



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

SUMMER 2017



ANNUAL SCHOOL VISITS TO CITY HALL Washington Street & Dix Street 3rd Graders



3rd Graders from Washington Street and Dix Street Elementary visited City Hall on May 31, 2017. The students met all of the Department Heads, took a tour of City Hall, got to see the newest Plow Truck, Police Cruiser, and a tour of the Fire Department. Thank you for visiting!



FARMER STREET PHASE TWO UPDATE:

At this point, the City's contractor, Brenner Excavating is doing a great job and the Farmer Street Phase Two Project is considerably ahead of schedule. Hopefully, this trend continues and the project will remain ahead of schedule. Thank you for your patience during this process. We are all looking forward to this being completed and a nice new road and sidewalks.



OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

The Otsego Fire Department is accepting applications for the position of firefighter. The Otsego Fire Department is a paid on-call department and firefighters respond to fires and emergency situations as their own schedules allow.

Qualifications for this position include: Minimum eighteen (18) years of age; Residence located within a four minute response time from the Otsego Fire Station; Valid Michigan driver's license, with a good driving record; Successful completion of Otsego Fire Department physical ability test; Ability to successfully complete training courses designated by the department.

Preferred Qualifications may include: Firefighter I & II Certification or equivalent; Hazardous Materials Operations Certification; Confined Space Rescue Operations Certification; Medical First Responder License.

Applications are being accepted until June 30, 2017, at Otsego City Hall, Attn: City Clerk, 117 E. Orleans St., Otsego, MI. EOE/M/F/H



2017 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Flip Flop Friday - **June 23**
- Steins & Vines - **August 5**
- Movies at the Museum - **August 11 & 18 (Fridays)**
- Gus Macker Basketball Tournament - **August 26 & 27**
- Fall Riverwalk Festival - **October 15**
- Hometown Christmas Celebration - **December 2**



CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED JULY 4 & SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

CITY MANAGER'S VIEW



City Manager
Thad Beard

SOUTH FARMER STREET IMPROVEMENTS:

The City of Otsego is in process of completing the second and final phase of the reconstruction of South Farmer Street. The reconstruction project includes replacement of watermain, sanitary sewer main, storm sewer and sidewalks, and the street surface from Hammond to the southern City limits. The underground utility

work is limited to the section between Hammond and Dix Street. Curb and gutter will be extended from the current terminus to the southern City limits at the intersection of Sycamore Street. The main intersection is expected to remain open except for a brief window of time during the week of June 19, when they will have to tie in the underground utilities.



Due to dry working conditions and a large work crew the project has been ahead of schedule, but expect detours using Fair and Kalamazoo to remain until early September. Below is a tentative schedule:

MAY 22:	MOBILIZATION
MAY 23:	CURB STREET SIDEWALK REMOVALS
MAY 25-JUNE 19:	SANITARY SEWER INSTALLATION
JUNE 19-JULY 15:	WATERMAIN INSTALLATION
JULY 15-21:	STORM SEWER INSTALLATION
JULY 21-28:	NEW CURB, GUTTER, SIDEWALKS
JULY 28-AUG 4:	BASE FOR NEW ROAD
AUGUST 4:	FIRST COAT OF ASPHALT
AUGUST 25:	FINAL COAT OF ASPHALT

OTHER STREET IMPROVEMENTS: In August, we will do what is called a "mill and fill" on three other sections of street. A mill and fill involves removing about two (2) inches of asphalt from the surface and replacing it with 2-3 inches of new asphalt. The sections of street which we will mill and fill include:

**Ruby, from Goodsell to Kay
Kalamazoo, from M-89 to Orleans
Lawrence, from Eley to Howard
Bayberry Court, from Dix to Wilmott**



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Well, it seems as though just the other day we had snow on the ground and now summer is just around the corner. With that comes a whole new set of hazards and challenges.



It won't be long and it'll be tornado and thunder-storm weather. Remember that if there are trees and/or wires down, stay back a safe distance. Trees can be unstable and become fall hazards. Utility providers do their best to restore power outages quickly, but depending upon how widespread storm damage is, it could be hours, or even days before complete restoration of service occurs. We should all have a plan for these types of situations.

That may be as simple as having at least a 72 hour supply of all essential items such as non-perishable food, potable water, medications, and any other individual or family needs. That should also include a family plan on what to do, where to meet family members, and a point of contact outside the immediate area to check in with.

Some of you may have fixed or portable generators to supply electricity in the event of an outage. Like any other internal combustion engine, they need a little TLC to keep them running properly. Make sure fuel is fresh and that they are positioned and vented properly. Improperly placed generators are not an uncommon cause of structure fires from being placed too close to the structure. Likewise, improperly vented generators can easily lead to carbon monoxide poisoning and asphyxiation. Generators should never be run indoors, in a garage, or near an open window where exhaust fumes could be drawn into the structure. Another common cause of fires and other problems related to generators is improper electrical hookup. These should be wired

per local code by a qualified electrician.

