Inc.  
 Restoration 1 of Fox Valley  
 WDYS  
 Weblinx  
 Windy City Game Theater  
 Xfinity



## WINE OFF THE FOX RETURNS LABOR DAY WEEKEND BREAST CANCER FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Last year's inaugural event was so popular, we've added another day! The Venue 1012 event features wine tasting and live performances from all-female bands on September 1 and 2. A portion of each ticket benefits local organizations that provide breast cancer services and support.

Select and sip from over 20 varieties of wine including blush, white and red; seasonal craft beer from Oswego Brewing Co.; and non-alcoholic beverage options. Bring your own picnic or charcuterie board and relax while you listen to the hottest hits of the '60s, '70s, '80s and today from The PriSSillas on Friday, September 1 and Serendipity with headliner the Jersey Girls on Saturday, September 2.

Oswego's own Fox Valley Winery will be onsite to serve a selection of their favorite wines, while a variety of international, national and regional wine varieties will be poured by volunteers.

Ticket prices are based on the quantity of wine tasting tickets. Buy ticket packages early — price increase starts September 1. Get more information and buy Wine Off the Fox tickets at [venue1012.com](http://venue1012.com).



## CHRISTMAS WALK RETURNS DECEMBER 1

The Oswego Christmas Walk presented by Allied First Bank kicks off the holiday season on Friday, December 1. This family-friendly free event features music, train rides, ice sculpting, games, crafts and giveaways.

### SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Businesses and local organizations can invest in the community with a customized sponsorship.

### MAIN STREET BOOTHS

Booths will be available for local nonprofit organizations and businesses. Applications open in late August.

Learn more at [oswegochristmaswalk.com](http://oswegochristmaswalk.com).



# PUBLIC WORKS

FALL SEASON

## FREE CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION



EACH FALL, the curbside leaf vacuum program provides Oswego residents a cost-effective way to dispose of leaves. To prepare for collection, rake leaves into piles and place them on the parkway grass between the sidewalk and curb by 6 a.m. on the Monday of your specified collection week. Village crews will collect leaves three times this season.

Leaf collection dates are subject to change based on weather, leaf volume and collection rates.

**No brush, grass clippings, tree limbs, vines or trash will be collected.**

These materials can cause damage to our costly equipment and put the operator and residents in the area at risk of injury or death.

### LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

**Zone A** Weeks of October 16 and October 30

**Zone B** Weeks of October 16 and November 6

**Zone C** Weeks of October 23 and November 14

**All Zones** Week of November 20

To identify your zone, visit [bit.ly/Oswego\\_Leaf\\_Collection](http://bit.ly/Oswego_Leaf_Collection).

## FALL BRUSH COLLECTION

Final brush collection dates:

**Zone A:** Week of October 2

**Zone B:** Week of October 9

For guidelines and zone maps visit [bit.ly/Brush\\_Pick\\_up](http://bit.ly/Brush_Pick_up).

## FREE FALL CLEANUP

The week of November 13, items such as household waste, yard waste and bulk items will be collected by Groot. Place all items, along with your regular garbage and recycling, at the curb by 6 a.m. on your scheduled garbage day. Yard waste must be placed in 30-gallon Kraft yard waste bags. Stickers will not be required this week only. To dispose of appliances, televisions or other electronics, schedule a special pickup from Groot at 630-892-9294.

## YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The last regular yard waste collection will take place at the end of November. However, there will be a free yard waste collection the week of December 4. For this pickup only, stickers will not be required.

## NO TRASH COLLECTION

Residential waste and recycling will not be picked up on Labor Day, September 4, and Thursday, November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day during these weeks. For information, visit [oswegoil.org/waste](http://oswegoil.org/waste) or call Public Works at (630) 554-3242.

More information on collections: [bit.ly/CurbsideCollections](http://bit.ly/CurbsideCollections).



Thinking of  
**BUYING OR SELLING**  
Your Home?

**BC&W** CALL  
**CAROL GUIST**  
Real Estate Broker  
630.244.6808

#1

Real Estate Broker in Oswego in Units & Volume  
Source: NREID - Multiple Listing Service



## BEAUTY AND PURPOSE

The small triangle of property at Washington Street and Van Buren Avenue has been transformed into a new pollinator garden.

The Hilltop Gardeners Garden Club, with the help of Oswego's Public Works team, brought the garden to life through their vision and hard work. The garden was made possible in part with a ComEd Green Region Grant.

The garden includes shrubs, trees, native pollinator-friendly plants and hand-crafted bug hotels to provide shelter to important insects. In addition, a beautiful new sign was designed to welcome people to downtown Oswego.

Thank you to the Hilltop Gardeners, Public Works and ComEd for making this transformation possible.



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(Ends 11/20/2023. Not valid with any other offer.)

