

OSAKIS INSIDER



Osakis City Office

14 Nokomis Street East, PO Box 486, Osakis, MN 56360

Hours – 8 am to 4:30 pm

Phone – 320.859.2150

Angela Jacobson– City Clerk– cityhall@cityofosakis.com

Lynnette Swenstad– Deputy Clerk – osakiscityls@arvig.net

Ila Anderson– Admin Assistant – osakiscityia@arvig.net

Website – www.cityofosakis.com

 Like us on Facebook – **City of Osakis MN**

(for updates on city announcements, notices and information)

The Osakis Insider has a NEW LOOK..... check it out!

The City Council has decided to stream line. The newsletter will be sent out only one time a year. So please make sure that you read the complete newsletter as there will be information that will be important later in the year. The newsletter can always be viewed on our website at www.cityofosakis.com under resources.



BOARD MEETING DATES AND TIMES

City Council Meetings /2nd Monday of the Month / 6:00 pm

YouTube channel for livestreaming council meetings: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofOsakis-x2n>

Economic Development Authority Meetings /4th Monday of the Month / 4:30 pm

Planning & Zoning Meetings /3rd Thursday of the Month / 7:00 pm

Park Board Meetings / Last Tuesday of the Month / 9:00 am

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall unless posted.

Mayor's Insider Message

"TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY WHERE WE LIVE AND WORK"

Stephanie Finnegan, Laura Backes, Mayor Judy Dvorsak, Tim Thornbloom, Randy Anderson



We will only be sending out one newsletter for 2026, so it is packed with a lot of information. Will it answer every question you may have? Possibly not, but the ladies at City Hall would be pleased to supply you with an answer or direct you to the appropriate person or department.

On April 7th, the council hosted an open house at City Hall. We hope you had the opportunity to attend to check out our current projects, upcoming projects and projects that are in the discussion phase.

The council and I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to making our community vibrant and welcoming. Your involvement, whether through volunteering, attending meetings, or supporting local projects, truly makes a difference. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Osakis. Have you been thinking you want to join in – volunteer at Chamber sponsored city events, become a board member, run for office? City Hall has the information you would need.

It is with a heavy heart that I have made the decision to not run for a second term as mayor. It has been my privilege to serve in this capacity and will give you my all for the remainder of the year. I would be more than happy to speak with anyone that may be interested and has questions.

To all, have an amazing summer!



NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Disposable wipes: Disposable wipes cannot be flushed into the sewer system. This will cause expensive damage to the lift stations. Remember, it is your tax dollars that will be used to repair them.

Water meters: There is still part of the town that needs to have their water meter nodes replaced in order to obtain accurate water readings each month. These meters are currently being estimated which may not be an accurate picture of your actual water usage. Letters have been sent out to those that still need to have these nodes replaced. Call in to City Hall at 320-859-1202 and set up an appointment.

Lateral sewer inspections: If you are planning to sell your house or business, keep in mind that a lateral sewer inspection needs to be completed and be in compliance prior to the final closing on your house. For more information, please contact City Hall or find the paperwork on the city website. Ordinance #55

How to properly discharge a sump pump: You can have the discharge pipe empty onto your property at least 10 feet from the home. With this approach, make sure the ground slopes away from the foundation and the pipe stays clear of debris or animals. The longer the pipe the less likely the water will infiltrate through the soil and end up back into the sump pit. Second, is to connect to the storm drain, which is separate from the sanitary sewer system. This usually requires professional installation and may require approval from the city, but completely removes the water from your property.

Water conservation: Water conservation — using water efficiently and avoiding waste — is essential to ensure that we have adequate water today and into the future. Water is a finite resource. The supply on earth today is the same as what was here at the beginning of the planet. It is up to all of us to use water wisely, and it is as simple as each of us making small changes. Make conserving water a daily part of your life. Remember when you save water, you save energy and money. Check for water leaks in your toilets and faucets. Turn water off while shaving or brushing your teeth. Showers use less water than baths. Wash full loads of clothes and dishes.

Docks and boat lifts: When you remove your lifts and docks in the fall, please make sure that you get them far enough out of the road right away to allow for proper snow plowing in the winter.

