



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

SUMMER 2011

ANNUAL SCHOOL VISITS TO CITY HALL Washington Street, Dix Street, & Alamo Elementary 3rd



Recently, the 3rd Grade classes from Dix Street Elementary, Washington Street Elementary and Alamo visited City Hall to learn about City Government. They were welcomed by Mayor Gilmer and each Department Head gave a brief overview of their job. The children toured City Hall, the Fire Department, viewed a Police Car, and a Plow Truck.

City Flower Program

Summer is just around the corner and the flowers are being planted in the downtown and the various parks. This past week, the traditional planters and hanging baskets were placed in the downtown. For the second year, the City of Otsego/DDA is again utilizing the City Flower Program, which is encouraging volunteers to plant and maintain various flowerbeds within the City. The City has had various businesses and individuals volunteer to plant flowerbeds. However, there are still many flower beds available! Please call City Hall at 692-3391, if you would like to become involved within your community. Please make sure to visit the City parks and take a walk along the Riverwalk!



CITY COMMISSION PETITIONS AVAILABLE



Petition forms are now available at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 117 E. Orleans St., for election to the Otsego City Commission. The City Election will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Four City Commission seats will be open for election this fall.

The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to four year terms and the third candidate will be elected to a two year term. A candidate will also be elected for an Unexpired Term ending in 2013. Commission Seat Desired must be indicated on Petition – Regular Term or Unexpired Term.

In order to qualify for the Office of City Commissioner, a candidate must be: A resident of the city for not less than one (1) year immediately preceding his or her election and a Registered Voter.

Nominations for office are determined by petition signed by not less than 40 registered voters of the City of Otsego. Petitions need to be submitted to the City Clerk's office no later than Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT GARAGE SALE INFORMATION

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. Signs shall not exceed 480 sq. inches, shall NOT be placed on any public property (including utility poles), on any curb lawn, or at any public parking area. Legal signs must be removed within 24 hours of the sale. A sign placed illegally will be removed and a \$50.00 citation may be enforced.** If you have questions, please call 692-3391.



FREE GARAGE SALE DATES ANNOUNCED - June 17 & 18, 2011

The Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the annual Free Garage Sale Days. You are not required to register for the event and a permit is not required for these dates.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JULY 4, & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5





CITY MANAGER'S VIEW

BUDGET TIME: With No Headlee Override:

As some of you may know, the City operates on a July 1-June 30 Fiscal (budget) year, and I typically provide a brief overview of the budget each summer. Sadly, this year's budget is quite similar in nature to the previous year's budget. This similarity is attributed another year of reduced property values and reduced State Shared Revenue. In all, the City is providing the key essential services they historically provided, but with \$130,000 less than last year (\$240,000 less than 2009). If you are like me, you have seen that your tax bill is getting lower each year. In fact, the average home owner is paying \$25 less in City taxes than they did in 2006.

Most of you are probably aware that the City recently requested authorization for a Headlee Override. Without a lengthy explanation, it would have allowed the City to levy 12.5 Mills, which has been reduced to 12.0854 over the course of several years. The request was defeated handedly, which results in the City operating with a deficit budget. The City will have to borrow approximately \$35,000 from the Designated Fund Balance, which has been established to purchase a fire truck in the future.

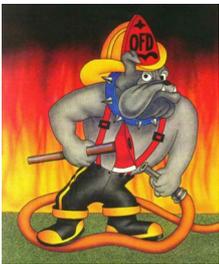
Following are a few highlights of the Annual Appropriations Bill (budget):

****Reduced budgets in almost every Fund of the City.** For example, the Finance Director's Fund was reduced by 21%, the Police Department Fund was reduced by \$35,000, the Fire Department Fund was reduced by \$6,000.

****No raises for the second year (third for some),** there are no salary increases budgeted. This includes all union and nonunion employees. It also includes elected officials.

****The Downtown Development Authority is restricted to only 70% of its tax capture.** This restriction enables the City to capture approximately an additional \$90,000.

Again, while we are making cuts, the end result, is a budget which allows the City to maintain essential services for the City residents. To view the entire budget, please visit the City Website.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Otsego VFW is expanding the Veteran's Memorial at Memorial Park scheduled to open Memorial Day 2012. The Otsego Fire Department will include a 9/11 Memorial with the project. The Otsego Fire Department recently took possession of a piece from the World Trade Center. The New Jersey Port Authority was taking requests from public safety departments across the USA. We had to submit a letter stating how we planned on displaying the artifact. After countless discussions with the department, we decided to have the Memorial at the park. We took ownership of the 3x4 I-Beam from one of the towers in March. We are selling bricks leading up the memorial with present and past firefighters from any department. If you have any questions, please contact the Otsego Fire Department at 694-4390.

