Village News

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Village of Osceola (715) 294-3498  info@myosceola.com  www.myosceola.com

OSCEOLA SENIOR CENTER, by Cheryl Hustad and Mark Peacock

The song goes “There’s a place for us,” and for Osceola’s senior citizens the sentiment of the song has become reality. Housed in Osceola’s new Discovery Center civic building, along with the Library, Village offices, and the Police Department, the new Senior Center provides two small meeting rooms and a large gathering place for seniors to do just about anything that needs a space for those who want to do things together.

To date you’ll find everything happening there from quilting to Tai Chi, morning coffee to lavish potluck lunches, puzzle-solving to card playing to — well, card playing of just about every game you can think of. The Osceola Seniors Citizens Club, Seniors On The Go, Tai Chi, and the Quilting Club use the facility regularly. In the near future Yoga For Seniors and Qigong are planning to offer sessions tailored especially for older people. Bridge lessons are in the planning stage. Cribbage anyone?

“Try our space; you’ll like it!” said Mark Peacock, Osceola Senior Citizens Club president. “If you want to be ‘official,’ you can join the Club. Annual dues are cheap: $10 a year to cover expenses; but membership is not a requirement and dues can be waived if they are a financial hardship. I think you’ll be surprised and pleased that there is a village full of people who share your interests. I encourage you to get together with them to share what you enjoy.”

The Osceola Senior Citizen Club, Inc. meets at 12 noon on the 1st Wednesday of each month for a potluck meal, followed by an informative program and the club meeting. Everyone 55 years of age or older is eligible to attend. Participants bring a potluck dish to share. Special events include a July picnic (second Wednesday) and the December Christmas party. Upcoming programs: April – Long Term Care Planning, May – Tai Chi and Qigong, June – Stress Management for Family Caregivers, October – Medicare Open Enrollment.

A monthly schedule of activities is posted at the Senior Center (Room 214), as well as on the Village website and on television monitors in the Discovery Center building. The current schedule includes:

Monday through Friday 8-11:30 AM: Coffee groups, conversation, reading, puzzles, coloring, crafts (Rooms 209 and 210 are available when Rm 214 is occupied.)
Monday 9-10 AM: Qigong (Starts April 1st)
Monday 2-6 PM: Seniors Duplicate Bridge
Monday 7-10 PM  2nd Monday of the month: American Legion Post 221 meeting
Tuesday 12:30-4 PM: Seniors on the Go 3-13 card group
Wednesday 9-10 AM: Tai Chi
Wednesday 12-4 PM  1st Wednesday of the month: OSCC potluck, program, and meeting
Wednesday 12:30-4 PM  2nd, 3rd, 4th Wednesdays: Hand & Foot card group (Resumes June 12th)
Wednesday 6:30-8 PM: Tai Chi
Thursday 12:30-4 PM: Seniors 500 card group
Friday 9-10 AM: Qigong (Starts April 5th)
Saturday 10 AM-2 PM  2nd Saturday of the month: River Valley Stitchers/Quilting Club

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In the age of social media and too many news based cable stations it is hard to find good local news. We in Osceola are lucky enough to continue to have our own local newspaper, The Sun. Founded as The Osceola Sun in October 1897 by Alfred E. Roese the paper has had several owners, publishers, writers and styles but the one constant has been its reporting about our town. I enjoy the history of Osceola and find it informative and entertaining to read older issues of The Sun. Below are some fun bits of history I have stumbled on during my reading about our town. Enjoy!

April 1910 - Osceola Man in Hold-Up of Pioneer Limited – A.E. Roese, publisher of The Sun returned Friday evening from a ten days visit to Oshkosh and other points in the southern part of the state. Mr. Roese was a passenger of the Milwaukee train which was held up between New Lisbon and Camp Douglas early last Friday morning by two masked bandits. The conductor stepped into a narrow passageway and was confronted by the two masked men who ordered him to throw up his hands. Instead he attacked the robbers and succeeded in getting the best of them. The robbers made their escape in the darkness.

Dec 1909 - The total amount of taxes to be raised in the village of Osceola this year is $7,773.87, divided as follows: village tax $1,100.98; village school tax, $4,500.00; state tax, $1,016.03; county tax, $760.16; county school tax, $325.47; loan fund tax, $71.23

March 1911 - Caucus notes: Motion made that the President and Village Board be instructed to build a jail. Motion carried.

November 1909 - The Osceola Sun is about to inaugurate a voting contest for the most popular young lady in Polk county and vicinity, and will give as a first prize one $400 piano of the latest and best make. This fine instrument will be given the young lady receiving the highest number of votes and the contest will begin at once and continue at least ten weeks.

October 1909 - Saturday was a great day for the local football team and its host of supporters. The football team from St Croix Falls invaded our territory in a vain attempt to regain their lost laurels on the gridiron. The team showed more snap and ginger than ever before and this is largely due to daily practice. OHS 21 SFC 0

September 1959 - Air Station Goes to Standards Time at 2:00 a.m. (From the Thursday, September 10 edition of the Osceola Sun) – Thursday at 2:00 a.m., the Osceola Air Force Station will set its clocks back and personnel will get back the hour’s sleep they lost when the switch was made last spring to daylight time. The State of Wisconsin will follow at 2:00 a.m. on the 27th of September. Until then residents will have to remember that Minnesota and the Air Station will be one hour behind us in time.

