



THE VILLAGE NEWS

A Newsletter from the Village of Oconomowoc Lake, December 2011
35328 W. Pabst Rd. Oconomowoc, WI 53066 Phone: 567-5301 Web: www.oconlake.com

2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Jan 2	Monday	VILLAGE HALL CLOSED & NO	Plan Commission Meeting
Jan 9	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting**
Jan 16	Monday	7:00 PM	Village Board of Trustees
Jan 23	Monday	7:00 PM	Architectural Control Board Meeting**
Feb 6	Monday	7:00 PM	Plan Commission Meeting**
Feb 13	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting**
Feb 20	Monday	7:00 PM	Village Board of Trustees
Feb 21	Tuesday	7 AM to 8 PM	SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION IF NEEDED
Feb 27	Monday	7:00 PM	Architectural Control Board Meeting**
Mar 5	Monday	7:00 PM	Plan Commission Meeting**
Mar 12	Monday	7:00 PM	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting**
Mar 19	Monday	7:00 PM	Village Board of Trustees Meeting
Mar 26	Monday	7:00 PM	Architectural Control Board Meeting**
April 3	Tuesday	7 AM to 8 PM	SPRING ELECTION & PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE VOTE

**** if needed**

Note: All residents are welcome to attend the meetings. Special meetings may be called as necessary. All meetings are subject to change. Please check with the Village Hall or refer to the meeting notices that may be published in the Oconomowoc Focus..

VILLAGE PHONE NUMBERS

Village Hall.....262-567-5301	Building Inspection.....262-490-0513
Village Hall Fax.....262-567-7447	Non-Emergency Police.....262-367-2600
Municipal Court.....262-569-0920	Police Emergency.....911
Direct Squad Car Phone numbers:	8:00 am to Midnight:414-881-9727
(If no answer, leave a message)	Midnight to 8:00 am:414-881-9728

ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Village President and Board of Trustees serve our Village on a part-time basis and without compensation.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Joe Birbaum
4750 Hewitts Point Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
262-567-7785

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Michael Bickler
262-567-4000

Paul Fischer
262-567-6364

Dave Falstad
262-951-8887

Joseph Owens
262-567-3421

Jeff Fellows
414-745-3341

Chris Shult
262-567-7647

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish you a joyous Holiday Season!

Our efforts to improve the health and safety of our residents in an efficient manner by improving the fire and emergency coverage in the Village continue. We will contract with Lake Country Fire and Rescue (LCFR) to provide emergency ambulance service to the Village in 2012. LCFR will provide paramedics on all calls. Paramedics are more highly trained than the EMTs that are typically on ambulance responses provided by the City of Oconomowoc, who we currently use. In addition, we will have lower costs due to reduced chargebacks that occur when an ambulance client does not pay. Although we have been happy with Summit Fire District (SFD) who is the primary fire protection provider for the South half of our Village, the Villages of Summit and Oconomowoc Lake who own SFD have mutually agreed to dissolve SFD. As a result, the Village is reviewing fire coverage for the entire Village. When we are done, we want to have a contract for 2013 and beyond that will give us a pro rata ownership interest in the fire protection assets, a material say in the governance of our fire protection and an understanding of how the costs assessed to the Village are determined initially and in the future. We expect to be able to achieve these goals at a materially reduced cost to the Village.

The Village has hired Tyler Technologies to be the new Village Assessor. We are hoping to have more accurate and equitable real estate assessments as well as more influence with the State of Wisconsin in setting the overall value of real estate in the Village. The ultimate goal is to lower our real estate taxes.

As you can tell, control of expenses is important to the Village Trustees and Administration. The Village's budget for 2012 will result in a nominal tax increase of approximately 0.65%. We continue to look for ways to control, reduce or eliminate costs while maintaining and improving Village services. Please contact the Village staff or me if you have suggestions.

Thinking of taxes and potential deductions, remember to be generous in your support of the Village's July 4th fireworks display. It is solely supported by your donations. Without them, there would be no display.

"An unlimited power to tax involves, necessarily, the power to destroy." - Daniel Webster

NEW VILLAGE ASSESSOR

Beginning in January 2012, the duties of property assessor will be performed by Megan Scherer of Tyler Technologies' CLT Appraisal Services.

The company was selected through a competitive bid process, and the company is expected to provide efficient, professional assessment services for the Village. CLT Appraisal Services has worked in Wisconsin for more than 20 years, serving villages and towns of all sizes, including the Town of Waukesha, the Village of Menomonee Falls and the City of Muskego. Now part of Tyler Technologies' Appraisal & Tax Division, CLT Appraisal Services began serving the appraisal market in 1938 as the Cole-Layer-Trumble Company. Sound appraisal practices and knowledge of developing computer systems allowed it to become the leading provider of appraisal and tax software and services in the U.S. The division has continually refined its techniques, pioneering the application of computer-assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) along the way.

