

Winter 2023

Oswego News

The official newsletter of the Village of Oswego, Illinois

Progress on key infrastructure projects

New water source update p. 5

Festive fun on Main Street!

Christmas Walk presented by Allied First Bank Dec. 1 p. 4

Shop small Nov. 25 p. 9

Welcome new businesses p. 8



ARE YOU A CHRISTMAS CLUBBER???



Our Christmas Club Pays **6.00%** A.P.Y.*

★ **Our interest-bearing Christmas Club Account is an easy way to have extra cash for the Holidays when Santa comes to town. You decide how much to save and how often. Allied First Bank can automatically debit your checking account if you prefer, making it easier to save. Our Christmas Club pays 6.00% A.P.Y.*** ★

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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Offer subject to change. Effective 11/1/2023. To receive APY, account holder must make the minimum deposit to open the account, of \$10. Interest rate will be paid until maturity date of October 31, 2024; interest accrues until maturity date. No accrued interest will be paid if the account is closed prior to maturity. Total aggregate dollar amount in deposits to account during any calendar month may be no more than \$1,000. No withdrawals allowed prior to maturity date.



Happy Holidays

LET'S EMBRACE THE FESTIVE SPIRIT and prepare for the holiday season with the much-anticipated Christmas Walk on December 1. Join us for a joyful evening of twinkling decorations, carolers and hot cocoa as we light up our beautiful town. The event promises to be a delightful experience for the entire family, so mark your calendars and I'll see you there!

I'm pleased to announce that Oswego has a new Police Chief, Jason Bastin. I selected Jason to serve because he has a strong commitment and vision to serve and protect our community. I am confident he will serve the residents well and fill the big shoes left by former Police Chief Jeff Burgner who retired in June.

We continue to move forward with plans to connect to Lake Michigan water in 2027. Stay tuned for more information about an upcoming open house where we'll present updates on our water source project, connection to Lake Michigan water and changes to water rates. Our water system is a vital topic, and I encourage all residents to attend and stay informed.

As construction season comes to a close, we have reinforced our commitment to keeping our town's infrastructure in top shape. More than 8 miles of roads were resurfaced in the Village this year. Construction on the widening and installation of a roundabout at Wolfs Crossing and Harvey has been a top priority, as well as the Van Buren water main replacement and street improvements. See page 6 for more information.

As stewards of your tax dollars, our finance team has been hard at work and we are proud to announce that Oswego has received several finance awards that reflect our dedication to responsible fiscal management. The Popular Annual Finance Report for budget year 2023 is now available online. Learn more on page 8.

As we look ahead to 2024, please join me for "Community Kauffees" where you can share your thoughts and concerns while we have a cup of coffee and discuss what's happening in our incredible community. The first Community Kauffee will take place on Saturday, January 13 at the Police Department. Treats will be served at 8:30 a.m.

To wrap things up, I hope to see you at the Kendall Theater in Oswego when I deliver the State of the Village speech on February 29. Do you have questions? I've got answers. Join me!

As we head into the holiday season and the close of 2023, I encourage you to stay connected with our community, shop local, and enjoy the many activities and events that Oswego has to offer. I wish you a cozy and joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Ryan Kauffman
Oswego Village President

FROM THE VILLAGE CLERK

REGISTER TO VOTE

Staff can assist with voter registration Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Village Hall, 100 Parkers Mill.

For details visit oswegoil.org/voting.

2024 ELECTIONS

General Primary: March 19
General Election: November 5

For early voting and election details visit [Kendall Countyil.gov](http://KendallCountyil.gov)

OSWEGO VILLAGE BOARD

- RYAN KAUFFMAN *PRESIDENT*
- TINA TOUCHETTE *CLERK*
- TOM GUIST
- KIT KUHRT
- KARIN MCCARTHY-LANGE
- KAREN NOVY
- JENNIFER JONES SINNOTT
- ANDREW TORRES

ADMINISTRATION

- DANIEL DI SANTO *VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR*
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- JENNIFER HUGHES *PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR*
- ANDREA LAMBERG *FINANCE DIRECTOR*
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- JOSE ZAVALA *BUILDING & PERMITS MANAGER*
- ROD ZENNER *DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR*



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:

BRIDGET BITTMAN
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
VILLAGE OF OSWEGO
100 PARKERS MILL
OSWEGO, IL 60543
630-551-2392
BBITTMAN@OSWEGOIL.ORG

DEPARTMENTS

- ADMINISTRATION 630-551-2360
- BUILDING & PERMITS 630-554-2310
- DEVELOPMENT SERVICES 630-554-3622
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 630-551-2335
- FINANCE 630-554-0864
- POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY) 630-551-7300
- PUBLIC WORKS 630-554-3242
- VILLAGE CLERK 630-554-3259
- UTILITY/WATER BILLING 630-554-2282

Cover: Christmas Walks returns with festive lights, family activities and shopping in Oswego's downtown on December 1.

