

DECEMBER, 2010

1	WINTER TAXES MAILED	
2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
2-3	ART HOP	
3	CHRISTMAS PARADE	
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
14	DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW	8:00 A.M. CITY HALL
20	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M. CITY HALL
24	CITY HALL CLOSED - CHRISTMAS	
27	CITY HALL CLOSED - CHRISTMAS	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7 P.M. CITY HALL
31	CITY HALL CLOSED - NEW YEARS	

JANUARY, 2011

3	CITY HALL CLOSED - NEW YEARS DAY	
3	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M. CITY HALL
4	CURB SIDE 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
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7 P.M. CITY HALL

FEBRUARY, 2011

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

MARCH, 2011

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

APRIL, 2011

4	CITY COMMISSION	7 P.M. CITY HALL
5	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING 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
22	CITY HALL CLOSED- GOOD FRIDAY	
25	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

117 East Orleans Street
Otsego, MI 49078
269-692-3391



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City of Otsego
117 E Orleans
Otsego, MI 49078



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Winter 2010

JOIN US FOR OTSEGO'S ART HOP & HOLIDAY PARADE

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Local Artists will be showcasing their work
throughout businesses in the downtown

Friday, December 3, 2010

Artists will be available from 5pm to 9pm at
the business showcasing their work

For More Information, please call Debbie at 692-2045

Holiday Parade December 3rd at 7pm

TRANSFER STATION HOLIDAY HOURS

OPEN - Thurs., Dec. 23, 2010 - UNTIL NOON

CLOSED - Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010

OPEN - Thursday, December 30, 2010

CLOSED- Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011

City's New Website - Visit Us On The Web

www.cityofotsego.org

- Pay your Tax Bill and/or Utility Bill
- View Property Information
- Take a "Walking Tour" of the City
- Read City Commission Meeting Minutes

If you have questions or comments regarding the new
website, please contact the City Clerk.

City Hall Will Be Closed

December 24, 27, & 31, 2010, & January 3, 2011

DECEMBER IN OTSEGO



**Holiday Wishes From
The City of Otsego
Have a Happy &
Safe Holiday!**

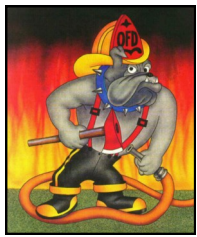


FROZEN WATER PIPES

If you experience discoloration in your water or reduced
water pressure, please notify City Hall
immediately at 692-3391. Leave one
faucet running with a pencil size stream
of water. Please be aware that although
temperatures may rise above freezing,
the potential still exists for freezing water
lines. Do not stop running water until
you have called City Hall and been
advised to do so. Otsego City Hall must
be notified when you begin running your
water, for any potential adjustment to be
made on your utility bill.



DROP BOX LOCATED
AT THE NORTHEAST
CORNER OF CITY HALL



OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

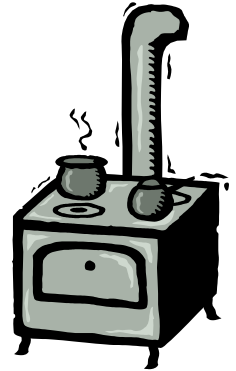
HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS: Here are some winter tips to help keep you and your family safe:

Wood Stoves

- Wood stoves need to be installed to existing building codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- The chimney and stovepipe have to be frequently checked for creosote buildup and cleaned when necessary.
- The stove has to sit on a code-specified listed floor protector which is non-combustible.
- All combustibles such as curtains, drapes, chairs, etc. have to be at least 3 feet away from the stove.

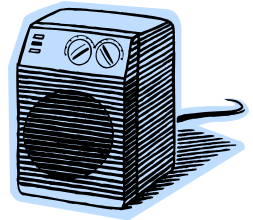
Kerosene Heaters

- Only 1-K kerosene is used in heaters. Buy from a dealer who can certify that the product is 1-K kerosene.
- DO NOT place the heater in the path of egress such as doorways and hallways.
- Kerosene should be stored outdoors and out of the reach of children in a tightly sealed, preferably in a blue or metal container labeled "Kerosene".
- Use in a well ventilated room and turn off while sleeping. Never leave a heater unattended.
- Don't mix with gasoline. Even a small amount mixed together could cause a fire or explosion.