Contact information for Megan Scherer is noted below. Megan will not begin her duties as Village Assessor until January 1, 2012; therefore, please do not make contact prior to that date.

Megan Scherer
Tyler Technologies' CLT Appraisal Services
W250 S3567 Center Road
Waukesha, WI 53189
Phone: 800-959-6876 ext. 5
e-mail: Megan.Scherer@tylertech.com
company website: www.tylertech.com

As always, you may contact the Village Clerk or Village Administrator with questions regarding assessment matters.

IN MEMORY OF . . .

We regret to inform you of the passing of Toby Todd and Art "Slick" Johnson

We extend our sincere condolences to the Todd and Johnson families

POLICE MESSAGES

If you need to contact the police regarding a non-emergency matter (i.e., driveway plowing, burn permits, dogs at large, parking issues, etc.), you may call the village hall at 262-567-5301 and leave your message after the beep; or, if you need to relay information immediately, you may call the officer on duty directly using the numbers listed below.

8:00 a.m. to midnight: 414-881-9727

Midnight to 8:00 a.m.: 414-881-9728

WOODLOT CLOSING

The Village woodlot was closed on December 17, 2011. It will reopen next spring, subject to weather conditions. Watch the March newsletter for opening date information.

RECYCLING BINS

If your blue recycling bin is worn out, replacement bins are available at the Village Hall. Please call ahead so that we can have one ready for you when you arrive.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Waukesha County Recycling has provided some new information regarding products that can or cannot be recycled in your blue bins on garbage collection days. They have also provided locations where some items can be taken. One item of immediate concern is the recycling of old strings of Christmas lights. They **MAY NOT** be placed in the blue bins. The strings of lights cause operation problems when they come in to the County Recycling Facility. Some scrap metal recycling companies will accept and recycle them, as well as some community recycling centers. Please check out the County's Recycling website for a list of scrap metal companies and municipal recycling centers that will accept the lights. The website also includes a listing of the electronics that are accepted at municipal recycling centers. Most electronics are no longer accepted by garbage haulers as dictated by state law. Veolia, the garbage hauler for the Village, will collect television sets for recycling that are 27 inches or larger; however, you must call first and make an appointment for them to pick up the television sets. The phone number for Veolia is 262-367-6040. Go to:

www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

Check out all of the interesting and valuable information available on the county's recycling website.

DRIVEWAY SNOWPLOWING AND MAINTENANCE

The Village DPW plows private drives at the direction of the Police Chief when a snowfall reaches a 3" accumulation. This plowing is done to maintain emergency access only. A more complete driveway clearing is the responsibility of the property owner.

All driveways should be clearly marked indicating where the boundaries of the driveway are. Please note that driveways that are not clearly delineated with reflector markers may not be plowed.

Please keep your driveways trimmed back to 12' wide x 12' high (if possible) to be free of obstruction. This will ensure that emergency services can get to your door. The Village police and local fire services would appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sand is provided free to Village residents by the Village Department of Public Works. It is delivered upon request and when time permits. You must provide a barrel to hold the sand and you are responsible for sanding your own driveway.

DOG LICENSES

The Village requires that all dogs be licensed as per Wis. State Statute 95.21(2)(a). The deadline for registration of your dog is March 31, 2012.

A dog license application is enclosed in your property tax bill. You may mail your application and check to the Village Hall or apply in person Monday – Friday between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. **Please do not send your dog license application with your tax bill to the County.**

A copy of proof of current rabies vaccination MUST be attached to your application. This is required before we can issue any dog licenses.

The license fee is \$15.00 for each spayed or neutered dog, or \$17.00 for each dog that is not spayed or neutered. There will be a \$5.00 late fee assessed after March 31, 2012. If a dog is found unlicensed in the Village, the owner will be issued a citation. Any questions regarding licensing may be directed to Michele or Cindy at the Village Hall.

2011 TAX COLLECTION

All 2011 tax payments will be collected by Waukesha County.

Payments will not be accepted or receipted at the Village Hall.

To Pay By Mail: Send payment to: Waukesha County Treasurer, 515 W. Moreland Blvd., Room 148, Waukesha, WI 53188-2428. **Make sure the check is made payable to the Waukesha County Treasurer.** A receipt will be mailed to you from the County Treasurer.

