



# City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Fall 2011

## OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT'S SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL SERVICE

Please join the Otsego Fire Department for a Memorial Service that will be held on September 11th, at 4:00 p.m. at the Fire Station.

- VFW Color Guard Raising of Flag & 21 Gun Salute
- Blessing of Badges
- Firemen Prayer
- Playing of Bag Pipes
- Mayor, State Rep., State Senator to speak
- Then some words on the World Trade Center Artifact



## CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Mark your Calendar for September 24<sup>th</sup>!

Just a few short weeks until the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Otsego Creative Arts Festival occurs and there is still plenty of time to get involved. The Chamber is expecting another great turn out! We are thankful for the participation and support of our local businesses, organizations, and citizens. Again this year, the festival will include a **Car Show, Parade, Motorcycle Show, Tractor Show, Pet Parade, Firemen's Waterball Competition, Arts & Crafts, Children's Activities, Entertainment Stage, Food Court and much more!** Let's show our visitors and residents why Otsego is such a great place to Work, Play and Stay! We appreciate your support of this event. If you would like to be involved in any way or have questions regarding the events, please contact the Chamber at 694-6880.

## FALL LEAF PICK-UP

As the end of summer draws near, it is once again time to think about our annual FALL LEAF PICK-UP. Dates for the pick-up have not yet been decided; however, this pick-up usually occurs sometime in mid-October to mid-November. Actual dates are determined after leaves begin to fall. Watch for the announcement of actual dates in the "Shoppers Guide" and "Union Enterprise" or call City Hall.



The City's policy is to canvass all streets twice during the two week pick-up period. **REMEMBER: With the exception of Allegan Street, all leaves are to be raked into the street next to the curb.**

Announcement of actual dates will advise residents when the leaves should be out to be picked up. **If the leaves are not in the street they will not be picked up.**

**Please do not place anything except leaves in the street.**

The City places these leaves on a compost pile and therefore, branches, twigs and other yard waste must not be included. Brush and other yard waste may be taken to the City's Transfer Station at any time free of charge. It is the City's policy to canvass the City two times. If leaves are placed in the street after completion of the canvassing, it is the resident's responsibility to dispose of the leaves at the Transfer Station.

## CITY ELECTION November 8, 2011



The City Election will be held for Three open seats and one Un-Expired Term on the Otsego City Commission. For the Regular Terms, 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.

- Regular Term Candidates Include: NICK J. BREEDVELD, GARY E. BURD, TOM GILMER, STACY ROGERS & CYNDI TROBECK.
- One open Seat to fill the unexpired term, ending November, 2013 – Candidate: KATHLEEN L. MISNER

The polls will open at **7:00 a.m.** and remain open until **8:00 p.m.**

**HAVE YOUR PHOTO ID  
READY AT THE POLLS!**

Call Angela Cronen, City Clerk at 692-3391 to check on your voter registration status.

**Absentee Voter Applications  
are also available  
at City Hall, if requested.**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants **September 19th through September 30th.** This is done to remove any stale water that may be in the system and insure 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.



# CITY MANAGER'S VIEW



*City Manager, Thad Beard*

**Complete Streets:** The City Commission recently passed a Resolution of Support for Complete Streets design principles. Complete Streets principles provide for safe travel of the streets for all members of the public, including vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The principles of Complete Streets encourage a healthy community, by providing additional resources, through marked streets or trails which allow for safe travel, whether by foot or bike. Complete Streets are streets with access to all modes of transportation, including all ages and abilities, and offers the potential for a greater quality of life for our residents. With the Resolution of Support in place, the City will now begin the process of evaluating the

street system and identifying future desired improvements. These improvements may include simple striping along the curb, which allows for bike or pedestrian traffic, or as complex as traffic calming measures, such as "bump-outs" in the downtown to reduce the distance to cross the State Highway. Another benefit of Complete Streets is the priority given by MDOT for funding opportunities to communities who support Complete Streets. As we begin to implement Complete Street principles, we hope to see a more active, healthy, family friendly community.

