



Village of Oswego News

Serving the Village of Oswego Since 1833

Fall 2017
Volume 25, Issue 3



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from the Village President

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Oswego News

This newsletter is published quarterly and mailed to over 14,000 Oswego postal customers. Comments, suggestions and questions are welcome at info@oswegoil.org.

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Greetings Friends & Neighbors!

Fall has arrived. Like many of you, I find myself wondering where the summer went. It started innocently enough with a wondrous Wine on the Fox weekend in May...then suddenly PrairieFest was upon us and Oswego partied like we do every Father's Day Weekend. Before we could blink away the memories of great bands and seeing friends from near and far, the July 4th holiday was upon us and we had the honor of hosting the Moving Vietnam Wall—a memorial that will truly stay with us for a lifetime. Three Beats and Eats and Cab Cab's later I am facing the arrival of Brew on the Bridge and scratching my head as to where this delightful summer has finally set.



When we launched our branding campaign this spring: Go Oswego!...we never imagined it would reap so many benefits, so quickly. Homes are selling faster than realtors can list them. Entrepreneurs and developers are more than interested in investing in our downtown and throughout the village. Shodeen, Potter's, and Oswego Brewing Company—Oh My! Did I mention we finally have that steakhouse you have been asking for? Longhorn opened its doors last month.

And so, with summer in the rear-view mirror, may we all slow down and enjoy the splendor autumn has to offer. May walks along the beautiful Fox River, peddling throughout park district trails, visiting during the longer evenings with friends and family, and celebrating wholesome holidays fill these months ahead for each one of us.

Sincerely,

Gail Johnson

Village President



■ Fall Property of the Season

Oswego Township Cemetery

Written by Sarah Kimes,
Little White School Museum

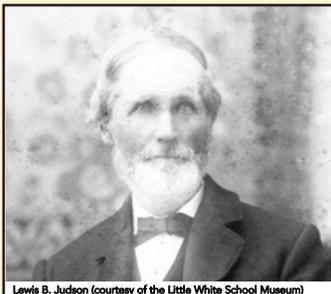
The Oswego Historic Preservation Commission is proud to feature the Oswego Township Cemetery as its Fall 2017 Property of the Season.

Located on south Main Street, the cemetery was established over 160 years ago by one of the town's founding citizens, Lewis B. Judson. It is the final resting place for people of all backgrounds, from reverends and teachers to business owners and war veterans.



Entrance to the Oswego Township Cemetery (courtesy of the Little White School Museum)

The cemetery is laid out in a grid style and sectioned off into five distinct areas. The majority of its 662 burial plots are located in sections A and B. In 1877, to meet the need for more burial ground, the cemetery purchased additional land in section C to offer 158 more plots.



Lewis B. Judson (courtesy of the Little White School Museum)

What some may not know is that the current cemetery was not Oswego's first burial yard. At the time of the town's founding in 1833, most residents had one of two options when it came time to bury their dead: create a personal family burying ground on their farmland or buy a lot in a public cemetery. So in 1835, as more and more settlers moved to the area to stake their claims, three men - Levi F. Arnold, Morris Gray, and Lewis B. Judson - donated land to establish the town's first cemetery at what is now the southeast corner of Madison and Benton Streets.

This cemetery served the town's residents for 20 years before Judson sold the property to people planning to build a Baptist

church on the site. He created a new burying ground in 1855 on a piece of his farmland along the east bank of the Fox River. The dead that were originally buried at Madison and Benton Streets were slowly re-interred into this new cemetery.

One problem still remained, however; there was no caretaker employed to maintain the graveyard grounds. Within 15 years of its establishment, the cemetery had fallen into disrepair, so much so that people began to notice its decrepit condition. The Kendall County Record printed a quote in its March 27, 1873 edition from a disgruntled subscriber who allegedly said, "If I knew the name of your Oswego correspondent, I would ask him to say something about the broken fences [and] the cattle that make the Oswego cemetery so unsightly."

It was around this time that residents began to talk seriously about establishing a local cemetery association to keep the graveyard in better condition. In the summer of 1876, the Oswego Cemetery Association received its official charter of incorporation from the state and installed its first four officers. It began with \$5,000 in capital stock and continued to raise money in order to fund planned improvements and upkeep.

