

The Village News

VILLAGE OF OCONOMOWOC LAKE

35328 W PABST ROAD

JANUARY 2021

December 25-January 1	All Day	Village Hall Closed
Monday, January 4	7:00 pm	Plan Commission Meeting*
Monday, January 11	7:00 pm	Board of Appeals Meeting*
Monday, January 18	7:00 pm	Village Board Meeting
Monday, January 25	6:00 pm	Architectural Control Board*

FEBRUARY 2021

Monday, February 1	7:00 pm	Plan Commission Meeting*
Monday, February 8	7:00 pm	Board of Appeals Meeting*
Monday, February 15	7:00 pm	Village Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 16	7:00 am - 8:00 pm	Spring Primary Election*
Monday, February 22	6:00 pm	Architectural Control Board*

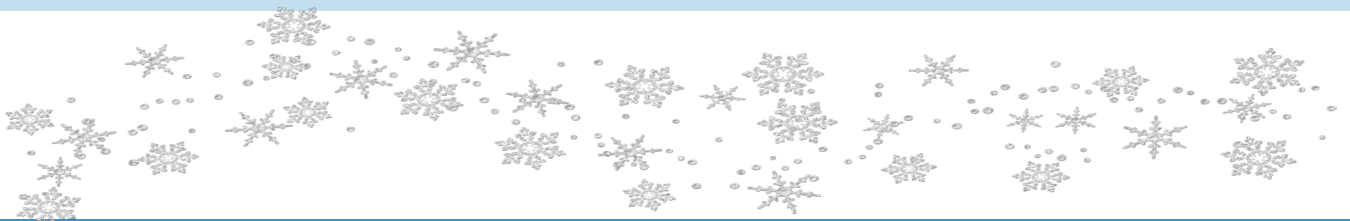
MARCH 2021

Monday, March 1	7:00 pm	Plan Commission Meeting*
Monday, March 8	7:00 pm	Board of Appeals Meeting*
Monday, March 15	7:00 pm	Village Board Meeting
Monday, March 22	6:00 pm	Architectural Control Board*

*if needed

Note: All meetings are open to the public. 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, posted at the three posting locations, or on the Village Website.



Village Hall Closed

In celebration of the Christmas and New Year holidays, the Village Hall will be closed beginning on December 24th. We will re-open on January 4, 2021 at 8:00 am.



DRIVEWAY PLOWING & MAINTENANCE

The Village plows private driveways at the direction of the Police Chief when it snows 3" or more. **This is done to maintain emergency access only.** A complete driveway clearing is the responsibility of the property owner. All driveways should be clearly marked indicating where the boundaries of the driveway are. Driveways not clearly marked with reflective markers may not be plowed.

Please keep the areas around your driveway trimmed back to 12' wide X 12' high (if possible) and free of obstruction. This will ensure emergency services can get to your door in a timely fashion. The Village police and local fire services appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

If the village does not have a snowplow release form on file; your driveway will not be cleared. Please contact the office if you have any questions or want to confirm your status.

Letter from the President

*Season's Greetings,
I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.*

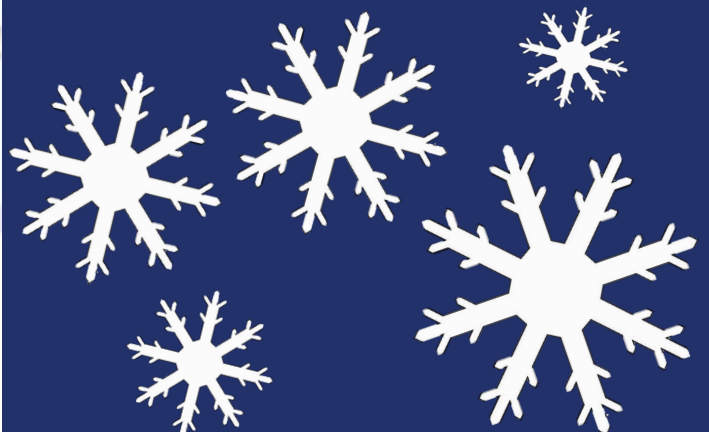
As some residents may already know our Police Chief/Administrator, Andy Helwig, is retiring at the end of this year.

