



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Spring 2017

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES

The most recent improvements to the Waste Water Treatment Plant were completed in 1989. Due to the age and constant use, the system has been experiencing equipment failures and constant need of repair to maintain the system. In 2015, the City of Otsego hired an engineer firm, which specializes in treatment plants to complete a 20 year Capital Improvement Plan. The plan identifies several critical needs and others which may be delayed further. The first phase of improvements, are clearly the most critical and time sensitive. All improvements identified result in higher efficiencies and greater employee safety. These include disinfection/chemical feed improvements, sludge handling and storage, telemetry/SCADA (data monitoring and mobile plant controls) and laboratory replacement/improvements. The project is estimated to cost \$1.9 Million and will be paid for through Michigan State Revolving Funds Bonding. The bond debt is a twenty (20) year loan at a rate of 2.5% interest.



Rates: These improvements are quite complex and will require two years to complete, and will result in increased rates. The City will increase the rates over the next two fiscal years in order to fund the debt payments. It is estimated that each customer will pay \$13.00 more a quarter in Readiness to Serve Fees in 2017-18, and that amount will increase another \$13.00 the following year.

The improvements may begin as early as September of this year, but will not be complete until spring of 2018.

Billing: The City is currently researching the potential of moving to monthly billing, as opposed to the current quarterly billing. There is no date for this to occur and in fact, no decision has been made to commit to it. If you have a preference of monthly or quarterly billing we would welcome that feedback.



Please visit the City Website and Facebook page for continued updates. The Water and Sewer Budget workshop is March 20, at 7pm.

Transfer Station Coupons Available

Coupons will continue to be distributed during the months of March, April, and May. City residents will be entitled to dispose of one load of trash/rubbish (no larger than a pick-up truck can hold) free of charge. Household garbage is NOT accepted at the Transfer Station. Please remember, this service is for Otsego City Residents only. In order to take advantage of this service, pick up your coupon at City Hall when you pay your utility bill. One coupon will be issued per address, per year. City residents who do not pay their own water bills may bring proof of address within the City limits to City Hall to receive a coupon. The Transfer Station is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. For further details or questions, please call City Hall.

WINTER PARKING RULES REMAIN IN EFFECT



Remember - Parking is PROHIBITED on any public street in the City of Otsego from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., during the months of November through April in order to facilitate snow removal. Violators will be ticketed.

Otsego Main Street's 2017 Event Schedule

- Poker Crawl—April 22nd
- Ladies Night Out—June
- Mud Volleyball—July
- Steins & Vines—August 5th
- Movies at the Museum—August
- Gus Macker Basketball Tournament—August 26th-27th
- Fall Riverwalk Festival—October 8th
- Hometown Christmas Celebration—December 2nd

City Hall Will Be Closed Friday, April 14 & Monday, May 29, 2017

City Manager's View



City Manager
Thad Beard

South Farmer Street Improvements Phase 2:

In the summer of 2017, the City plans a complete reconstruction of South Farmer Street from Hammond to Washington/

Dix Street, and mill and fill from Washington/Dix to the City Limits (see map). The project will include removal and replacement of the street surface, curb and gutter, sidewalk, water, storm sewer and sanitary sewer.

Tree Removal: A large part of the project will include replacing all underground utilities, while the road right of way is open. This will include replacing the water main, and the sanitary sewer main which may service your home. In order to replace these two lines, trees which are located over the mains will have to be removed. We obviously

do not wish to remove the trees, but will have to in most cases in order to access the mains under them. If a tree is removed, we may replace it with another species which is appropriate in the right of way.

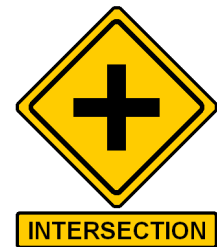


Traffic Detour: During the duration of the project, MDOT will require a traffic detour which will direct traffic to Fair or Kalamazoo Street. As local traffic, you will be allowed to access your home, but there may be times, especially during the day, that it is delayed. Every attempt is made to open the right of way during times which you do not need to access your home.