That same year, M. J. Richards purchased Judson's farmland and acquired the cemetery along with it. He transferred ownership of the cemetery to the newly established association the following year. They wasted no time in making improvements and repairs to the grounds, such as installing a new fence and adding gravel walkways.

The association owned and operated the graveyard until 1930 when Oswego Township took over the responsibility of maintaining the grounds. The township continues to care for it to this day and it remains an active cemetery, although no new burial plots are being offered for sale.

Notable people buried here include Nathan Hughes, escaped slave and Civil War veteran; Kate Cliggitt, teacher who served on the Oswego Board of Education; and John "Three-Fingered Jack" Hamilton, member of the John Dillinger gang found buried in a shallow grave north of Oswego.

■ Citizen's Guide to Village Meetings

The President and Board of Trustees are the governing Body of the Village of Oswego. Your comments and concerns are important to us. We invite everyone to participate in our Village meetings.

- Oswego Village Board of Trustees meet at 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month, providing it is not a holiday.
- Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm, providing it is not a holiday.

Agendas and supporting documents, for the meetings, are posted on the Village's website at www.oswego.il.gov and are usually available on the Friday before the meeting.

Citizens may address the Village Board of Trustees during the Public Forum, or Public Hearing portion of the meeting. A Public Participation form shall be submitted, to the Village Clerk, prior to the beginning of the meeting. Forms will be available, outside the Board room, on meeting nights. All comments shall be brief, avoid personal attacks, and abusive language.

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Public Works

■ Leaf Collection

The curbside leaf vacuum program provides residents a cost effective way to dispose of leaves. The bulk of the piles will be vacuumed up as the crews go by your address. It is impossible for the crew to collect 100% of the leaves piled for collection. Place leaves in the parkway (on the grass) near the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the Monday of your specified pickup week for collection, leaves not placed in the parkway by 7:00 a.m. will be picked up on the following scheduled week for your zone. **NO BRUSH, GRASS CLIPPINGS, TREE LIMBS, VINES, OR TRASH WILL BE COLLECTED.** These materials can cause damage to this costly equipment and can put the operator and residents in the area at risk of injury or death.



PROPER LEAF PILE FOR COLLECTION



IMPROPER LEAF PILE FOR COLLECTION

Due to the tremendous scope of this work village wide, leaves piled in proximity to an obstruction or obstructed by a parked vehicle will have to be skipped, and not be picked up until the next collection week. Please keep leaves out of the curb line and street so not to cause hazardous driving conditions or local flooding. Residents are reminded that leaf burning is prohibited at all times.

There is a very small window of opportunity to collect the leaves from the time the leaves fall to when winter weather begins. Inclement weather or large volume of leaves could alter the leaf pickup schedule. Once the leaves are snow covered, the vacuum cannot collect the leaves and the program may be suspended. Therefore residents are strongly encouraged to utilize alternative options such as placing leaves in and around plant beds under trees and shrubs as this provide nutrients for the soil and provide insulation for the plants. Residents can also utilize the yard waste bags and refuse collection program. Each bag requires one (1) yard waste sticker and needs to be placed at the curb with garbage and recycling containers by 6:00 a.m. on the normally scheduled garbage collection day. These stickers may be purchased for \$1.50 at:

- Oswego Village Hall – 100 Parkers Mill
- Ace Hardware – 4500 Route 71
- Jewel Foods – 2540 Route 30 & 3795 Orchard Road
- Meijer's – 2700 Route 34
- Walgreens – 410 Chicago Road & 3401 Orchard Road
- Lianes Family Pantry – 4574 Route 71

Groot will collect yard waste bags for free on your regular garbage collection day during the week of November 13 – 17. The final day for collection of yard waste bags is December 1.

The Village implemented a zoned collection system to provide residents with a set scheduled for leaf collection. Your house is assigned a zone based upon its location in the Village.

COLLECTION ZONES

- **Zone A** - All properties west of the Fox River, Hunt Club subdivision, and all properties east of Fox Bend Golf Course and south of Route 34.
- **Zone B** - All properties south of Wolf Road, all properties south of Route 34 east of the Fox River and west of Route 71 (the downtown area), all properties south of Route 71 excluding Hunt Club subdivision.
- **Zone C** - East of the Fox River and northwest of Route 34.

