



The Village News



VILLAGE OF OCONOMOWOC LAKE

QUARTERLY CALENDAR

JANUARY 2023

Monday, January 2		VILLAGE HALL CLOSED
Monday, January 9	7:00 pm	Plan Commission Meeting*
Monday, January 9	7:00 pm	Board of Appeals Meeting*
Monday, January 16	7:00 pm	Village Board Meeting
Monday, January 23	6:00 pm	Architectural Control Board*

FEBRUARY 2023

Monday, February 6	7:00 pm	Plan Commission Meeting*
Monday, February 13	7:00 pm	Board of Appeals Meeting*
Monday, February 20	7:00 pm	Village Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 21	7:00 am - 8:00 pm	Spring Primary Election*
Monday, February 27	6:00 pm	Architectural Control Board*

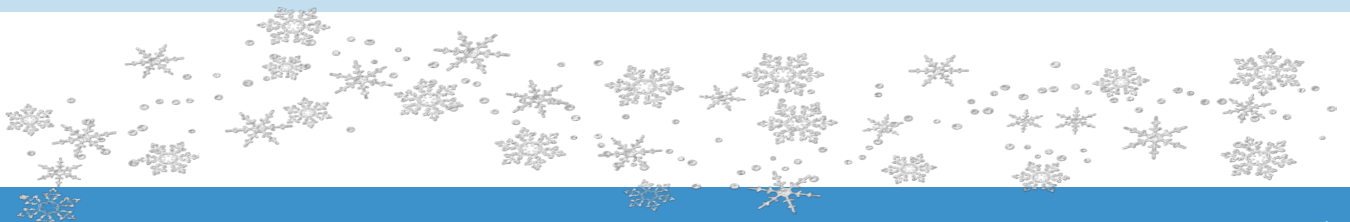
MARCH 2023

Monday, March 6	7:00 pm	Plan Commission Meeting*
Monday, March 13	7:00 pm	Board of Appeals Meeting*
Monday, March 20	7:00 pm	Village Board Meeting
Monday, March 27	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 on December 26th and January 2.

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 enter 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 for an overpayment, a check from the Village will be sent approximately 2 weeks after notice is received from the county by the Village.

Letter from the President

Season's Greetings,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

We had a very busy election last month and I would like to thank all the dedicated staff and volunteers that ensured it went smoothly.

Please be sure to say "thank you" when you see the office staff, police officers or public works staff out and about. We are grateful to all!

As snow season approaches, it is a good time to make sure your driveway markers are in place (we have several new plow drivers this year).

The Village will only plow your driveway when we have more than 3" of snow and only if you have requested we do so.

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

Mike Bickler, Sr.



Election Information

Spring Primary (if needed)

The Spring Primary will be held on February 21, 2023 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 or on the MyVote website.

Spring Election

The Spring Election will be held on April 4, 2023. 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.



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

www.myvote.wi.gov

HISTORY COMMITTEE NEWS

We are pleased to announce we now have the video recording of Don Wiemer's June 5, 2022 "History of Oconomowoc Lake" presentation at the Oconomowoc Lake Club. If you were unable to attend or would like a revisit his presentation, go to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1lw097lod3ryipn/Ocon%20History.mp4?dl=0>

OR see the home page of our website. DVD and/or zip drive copies are also available for purchase for \$10 at the Village Hall.

Follow the QR code at the left to view other historical information.



The next village properties to be featured in the display cabinets at the Village Hall will be the Chester and Read estates. These properties are located on the east shore of the lake. The Chester and Read families have graciously shared pictures and treasured history for all of us to enjoy. Come visit the new display at the Spring Election.

The History Committee wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and wonderful holiday season filled with old and new traditions!

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 shall be clearly marked indicating where the boundaries of the driveway are. Driveways not clearly marked with reflective markers **WILL 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.

NOTE: to receive TIMELY plowing text notifications, see page 7 of this newsletter and SIGN UP!

WINTER ICE SAFETY TIPS - WHEN IS ICE SAFE?

There really is no sure answer. You cannot 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

Use of 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.**

Explaining Your 2022 Tax Increase

The increase in your Village (only) tax is a product of increased assessed values and a 5.82% (from 3.68 to 3.90) increase in the tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value. As an example, if your assessed value went up 10% and you combine that with the 5.82% rate increase, your Village property tax would be up 16.4%.

Compared to the prior year, the 2023 tax levy for Village expenditures was up \$311,024, a 16.95% increase. The breakout comparing budgeted expenditures for 2023 as compared to 2022 is as follows:

Budget Item	Increase 2023 over 2022	Percentage Increase
Addition of seventh police officer over cost of part time officers which are no longer available. Needed to maintain 24/7 coverage.	\$107,723	5.87%
State required health insurance for part time employees. Two employees no longer wish to opt out.	24,547	1.34%
Increase in salary for existing employees	35,686	1.94%
Increase in health insurance and pension expense (not including part time and new officer)	12,650	.69%
Inflation on other expenditures	48,398	2.64%
Elimination of carry over surplus from prior year	82,020	4.47%
Total increase in expenditures	\$311,024	16.95%

The 2022 budget included an \$82,020 reduction of taxes equal to the actual surplus from 2020. The surplus from 2021 not being available at the time of budgeting for 2022. The finance committee and Village Board decided to eliminate the surplus carry over procedure for the 2023 budget. Surpluses will be available to cover possible deficits in future years.

The 16.95% increase in expenditures became an 18.36% increase in the levy due to changes in non-tax revenues and transfers to restricted funds for major anticipated future expenditures such as Village Hall maintenance, road rebuilding and truck replacements.

You may request a copy of the complete 2023 budget from the Village Clerk.



The Village has a text messaging application to convey real time information to residents such as **plowing notifications**: [Text OCONLAKE to 833-475-0033](tel:833-475-0033) and you'll begin receiving messages.

(*The phone number list is anonymous with no name associated but could be subject to open records request similar to any other information you provide the Village.)



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.)

Village website: www.oconlake.com

VILLAGE OF OCONOMOWOC LAKE E-MAIL ADDRESSES

VILLAGE OF OCONOMOWOC LAKE

villagehall@oconlake.com

Any questions regarding Village matters.

CLERK - DEPUTY TREASURER

clerk@oconlake.com

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

POLICE

police@oconlake.com

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

TREASURER - DEPUTY CLERK

michele@oconlake.com

Building permit questions, dog licenses

POLICE CHIEF/ADMINISTRATOR

jjanicsek@oconlake.com

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

mbickler@stonewoodcompanies.com

DPW

dpw@oconlake.com

Request driveway sand/salt mixture

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

Sincerely,

Village of Oconomowoc Lake Staff