Time Frame: Due to the cost and complexity of this project, it is being completed in two phases. The first phase was completed last year. The second phase, which will continue south to the City limits, is expected to begin in May 2017, and continue through the summer.



The Farmer Street/Washington Street intersection will remain open to traffic during the school year.



Welcome New Employees



Ryan McFanin

Ryan is a graduate of Plainwell High School and holds an Associates Degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Law Enforcement. While working as a part-time Police Officer for the City of Otsego, Ryan will also be working as an Animal Control Officer for the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department.



Donald McGehee

Don comes to the Otsego Police Department after retiring from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department after 35 years. Don started as a cadet in the Corrections Division and finished his career there as a Detective Sergeant. Don is a member of the Cooper Township Fire Department and is currently the Ordinance Enforcement Officer for Cooper Township. Don also has an Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

"The City of Otsego Citizen's Guide, Performance Dashboard, Debt Service Report and Projected Budget Report are available for viewing at the Otsego City Hall or online at www.cityofotsego.org."

SALE - 1/2 Priced
CITY LOTS FOR SALE



The City of Otsego has several lots remaining in the improved Eley Acres Residential Subdivision. Choice single family residential home sites are for sale in this restricted plat. For additional information please contact the City Clerk's Office, 692-3391.



HYDRANT FLUSHING
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
 (Due to the Weather Conditions)

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants **April 17 through April 28**. This is done to remove any stale water that may be in the system and ensure that the fire hydrants are working properly. You may experience some reduced pressure and discoloration during this process. If discoloration occurs, let your water run until it clears. Please Note - Updates will be posted on our Facebook Page, the City's Website, and in the Shopper's Guide.



New on the City's Website !!! Have you ever wanted to report a street light out, or a pot hole, etc. We now have a convenient way to put in a Service Request. Visit our website and look for this **Service Request Button** - PLEASE note that if you have an emergency, please call City Hall or the Police Department.



GARAGE SALES

Don't forget to obtain your garage/yard sale permit before having a sale. Cost of the permit is \$1.00 and may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office. Each residence is permitted two sales per year with a maximum duration of three days each.



Otsego Main Street Website: otsegomainstreet.org
 Visit the Otsego Main Street Facebook Page

City of Otsego Website: cityofotsego.org
 Visit the City of Otsego on Facebook



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

POLICE BEAT



It's unfortunately that time of year again. No, I'm not complaining about the warm spring weather that is on its way. Instead I want to talk about something that we all need to be aware of: IRS phone calls and letters that are very official looking and sounding but are not from the IRS. Already we are receiving complaints of phone calls where the caller states they are from the IRS and that the person they are calling owes back taxes and are in jeopardy of being arrested if they don't pay the amount owed right away. These callers have gotten very sophisticated, even to the point of manipulating the phone number that they are using to register as from the IRS on the caller ID on your phone. These calls seem very official and can be quite scary for some people. The elderly are the most vulnerable, and these scammers will continue to prey on them until there is no money left to steal. I have taken several tips from IRS publications warning people of the scams and some of the tactics of the scammers. Here are a few to keep in mind in case you get one of these calls. First, understand

that the IRS will never do any of the following things:

1. Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.
2. Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
3. Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

The IRS also wants to remind people that scammers often change their tactics and while these aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain a major threat to taxpayers, there are other schemes being used that are just as effective for stealing your money and personal information. Scam emails are another problem. These emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies you may have recently

used to prepare your taxes. These emails often require the targeted person to go to a specific web page or bogus link that mirrors the look of the IRS web page. These emails contain directions for you to update your IRS e-file immediately. The sites ask for Social Security numbers and other personal information, which could be used to file false tax returns and other identity theft purposes.

If you feel you may be a potential victim don't answer any question or give out any information over the phone. If the calls become threatening in nature, that is a red flag that it is scam. Hang up the phone or close the email without answering it. If a letter, email, or text is from the IRS there will be instructions about how to find more information on the IRS web page "IRS.gov" and if you are still not sure contact the IRS at 800-829-1040. The IRS wants you to know that you should never provide personal information (account numbers, Social Security numbers, date of birth) to anyone that you are not expecting to hear from. Finally, if you are still not sure, then contact us at the Otsego Police Department and we will help you find out if the request is legitimate.