The World Trade Center Artifact is now on display at the Otsego Museum, until May 2012.



Please remember, that in Allegan County the Emergency Siren is tested the 4th Friday of every month at 11:00 am.

City Hall Welcomes Amy Hunt



Please say hello and welcome our new Accounts Receivable Specialist Amy Hunt. Amy started work with us March 23rd. A life-long resident of Martin and Plainwell, Amy is excited to have the opportunity to serve our community.

VISIT US ON THE WEB CITYOFOTSEGO.ORG



YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

Now that lawn mowing season is here, there are residents who bag grass clippings and leaves and do not know what to do with them. Please remember that yard waste cannot be deposited in garbage cans or placed with brush for pickup. For your convenience, there are compost piles located at the City's Transfer Station for leaves, brush and grass clippings. Yard waste may be taken to the transfer station free of charge and deposited in the appropriate area. Thank you for your cooperation.
TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING CENTER HOURS:
TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND
SATURDAYS - 9:00 A.M. TO
11:45 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO
3:45 P.M.



TREE PLANTING - Please note that planting of trees is not allowed in the curb lawn, without consent of the DPW Supervisor. Contact City Hall at 692-3391 for further information.



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

We are frequently asked questions involving police issues or the criminal justice system in general. In this article we will attempt to answer questions involving Restraining Orders.

What is the difference between a P.P.O. (Personal Protection Order) and a Conditional Bond Order?

While both orders are similar in that they are issued to protect one person from another, the Conditional Bond Order is issued by a Judge after someone has been arrested and the Judge is placing conditions on that person when they are released on bond. The conditions are often similar and both are usually issued to avoid contact between the victim and the suspect. Also both can lead to an immediate arrest of the person should they violate either order.

The major difference is that the P.P.O. can be issued prior to an arrest, hopefully avoiding serious

conflicts or assaultive behavior that may have already occurred once the Conditional Bond Order is in place.

How do I get a P.P.O. issued?

To get a P.P.O. issued, you must go to the Circuit Court Office in the county in which you reside. They will have an instruction packet that will help you fill out the necessary form and suggestions on what other information that will be helpful for you when requesting the order. These could include copies of police reports, doctor's records, and statements of witnesses, previous court records such as divorce, separation, paternity, and support or custody information. You will also need as much detailed information on the person to be restrained as possible such as name, date of birth, age, address, and place of employment.

Once you have completed the form, you will go before a Judge and he will decide if there is cause to issue the order. After the order is signed by a Judge, it must be served on the person to be restrained before it can be

enforced by the police. This can be accomplished in a few different ways. You can pay a Process Server to serve the order or have a friend or relative serve the order on the restrained person. If you have a friend or relative serve the paperwork, you must have the proof of service notarized. **You can not serve the restrained person yourself!**

Is the P.P.O. only enforceable in the county in which it is filed?

No, the order is enforceable anywhere in the State of Michigan and may be subject to the enforcement procedures and penalties of another State, Territory or Indian Tribe were the violation occurred.

The Circuit Court Office in the county in which you reside should be the resource you seek for information and help in obtaining a Personal Protection Order.

They will have much more information than we can cover in a short article such as this.



CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

JUNE, 2011

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY		
6	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY		
7	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY		
13	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M.	CITY HALL
20	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL

JULY, 2011

4	CITY HALL CLOSED		
5	CITY COMMISSION	7 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 P.M.	CITY HALL
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL

AUGUST, 2011

1	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
2	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 P.M.	CITY HALL
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL

SEPTEMBER, 2011

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

OCTOBER, 2011

3	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
4	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY		
4	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP		
6	CITY TRASH PICK-UP		
10	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 AM	CITY HALL
17	CITY COMMISSIONER	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
31	HALLOWEEN		

NOVEMBER, 2011

1	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY		
1	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY		
3	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY		
7	CITY COMMISSION		
8	CITY ELECTION POLLS OPEN AT	7AM	CITY HALL
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11AM	
14	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M.	CITY HALL
21	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
24	CITY HALL CLOSED		
25	CITY HALL CLOSED		
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7 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
Dept. Public Works	694-6636
Treatment Plant.....	694-9194

Website: www.cityofotsego.org



The Agenda is a quarterly publication of the
CITY OF OTSEGO

Tom Gilmer.....	Mayor
Kathy Misner.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Joel Thompson.....	Commissioner
Molly Wieber.....	Commissioner
Cyndi Trobeck	Commissioner
Thad Beard.....	City Manager
Angela Cronen.....	City Clerk
David Dutton.....	DPW Supervisor
Tom Dunn.....	WWTP Superintendent
Gordon Konkle.....	Chief of Police
Matthew Storbeck.....	Treasurer
Chad Tackett.....	Fire Chief

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