The Village Police Department and staff as well as all Village Residents will certainly miss Andy and his positive upbeat personality. He has always been a pleasure to work with and we are truly fortunate to have had Andy serve the Village in so many ways for the past 26+ years.

Andy has truly made our village a better place to live. Please join me in wishing our Andy a long, wonderful, adventurous, joyful retirement!

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to All!

Mike Bickler, Sr.



Election Information

Spring Primary

The Spring Primary will be held on February 16, 2021 at the Village Hall with Election Day polling hours from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Ballot information will be published by Waukesha County in the newspaper prior to the election and sample ballots will be available in the Village Hall.

Spring Election

The Spring Election will be held on April 6, 2021. Similar to the February Election, sample ballots will be available in the Village Hall and Election Day poll hours are from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

If you have any Election questions, please contact the Village Clerk at the Village Hall or via email at clerk@oconlake.com

Want to become an Election Inspector?

If you're interested in being an election inspector (poll worker), we are always welcoming new ones! The shifts are either morning (6:30am - 2pm) or afternoon (2pm - 9pm) and meals are provided for you. The pay is \$7.50/hour and you'll be required to attend 1 paid training prior to the election. Please contact the Village Clerk in the office or via email for more information of if you have questions.

clerk@oconlake.com

At the MyVote Wisconsin website you can do any of the following:

Register to vote

Check your voter registration status

Find your polling place

See a sample ballot

Request an absentee ballot



This is an awesome tool created by the state especially for, the voters in Wisconsin. If you have any questions regarding MyVote or elections; contact the Village Clerk in the office she'll be happy to help!

www.myvote.wi.gov

A note from Police Chief/Administrator Andy Helwig

Dear Village Residents,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I would take just a moment to thank all of you for your support throughout my 26 years of service as a police officer for the Village of Oconomowoc Lake. I am retiring on New Year's Eve. It has been truly rewarding to serve you in this capacity. I am also honored that I can say "retired Police Chief/Village Administrator". Both on a personal and professional level, the timing of my decision worked out well. As some of you may know, this is never an easy decision to make but I take comfort in the fact that both the police department and village staff remain in great shape.

The Village should see a seamless transition as Lt. Jason Janicsek (20 years here) will be in charge of the police department and Don Wiemer, retired administrator, will be handling and assisting with administrative functions. Both gentlemen will provide outstanding service to you until a permanent solution is resolved by your Village Board of Trustees.

It has been an exceptional experience getting to know many of you throughout the years! Thanks again!

Andy

TAX COLLECTION

Property tax payments are collected by the Waukesha County Treasurer's Office. Payments are not accepted at Village Hall.

Pay by Mail

Waukesha County Treasurer
515 W. Moreland Blvd., Room 148
Waukesha, WI 53188-2428

Checks should be made payable to the Waukesha County Treasurer. Include the bottom 1/3 of the bill for faster processing; a receipt will be mailed to you.

Dropbox

Located on the east side of the Waukesha County Courthouse facing Pewaukee Road. The box is on the island near the blue postal box.

Online

Go to tax.waukeshacounty.gov and type in your address or tax key. Pay electronically from a checking account (\$1.50 fee) OR use a credit or debit card (2.39% of payment fee).

Refunds: If you are due a refund, a check from the Village for the overpayment will be sent approximately 2 weeks after notice is received from the county by the Village.





2021 Dog Licenses

The Village requires all dogs be licensed as per Wis. State Statute 95.21(2)(a).

A dog license application was enclosed in your property tax bill and is available on the village website. Simply mail your application and check to the Village Hall or apply in person Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. Once received your dog license will be mailed back to you (or handed to you if in person).