Village of Oswego Christmas Walk

presented by
ALLIEDFIRSTBANK.



Oswego's popular holiday tradition returns December 1

THE 2023 OSWEGO CHRISTMAS WALK, presented by Allied First Bank, will be held from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, December 1 along Main Street and the downtown area.

Bring the whole family to enjoy the holiday traditions you've come to know and love at this free event for all ages. Bounce on the inflatable obstacle course, meet Santa's reindeer and watch the tree lighting ceremony. Make sure to stop by Locked In Photography, 73 W. Van Buren, to pose with Santa, sponsored by the Oswego Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business Association.

Sip hot cocoa, shop in downtown stores and enjoy holiday-themed activities and games. Visit the TR Miller Heating, Air-Conditioning & Plumbing Main Stage where holiday entertainment will delight audiences. Plus, enjoy local choirs and dance groups at two street-level entertainment zones.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE LIGHT PARADE

Stay for the event's grand finale—the Emergency Vehicle Parade as it lights up Main Street, starting at 8:15 p.m. Watch as the festive parade winds down Main Street to officially end the event.

PARKING

Shuttle buses will transport attendees from the Oswego High School parking lot to the downtown area beginning at 4:15 p.m. Free parking is also available in the public parking deck at The Reserve at Hudson Crossing, the Village's Harrison Street lot, Village Hall, and on streets in and around downtown.

DETAILS

Get details about entertainment, activities, food options and more at oswegochristmaswalk.com.



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KEY INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

NEW WATER SOURCE

The Village's goal to connect to Lake Michigan water through the DuPage Water Commission (DWC) is on track for 2027. Federal grants, low-interest loans and revenue from the voter approved Village's real estate transfer tax will help reduce the total cost of the project. The estimated cost projection is \$73 million; however the Village is working to find cost efficiencies as the engineering studies are completed in 2024-2025.

The Village Board is expected to pass an ordinance at its November 7 meeting to establish a new water rate structure that will begin in January 2024 and appear in March 2024 utility bills. The Village conducted a comprehensive rate study over the past several months and the Board is expected to select the scenario with the least impact to seniors and residents. Water rates were initially expected to more than double, however; the study has found ways the Village can offset project costs and rates are only expected to increase by approximately 4.5% to 6% each year, over the next 8 years. The Village will review the costs on an annual basis to ensure the rates are adjusted accordingly. The proposed rates are in line with rates paid by other communities that receive Lake Michigan water.

A water source open house will be scheduled in January at Village Hall to discuss the conversion to Lake Michigan water and answer questions about our water system. The new water rate structure will also be explained. Stay tuned for the January date and time. Information will be shared in email bulletins, social media and at oswegoil.org/water.

WOLFS CROSSING

Work is being finalized on the first segment of the Village's Wolfs Crossing road improvement project. To improve safety and ease traffic congestion, Wolfs Crossing is being widened to a four-lane road and a roundabout is being constructed at Harvey Road. See the photo below of road widening and roundabout construction at Harvey and Wolfs Crossing.

Our contractors are working hard to open the road as soon as possible. The Village expects the work to be completed by the end of November. However, due to delays caused by ComEd relocating their utility lines, there is a possibility that the road may not reopen until early December. Landscaping, restoration and the final pavement surface course will be completed in the spring.

The Village provides updates through email bulletins, social media and at oswegoil.org/wolfscrossing.



VAN BUREN IMPROVEMENTS

The Village completed a project in October that replaced existing water main on sections of Wilson, Adams and Van Buren streets in the downtown area. The new water main will increase flow to fire hydrants and ensure adequate water pressure to residents and businesses in the area.

The project also allowed for the construction of new curbs and sidewalks, as well as resurfacing streets. Approximately 60 new public parking spots were also added to access downtown businesses more easily.

To further enhance and encourage new businesses in the downtown area, the Village recently purchased the properties at 6 and 12 W. Van Buren. Since the properties are zoned commercial, the Village will be pursuing options for commercial development including restaurant, retail, office and other similar uses consistent with development in downtown Oswego. The goal is to make downtown Oswego even more of a destination for residents and visitors.

ROAD RESURFACING

The Board allocated \$2.9 million to resurface some of the Village's most worn streets. Approximately 8 lane-miles of roadways were completed during the 2023 construction season. Streets like Mill Road that see higher traffic volumes were prioritized based on overall condition, level of traffic and other operational considerations.