Street light outage: If you see a street light out, please contact City Hall and report or contact Xcel Energy to report the outage. Call them at 800-895-4999. You can also report it online at: <https://www.xcelenergy.com/report%20outage>

Compost site: The compost site will be available again this year. Please remember that you will need to stop at City Hall to get a key. The key needs to be returned immediately after use. You must lock the gate before you leave. This compost site is only for leaves, garden debris, sticks, lawn clippings. There are signs stating where the specific items are to be dumped. No concrete, tires, rocks or appliances are allowed. For City of Osakis residents only.



NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lawn maintenance: It is the primary responsibility of any owner or occupant of any lot or parcel of land to maintain any grass growing thereon at a height of not more than 6 inches. If any owner or occupant fails to assume this responsibility and after notice given by the city has not, within 7 days of the notice complied, the city may cause the work to be done and the expense thus incurred shall be a lien upon the real estate. (Ord #90.39). DO NOT blow grass clippings onto the street. These ultimately end up in the storm drain where they can build up and cause drainage issues and localized flooding.

Dog licensing: All dogs are required to be licensed annually by May 1st (Ord 93.21) and must have current rabies vaccination on file with the city. License fees are: Male \$15; Female \$15; Non-spayed \$20. Dog owners are asked to keep their dogs from running at large and barking habitually day or night (Ord 93.20 & 93.22) If violated, there is a \$100.00 fine for no dog tag or if the dog is running at large. There will be **NO** vaccination clinic this year. Please come to City Hall to purchase your dog license prior to May 1st. Please bring the current rabies vaccination notice from the veterinarian. Licenses can be purchased by paying online or payment in drop box and licenses will be mailed out.

Recreational vehicles: Golf Carts, ATV's, Side by Sides etc. all need to have a permit that issued by the Osakis Police Department. It is a one-time fee of \$20.00. A copy of your insurance policy will be required. Recreational vehicles can be driven on designated streets by permit only (Ord #73.12)

Campfires: Do not require a burn permit. However, over 3 ft x 3 ft needs to have a fire permit issued by a local Fire Warden. Mark Pomerleau at Deluxe Oil or Howard Swenstad at Howard Handcrafted Furniture.

Nuisance parking and storage: The outside parking and storage on residential zoned property of a large number of vehicles, materials, supplies or equipment not customarily used for residential purposes is in violation of Ordinance #90.18. This obstructs view on streets, decreases adjoining landowners' and occupants' enjoyment of property, creates clutter and otherwise unsightly areas and prevents the full use of residential streets for residential parking.

Winter parking regulations: There is no parking on public streets from November 1 to April 1 between the hours of 12:00 am to 6:00 am. Vehicles parked on the streets during this time, will be ticketed and towed. Ordinance #71.01

Sidewalk snow removal: The owner or occupant of any property adjacent to a public sidewalk shall use diligence to keep the walk safe for pedestrians. No owner or occupant shall allow snow or ice to remain on the sidewalk longer than 24 hours after its deposit there on. The City Council shall designate officials who will remove the snow and ice if the homeowner or occupant has not complied. The cost of such removal shall be assessable to the homeowner per Ordinance #92.21

Fire Hydrants: Keep a 3-foot area cleared of snow away from the hydrants. This could save your home.



NEWS FROM CITY HALL

2026 Spring Clean up day & hazardous waste pick up: The annual Spring clean up day will be held on Saturday, May 16th from 9-11:00 AM in the Osakis Municipal Liquor Store parking lot. Items accepted by West Central Sanitation are: appliances, electronics, computers, DVD/VCR, microwave, mattress/box spring, couches/recliners, tires and rims.

Free of charge: paints, auto chemicals, adhesives, cleaners, sealers, aerosols, poisons, garden chemicals, mothballs, fuels, mercury items, fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries and more. If you are physically challenged and a resident of the City of Osakis and are unable to deliver items, please call City Hall at 895-2150 a week before the event to make arrangements. Payment must be made before pickup. All proceeds to toward the 4th of July fireworks display.

Automatic payments for your utility billing: This is a beneficial option to keep your billing from becoming delinquent. This form can be found attached to this newsletter, or on the city website, or stop into City Hall.

On-line bill payments: There is an on-line bill payment option on the city website at www.cityofosakis.com to give you convenience to pay for anything from utility billing, parking tickets, recreational vehicle permits, building permits, dog licenses or any bill you would have with the city.

City Council meetings can now be live streamed: Check out the city YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofOsakis-x2n> for each council meeting and watch live. Or you can also go back and watch one from the past.