To Pay In Person: Payment can be made in person at the Waukesha County Treasurer's office, 515 W. Moreland Blvd., Room 148, Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Escrow Checks: If your escrow check is more than the amount of your taxes, contact the issuer to have a new check issued for the exact amount of your taxes. If your check is not for the exact amount, a refund check from the Village for the overpayment will be sent but may take up to 6 weeks to process! **Make sure your escrow check is made payable to the Waukesha County Treasurer. Taxpayers wishing to go to the County Treasurer's office to make their payment will be required to go through the security screening process at the main door of the courthouse.**

County Website: You may access your tax bill online by going to www.waukeshacounty.gov, and clicking on the tax listings box. You may search by tax key or by address.

DISPOSAL OF USED OIL FILTERS

2009 Wisconsin Act 86 bans the landfilling of used oil filters and used oil absorbent materials. Waukesha County recently awarded a county-coordinated contract for the disposal and recycling of used motor oil filters for participating communities in the county. Almost all communities in the County that currently accept used motor oil are now accepting used oil filters. A list of drop-off sites is available at the Village Hall.

Check the Waukesha County website, Recycling section, for further tips on recycling.

LAKE COUNTRY FIRE & RESCUE

The Lake Country Fire & Rescue (LCFR) will be handling all ambulance calls for the Village beginning January 1, 2012.

In order to familiarize their personnel with the Village, they will be driving throughout the Village during the month of January. Don't be alarmed if you see their ambulance or red SUV equipment truck in your driveway, or on Village roadways.

Please feel free to contact the Village Hall if you have any questions about the new ambulance service.

UPCOMING ELECTION DATES

The Spring Primary, if necessary, will be held on **February 21, 2012** at the Village Hall. Polling hours are 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. A facsimile ballot will be published by Waukesha County in the "Focus on Oconomowoc" prior to the election. 2012 is a Presidential election year. In the past, the Presidential Preference Vote was held on the February Primary date. The new election laws have changed that procedure. The Presidential Preference Vote will now be included as part of the Spring Election in April.

SPRING ELECTION AND PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE VOTE

The Spring election will be held on **April 3, 2012**. The polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. There are no positions on the ballot for the Village of Oconomowoc Lake. The positions on the ballot will be Judicial Officers, County Supervisors, and Municipal Judge, as well as the Presidential Preference Vote.

ELECTION LAW UPDATE

There have been many changes to Wisconsin's election laws in the past year. Some information has been included elsewhere in this newsletter in order to give you some of the basic changes. Additionally, you received some information from County Clerk Kathy Nickolaus in your property tax bills earlier this month. Please take the time to review the information provided. It is very important for you to follow the new laws when you vote.

The election inspectors (poll workers) for the Village will be working very hard to learn the new procedures for their jobs. Please take a moment to thank them for their commitment to the Village of Oconomowoc Lake. Their diligence and attention to detail are a huge factor in having a successful election.

As always, if you have any questions about the new election laws, please feel free to contact the Village Clerk.



Seasons Greetings

Wisconsin Election Laws:

Photo ID and Other Recent Changes

Effective 2012

Photo Identification

Beginning in 2012, you cannot receive a ballot until you have met ID requirements. (See the "Photo ID Exemptions and Exception" section.) Wisconsin does not issue a separate "Voter ID" card. Instead you must use one of the photo IDs listed below.

Your photo ID does not need to show a current address.

Acceptable forms of Photo ID

- Wisconsin driver license*
- Wisconsin DOT-issued photo ID card*
- U.S. passport*
- Military ID card*
 - *The above documents may not have expired earlier than the date of the last November election.*
- Certificate of naturalization issued within last two years
- Unexpired Wisconsin driver license or state ID receipt
- ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin.
- Unexpired ID issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college that contains an issuance date, student signature, and expiration date within two years of issuance, along with a separate document showing proof of current enrollment.

If you are eligible to vote but do not have an acceptable ID, you may obtain a **free** ID for purposes of voting. Please visit <http://gab.wi.gov> and click "Voter Photo ID" for more information.

Photo ID Exemptions/Exceptions

Photo ID is always required when voting at the polling place and at the clerk's office unless you are a confidential elector.

Photo ID is not required for these absentee voters:

- Military electors
- Voters who are permanently abroad
- Confidential electors

Photo ID is not required, but is replaced with alternative requirements for these absentee voters:

- Indefinitely confined voters
- Nursing home and other care facility residents who have ballots delivered by a Special Voting Deputy
- Residents of care facilities who are not visited by a Special Voting Deputy

For further information contact your municipal clerk.

Provisional Ballots: Voters who do not provide Photo ID

Voters, including absentees, who are required but unable to provide photo ID may vote by provisional ballot.

Provisional ballots are not counted unless the voter provides an acceptable photo ID to the municipal clerk by 4 p.m. the Friday after the election.