July 1909 - During the heavy storm yesterday morning lightning struck and killed two registered hogs belonging to Hiram Nelson. The animals were valued at $20.00 a piece.

September 1959 - Greased Pig Contest Saturday - The greased pig contest immediately follows the School Field Day. This event is open to all F.F.A. and 4-H boys within the area served by Osceola Schools. It is anticipated that fifty boys will have signed up for this competition. Two bred Berkshire gilts and one bred Poland China gilt will be awarded as prizes to the lucky contestant who is able to catch and hold the greased pig. Reported in the subsequent edition of the paper - The winner of the greased pig contest was Anthony Fehlen!
Warmer weather is on the way! Well, no promises, but let’s think about summer anyway. The 2019 Summer Learning Program at the Osceola Public Library will be the first at our new location in the Discovery Center. Our theme this year is “Discover New Worlds: Near & Far.” Like past years, we plan on keeping families busy with all kinds of literacy, STEM, and artistic programming. Why go anywhere else when you can have so much fun close to home? Fight the “summer slide!” Come to our new beautiful building, check out some books, and enjoy them in the warm sunshine on the Discovery Terrace.

**PUBLIC WORKS WINTER REMINDERS**, by Todd Waters, Streets and Parks Coordinator

**Snowplow Damage** - Damage to lawns caused by snowplows will be repaired in the spring as time and weather allow.

**Brush Pickup** - Brush will be picked up May 6th through May 10th ONLY. All brush must be less than 3” in diameter, 6’ in length, and stacked neatly parallel to the curb or road surface. Brush containing rocks, dirt, debris, roots or string will not be picked up. These items are hazardous to the operators and will cause damage to the chipping equipment.

**Leaf Pickup** - Leaves will be picked up beginning May 1st – May 31st. Leaves must be in paper biodegradable bags and placed along the curb. There will be no exceptions as the Village recycles these bags into free compost for residents to use and pickup at the public works facility. Bags containing grass clippings, animal waste, garbage and brush will not be picked up. Weight limit of 40lbs per bag.

**Street Lights** - If you notice a streetlight that is out or not functioning correctly please contact the Village Office at 715-294-3498 or email us at info@myosceola.com. Please provide us with the nearest address to the affected street light, which will allow us to locate the street light and see that it is repaired.

**Parking** - Please note that even though the weather may feel like spring, winter parking restrictions are still in effect until April 15, 2019.

**Flooding** - If you notice your street beginning to flood or a culvert backing up into the roadway and impeding traffic please contact the Village Office at 715-294-3498 or email us at info@myosceola.com.
Your water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected! The purpose of the local Cross-Connection Control Program, as required by State Plumbing Code and Regulations, is to ensure that everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water. To avoid contamination, backflow preventers are required by state plumbing codes wherever there is an actual or potential hazard for a cross-connection. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires all public water suppliers to maintain an on-going Cross-Connection Control Program involving public education, onsite inspections, and possible corrective actions by building owners, if required.

**What is a Cross-Connection?** A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution. State plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross-Connection must be properly protected or eliminated.

**How does contamination occur?** When you turn on your faucet, you expect the water to be as safe as when it was pumped and treated at the well. However, certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to contaminate your own drinking water or even the public water supply.

Water normally flows in one direction. However, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards; this is known as backflow. There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward: backsiphonage and backpressure.

**Backsiphonage** may occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water system during a fire fighting emergency, a water main break or system repair. This creates a siphon in your plumbing system, which can draw water out of a sink or bucket and back into your water or the public water system.

**Backpressure** is created when a source of pressure (such as a boiler) creates a pressure greater than the pressure supplied from the public water system. This may cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross-connection. If you would like more information please stop at the Village office to pick-up a brochure or check our website.

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**THINK SPRING! SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS**

The Farmer's Market will be held every Friday from 2pm until 6pm during early June to October 2019. Enjoy locally produced goods from our area farmers.

**Osceola community fair**

Check out the 2019 Osceola Braves Baseball and the Scheduled games at: [https://www.osceolabraves.com/](https://www.osceolabraves.com/)

Celebrate the Osceola Community Fair September 6th to September 8th. For more information and a list of events go to: [http://osceolacommunityfair.com/](http://osceolacommunityfair.com/)

The Osceola Chamber has many events throughout the year. Please check out their website for a list of events at: [http://www.myosceolachamber.org/](http://www.myosceolachamber.org/)

Head out to the Osceola Airport for a car and motorcycle show, air show, radar run, food and beer garden at the annual Wheels and Wings event September 7th. For more information and a list of events go to: [https://www.wheelswings.com/](https://www.wheelswings.com/)

To kick-off summer come downtown for Rhubarb Days the first part of June. Watch for more information to come.

**Osceola community fair**

Check out what is happening at the St. Croix Art Barn all year long at: [http://www.stcroixartbarn.org/](http://www.stcroixartbarn.org/)