WASTE COLLECTION

FREE DECEMBER YARD WASTE COLLECTION

During the week of December 4 on your waste collection day, put out yard waste bags without stickers. All yard waste must be placed in 30-gallon Kraft yard waste bags. Yard waste will not be accepted if it is placed by the curb or in plastic bags.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

In observance of Christmas Day, December 25 and January 1 for New Year's Day, waste will not be collected. Trash and recycling collection following these holidays will be delayed by one day.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Groot will collect Christmas trees after the holidays through January 13. Place your bare tree, free from lights, ornaments, tinsel, or any decorations by the curb on your normal scheduled garbage day. Do not bag your tree or affix a yard waste sticker.

After January 13, you must wait until April for disposal when the yard waste program resumes, and a sticker will be required.

PUBLIC WORKS

HELP OUR PLOWS CLEAR YOUR STREETS

THE VILLAGE'S PUBLIC WORKS SNOWPLOW CREWS work hard to keep you safe during the winter driving season. Pitch in to keep the streets clear and save yourself headaches by taking these steps around your home:

- Clear the area around your mailbox. This helps prevent damage to your mailbox and the hassle of getting a replacement.
- Remove snow from the parkways on either side of your driveway apron. This lets our plows unload their snow before crossing your driveway, so extra slush doesn't block in your cars.
- Pile your driveway snow in your yard. Remember, shoveling or blowing snow into the street is prohibited by Village ordinance.

Plowing crews prioritize collector roads such as Douglas Road and Boulder Hill Pass since the roads provide access to large areas. Crews then address neighborhood streets. The Village uses a private contractor to plow cul-de-sacs which are very labor intensive. The State plows U.S. Routes 30 and 34, plus IL Routes 71 and 25. Kendall County plows Orchard Road.

Visibility from snowplows is limited for both pedestrians and drivers. Keep a safe driving distance away from plows and remind children to stay away from plows when they're on your street.

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

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Source: PRED - Multiple Listing Service

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

NEW BUSINESSES

NOW OPEN

Avanterra Wolfs Crossing – 615 Starling Cir.

Market 96 – 1144 Douglas Rd.

Orangetheory Fitness – 1540 Douglas Rd.

Oswego Cut & Color – 4558 Route 71

Grace Giving Joy – 170 S. Adams St.

COMING SOON

Beef Shack – 3433 Orchard Rd.

Cloud 9 – 2420 Route 30

Whitetail Ridge Golf Dome – 3360 Station Dr.

Belle Tire – 20 Kendall Point Dr.

BUSINESSES OF THE MONTH

CONGRATULATIONS to HQC, Inc.; Bella-gia Boutique and The Prom Shoppe; and R.J. Kuhn Plumbing Heating & Cooling, Inc. for being recognized as the Village’s Economic Development Commission Business of the Month.

August
HQC, Inc.
230 Kendall Point Dr.

September
Bella-gia Boutique and The Prom Shoppe
27 Main St.

October
R.J. Kuhn Plumbing Heating & Cooling, Inc.
585A Route 31

Learn more about the businesses that were awarded Business of the Month and the Economic Development Commission’s role at bit.ly/OswegoBusinessofMonth.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY NOV. 25



Shop small on Saturday, Nov. 25 to find great deals on unique holiday gifts and keep your tax dollars local. When you spend \$100 at a local shop, about \$68 continues to circulate in the community. Compare that to just \$14 spent at a national retailer, where profits go out of state. Support your community by shopping locally this holiday season.

Got Ugly Concrete or Masonry ?



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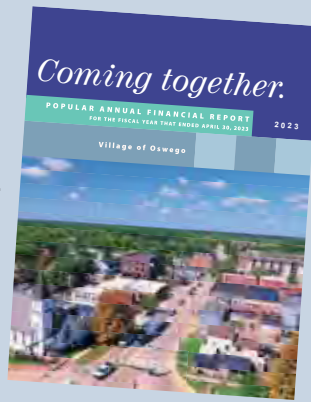
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LEARN ABOUT OSWEGO’S FINANCES

The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is a concise, easy-to-read explanation of the Village’s financial standing, including information on taxes, expenditures and funding for megaprojects. View Fiscal Year 2023 at oswegoil.org/financial-reporting.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Government Finance Officers Association’s Triple Crown award recognizes governments that have received GFOA’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The Village has received the following GFOA awards:

- Budget award: FY 2004 – 19 awards
- Financial Report award: FY 2003 – 20 awards
- Popular Financial Report award: FY 2016 – 7 awards

COMING IN FALL OF 2024

- Month to Month Rental Options
- Spa and Wellness Center
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FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEW POLICE CHIEF

Village President Ryan Kauffman, with unanimous board approval, appointed Jason Bastin to serve as the Village's Police Chief at the September 19 Board Meeting. Chief Bastin had served as interim chief since former Police Chief Jeff Burgner's retirement on June 13. The Village employed a rigorous recruitment process that involved community stakeholder meetings, surveys, interviews and a full-day assessment process led by the Illinois Association of Chiefs.