Another common sighting over the summer months are the beloved fireworks. Alcohol and fireworks never mix. Also, keep in mind that, although we haven't seen any periods of drought yet, by mid-summer, it's not uncommon to have very dry conditions. Fireworks and their debris have started numerous grass and wildland fires. If you are going to be lighting fireworks in these conditions, at least have an adequate supply of water to extinguish any spot fires safely. If you do manage to light the grass, woods, neighborhood, or anything else on fire for that matter that you can't safely put out, don't delay in calling 911 to get the Fire Department coming. We'd much rather respond and find out our services are not needed, rather than get called late, and find a bigger incident than was necessary.



Lastly, many of us will be enjoying our lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water this summer. Locally, we've already had a disproportionately high number of water rescue emergencies for the year. Much of this can be attributed to the increase in popularity of kayaking, canoeing, and fishing along the Kalamazoo River. Please remember that, while the Kalamazoo River is normally a gentle and easy river to navigate, some experience and skill is needed to safely navigate river bends, downed trees, dams, and other obstacles. When in doubt, please seek out appropriate training and guidance before undertaking a river trip for the first time. Please do yourself and your family a favor and wear and approved PFD. It doesn't do much good to have one floating downstream just out of reach if you overturn. Likewise, have a charged cell phone with you, at least one for each water craft in your group, in a waterproof case. There are no street signs or mile markers on the river, so getting your location off of 911 is our best way to find you. Have fun and enjoy your summer!

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. Regular lot prices range from \$23,000 to \$37,000. For additional information please contact the City Clerk's Office, 692-3391.



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.

VISIT US ON THE WEB



PLEASE SEE THE CITY'S FIREWORK ORDINANCE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE.
www.cityofotsego.org/pdfs/153OtsegoFireworksOrd.pdf



FRIENDLY REMINDERS - The City has many Ordinances that you might not be aware of, here are a few that may be of interest to you: Barking Dog Ordinance, an ordinance specifying how long your trash bin can be at the side of the road, a tall grass ordinance, no open burning ordinance, and front yard parking ordinance, to name just a few. Ordinances can be found in detail on the City's website www.cityofotsego.org. The City also asks now that mowing season is here to please not blow yard clippings into the road, as they can plug the street drains and increase pollution in the rivers. Please feel free to contact City Hall if you have specific questions.



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

With the change in the weather, we are seeing more traffic accidents than in the past during this time of year. Because we are in a city environment speed doesn't seem to be playing a role in this increase. Don't get me wrong, even a slight increase in your speed makes stopping and your reaction time that much greater. However, our accidents appear more caused by driver distraction. We all know that we can't text and drive yet everyday I'm sure you see someone doing just that. It is so hard to put that phone down and leave it there until we stop driving, especially when someone else is sending us a text message. You wouldn't believe the number of rear end collisions that occur after a car has stopped and the driver felt that it was a safe time to send or answer a text. You look up and see the car ahead to you starting to move and as you too begin to go, you finish looking at that text and it's too late to stop when the car in front of you really didn't go like you thought.

I don't care how good you are at texting, it's just not safe, period. It only takes a few seconds to be distracted and luckily because most of our traffic is at lower speeds only a few acci-

OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

dents have resulted in serious injuries. But we are seeing the consequences of these distractions in an increase in rear end collisions, side swipe type collisions from cars drifting out of their lanes, and from striking parked cars. Come on! If you are not under the influence of something or suffering a medical emergency, how do you run into a parked car unless you are distracted?

Study after study, has shown how dangerous it is to not only text and drive, but to also just be using your cell phone when you are driving. Of course it is better to have something that is hands free, but the biggest take away from these studies is that when you are engaged in a phone conversation; your mind is truly not focused on driving. We drive so much that we see it as automatic and very simple, many people believe that driving and talking on their phones is perfectly safe. Realistically, it's an odds game. You may drive with the phone stuck to your ear for years and never have a problem. But trust the statistics, sooner or later it will catch up to you and when it does it could easily be a traumatic life changing event. So why take the chance? Anyone over 30 years old can remember when only a few people actually had a cell phone. Somehow we survived, as children and adults we were able to get to school or work, and back home without making a phone call. Even though that might be a scary

thought for some today, maybe it's something we should all try again.

The fourth of July is just around the corner, which of course means fireworks. Yes, the laws have changed allowing fireworks that were prohibited in the past. Just please be safe and remember not everyone wants to be awake all night to the sound of fireworks going off. So have fun, but be respectful of your neighbors.

Finally, remember there is a curfew ordinance. For children under 12 years old it is 10:00 p.m., for those under 16 years old the curfew is 11:00 p.m., and those under 17 years old it is midnight. We all remember that there is just something fun about being out at night when you aren't suppose to be, but as parents we are responsible for our children and will be the ones who will need to come get them at a time when you should normally be sleeping. With that, have a happy holiday and summer.



CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

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

OCTOBER, 2017

2	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
9	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
16	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
16	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

NOVEMBER, 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	
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00 A.M.
13	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23	CITY HALL CLOSED	
24	CITY HALL CLOSED	
27	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
Nick Breedveld.....	Commissioner
Open Seat.....	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
Vacant.....	Main Street Manager

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