Elections: Primary Elections will be August 11th at the Osakis Community Center. General Elections will be November 3rd at the Osakis Community Center. Council seats that are up for election include: Mayor (2-year term), 2 council member positions (4-year term each). Watch for further information in the Anchor, City website or stop into City Hall for more information on filing deadlines for these positions. Filing is open from July 14th to July 28th.

Special event licenses: If your business is going to be participating in a special event this summer, please remember you will need to apply for the licenses at least 30 days prior to the event. These licenses go through a review process, county approval for road blockage, background checks and need to go the council for approval. Please keep in mind that applications must be filled out completely with all the necessary documents prior to submission.

Community center: If you have a special event and need a large space with kitchen facilities available to use, the Osakis Community Center is great location for graduations, weddings, meetings, birthday parties, anniversary celebrations and many other types of events. If you are interested, please contact City Hall at 320-859-2150 for more information regarding pricing and availability.



NEWS FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Affordable loan programs to help you buy a home: Time to make your dream of homeownership a reality. MN Housing can help you get there. As little as 3% down, plus downpayment and closing cost loan options up to \$18,000. Fixed interest rates. Incomes up to \$197,000. House prices up to \$498,257. Contact MN Housing at 800-657-3769 for more information.

Housing grant funds: Funds are still available for qualified homeowners of the City of Osakis who live in Douglas County. These funds help with exterior remodel/improvements, demolition or acquisition or even to help build a brand-new home. For more information regarding income qualifications, contact city hall. This grant program is available through 2027. Grant funds are from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Tier 2 Housing Grant: The City of Osakis was awarded a Tier II grant through Minnesota Housing. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$150,000 to support the construction of new homes within the city. Funding up to \$50,000 per home will be available to qualifying individuals. Grant amounts are based on income and availability. Limited funds. These are first come first serve. This incentive is in addition to the existing \$25,000 housing program currently administered by the Osakis Economic Development Authority.

Available vacant residential lots for sale to build a new home: There are several vacant lots available for a new home to be constructed on within the City of Osakis. To get more information on available lots, please contact City Hall.

Development for residential housing: There is a new upcoming housing development called "Trail Side Acres" along King Street. There will be 17 new lots available. Contact City Hall for more information.

NEWS FROM THE FIRE RESPONDERS

Emergency medical responders now recruiting: Do you have a passion for helping others? Are you ready to make a real difference when it matters most? Join our dedicated team of volunteer Emergency Medical Responders and serve your community with pride! Please contact City Hall for an application and more information. Training is provided. **"Neighbors helping neighbors when it matters most."** Paid per call compensation for Emergency Responder member.



NEWS FROM THE PARK BOARD

Park Osagi improvements: You will begin to see activity on the improvements in Park Osagi. These are going to be a great benefit to our residents and visitors. This will allow for larger gatherings in the Pavilion with a kitchenette, safer entertainment for children, a beautiful overlook of Lake Osakis with seating, safe areas for mobility around the park and safe off-street parking. Currently the total of grants and donations received is \$1,305,235. Our goal is \$1,490,000. If you would like to donate to help us meet our goal, scan this QR code....



Please watch the city website at this link <https://cityofosakis.com/about/park-improvements-osagi/> for all the updates and progress reports.

City beach: Will be open from Memorial Day weekend till Labor Day. Lifeguards on duty during day time hours. Come enjoy the lake, the fishing pier, volleyball court, picnic area. If you are interested in being a lifeguard this summer contact City Hall. We pay for your training.

NEWS FROM THE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

Building permits: Permits are required in the City of Osakis. Please contact City Hall for information regarding our zoning ordinances, site plans, forms and permits. This information may also be found on the city website at www.cityofosakis.com No construction may begin without first securing a building permit from the city. If a permit is not received prior to starting the project, the permit fee will double.

Call for locates prior to digging: Call Gopher State One call at 811 to have a locate done prior to digging. They will physically locate and mark any underground utilities. This is required for your safety and the safety of others.

NEWS FROM THE OSAKIS MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORE

Happy Hour: Mon-Sat 3:00-6:00 PM half price drinks.

Meat Raffle: Saturdays 6:30 PM (This may change during the NFL season)

Bargo: Saturdays 7:00 PM

Business Hours: Monday-Thursday 10:00 am – 10:00 pm
 Friday – Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 am
 Sunday 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Pull tabs and E-tabs sponsored by the Nelson Community Association. Watch for specials and events.