Space Heaters

- Never place heaters on counter tops or furniture, and remember to keep all combustibles 3 feet away.
- Unless approved by manufacturer, never use heaters in a wet area.
- Never hide the extension cords underneath rugs, or carpet.
- Never leave the heater unattended.



Candle Safety

- Candles should be kept at least 12 inches from materials that could ignite.
- Make sure you are using approved candle stick holders that are sturdy, and large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Never leave a candle unattended.
- Avoid using candles in bedrooms, or other areas that are used for sleeping purposes.
- Consider using battery operated flameless candles.



2010 PROPERTY TAXES COLLECTED BY THE CITY OF OTSEGO

Below is a breakdown of the property taxes collected by the City of Otsego by resolution of the Board of Supervisors October 15, 1962 under the auspices of Act 82, Public Acts of 1961. The separate taxes of each operating unit have been combined into one column as shown below. The millage rates represent dollars per \$1,000 of taxable value. [Note: Residential properties are exempt from school operating millage up to the percent that property is claimed as the homeowner's principal residence (P.R.E.).]

TAXING UNIT	TOTAL RATE	BREAK- DOWN	NON-P.R.E. PERCENT OF TOTAL	P.R.E. PERCENT OF TOTAL	SUMMER BILLING	WINTER BILLING
City	13.0116					
Operating		12.0854	21.7%	32.1%	12.0854	
Solid Waste Reduction		0.9262	1.7%	2.5%	0.9262	
County	5.8975					
Operating		4.6577	8.4%	12.5%	4.6577	
Road Tax		0.9998	1.8%	2.7%		0.9998
Senior Service		0.24	0.4%	0.6%		0.24
Otsego Public Schools	25.0000					
Operating		18.0000	32.4%	EXEMPT		18.0000
2004 Debt		7.0000	12.6%	18.7%		7.0000
Allegan Co. Int. Schools	4.1217					
Operating		0.1157	0.2%	0.3%		0.1157
Voted Special Ed.		2.5297	4.5%	6.7%		2.5297
Voted Voc. Ed.		1.4763	2.7%	3.9%		1.4763
State Education Tax	6.0000		10.8%	15.9%	6.0000	
Otsego District Public Library	1.5588					
Operating		0.9888	1.8%	2.6%		0.9888
Debt		0.6000	1.1%	1.6%		0.6000
TOTAL MILLAGE (NON-P.R.E.)	55.6196		100.0%		23.6693	31.9503
LESS SCHOOL OPERATING						
	-18.0000					-18.0000
FOR EXEMPT HOMESTEADS						
TOTAL MILLAGE (HOMESTEAD)	37.6196			100.0%	23.6693	13.9503



City Manager
Thad Beard

City Manager's View

The challenge for the City of Otsego is no different than the challenge of almost every other unit of government in Michigan- reduce expenses while not reducing the level of service or raising taxes. Taxpayers expect and deserve to have First Responders arrive quickly with modern up-to-date equipment, police officers who are available to respond twenty-four hours a day, plowed streets with no potholes, clean attractive parks, safe drinking water (with enough water pressure to run the dishwasher, clothes washer and take a shower), leaf and brush removal and a transfer station to take additional yard waste or those large bulky items that you can't leave at the curb. That is to say, "taxpayers expect and deserve....Otsego".

The City Commission recently received the annual report from the firm which performs the City Audit. This year, they received another unqualified audit. The review of the annual accounting of expenditures clearly showed the Commission's desire to reduce expenditures but not services provided. While two City Hall full-time positions were reduced to part-time, and the number of employees in the Department of Public Works was reduced, the services provided have not been reduced. But some of the means in which services are provided have been modified to accommodate the changes in personnel to create efficiencies. The new Tink Bucket (that strange looking device used to pickup leaves) is just one example of these changes. The Tink Bucket allows for the removal of the leaves from the City Streets with two fewer pieces of equipment and two fewer employees, which clearly means less cost.



The City is fortunate to have personnel who are creative enough to adjust to the changes brought on by the new Michigan economy and humble enough to accept and even request ideas for improvement and efficiencies. During the Holiday Season it is especially appropriate for me to share my thanks for all of the City employees who make Otsego such a great place to work, play and ultimately stay!

Happy Holidays!