**Dam Removal:** The possibility of the City Dam being removed continues to slowly progress. Some of you may know that the City and the State were awarded a grant from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to complete a Feasibility



Study for the removal of the dam. The Feasibility Study is required to be completed and submitted to the EPA by the middle of September, so that the EPA

may use it in determining their 2012-2013 Fiscal Budget. What this means, is that the State has hired a contractor (URS) to determine the "best" method of removing the City Dam, and the estimated cost for the removal. On September 13, the City will host a Public Meeting for the State MDNR to share the draft Feasibility Study. This time will allow for the public to review the draft plans and comment before the final document is submitted to the EPA. While we do not know if the EPA will include the dam removal in the 2012 fiscal year activities, I remain encouraged that the EPA requested to have the plan with estimates on how to remove it.



**City Hall Will be Closed**  
 November 24 & 25  
 December 23 & 26 & 30  
 January 2, 2012

**REMEMBER!**  
 NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>



## OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

### Control Kids' Access to Fire

- Keep all matches and lighters out of the hands of children. If possible, keep these sources of fire in locked drawers. Consider buying only "child-proof" lighters—but be aware that no product is completely child-proof.
- Children as young as two years old can strike matches and start fires.
- Never leave children unattended near operating stoves or burning candles, even for a short time.
- Teach children not to pick up matches or lighters they may find. Instead, they should tell an adult immediately.

### Fire Safety at Home

- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home, especially near sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms should be kept clean of dust by regularly vacuuming over and around them.
- Replace batteries in smoke alarms at least once a year. And replace the entire unit after ten years of service, or as the manufacturer recommends.
- Families should plan and practice two escape routes from each room of their home.
- Regularly inspect the home for fire hazards.
- If there are adults in the home who smoke, they should use heavy safety ashtrays and discard ashes and butts in metal, sealed containers or the toilet.
- If there is a fireplace in the home, the entire opening should be covered by a heavy safety screen. The chimney should be professionally

inspected and cleaned annually.

- Children should cook only under the supervision of an adult or with their permission.
- Children should never play with electrical cords or electrical sockets. They should ask adults for help plugging in equipment.
- Children should stay away from radiators and heaters, and they should be taught that these devices are not toys. Young children in particular must be taught not to play with or drop anything into space heaters. Nothing should be placed or stored on top of a heater.
- Pots on stovetops should always have their handles turned toward the center of the stove, where children cannot reach up and pull or knock them off.
- Teach children to turn off lights, stereos, TVs, and other electrical equipment when they are finished using them. In the case of room heaters, children should ask an adult to turn it off when the room will be empty.
- Children should never touch matches, lighters, or candles. If they find matches or lighters within reach, they should ask an adult to move them.
- No one should stand too close to a fireplace or wood stove or other types of heaters, where clothes could easily catch fire.

### Warning Signs

- Evidence of fire play, such as burnt matches, clothes, paper, toys, etc., or if you smell smoke in hair or clothes.
- Inappropriate interest in firefighters and/or fire

trucks, such as frequent, improper calls to the fire department or 9-1-1.

- Child asks or tries to light cigarettes or candles for you or other adults.
- Matches or lighters in their pockets or rooms.

### Control Curiosity

- Talk to your child or students in a calm, assured manner about fire safety.
- Consider visiting a fire station if children are very interested in firefighting and/or fire trucks or ask a firefighter to visit your classroom. Have the firefighter talk about his/her job and the dangers of fire.

**For Parents:** Create opportunities for learning about fire safety at home. For example, when you cook, let your child get the pot holder for you; when you use the fireplace, let your child bring you the wood or tools; if you use candles, let the child check to make sure the candle holder fits snugly; and when you change or test the batteries in your smoke alarms, ask the child to help you.

### What to Do if You Suspect Your Student/Child is Playing with Fire?

- Talk to the child about his or her actions
- Explain again that fire is a tool for use only by adults, and that it is very dangerous for children.

Many schools, fire departments and law enforcement agencies have programs for children who are inappropriately interested in fire or who have set fires.