These zones may be seen on the Leaf Collection Zone map. You may track the leaf collection zones by visiting the Village map gallery at: www.oswego.maps.arcgis.com.

COLLECTION DATES

We will pick up leaves three times this season. Leaf pickup is scheduled for Monday through Friday as follows:

- **Zone A** - Weeks of October 16, October 30 & November 20
- **Zone B** - Weeks of October 16, November 6 & November 27
- **Zone C** - Weeks of October 23, November 13 & December 4

Due to inclement weather, staffing, potential equipment issues, and the volume of leaves, the Leaf Collection Dates may be subject to change.



Public Works

■ Brush Pick Up

The Village has implemented brush collection by zones. There are two zones. Zone A includes all properties east of the Fox River and north of US 34 as well as those properties west of the Fox River and north of Mill Road. Zone B includes all properties east of the Fox River and south of US 34 as well as those properties west of the Fox River and south of Mill Road. We began collecting brush from each zone beginning in April. The last pickup will be in October just prior to the start of the leaf collection program. Collection weeks are as follows:

Zone A
September 4
October 2 (Last one)

Zone B
September 11
October 9 (Last one)

Place all brush at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on Monday morning of the designated week but no earlier than noon the Friday before.

The Public Works trucks will pass through an area once and will not return for brush placed after the deadline.

Brush is defined as tree and bush branches that are less than 5" in diameter. Place unbundled brush parallel or perpendicular to the street in neat bundles with all cut ends facing the same direction. Do not put brush in a container or in the street. We will not pick up logs, wood, root balls, cuttings, or grass clippings. Crews will place an orange tag on your door indicating the reason they did not pick up the brush if it is the wrong material or placed at the curb prior to the deadline.

The Village provides this service for residents. Village does not accept landscaping generated by contractors.

If you have any questions, you may call the Public Works Office at 630-554-3242.

■ Yard Waste Pick Up

Yard waste pick up will continue weekly until Friday, December 1st. The State of Illinois defines yard waste as grass or shrubbery cuttings, leaves, small tree limbs and other materials accumulated as the result of the care of lawns, shrubbery, vines and trees. Examples of yard waste include grass clippings, leaves, branches, limbs, weeds, logs, and garden plants. Your waste material will be collected only if it is placed in a 30 gallon Kraft paper bag with 1 Groot Industries yard waste sticker affixed to the front of the bag. The bags and stickers are available at local retail grocery and hardware stores. Yard waste will be collected on the same day that your regular trash is collected. Please have your yard waste, trash and recycling at your curb by 6:00 a.m. on your collection day.

Village Board Approves Ordinance to Allow for the Raising of Residential Backyard Chickens

The Village of Oswego has recently amended the Code to allow for the raising of chickens on residential properties. Starting September 1st, residents will be allowed to submit an application to the Building and Zoning Department to install a chicken coop in their backyard. In-order to raise chickens, residents must comply to minimum criteria including the following: no more than 6 hens will be allowed, roosters are prohibited, there must be a coup and adjacent fenced area no less than 32 square feet in area, enclosures must be a minimum of 30 feet from an adjacent residential home, and electrical service must be provided but the use of an extension cord is prohibited.

Application packets are available now for pick-up at the Village's Building Department. The packet contains all the requirements for raising chickens as well as some information on how maintain the animals in a healthy way. Applications must be submitted along with a letter of approval from the Homeowner's Association if your subdivision has one. Permits will be reviewed beginning September 1, 2017.

FREE Wood Chips

The Public Works Department has wood chips available for residents free of charge. These wood chips are the product of our brush pick up program as well as other tree removal efforts. Some chips may be from Ash tree removals. Please be advised that due to the Emerald Ash borer quarantine, these chips need to remain local. Please note that this is not fine mulch as you would purchase. Homeowners may pick up the wood chips at the Public Works Facility located at 100 Theodore Drive any time or day out in the back by the salt dome.

No Trash Pickup on Labor Day

Groot Industries will not pick up residential trash on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day. Trash pickup on Monday will be delayed by one day according to the following schedule:

Monday will be picked up on Tuesday, Tuesday will be picked up on Wednesday, Wednesday pick up will be on Thursday, Thursday pick up will be on Friday and Friday pick up will be on Saturday.