2010 Winter Taxes

Matthew Storbeck, City Treasurer

Winter tax bills will be mailed to arrive on December 1. Please note that tax bills are now sent to property owners, as well as mortgage servicers. If you do not receive one, please call 692-2741, and we will send another bill. Residential property owners are encouraged to check their Principal Residence Exemption to make sure they are receiving the proper percentage of credit for school operating taxes. If not, please call before December 10th, and an adjustment can be made for this year's taxes. Otherwise, corrections to the Winter Tax cannot be made until July of 2011.

Taxpayers wishing to have their tax payments taken directly from their bank account may contact us to set up this service. Payments will not be transferred until December 26th or February 12th, at the taxpayer's discretion. This will allow us time to make contact in cases where problems arise. Also, please remember that receipts will not be mailed back for payment received by mail unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is sent with the payment. Please keep the top part of the tax bill and check number for your receipt. Also, you may access the City's web site at www.cityofotsego.org to retrieve tax and payment information, as well as make electronic payments.

RECYCLE INFORMATION

If there is a question regarding pick-up, or service - PLEASE call Best Way Disposal directly at 388-3300 for specific service information.



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 prohibited during the months of November through April in order to facilitate snow removal. Violators will be ticketed.

2010 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. If you have a discrepancy regarding your Principal Residence Exemption on your Winter 2010 taxes, you must contact City Hall **before** Friday, December 10, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 692-2741.

REMINDERS

WITH THE WINTER MONTHS UPON US, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- WATCH FOR SNOW PLOWING VEHICLES
- PLEASE KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR FOR PEDESTRIANS
- REMEMBER FRONT YARD PARKING IS PROHIBITED.



CITY LOTS FOR SALE

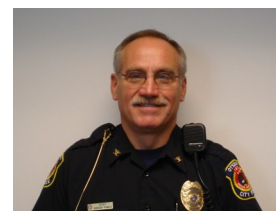


The City of Otsego has several choice lots remaining in the developed Eley Acres Residential Subdivision.

Choice single family residential home sites are for sale in these restricted plats. Lot prices range from \$23,000 to \$37,000. Two Commercial Lots are also for sale. For additional information please see the City's website www.cityofotsego.org or call City Hall 692-3391.



POLICE BEAT



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

New laws increasing the penalty for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) went into affect on October 31, 2010. The highlights of this law are the establishment of enhanced penalties for first time offenders who test a blood alcohol level of .17 % or higher (MCL 257.625 (1) (c)). Changes include a stiff increase in jail time (180 days compared to 93 days for those testing under .17%), and a one year suspension of driving privileges with the ability to secure a restricted operators license after 45 days if an ignition interlock is installed. These ignition interlock devices will not allow the vehicle to start if the blood alcohol level of the person tested is above .025%.

New laws involving the Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device known as BAIID took affect at the same time. If a person is found guilty of violating any of the requirements listed below they will be guilty of a 6-month misdemeanor (MCL 257.6251).

Here are those requirements:

A person:

- Shall not operate a vehicle without a BAIID if required by the Court.
- Shall not request or solicit someone to blow into a BAIID.
- Shall not blow into the device for a person who has a BAIID installed in their vehicle.
- Shall not tamper with or circumvent the operation of a BAIID.

In addition it is unlawful to remove a BAIID or cause the device to be removed without an order issued by the Secretary of State's Office (MCL 257.322a – 90 day misdemeanor). And the new law also includes provisions for impounding vehicles of drivers that violate the BAIID requirements listed above (MCL.6251).

If the operator (driver) is the owner of the vehicle:

- The vehicle shall be impounded if the person is required to have a BAIID and is found driving a vehicle without one.
- The license plate shall be confiscated (destroyed).
- A temporary paper plate shall be assigned to the vehicle.

- The Secretary of State shall be notified of the violation.

If the operator is not the owner of the vehicle:

- The vehicle shall be impounded.
- The owner of the vehicle is responsible for all related costs.
- The vehicle cannot be released until the owner pays all costs.
- If not claimed (and paid) the vehicle is considered abandoned and can be auctioned off by the towing company.

I have done my best to highlight these new laws and changes, but I have included all of the statute numbers so you can look up the laws in greater detail if you so wish. The aim of these changes is obviously an attempt to make our roadways safer and reduce the injury and loss of life that occurs everyday from alcohol related crashes. With the holidays quickly approaching please use caution and a plan involving a designated driver if you are going to parties or family gatherings where alcohol will be consumed.

As always if you have any questions regarding these or any other laws, please feel free to contact me.