Voter Registration Changes

You can register to vote up until the Friday before the election or on Election Day. You must reside at your address for 28 consecutive days to be eligible to vote, and you may no longer use a corroborating witness as proof of residence. Proof of residence is required when registering less than 20 days before an election, on Election Day, and for first time Wisconsin voters registering by mail. For more information on acceptable proof of residence documents contact your local municipal clerk

Changes to Absentee Voting

Absentee in the Clerk's Office:

Absentee voting in the clerk's office is now restricted to the two weeks before an election. Absentee voting now ends at the close of business the Friday before the election.

The new law prohibits absentee voting and voter registration the Saturday, Sunday or Monday before an election.

Beginning in 2012, absentee voters in the clerk's office must present the same type of photo ID required at the polls (see list on the left).

Absentee Requests by Mail:

Beginning in 2012, absentee requests for ballots sent by mail must be accompanied by a photocopy of an acceptable form of voter ID (see list on the left).

Once you have sent the clerk's office a photocopy of your ID, you will not need to send photocopies with future absentee ballot requests by mail, fax or email unless you change your name or address.

Absentee Requests by Email / Fax:

If submitting an absentee request via fax or email, you must either include a photocopy of acceptable ID with your request or in your absentee ballot envelope.

Signing the Poll Book

Voters must sign the poll book to obtain a ballot. The poll book now contains a signature block for each voter. Only one poll book needs to be signed.

Voters unable to sign the poll book because of a physical disability are exempt from this requirement. If this applies to you, tell the election officials that you are unable to sign because of a disability. Election officials will write "exempt" in your signature block.

Hospitalized Voters

Hospitalized voters may appoint an agent to pick up their ballot from the clerk's office. The agent must present the hospitalized voter's photo ID to the clerk's office.

For detailed information about the Voter Photo ID law, please visit the Government Accountability Board website:

<http://gab.wi.gov> or

call 1-866-VOTE-WIS or

contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at

608-261-2028

or TTY 1-800-947-3529

Voter Public Access

<https://vpa.wi.gov>



WINTER ICE SAFETY TIPS

WHEN IS ICE SAFE?

There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors—plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

Recommended Minimum Thickness for New Clear Ice

4" Ice fishing and small group activities

5" Snowmobiles and ATV's

NOTE: Motor vehicles are **not** allowed on Oconomowoc Lake

Remember, common sense is your greatest ally in preventing ice accidents. Five minutes of checking ice from shore, and systematic checks while on the ice can mean the difference between an enjoyable outdoor experience and a tragedy.

VACATION NOTIFICATIONS

If you are planning on leaving for vacation or any extended absence from your Village residence, the Village of Oconomowoc Lake Police Department has the following recommendations:

- Call or fax the Village Hall to leave your vacation information with the police department. The information you need to provide is the date you are leaving and when you plan to return, any lights you plan to leave on, whether anyone has keys to your house, whether you expect anyone to be at your house or on the property, your emergency contact information. (Village Hall phone: 262-567-5301; Village Hall fax: 262-567-7447)
- Have your mail held at the post office or arrange for someone to pick it up for you
- Have your newspapers discontinued

BE A SURVIVOR!

Let's say you have taken all the precautions and you're going to try your luck at ice fishing. As you walk out on the ice, you hear a crack and fall through. Suddenly you find yourself immersed in water so cold it literally takes your breath away. And the pain is incredible! What should you do? First, try not to panic. This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance.

1. **Don't remove your winter clothing.** Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.
2. **Turn toward the direction you came.** That's probably the strongest ice.
3. **Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface.** This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks come in handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.
4. **Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks** to work your way back onto the solid ice. If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.
5. **Lie flat on the ice** once you are out and roll away from the hole to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.
6. **Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area** and re-warm yourself immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to re-warm. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death!



VILLAGE OF OCONOMOWOC LAKE E-MAIL ADDRESSES

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.oconlake.com

Website links to email addresses

POLICE oconlakepd@oconlake.com

Request house checks; traffic/boating law questions; copy of burning ordinance; parking requests; extra patrol requests (funerals, weddings, etc.); register for Boater's Safety class; report missing or found boats, piers, etc.

POLICE CHIEF

chief@oconlake.com

ADMINISTRATOR

administrator@oconlake.com

All other questions or requests.

CLERK cindy@oconlake.com -or- clerk@oconlake.com

Request absentee ballots; property tax questions; election questions; building permit questions.

DEPUTY CLERK

michele@oconlake.com

Dog licenses, building permit questions.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

joe@birbaum.com

DPW dpw@oconlake.com

Request driveway sand/salt mixture.

VILLAGE OF OCONOMOWOC LAKE

villagehall@oconlake.com

Village of Oconomowoc Lake
35328 West Pabst Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066