



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

SUMMER 2012

Veteran's Memorial



ANNUAL SCHOOL VISITS TO CITY HALL Washington Street, Dix Street, & Alamo Elementary 3rd Graders Visit City Hall



Third Graders Visit the City! The 3rd Grade classes from Dix Street, Washington Street & Alamo visited City Hall to learn about City Government. They were welcomed by Mayor Gilmer. 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.



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 15 & 16, 2012**



ELECTION NEWS

Important Election Dates

Tues., Aug. 7th, 2012 - State Primary Election
Tues., Nov. 6th, 2012 - State General Election
The polls will open at City Hall at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m.

Remember to bring Photo ID to the Polls!

If you are not Registered to Vote, visit City Hall.

Call the City Clerk if you want to verify your Voter Status!

Absentee Applications are available at City Hall

**Please be prepared for longer lines at these Elections
Please plan accordingly**

If you have any questions, contact the City Clerk, Angela Cronen at 692-3391.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!



BRUSH PICK-UP REMINDER

Please remember that brush is picked up from the curb lawn on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Place brush on the curb lawn **NO SOONER THAN 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE PICK-UP DAY.**

Any brush/trash placed on the curb lawn sooner than 48 hours prior to the pick-up day may result in the issuance of an ordinance violation citation.

**CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED
WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**





City Manager
Thad Beard

CITY MANAGER'S VIEW

SUMMER TIME IS BUDGET TIME: As many of you know, July 1, is the start of the new budget year. While the new budget was approved May 21, we have spent the past several months working on a budget to consider for approval.

The Fund which provides the *essential* services such as police, fire and recreation, is the General Fund. A few of the budget highlights of the General Fund follow:

*The Estimated Revenue is down \$51,000 from last year which is attributed primarily to property values. The total revenue is down \$182,000 from three years ago.

*Reflecting the reduction in revenue, the total expenditures are down \$33,000 from last year. The City is implementing a 20% match for all employee health insurance, and the City recently transitioned to a High Deductible Plan to help reduce premium costs. A 2% wage increase is included in the budget to help offset the loss of take home pay due to the health insurance cost. This will be the first raise in three years. The total expenditures are down \$214,000 from three years ago.

*There are no capital improvements (improvements greater than \$5,000) again this year.

We continue to focus on the key services provided to our residents: Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation.

MEMORIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS: The City of Otsego is a member of a Recreation Council with Otsego Township and Otsego Public Schools. The City owns Memorial Park, but allows the school system to use the park to run several youth and adult recreation leagues there. This year there has been a renewed effort to improve the park to make it more of a community asset. A few of the improvement include:

***Netting:** Netting was placed over the common area surrounding the concession stand. While we hope to include additional netting in the future, this netting should reduce the number of "near misses" from foul balls.

***New Bleachers:** The old wooden bleachers did not meet current ADA mandates and were simply worn out. New aluminum bleachers now replace the old wooden bleachers.

***Concession Stand:** The roof of the concession stand was replaced this summer, which should ensure the interior does not have water leaks or damage.

***New Entrance Signs:** The old rotted wood signs have been replaced with new aluminum signs with Otsego Bulldog colors.

***Veteran's Memorial:** Perhaps the most visible improvement is the expansion of the Veteran's Memorial. This is been a project spearheaded by public volunteers which greatly enhances the Memorial Park. If you have not been to the park, GO TODAY.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Fire Department will be selling bricks leading up to the monument for any police, EMS or fire personnel. Each brick will measure 4" x 8" with one name per brick at a cost of \$65 each. If you order more than one brick and wish to have them together, please indicate that on each separate form. The maximum lines per brick are 18 characters, please indicate the brick is for the 9/11 monument. This also applies to past first responders from any City or Township. The 9/11 memorial will be built at a later date. For a form please contact Kyle Baker at (269)694-5676 or if you have any questions.

McDonalds Restaurant in Otsego will be doing a fundraiser on June 20, 2012, from 4pm to 8pm. 15% of the earnings during this time will benefit the 9/11 memorial. Please join us and be served dinner by your Otsego Firefighters. Future fundraiser dates for this summer will be in the Shoppers Guide

REMINDER: Outdoor burning is not allowed in the City. A fire is only allowed - If you have an approved fireproof structure which is no more than 3 feet in diameter with a spark arrestor; is 15 feet away from all structures; is 15 feet from your property lines; and is not a nuisance. The fire must be supervised at all times by a person age 18 or older. Burning materials are limited to clean wood, charcoal, or commercial produced fuels. If you have questions regarding these rules, please call City Hall.