Chief Bastin has served the Oswego Police Department for 18 years in a variety of positions including deputy chief of support services, patrol commander, detective sergeant and school resource officer. In his career he has taken on many additional roles including Kendall County Special Response Team leader, firearms instructor, field training officer and rapid deployment instructor.

Chief Bastin completed leadership courses led by the FBI, Northwestern University's School of Staff and Command and received a B.A. from Benedictine University. Bastin served as a field medic for the Marines prior to beginning his career in law enforcement.

He pledges to continue building and maintaining positive community relationships since the Police Department's ability to serve our residents and businesses well is dependent on the public's approval and respect.



FULLY STAFFED

In October, Sergeant Drew Santa was promoted to day shift Patrol Commander and Sergeant Mike Barajas was promoted to night shift Patrol Commander. With the recent growth of the department from 49 to 54 officers, the commander positions will allow mentoring and coaching opportunities for our sergeants. The increased leadership will benefit the police department, as well as the public.

A strong culture of leadership reinforces organizational values, drives performance and professionalism, and leads to increased public trust, all of which results in a safer community.

SAFE PLACES FOR SALE EXCHANGES

Residents can conduct online sales transactions in one of two locations at the Police Department, 3355 Woolley Road.

There are two designated parking spaces for online sale transactions in the front parking lot, northwest side. This area has 24-hour video surveillance, is well-lit, and is a short distance from the emergency phone at the building's front entrance. In addition the lobby is equipped with cameras and open to the public from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, except on certain holidays.

These exchange zones provide a neutral, monitored meeting place to conduct face-to-face transactions and provide a deterrent to those who want to take advantage of an unsuspecting victim. However, it is important to exercise good judgment when meeting with strangers. No matter where you conduct sales transactions, keep in mind the following safety tips:

- When possible, arrange to meet in a public and busy place. Avoid going to someone's home or having someone come to your own if at all possible.
- Be alert to someone using counterfeit money or stolen and forged checks.
- Be aware of someone trying to sell you stolen, broken or fake items. Inspect the items, make sure they work and are not counterfeit.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- If something is too good to be true, it's probably a scam.

And as always, if you see something, say something!

SHOVEL SIDEWALKS, HYDRANTS & DRIVEWAYS

Although plow drivers take care to selectively place snow, sometimes snow must be placed at intersections and heaped on parkways.

Help keep yourself and your neighbors safe by shoveling curb ramps and digging out fire hydrants so they can be accessed quickly in a fire.

When clearing snow, do not deposit snow onto the roads. Shoveling, plowing, or blowing snow into public streets causes driving hazards and is prohibited by Village ordinance. Keep garbage & recycling cans out of the street so plows do not hit them.

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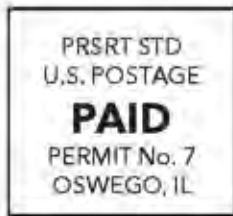
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Postal Customer

NO PARKING ON SNOW-COVERED STREETS

Parking is prohibited on Village streets when two inches or more of snow has accumulated. Keeping cars off the streets helps Village crews clear the roads faster, prevents your car from being plowed in and helps emergency vehicles access your home. Street parking can resume once the snow stops and the streets have been plowed curb to curb.



DECEMBER

01 Celebrate the season at the **Oswego Christmas Walk**, presented by **Allied First Bank** from 4:30-8:30 p.m. on Main Street with music, dazzling decorations and activities for all ages. Details, p. 4.

02 **Cookie Walk** presented by Chamber & Oswego Downtown Assn. Purchase required prior to event; while supplies last.

04-09 **Free Yard Waste Collection** on regular collection day. Paper bags must be used, stickers not required.

12 **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m. at Village Hall to vote on Village business. Meetings are open to the public and include a public forum to share feedback. The Committee of the Whole precedes at 6 p.m. Agendas and live streams of meetings: oswegoil.org/watch.

25 Village offices closed for **Christmas Day**. Trash collection delayed one day.

26 Village offices closed for the **Christmas** holiday. Trash collection unaffected.

JANUARY



01 Village offices closed for **New Year's Day**. Trash collection delayed one day.

01-13 Curbside Christmas tree collection. Details, p. 7.

09 **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m.; Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m.

13 **Community Kauffee with Village President Ryan Kauffman** at 9 a.m., treats served at 8:30 a.m. at Police Department.

15 Village offices closed for **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**.

23 **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m.; Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m.



FEBRUARY

03 **Chocolate Walk** presented by Chamber & Oswego Downtown Association.

06 **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m.; Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m.

14 **Happy Valentine's Day**, Oswego!

19 Village offices closed for **President's Day**.

20 **Oswego Village Board** meets at 7 p.m.; Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m.

24 Chamber of Commerce **Hometown Expo** at Oswego High School.

29 **State of the Village** presentation by Village President Ryan Kauffman hosted by the Oswego Area Chamber at Classic Cinemas Kendall 11.