SCAMS
TARGET YOU
 PROTECT YOURSELF



OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

By: Chief Brandon Weber

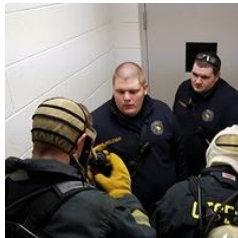
As we are coming into spring once again, we reach that time of year when we are infusing new life-blood into the Fire Department, with the Fire Academy nearing completion. Following the completion of their State required training and testing, we are planning on adding 4 new certified Firefighters to our ranks. Of course that will only be the beginning of their training, as they hit the ground with their feet running. After only a couple of weeks off, they, and some of our previously certified Firefighters, will begin their Medical First Responder (MFR) training, so they will be trained, and more importantly, licensed, to respond to the myriad of medical emergencies that the department responds to as well.

The thought of all of this gives me cause to ponder just what it means to be a "Firefighter" in the Otsego community, and I have a feeling that many in the public probably wonder, or at least aren't certain of that themselves. So with that, I'd like to take this installment to detail just what it takes to be the kind of person the community has to call upon when they find themselves in the midst of an emergency.

At present, the Otsego Fire Department consists of 26 Firefighters and Command Officers. With this year's graduating class, all will have completed the State of Michigan Firefighter I & II curriculum, consisting of about 250 hours of training, which in and of itself takes 6 months of 2-3 times per week evening and weekend class sessions! This culminates with a 200 question written exam administered by the State of Michigan, and a day long practical skills test.



Once this year's MFR class is completed; all of our personnel will have at least a Medical First Responder license. This involves a minimum of 68 hours of training, practical skills testing, and a computer based written exam to obtain national certification which allows them to apply for state licensure. After obtaining their license, providers have to attend at least 15 hours of continuing education every 3 years in order to renew their license.



The Otsego community is extremely fortunate to have 9 of our personnel who have gone on their own and earned, or are earning, advanced level EMS training and licensure. The department currently has 3 Paramedics; 2 Basic EMT's nearly done with their Paramedic training; 2 Basic EMT's; and 2 more in a Basic EMT class, or recently completed Basic EMT class and awaiting certification testing. To put that into perspective, Basic EMT training lasts 5 months, and Paramedic training lasts 1 ½ years beyond EMT training! 7 of these individuals also work for the local ambulance service, so you never know what uniform you might see them show up wearing in your time of need.

Otsego Firefighters are also trained in Vehicle Extrication, Ice Rescue, Swiftwater Rescue, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Hazardous Materials Response. To keep all these skillsets current, training is ongoing, with regularly scheduled training at least twice a month, and on weekends for longer duration trainings.

Our Command Officers are equally as well trained when it comes to leading the Firefighters under them. All 6 have extensive training in leading personnel under emergency situations. 3 have at least an Associate's Degree in Fire Science, which is remarkable for a department our size.



So how often does all this training and preparation get used you ask? On average, the Otsego Fire Department responds to 750-800 calls for service of all different types per year. That's more than twice a day on average! All of this is done on a paid-on-call basis, meaning there isn't anyone who is at the fire station 24 hours a day 7 days a week like you would find in larger communities. Our Firefighters carry a pager with them, and when the alarm sounds, they drop what they are doing and respond to the call if they are available. Often times that means leaving meals, family, school functions, work, or any other daily activity to come render skilled service when needed most.

If this is something that you or someone you know finds appealing, the Otsego Fire Department, although not always hiring, is always accepting applications from people in the community who are interested in becoming a Firefighter. Feel free to stop by City Hall or the Fire Department to pick up an application. You can also download the application from the City's website at <http://www.cityofotsego.org/forms/volunteerfiredept.pdf> . If hired, training is provided.