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

City Hall Welcomes

Please welcome our new Accounts Receivable Specialist Jen Rice. Jen started work with us May 9th. Jen previously worked in our Flower Program. Jen has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. She currently lives in Martin. Jen is married and has three children. WELCOME JEN!



VISIT US ON THE WEB CITYOFOTSEGO.ORG

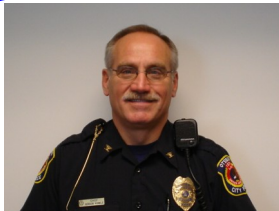


TREE PLANTING - Please note that planting of trees is not allowed in the curb lawn, without consent of the DPW Supervisor. Contact City Hall at 692-3391 for further information.



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.



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

With summer fast approaching there are a few reminders I would like to address to avoid any unpleasant contacts, letters, or notices to you from the Otsego Police Department. This is a great time to be outside and it's also a great time for a garage sale. Most people realize that they need a permit and are allowed to have only a limited number of sales. For the average family having more than one or two garage sales a year isn't something that's going to happen anyway. However, there are a few people who really enjoy the sale itself or getting some extra money for things that have piled up around the house over the years. Other than one of us stopping by to say hello (really more likely just checking out what you are selling), its not the number of sales but the signs people put out to advertise their sales that we will be talking to you about. I do sympathize with people living in the middle of the block who are just trying to direct traffic to your sale, however the requirement is very clear about where you can and more importantly **can't** place signs. In a nutshell, no signs can be placed in the City's right of way. This includes the curb lawn and basi-

OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

cally the area close to the curb where there are no sidewalks. Also, no signs can be placed on any utility poles or any public parking areas. The very distraught question I then get asked is: "So where can I place a sign?" Signs can only be placed on residential private property and they must be removed within 24 hours after the sale. If you read the permit you received from City Hall when you registered to have a garage sale you will find all of this listed on the permit. It will also state that you can receive a \$50.00 fine if you violate the ordinance. Typically, we just remove any signs in violation of the ordinance. But obviously if someone continued to replace the signs, we would have little choice but to issue the citation to stop the violation. I love a good garage sale and I love the extra money I get when I have one, so go ahead and have a good time with yours, just remember the rules so it stays enjoyable.

Also a quick reminder on parking, overnight parking is now allowed on City streets (May 1st thru November 1st). However, there is no parking allowed in the front yard of your residence at any time of the year.

Earlier this spring the motorcycle riders of Michigan finally got their wish in that they can now choose whether to

wear a helmet or not when riding. I've got to tell you, this still is taking a little time for me to get used to. Not that I am that opposed to the change. It's just that after it has been against the law for my entire career that I do a head bob every time I see someone riding without a helmet. The first thing that pops into my mind is that I can't believe that they would drive past me without a helmet. Then it dawns on me that the law has changed and I have to massage the kink out of my neck. If you are happy about the new law, then I am happy for you. There are some requirements though that you must follow before you just jump on that bike and let the wind blow through your hair. You must be at least 21 years old, you must have had your motorcycle endorsement for at least two years or have successfully passed a motorcycle safety course as defined by the State, and finally you must carry additional insurance covering both the driver and any passenger. If you meet all these requirements and choose to ride without a helmet you can now do so and probably get a good chuckle at all of us older cops as we give you the double take until we remember that you are now legal. Good luck and be careful.



CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

JUNE, 2012

4	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
15 & 16	CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES		
18	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL

JULY, 2012

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

AUGUST, 2012

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY		
6	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
7	PRIMARY ELECTION		
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

SEPTEMBER, 2012

3	CITY HALL CLOSED		
4	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
4	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY		
4	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 P.M.	CITY HALL
22	CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL		
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL

OCTOBER, 2012

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
31	HALLOWEEN		

NOVEMBER, 2012

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY		
5	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M.	CITY HALL
6	PRESIDENTIAL/GENERAL ELECTION		
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
26	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
Stacy Rogers.....	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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269-692-3391