No Trash Pickup on Thanksgiving Day

Groot Industries will not pick up residential trash on Thursday, November 23rd in observance of Thanksgiving. Garbage will be as usual for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Garbage for Thursday and Friday will be delayed one day: Thursday's pick up will be on Friday and Friday's pick up will be on Saturday.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Public Works Department at 630-554-3242.

Fall Cleanup Week of November 13 - 17

Groot Industries provides a clean-up day in the spring and fall. They will collect additional household waste, yard waste and bulk items for all Village residents the week of November 13th - 17th, on your normal scheduled garbage day. Residents must place yard waste in the 30 gallon kraft yard waste bags. PLEASE - NO PLASTIC BAGS! NO stickers will be required (this week only). NOTE - you cannot put out appliances, televisions or electronics. Please place all items, along with your regular garbage and recycling, at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on your normal scheduled garbage day. If you have any questions regarding this pick up, please contact the Public Works Department @ 630-554-3242.

Public Works

■ Water Main Flushing

October 16 - 27

The Public Works Department will be flushing water mains during the two week period of October 16th – 27th (weather permitting). Crews will begin flushing at 7:00 a.m. Please do your laundry before that time or after 6:00 p.m. on these days to avoid rust discoloration of clothes. If your clothes become discolored, please notify the Public Works Department at 630-554-3242.

The Public Works Department flushes all fire hydrants in the spring and fall under the recommendation of the Illinois EPA. Flushing does a number of things including cleaning of water mains and producing fresh water to areas of the system that have low or very little usage. Flushing cleans the water mains by running high flows of water through fire hydrants to get rid of iron deposits that could produce colored water and, in some instances, plugged water meters. Flushing also helps produce fresh water by opening hydrants at the end of water mains and pulling fresh water all the way to the end of the line. This helps if a resident lives in a new subdivision that has little water usage.

REMEMBER – if the Village crews are in your area, do not do laundry until after 6:00 p.m. on the days of flushing. Also, before running your hot water, run all cold water taps first to make sure the water is running clear. Only when it is running clear is when you want to run your hot water.

The department will be putting up signs to alert residents of the upcoming flushing. These signs will be placed throughout the Village the week before the flushing. Please watch for them.

Have 401(k) questions? Let's talk.



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OSWEGO

Police Department News

■ Lost Dogs

An open front door. A thunderstorm. A person walking past your yard. The question now is what do these three things have in common?

They are all a few of the many ways your dog may get loose and go on an adventure through the streets of Oswego. And while most every canine loves a good walk, going on one without a human is both dangerous and against the law.

The Oswego Police Department receives multiple calls a week from passersby who have observed a dog running loose in town. Upon successfully catching the dog, police officers bring the canine to the department to be checked for a microchip and contact information so that we can locate the owner.

Unfortunately, more often than not, the dogs do not have collars with identifying tags and are also not microchipped. Many times when we do locate a microchip the chip has not been registered to the current owner (vet clinics, shelters, and microchip makers are common contacts that pop up instead) or the information is out-of-date. That means that if we cannot find an owner within a sensible timeframe the dog is transported to Kendall County Animal Control.

Should your dog get loose we recommend the following steps once you realize Fido is not where you last left him.

- 1. Call the Oswego Police Department front desk at 630-551-7300. We can take down information regarding your lost pet including description and contacts and should one of our officers become acquainted with your dog we can happily reunite you both quickly.**
- 2. If you live in an area where you may be near another police jurisdiction (Kendall County Sheriff or Montgomery Police), contact them as well in the chance your dog is found in their area.**
- 3. Post your dog's information on local social media groups. These could include garage-sale groups, subdivision pages and news sites, such as Only Oswego, Oswego Patch and Kendall County Now.**
- 4. Post your dog's information on the Illinois-wide site/Facebook page Lost Dogs of Illinois. They have a huge following and plenty of people sharing photos of your lost pup.**
- 5. Visit the Oswego Police Department Facebook page. We often post photos of dogs (and thanks to our officer's fabulous sense of humor they can be quite fun posts!) that we've picked up.**
- 6. Contact Kendall County Animal Control.**
- 7. Update your microchip information. This can be done at any time via your particular microchip website. If you are unsure how to do this contact your vet or shelter for further information.**

Reuniting a found pet with their owner never fails to make us smile and we love a happy ending as much as you do. But depending on the situation a fine could be issued for your dog running loose. A few of the fines that could be incurred include:

- 1. Ineffective restraint (your dog running loose): \$75.00 fine**
- 2. Ineffective restraint three times or more in 12 consecutive months: \$250.00 fine**
- 3. Dog bite: \$75.00 fine**

While we'd like your canine companion to remain safe and sound in your home or yard, we know that they may at some point get loose. Taking the above steps can quicken your reunion with your dog and will hopefully get them home safely.