The rabies vaccination information must be filled in prior to any licenses being issued, pursuant to Wisc. State Statute.

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 is a \$5.00 late fee assessed beginning April 1, 2021. The village accepts cash or checks for dog licenses.

If a dog is found unlicensed in the Village, the owner will be issued a citation. Any questions regarding dog licenses maybe directed to Michele or Teri at the Village Hall.

The Village of Oconomowoc Lake uses the “Village of Oconomowoc Lake Police Department” Facebook page to allow members of the community to know what is going on in the Village and surrounding communities in a timely manner. If you do not have Facebook, please check in with the Village Hall to make sure we have a current email address for you.



**Oconomowoc Lake Police
Department**

Community



Like

Using Aerators & Aeration Systems

The use of an aerator has become a popular method of protecting structures from ice damage. Aerators may provide some benefits to individual homeowners however they can often impact neighbors and the public. A permit is not required to install or maintain these devices so long as all of the following conditions are met:

- Aeration systems must be attached to a legal structure (pier, retaining wall, etc.). This can be a previously permitted structure or a structure that is exempt from permitting.
- The operation of an aeration system **cannot adversely impact the public or your neighbors** who may be accessing the lake near your waterfront. You need to ensure that your aerator does not impact the ice on your neighbor's property or create unsafe ice conditions for ice skaters, fishermen, snowmobilers, etc. This can often be accomplished by installing temporary "skirts" around the area to be protected. The "skirts" are commonly made out of a material that will stop the flow of water from the aerator. Any material placed in conjunction with the aerator must be removed immediately after lake/river ice-out.
- Prior to creating any ice holes, you need to design a marking plan. You must mark ice holes that form from your aerator with one of the following methods (**Wis. Stats. s. 167.26**). Any material used to mark the hole must be removed from the water immediately before or immediately after the melting of the ice.
 1. Erect and maintain a barricade around the holes consisting of uprights that are spaced at adequate intervals to maintain the barricade and that are connected by a continuous rope, cord, or similar material placed at least 2.5 feet and not more than 4.5 feet off the surface. The connecting rope, cord, or similar material shall have reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted ribbon or tape or other reflectorized devices attached to it, so as to be highly visible, and shall be of sufficient strength to allow for the retrieval of the barricade following melting of the ice.
 2. Erect and maintain a visual warning mechanism that is highly visible and that is reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted.
- The mixing action from the aerator cannot disturb the lake bottom.

If the system is placed, anchored, or resting on the lake or stream bed, or the aerator cannot meet any of the aforementioned requirements, a miscellaneous structure permit is required. Go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/> for more information and permit applications. If you have any questions, please call a WDNR Water Management Specialist or Conservation Warden. **Please be aware that you are liable for accidents that occur due to improperly marked ice holes.**



VILLAGE OF OCONOMOWOC LAKE E-MAIL ADDRESSES

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.oconlake.com

A great resource for all Village information.

POLICE

police@oconlake.com

Requests for house checks, extra patrol, and parking; traffic & boating laws, Boater's Safety Class, report missing/found property.

POLICE CHIEF

villagehall@oconlake.com

ADMINISTRATOR

administrator@oconlake.com

Other administrative questions or requests regarding zoning matters or building permits.

CLERK - DEPUTY TREASURER

clerk@oconlake.com

Request absentee ballot; questions on elections, property taxes, and board of review.

TREASURER - DEPUTY CLERK

michele@oconlake.com

Building permit questions, dog licenses.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

mbickler@stonewoodcompanies.com

DPW

dpw@oconlake.com

Request driveway sand/salt mixture.

VILLAGE OF OCONOMOWOC LAKE

villagehall@oconlake.com

Any questions regarding Village matters.

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, the temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors; 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" For ice fishing and small group activities

5" For 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.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

the Village of Oconomowoc Lake Staff