# Winter Parking Rules



Beginning November 1, parking is once again PROHIBITED on any public street in the City of Otsego from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. Parking is restricted during the months of November through April in order to facilitate snow removal. Violators will be ticketed.

## The City of Otsego Welcomes New Staff Member



The City of Otsego is pleased to welcome Gary Misak to the Department of Public Works. Gary has been a resident of Allegan County for over 30 years. He and his wife Linda, have 2 daughters and 9 grandchildren. Gary is very active in the Plainwell Assembly of God Church. He is looking forward to having the opportunity to serve the citizens of the City of Otsego. Welcome Gary!

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### 2011 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on December 13, 2011, 8:00 a.m., at City Hall. If you disagree with the percentage shown for your Principal Residence Exemption on your Winter 2011 taxes, you must contact City Hall before Friday, December 9, 2011.

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### TONY MISZE



Tony retired on August 12th from the City of Otsego. He worked at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for over 20 Years. Congratulations to Tony!



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

## OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

I know that I have talked about phone scams in the past, but there are a couple that are currently going around that you need to be aware of. These calls are coming from several different states and countries, with one of the more recent coming out of Canada. Here in Otsego, we have received complaints from citizens that they have received phone calls from someone claiming to be from a police agency in Canada and that their son or grandson has been arrested and they need to send bond money to them to get them released. This sounds so silly, but it is actually very upsetting when it occurs. In this computer age it is fairly simple to get information on you and your relatives at little or no costs. These scammers then use that information in an attempt to get their targets to send money to bond out family members who they are told have been arrested and desperately need their help to get out of jail.

Another current scam involves simply an automated phone call where the recording asked several questions with final instructions on how you can

continue to receive these automated calls by pushing one number and then by pushing another number the person receiving the call can be removed from the call list. Of course everyone is going to push the "don't call me back" number as instructed. Unfortunately, when you do, you will have then agreed (by pushing that number) to allow the caller to make as many long distance calls as they would like on your account. The best thing is to just hang up the phone. Whether you pushed the "don't call back number" or the "add me to your list number" both give them the authority to temporarily hijack your account at your expense. The scam is a variation of the federal "do not call list" and the scammers play on your frustration with these automated calls.

Finally, and these just never seem to go away, are the scams that declare that you have won a large prize and all you have to do is pay a small amount (hundreds to thousands of dollars) to cover some expense for you to receive the money. These scams seem to work the best on the elderly or someone who can be easily confused. The person making the call is extremely cordial and outgoing. Their reasons for you paying a small percentage of what they claim you have won may almost seem logical. Just remember, they are good at what they do and they will not stop until they have gotten as much money as possi-

ble from their victims. If you make the mistake of sending them money, they will soon have another reason that you need to send more. Always be careful not to send anyone a check or give them the routing numbers on your check, because with that information they can quickly clean out any and all money that you have in that account. If you made this mistake contact your bank immediately to cancel the account.

If you have a question about the authenticity of anyone calling you about winning a sweepstakes or wanting you to send money, please call us and let us check to make sure they are legitimate. If you have caller ID and it shows that the call is from somewhere like Jamaica, the best advice I can give you is to just hang up the phone on these callers. They are professional con men and woman; most of them thousands of miles away with little chance of them being caught or of you recovering any money that you have sent them. I would love to see someone from Otsego win the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes, but remember they don't warn you before they show up with your prize, they never ask for money for you to receive the prize, and they are not from a foreign country.



# CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER, 2011

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY HALL CLOSED	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 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	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
24	CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL	
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## OCTOBER, 2011

3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 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 COMMISSION	7:00 P.M.
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00P.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	7:00 A.M. CITY HALL
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00 A.M.
14	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
24	CITY HALL CLOSED	
25	CITY HALL CLOSED	

## DECEMBER, 2011

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

## JANUARY, 2012

2	CITY HALL CLOSED	
3	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
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
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## FEBRUARY, 2012

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY COMMISSION	
7	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
13	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
14	WINTER 2011 TAXES DUE	
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
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
Dept. Public Works .....	694-6636
Treatment Plant.....	694-9194

Website: [www.cityofotsego.org](http://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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