



# City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Spring 2013

## CONGRATULATIONS OTSEGO MICHIGAN MAIN STREET THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

*Join us downtown for a  
**Celebration!***

Otsego is being officially recognized  
as a "Michigan Main Street Community"

**LOVE OTSEGO** Tuesday, March 5th, 2013  
Downtown Otsego on North Farmer Street  
at the Ice Rink (next to the museum)

**FREE Hot Dogs, Cocoa and Cake** 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
**Snow Sculpture Contest** Judging at 5:45 p.m.  
Winners will receive FREE "Love Otsego" T-shirts!  
\* Snow will be piled in the parking lot and ready for sculpting before  
this event so you can get an early start on your  
family friendly creations!

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Presentation by Michigan Main Street  
and the Community Swearing In

*Bring your ice skates for an  
evening of family fun!*

**FREE**  
Face Painting  
for the  
'Munchkins'



## ELECTION NEWS

**MAY 7, 2013**

The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m. **Tuesday, May 7, 2013**, for a Special Election which includes a Fire Truck Ballot Proposal. Ballot wording is available at City Hall.

**NEW** - If you wish to obtain an Absentee Voter Ballot, you will have to provide Photo ID when picking up the ballot at City Hall. Photo ID is not required if your Absentee Ballot is mailed to you.

In order to expedite the process at the polls, please check prior to election day to make sure that you are a registered voter of the City of Otsego. **PLEASE HAVE YOUR PHOTO ID READY AT THE POLLS!**

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

### WINTER PARKING RULES REMAIN IN EFFECT



Parking is 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.

## TRANSFER STATION COUPONS

Coupons will continue to be distributed during the months of March, April, and May. City residents will be entitled to dispose of one load of trash/rubbish (no larger than a pick-up truck can hold) free of charge. Household garbage is NOT accepted at the Transfer Station. Please remember, this service is for Otsego City Residents only. In order to take advantage of this service, pick up your coupon at City Hall when you pay your utility bill. One coupon will be issued per address, per year. City residents who do not pay their own water bills may bring proof of address within the City limits to City Hall to receive a coupon. The Transfer Station is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. For further details or questions, please call City Hall.



## HYDRANT FLUSHING

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants April 22 through May 3. This is done to remove any stale water that may be in the system and ensure 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 Hall Will Be Closed Friday, March 29 & Monday, May 27, 2013**



City Manager  
Thad Beard

# City Manager's View



If you haven't heard by now Otsego just received notification that they have been selected to be a "Select" Main Street Community. You may be asking yourself, what is all of the hype,

why is everyone so energized by the Main Street concept, and why is everyone wearing LOVE OTSEGO shirts - the answer is Otsego Main Street.

In December, the DDA and members of the community submitted an application to become a Select Community. After reviewing the application, Michigan Main Street invited Otsego to make a presentation in Lansing. This is when the community really became involved and made the "Wizard of Otsego" and put together a Flash Mob of approximately four hundred people. I believe Otsego impressed them, as the Governor recently announced that Otsego had been selected. Just since Main Street has been introduced to Otsego, there has been a holiday lantern launch, an ice

rink constructed, a flash mob, a movie premiere, fall decorating the downtown, and the upcoming Community Celebration on March 5th.

Main Street is defined as "a community driven, comprehensive strategy encouraging economic development through historic preservation in ways appropriate to today's marketplace." If you are interested in being on any of the following committees, please contact City Hall. The four committees are: Design, Economic Restructuring, Promotions and Organization. I encourage you to become a member of the Main Street Team.

Michigan Main Street will be visiting Otsego in May to meet the community and identify our needs. If you would like to get on the Main Street Mailing List, please contact City Hall or Molly Wieber [missmollyanne@gmail.com](mailto:missmollyanne@gmail.com) or Angie Cronen at [acronen@cityofotsego.org](mailto:acronen@cityofotsego.org).



## Fire Department News

### TIPS FOR CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is urging all residents to have working smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors, as it is a serious threat in cold weather. Any fuel-burning appliances in the home, including furnaces and fire places, are potential CO sources.

- Schedule a yearly professional inspection of all fuel-burning home heating systems, including furnaces, boilers, fireplaces, woodstoves, water heaters, chimneys, flues and vents.
- Never operate a portable gasoline-power generator in an enclosed space, or in your home.
- Keep portable generators as far away from your home and your neighbors' homes as possible, keep away from doors, windows or vents that could allow deadly carbon monoxide into their home.
- When purchasing a space heater, ask the salesperson whether the heater has a safety certification mark. These heaters have the most up-to-date safety features. An unvented gas space heater that meets current standards will shut off if oxygen levels fall too low.
- Do not use portable propane heaters indoors or in any confined space, unless they are designed specifically for indoor use. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for proper use.
- Never use gas or electric stoves to heat the home. They are not intended for that purpose and can pose a CO or hazard.



**GARAGE SALES** - 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.

### Step Forward Michigan Now Accepting Homeowner Applications for Loan Rescue Program

This program assists homeowners located in a participating county with past due property taxes using the Loan Rescue Program. If determined eligible, a one time payment will be sent directly to the county treasurer to pay toward outstanding county and local property taxes. Through A Step Forward: MHA designed programs to help homeowners who have had a financial hardship. Learn more and find an online application at [www.stepforwardmichigan.org](http://www.stepforwardmichigan.org).