If you find a dog without an owner, please give the Oswego Police Department a call at 630-551-7300. We are here to protect and serve all of our citizens, and that most definitely includes our furry four-legged ones.



Fire Extinguisher Basics

■ FIRE EXTINGUISHERS – BASICS YOU NEED TO KNOW

You were probably taught as a child when it's time to change our clocks either forward or backwards due to daylight savings time, it is also time to change the batteries in your home smoke alarms. But have you thought about your household fire extinguisher? Did you know that they need care and maintenance?

It is important to know which type of fire extinguisher is the right one for the job. Fire extinguishers come in all different types, shapes, and sizes. If you are not sure which type you need in your home, you can contact your local Building Department, Fire Department, or search on line to be sure you have the right fire extinguisher.

There are three basic types of fire extinguishers along with several specialty types. They are broken down into types (class) of fire that they are capable of extinguishing.

Class A: wood, lumber, paper, cardboard, and many types of plastics

Class B: flammable or combustible liquids (gasoline, oils, petroleum products and organic solids)

Class C: energized electrical equipment (switches, appliances, electrical service panel and power tools)

An A-B-C type fire extinguisher is an excellent choice for in home use as it covers most of the situations confronted in the home. These type extinguishers are typically a one-time use tool (disposable) and have an extended shelf life.

When looking at which extinguisher to use, read the label where you will find marked symbols that show the types of fires it can and cannot be used on. If unsure, contact an expert.

Fire extinguisher tips:

- 1. Never use a Class A fire extinguisher (normally chrome/silver body unit) on a Class B (liquid) or Class C (electrical) fire. This could spread the fire or you could get a significant or deadly shock.**
- 2. Fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly**
- 3. Make sure they are mounted in a clear and obvious location, but away from the reaching hands of small children**
- 4. Be sure to also inspect the pressure gauge. Is it in the green and ready to go?**
- 5. If it is the disposable type, is it up to date and not expired? If your extinguisher is not disposable type, has it been inspected and tagged within the last year?**
- 6. Are all the parts there and in working condition?**

Keep in Mind:

- **All homes should have at least one fire extinguisher**
- **Practice makes perfect; an emergency is not the time to learn how use an extinguisher. Many local Fire Departments and vendors have training classes available to the public.**
- **Always have a clear path to an exit to your back if ever forced to use an extinguisher.**
- **And remember, "when outgunned, it's time to run!"**

Bracken Engineering E-News; Clint Rogers, Fire Investigator and Ron Rogers, Program Manager of PSS

References: NFPA 10 (2013 edition), NFPA 101, Life Safety Code (2012 ed.)

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT
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Harvest Moon Hoedown
Friday, September 15

Medicare Forum
Wednesday, October 4

Masquerade Ball Benefit Gala
Friday, November 3

Holiday Craft Fair
Saturday, November 18

New Year's Lunch
Friday, December 29



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Fall Fox Fest

Downtown Oswego

October 1st * 9am-3pm
Children's Activities, Touch a Truck,
Handmade Craft Market, Live
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Christmas Walk Oswego, IL



*Calling all
Community Organizations
& Businesses*

The Village of Oswego is again hosting the Annual Christmas Walk celebration and we want YOU to be involved!

The Oswego Christmas Walk Celebration will take place on December 1, 2017 from 5 - 9 p.m. throughout downtown Oswego.

If your group would like to offer an activity or event during the celebration, please submit your activity application to Village of Oswego at info@oswegoil.org, no later than November 1st.

Applications are available at www.oswegoil.org.