**\$1000 VALUE!**

**WE SUPPORT OSWEGO!**

- OHS Band Program
- Oswego Park District Venue 1012
- Hobbler Gobler Walk
- Fraidy Cat 5K
- Christmas Walk
- Oswego Chamber
- Food Drive – Fill The Box Truck
- Oswego Sports & Staff

**TAX CREDIT UP TO \$3350**

**UTILITY REBATES UP TO \$2995**

FINANCING AVAILABLE

## Family. Friends. Community.

**Janna Misek Ins Agcy Inc**  
Janna Misek, Agent  
1136 Douglas Road  
Oswego, IL 60543  
Bus: 630-554-1540  
Mon-Thurs 9:00am to 8:00pm  
Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am to 12:00pm  
Se habla Español

**We're all in this together.**  
State Farm® has a long tradition of being there. That's one reason why I'm proud to support The Community of Oswego.  
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1801075
State Farm, Bloomington, IL



# INVESTING TOWARD THE FUTURE

## An update on current infrastructure projects

This summer has been a big one for key infrastructure projects throughout Oswego. As a historic community that is also seeing growth, the Village has been placing a major focus on both repairing and maintaining the infrastructure we have and preparing for the community's continued growth, ensuring people can access the community, travel safely and have reliable drinking water for many generations. The downtown continues to be a major area for investment, along with the Village's water system and keeping roads maintained.

### WOLFS CROSSING

Work continues on the first segment of the Village's Wolfs Crossing road improvement project. Wolfs Crossing is being widened to a four-lane road, and a roundabout is being constructed at Harvey Road to improve safety and ease traffic congestion. The round-about construction at Harvey Road is scheduled for completion by the end of 2023. The project schedule has been modified while the contractor waits for ComEd to relocate power lines. The Village is working closely with the contractor to keep the project on schedule. The Village will

continue to provide updates through email bulletins and the Village's website. Additional FAQs are available online as well. Visit [oswegoil.org/wolfscrossing](https://oswegoil.org/wolfscrossing). The Village asks for your patience as work continues and causes increased traffic congestion in the area, especially as the school year starts.

### DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC SIGNALS

The Village completed major safety improvements in the downtown area this summer with the addition of two new traffic signals on U.S. Route 34/Washington Street at the intersections of Main and Harrison streets. To coordinate traffic flow, all traffic signals on Route 34 from Illinois Route 31, near Village Hall, to Illinois Route 25, at the intersection of Madison and Chicago, are now electronically interconnected. In addition, the railroad warning signals on Route 34 communicate with the traffic signals to ensure that vehicles can clear the tracks prior to a train approaching. Using the most current technology, vehicles in the intersection will now be detected by cameras, not traffic loops.

Pedestrian safety has also been enhanced with improved ramps, pedestrian "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signs

and accessibility features including audible indicators. Use extra caution in the downtown area whether you are driving, biking or walking.

### VAN BUREN WATER MAIN

The Village launched a project this summer to replace the existing water main on sections of Van Buren Street in the downtown area. Replacing the water main will increase the flow to fire hydrants and ensure adequate water pressure to the adjacent residents and businesses.

The project includes the construction of new curbs, sidewalks and 50 additional public parking spaces in the area. The project is expected to be completed by the end of October.

### ROAD RESURFACING

This spring, the Village Board approved a \$2.9 million contract to resurface some of the Village's most worn streets during the 2023 construction season. Approximately 8 lane-miles of roadways are being resurfaced. Streets like Mill Road that see higher traffic volumes have been prioritized based on overall condition, level of traffic and other operational considerations.

### KENDALL COUNTY CONSTRUCTION

In August, the Kendall County Highway Department closed the intersection of Collins and Grove roads to all through traffic as construction begins on a new



Wolfs Crossing construction





*Installation of traffic lights on U.S. Route 34/Washington Street at the intersection of Main.*

roundabout in this location.

The County anticipates completing the project by late December, weather permitting. If the project can't be completed in December, the roads will reopen through the winter months until the contractor can resume work in the spring.

Questions about this project should be directed to the Kendall County Highway Department at 630-553-7616 or [highway@kendallcountyil.gov](mailto:highway@kendallcountyil.gov).

## LAKE MICHIGAN WATER SOURCE UPDATE

The Village's goal to connect to Lake Michigan water through the DuPage Water Commission (DWC) is on track for 2027. The Village is partnering with Montgomery and Yorkville to share the cost of the project.

In August, the Village Board heard the first of several presentations on funding this project, including the impacts on water rates. The Village continues to find ways to offset the cost of the project to our residents which is expected to cost approximately \$73 million. Federal grants and low-interest loans will help reduce the total cost of the project, as well as revenue from the Village's real estate transfer tax that was implemented in 2022.

This summer the Board approved money for the engineering phase that will be accomplished over the next two years, and will further solidify cost projections.

Additional information can be found at [oswegoil.org/water](https://oswegoil.org/water).

# BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS



## NEW BUSINESSES

### NOW OPEN

Mod Stitch – 79 Main St.

The Scoop – 108 Main St.

pOpshelf – 3060 Route 34

Bauman Family Funeral Home  
– 5600 Route 34

### COMING SOON

Orangetheory Fitness  
– 1540 Douglas Road

Whitetail Ridge Golf Dome  
– 3360 Station Drive

Belle Tire – 20 Kendall Point Drive

VASA Fitness – 3010 Route 34 (former  
Dominick’s property)

## BUSINESS CONCIERGE

The Village has launched a new program aimed at better serving small businesses in Oswego. The “Business Concierge” initiative offers a more personalized approach to the development review and permitting processes.