Proceeds from the Osakis Municipal Liquor Store all go back into the City of Osakis.





January - December, 2026

Every-Other-Week

Commingled Recycling

Guidelines

Your recycling is single sort; you can place all items together in your container. They do not need to be sorted. Recycling cart may include the items listed below We recommend setting your cart out the night before your recycling day.

**** Wheels should point toward your house, away from the street. Cart should be 1 foot from curb, not on the street. Cart should be 3 feet from any other obstructions such as mailboxes, trees, poles, etc. No bungee cords on the lid. IF IN DOUBT, NOTICE THE CART'S POSITION AFTER SERVICE AND PLACE IT THE SAME WAY EACH WEEK.**

ALUMINUM AND TIN CANS – Includes small scrap pieces of clean aluminum. Labels may remain on cans.

GLASS – Beverage and food jars only. Please rinse. All colors of glass are accepted. Labels may remain on glass. **NO BROKEN GLASS!**

PLASTIC– Please rinse. Labels may remain on containers. Items with #1, #2 and #5 in the recycling triangles are acceptable.

PAPER PRODUCTS/PAPERBOARD –

This includes newspaper, ad inserts, magazines, catalogs, mixed residential mail and paperboard. (Paperboard includes items such as cereal, snack and tissue boxes as well as paper grocery bags.)

CARDBOARD– Can accept small amounts of cardboard. No pizza boxes. Please break down cardboard to prevent it from getting stuck in your container.

Please discard items not recyclable as trash.

**** These items are not recyclable! ****

Styrofoam containers, waxed or food contaminated paper, drinking glasses, windowpanes, light bulbs, broken glass, paper towels and aerosol cans.

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**WEST CENTRAL
SANITATION
1-800-246-7630**



City of Osakis

14 Nokomis Street East
 PO Box 486
 Osakis, Minnesota 56360
 Phone #320-859-2150
 Fax #320-859-3978

E-mail - cityhall@cityofosakis.com

AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize the City of Osakis (the City) to make recurring charges for the amount due on the utility billing account(s) referenced below on the billing due date each month. Authorization is given for recurring charges to the checking or savings account listed below, and, if necessary, the City may initiate adjustments for any transactions credited/debited in error. Applications must be received by the 15th of the month, for the automatic payment draft to process as a prenote the next billing cycle and the following month automatic payments will be begin.

I agree not to dispute the City's recurring billing with my financial institution as long as the amount in question was for services rendered prior to cancellation of this agreement. I understand that if I have any problems or questions regarding my utility billing account(s), I should contact city hall for assistance. I agree to not dispute any charges form the City unless I have already made an effort, in good faith, to rectify the situation directly with the City and those efforts have failed.

I authorize this agreement to remain in effect until I provide written notice to the City of my intent to terminate this agreement. To ensure timely cancellation, I recognize that such notification shall be provided at least 30 days prior to the next scheduled transaction(s). Upon termination of this agreement, I will make alternative payment agreements.

I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of the U.S. law. I ask that the data provided in this agreement be handled by the City in accordance with Minnesota Data Practices Act.

I, hereby, guarantee and warrant that I am legal owner of this checking or savings account, and that I am legally authorized to enter into this recurring billing agreement with the City of Osakis.

I AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF OSAKIS TO INITIATE ELECTRONIC DEBIT ENTRIES TO	
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECKING ACCOUNT (or)	<input type="checkbox"/> SAVINGS ACCOUNT For the payment of my utility bill(s)
CUSTOMER NAME	UTILITY ACCOUNT NUMBER
ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
SIGNATURE	DATE
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ROUTING NUMBER	FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ACCOUNT NUMBER
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AND PHONE NUMBER	FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CITY AND STATE

I understand I will receive a monthly statement indicating the payment amount that will be drafted from my account on the 10th of the month.

PLEASE check here if you would like a copy of this document for your records.

Tennessee Warning

Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minn. Stat. § 13.548), your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail are private data. You may choose not to provide some or all of this private data, but it may limit your ability to participate in this program. By signing below, you are consenting to allow registration information to be shared with the City Clerk/Treasurer, and other registered program participants in order to administer this activity. This consent expires upon completion of this activity.

www.cityofosakis.com

"A Friendly Place to Play and Stay"

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.