# 2013 Property Assessments

By, Matthew Storbeck, Finance Director

Property owners will receive their 2013 Assessment Notices during the first week of March. This notice will include the 2013 Assessed Value (AV), State Equalized Value (SEV), Taxable Value (TV) and classification for the property. AV is the amount the City Assessor calculates to be one-half of the fair market value of the property based upon construction, square footage and sales studies of similar properties. SEV is the State of Michigan's belief of one-half of the fair market value of the property after applying a factor to all properties within a class (residential, commercial, etc.). To my knowledge, the City has not ever received a factor from the State of Michigan.

Over the past year residential properties experienced an overall market value increase of just under one percent. Commercial properties, decreased in value approximately two percent overall. Changes in market value affects both the AV and SEV. The 2012 Inflation Rate Multiplier is 2.4 percent, which will be used to calculate the change in TV. TV, the value that determines property taxes,

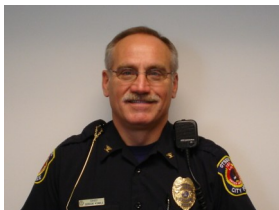
cannot increase more than the inflation rate, as determined by the Michigan Department of Treasury, or 5 percent, whichever is less, until there is a change in ownership of the property.

Also, please examine the assessment notice to verify the Principle Residence Exemption (PRE). This value used to be called the "Homestead Exemption" but was often confused with the state income tax exemption referred to by the same name. The PRE percentage is that part of a residential property occupied by the owner. If the property is a multiple residence, then it should be based upon the square footage of the home that occupied by the owner. The PRE is the percentage the property will be exempt from the 18 mill public school operating millage for 2013.

Protest to the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal for valuation and exemption appeals and/or the State Tax Commission for classification appeals. Properties classified Commercial

Real, Industrial Real or Developmental Real may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31. Commercial Personal, Industrial Personal, or Utility Personal Property may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31 if a personal property statement was filed with the local unit prior to the commencement of the Board of Review as provided by M.C.L. 211.19.

The Board of Review will meet Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until noon, and 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 16, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Otsego City Hall, 117 East Orleans Street, Otsego, Michigan. The Board will also meet Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. for organizational purposes only. Please call (269) 692-3391 to schedule an appointment. You may also mail your protest to City Hall, but they must be received by Friday, March 15, 2013.



*Police Chief, Gordon Konkle*

With what appears to have become a weekly news event, gun violence whether at a school, shopping mall, church, or even now a rampage involving an ex-police officer, it just keeps coming. The debate rages on nationally and locally involving our rights as citizens to own and bare arms as compared to those pushing for stricter gun control laws. My job is not to make laws or push for changes. It is to enforce those laws that the legislature has passed and the courts have upheld as constitutional. The only plea you will hear from me is to please use caution in owning, storing, handling, and shooting any gun or other weapon you own. While we are bombarded with horrible news stories of this senseless violence, let's not forget that more people are hurt by accident than there are victims of willful actions of violence at the hands of someone with a gun.

We live in a very safe community and have an excellent school system that remains vigilant but, we also need to

be aware that no one is immune or 100% safe from the action of someone who is determined to act out in a violent manner. We all realize that and sometimes its hard not to be a little paranoid, especially when we imagine our children at risk. Unfortunately, fear gives the power to those who are looking for a mechanism to push their agenda or act on their mental issues. We all wish for a simple answer to make our lives safe from this unspeakable violence, but if there is one, I haven't seen or heard it yet. As I stated earlier, our schools are extremely vigilant. They practice lockdowns and drills involving someone entering their buildings. We practice with them and other police agencies in case the unthinkable happens and while the odds of something like this occurring here is remote, we must always be ready and attentive. Please let me assure you that our schools are doing their best to make it a safe and healthy learning environment for our children, and I applaud their efforts.


Let's not forget that gun safety especially that of our children begins at home. The dramatic increase in

people applying to purchase handguns since this national debate on gun control began is unbelievable. We are seeing it first hand right here in Otsego. Now, again I am not going to offer my opinion on more or less gun control, but I will not be shy about saying that if you own a gun it is your responsibility to make sure it is used and stored safely. Educate your children on the dangers of handling firearms and when they are old enough, teach them how to handle them safely. Keep your guns locked and out of the reach or access of your children or their friends as guns invoke a natural curiosity to children and teenagers. When not in use, store your guns and ammunition in separate places and never leave a loaded gun where a child can reach it. Accidents happen, they always have and they always will. Just do everything you can to make sure one of these nightmares (gun accidents) doesn't happen to you.



# CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

## MARCH, 2013

4	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
5	MAIN STREET CELEBRATION - ICE RINK	5:00 P.M.
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	 <b>March 10th</b>
5	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
10	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	
11	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
18	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
29	CITY HALL CLOSED	

## APRIL, 2013

1	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
2	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
4	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
8	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## MAY, 2013

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	CITY SPECIAL ELECTION FIRE TRUCK	7:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.
7	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
13	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
27	CITY HALL CLOSED	

## JUNE, 2013

3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 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	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## JULY, 2013

1	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
2	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
4	CITY HALL CLOSED	
5	<b>FRIDAY CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY</b>	
8	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## AUGUST, 2013

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
5	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
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## SEPTEMBER, 2013

2	CITY HALL CLOSED	
3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
3	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
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
28	CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL	

## 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
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
Kevin Harris.....	Assessor

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



Printed on Recycled Paper