To help businesses open and/or complete their buildouts as quickly as possible, small businesses that participate in the program will receive individualized support from representatives of the Village’s Development Services and Economic Development departments.

To learn more, contact Development Project Manager Christopher Dall at 630-551-2311 or Economic Development Director Kevin Leighty at 630-551-2334.



PCI President and founder Angelo Kleronomos (left) and Vice President Bill Broderick

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

CONGRATULATIONS to Property Concepts, Inc. The Village of Oswego’s Economic Development Commission selected Property Concepts for its inaugural Business of the Month in July.

Property Concepts, Inc. (PCI) was founded in 1974 by long-time Oswego resident and business professional Angelo Kleronomos to offer full-service real estate development and property management.

PCI has completed several projects in and around Oswego including Hunt Club, Lakeview Estates, River Run and River Run Club.



## FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT



### BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

**SAFETY FIRST.** The Oswego Police Department and the Traffic Safety Unit are committed to keeping all children and pedestrians safe. With the new school year, please do not:

- Park in posted “no parking” areas
- Double park
- Stop or otherwise block the streets around your child’s school
- Block the driveways of area residents

### SHARE THE ROAD

**WHEN DRIVING** behind a school bus, allow a greater following distance than driving behind a car. This allows more time to stop once its yellow lights start flashing.

- It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- Never pass a bus from behind or from either direction on an undivided road if it is stopped to load or unload children.

Motorists are reminded that the **speed limit in all school zones is 20 MPH** when children are present.

Please be advised that extra enforcement details will be conducted in all area school zones, especially during the first few weeks of school.

As always, if you **See Something, Say Something**, and please **Drive Carefully**.

- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.

- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus.

- Be alert: Children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks.

## NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Oswego Police and Oswego School District 308 partner to keep our kids safe. A full time school resource officer serves in each high school. New this year, school resource officer Joe Cisneros will serve Oswego East High School and officer Tim Laurenzo will focus on Oswego High School.

The Police Department looks forward to a great 2023-2024 school year.



*Officer Joe Cisneros*



*Officer Tim Laurenzo*

## FROM THE CLERKS OFFICE

### WATCH MEETINGS FROM HOME

The public is always invited to attend or watch the livestream of Oswego Village Board meetings at [oswegoil.org/watch](https://oswegoil.org/watch). Committee of the Whole meetings are normally held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.; followed by the regular Village Board meeting at 7 p.m. Public comments are always welcome.

### NEW DEPUTY CLERK

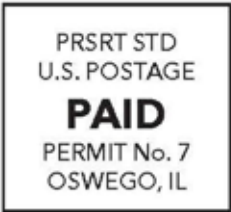
Village Clerk Tina Touchette swore in Margie Villalobos as deputy clerk at the end of July.

### REGISTER TO VOTE

Several staff members are available to assist with voter registration at Village Hall, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Voter information can be found on the Kendall County Election & Voter information webpage, or by calling 630-553-4104.



100 Parkers Mill  
Oswego, IL 60543



\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*

### Postal Customer



### SEPTEMBER

**01-02 Wine Off the Fox:** a wine tasting and concert to benefit the fight against breast cancer. Buy tickets at [venue1012.com](http://venue1012.com).

**04** Village offices are closed for **Labor Day**. Trash collection will be delayed by one day.

**05 Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Oswego Village Hall. Meetings are open to the public and include a public forum. Committee of the Whole meeting precedes at 6 p.m. for more in-depth discussion on issues before they reach a final Board vote. Agendas and live meeting streaming available at [oswegoil.org/watch](http://oswegoil.org/watch).

**16 Fox River Day Clean-up**  
Register: [oswegoil.org/foxriver](http://oswegoil.org/foxriver)

**19 Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall. Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m.



### OCTOBER

**01 Fall Fox Fest** hosted by the Oswego Downtown Business Association.

**02 Final brush collection** for the year begins. See page 6.

**03 Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall. Committee of the Whole is at 6 p.m.

**16 Leaf collection** begins and runs through November, weather permitting. See page 6.

**17 Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall. Committee of the Whole is at 6 p.m.

**31 Trick-or-Treating** hours are 3:30 to 8 p.m. Ensure children trick-or-treat only during this time frame. Be safe and only visit homes with front door lights on.



### NOVEMBER

**07 Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall. Committee of the Whole is at 6 p.m.

**10** Oswego Village Hall is closed in honor of **Veterans Day**. Garbage service is unaffected.

**13** Extra trash and bulk items accepted during the **Free Fall Clean-up**. Details on page 6.

**23-24** Village offices are closed both Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24, in observance of **Thanksgiving**. Trash collection will be delayed one day.

**25** Celebrate our small Oswego businesses on **Small Business Saturday**. Kick-start your holiday shopping season with gifts that support your neighbors and your community.

**28 Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall. Committee of the Whole is at 6 p.m.