Likewise, next time you see one of them out and about, feel free to just say "Thank you" to them for what they do. I know we wouldn't enjoy the same quality of life in our community that we do without them.

Thank you Otsego Volunteer Firefighters!

2017 Property Assessments

By Matthew Storbeck, Finance Director

Property owners will receive their 2017 Assessment Notices during the first week of March. This notice includes the 2017 Assessed Value (AV), State Equalized Value (SEV), Taxable Value (TV) and classification for the property. AV is the amount the City Assessor calculates to be one-half of the fair market value of the property based upon construction, square footage and sales studies of similar properties. SEV is the State of Michigan's belief of one-half of the fair market value of the property after applying a factor to all properties within a class (residential, commercial, etc.). To our knowledge, the City has not ever received a factor from the State of Michigan.

Over the past year residential properties experienced an overall market value increase of 9.99 percent. Commercial properties increased in value 7.41 percent overall. Changes in market value affect both the AV and SEV. The Inflation Rate Multiplier is 1.009 (.9 percent increase) and is based on the Consumer Price Index from October through September of the preceding year. This multiplier is used to calculate the change in TV. TV, the value that determines property taxes, cannot increase more than the inflation rate, as determined by the Michigan Department of Treasury, or 5 percent, whichever is less, until there is a change in ownership of the property.

Also, please verify the Principle Residence Exemption (PRE) in the notice. Previously referred to as the "Homestead Exemption," this was often confused with the state income tax exemption of the same name. PRE is the owner occupied percentage of a property. If the property consists of a multiple residence or includes a commercial use, the PRE should be the percentage of the total square footage occupied by the owner as their residence. This PRE percentage reflects the amount the property is exempt from the 18 mill public school operating millage for 2017.

Protest to the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further residential valuation and exemption appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal and/or for classification appeals to the State Tax Commission. Properties classified Commercial Real, Industrial Real or Developmental Real may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31. Commercial Personal, Industrial Personal, or Utility Personal Property may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31, if a personal property statement was filed with the local unit prior to the commencement of the Board of Review as provided by M.C.L. 211.19.

The Board of Review will meet Tuesday, March 14, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until noon, and 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 15, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Otsego City Hall, 117 East Orleans Street, Otsego, Michigan. The Board will also meet Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. for organizational purposes only. Please call (269) 692-3391 to schedule an ap-

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

MARCH, 2017

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
6	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
7	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
12	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	
20	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

APRIL, 2017

3	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
4	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
10	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
14	CITY HALL CLOSED—GOOD FRIDAY	
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

MAY, 2017

1	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
1	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
2	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
4	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
8	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
15	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	
29	CITY HALL CLOSED—MEMORIAL DAY	

JUNE, 2017

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
6	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
12	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
19	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

JULY, 2017

3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
3	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
4	CITY HALL CLOSED	
5	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
10	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

AUGUST, 2017

1	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
3	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
14	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

SEPTEMBER, 2017

4	CITY HALL CLOSED	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
5	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
11	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
18	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

CITY CONTACTS

Police & Fire Emergency.....	911
Fire Non-Emergency.....	694-4390
Police Non-Emergency.....	692-6111
Chief of Police.....	692-6111
City Manager	694-6146
City Clerk	692-3391
Finance Director	692-2741
Main Street Office.....	692-2336
Dept. Public Works	694-6636
Treatment Plant.....	694-9194

Website: www.cityofotsego.org



The Agenda is a quarterly publication of the
CITY OF OTSEGO

Cyndi Trobeck.....	Mayor
Tom Gilmer.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Ryan Wieber.....	Commissioner
Kathy Misner.....	Commissioner
Nick Breedveld.....	Commissioner
Thad Beard.....	City Manager
Angela Cronen.....	City Clerk
Mike Bosch.....	DPW Supervisor
Luke Keyzer.....	WWTP Superintendent
Gordon Konkle.....	Chief of Police
Matthew Storbeck.....	Treasurer
Brandon Weber.....	Fire Chief
Kevin Harris.....	Assessor
Josh Owens.....	Main Street Manager

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