■ Tips from the Building Inspectors

It's not too early to check out your furnace to make sure it is ready for the first cold morning. Take these simple steps to prepare your heating system. First, remove all the access covers and look for cracks and excess corrosion, especially in the heat exchanger -- the place where air circulates through the combustion chamber. Fuel is burned in the combustion chamber, and if any carbon monoxide leaks out it could be drawn into your home. If you suspect that this might be happening, call a professional to test for the gas and/or install a carbon monoxide alarm in your house. The alarm, available at most home centers, looks and installs much like a smoke alarm.

Second, clean out any dust and spider webs in the furnace with a vacuum and remove the filter. Instead of replacing the filter, you may want to install a new electronic air cleaner. This new filter uses static electricity to keep out many more particles and is very energy efficient.

Installation requires some custom-made ducting, but it is otherwise simple to do. Proper air-filtering has been shown to prevent what is called "sick-building syndrome." There are many causes for this, but symptoms include more frequent allergy attacks and even colds and flu.

Third, in the interest of saving energy, think about installing one of the new programmable thermostats. They may look complicated, but they hook up to the same wires as old thermostats.

Once installed, you program the times you usually turn the furnace on and off. The energy-saving idea behind these thermostats is that people often forget to turn off the furnace or, in order to heat up the house quickly, they overcompensate and run the furnace full blast. By having the thermostat anticipate temperature needs you save energy.

Next, with the thermostat off, light the pilot light and fire up the furnace. After letting it burn for a while, look at the flames to see if they are burning evenly and with a nice blue color.

If the flames are dancing around with more yellow than blue, you may need to adjust the air/fuel mixture. Different furnaces adjust this mixture in different ways. If you do not have the instructions for your individual furnace, have a professional do it. A furnace that is not working efficiently will waste fuel and take longer to heat up. Finally, if after looking your furnace over you decide that it's time for a new one, check with your local utility to see if there are any rebates or purchasing plans available for a new furnace. Also, check the Energy Star Program. Many manufacturers offer low-cost financing on appliances that meet the Energy Star guidelines.

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Business and Industry United for a Better Community

WHAT IS YOUR CHAMBER?

The Oswego Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer organization comprised of members of the business community working together to make Oswego a better place to live and work. As the business voice in the Oswego area, the Chamber organizes programs, activities and committees for the benefit of area business.

WHO IS YOUR CHAMBER?

You are! Your active involvement in the Chamber affects the community in which you live and conduct business. The direction, policies and priorities of the Chamber are established by members serving on working committees and by the Board of Directors.

BENEFITS OF YOUR CHAMBER

The Chamber constantly enforces the value of business associations and friendships working together for the benefit of Oswego area business... Your business.

INCREASE YOUR MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

- Newsletter advertising
- E-mail ads
- Online Membership Directory
- Hometown Expo
- Special event sponsorships
- Website advertising and links
- Online job board
- Visitor and Community Guide
- New Resident & New Business Welcome Programs

GET INVOLVED

Become active on a chamber committee:

- Golf Outing
- Inspiring Women of Oswego
- Leads Groups
- Ambassadors
- Hometown Expo
- Legislative Open Meetings
- Edward Healthy Driven Fraidycat Races



Photo courtesy Locked In Photography

PLEASE JOIN US THIS SEPTEMBER

The Chamber is conducting its annual membership drive throughout the month. If you've ever considered joining, now is a great time. The \$25 application fee will be waived for businesses that join in September.

*The Oswego Chamber of Commerce
is your Chamber!*

The Oswego Chamber of Commerce promotes the growth and prosperity of our members by connecting them to resources, relationships, and value-added benefits to foster a successful business community.



OSWEGO
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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oswegochamber.org



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The Cultural Arts Commission and the Oswego Public Library District
presents the 6th Annual

Oswego Literary Festival
Saturday, October 7, 2017
9am to 1pm

Meet Local Authors, Book Signings,
Musical Entertainment, Children's Activities & More!

10:30-10:50am

Kathy Elstad

presents

"Kids Come and Meet Miss Polka Dottie"

11:00-11:45am

Donna Seaman

presents

"Reading with Intent: The Art of Book
Reviewing"

Oswego Public Library District

Oswego Campus

32 West Jefferson Street

Oswego, IL 60543

For more information call 630-554-4636 or email info@oswegoil.org.