



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

SUMMER 2013

ANNUAL SCHOOL VISITS TO CITY HALL Washington Street & Dix Street 3rd Graders



Recently, the 3rd Grade classes from Dix Street Elementary and Washington Street Elementary 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.



Flower Program

Thank you Volunteers!
Please find additional
Main Street News in the
Newsletter insert.



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 5, 2013. Three 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

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 13, 2013, 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), commercial property, 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 14 & 15, 2013

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 THURSDAY, JULY 4, & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2





City Manager, Thad Beard

CITY MANAGER'S VIEW

STREET PROJECTS:

The City has identified several street improvements for this construction season. The streets being improved this year include the following:

- Barton Street: South of Ruby to Goodsell intersection; including Wildwood and Foxwood cul-de-sacs.
- North Grant: From Allegan Street to Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- Farmer Street: From River Street to City Limits.
- East Water Street: From North Street east to end.
- Alley and between Farmer and Kalamazoo Street.

All street improvements will include milling two inches of asphalt and applying two inches of new asphalt.



SIDEWALK PROJECT:

The City recently adopted a Complete Streets Plan, which incorporates emphasis on pedestrian traffic, such as bike and walking routes. One component identified in the plan, was the lack of sidewalk routes to schools in the City. In order to begin to address this need for safe routes to schools, the City is planning the following sidewalk improvements:

- Grant Street: East side of the road from Allegan south to Franklin.
- Muriel Street: North side of the road from Grant to Sherwood.
- Conference Street: West side of the road from Franklin to Washington.
- Lincoln Street: South side of the road from Conference to North.
- Garfield Street: North side of the road from Conference to North.



The sidewalk improvements will be a part of a Special Assessment District, in which the City will share in the cost of the improvement

50% with the property in which the sidewalk crosses. Property owners should have received two letter of information about the project and Public Hearing is planned for the sidewalk improvements on June 17, at 7:00 PM.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



The Otsego Fire Department would like to express a huge **"Thank You"** to all the residents in the City and Township of Otsego, we are very grateful for your support.

There has been a lot of discussion amongst the town, about what type of vehicle we are looking at and what its capabilities it will have. The new Fire Engine will not be much different from the 1993 Seal Fire Engine that is being replaced. The biggest changes are in Technology and Safety. The replacement engine will have many more safety features such as airbags, rollover protection, helmet holders and seatbelts for each seat. As with every vehicle, technology is a larger part of our driving experience and this vehicle will also have many more technological enhancements like better radio communications, on board intercom/headsets for each seating positions. Most of these changes are required under NFPA Standards and are a basic component in the manufacture of these vehicles, much like DOT making a standard that all

rearview mirrors will be a minimum size or that brake lights must be red.

Specifications were recently written and have gone out to bid to about 7 different fire truck manufacturers. These bids are due back by July 1, 2013 at 4:00pm. Once the bid is closed we will open the envelopes and go over all of the options presented. After a manufacturer has been chosen, the real work begins. We will work with the manufacturer to ensure the cabinets are the proper size to accommodate our equipment, outlets are placed in the proper locations, flooring materials can withstand the boots, mud and water and that the vehicle meets the needs and standards set forth in the specifications along with many more areas of concerns.

Once these decisions are made the order will be placed and the new Fire Engine will be delivered in approximately one year. We are expecting to place the order this summer/fall so we are looking to have the new Fire Engine this next year around September-November.

CITY LOTS FOR SALE



The City of Otsego has several lots remaining in the developed Eley Acres Residential Subdivision. Choice single family residential home sites are for sale in this restricted plat. Lot prices range from \$23,000 to \$37,000. For additional information please contact the City Clerk's Office, 692-3391.

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

The spring and summer seasons are finally here and with them comes certain calls that always seem to increase this time of year. Your neighbor's dog seems a little louder now that the windows are open and the dog is enjoying more time outside. Please be aware that when you let your dog out there are much more things for it to see and bark at this time of year. Our calls for barking dogs greatly increase in the spring and summer months. We usually can remedy the complaint with a contact to the dog owner, but if it is a continual problem then a ticket will be issued. These are not cheap tickets and they increase by doubling on the second offense and tripling on third and subsequent offenses. As I have talked in the past about loose dogs, these tickets increase the same way. If you are having trouble with keeping your dog contained or quiet, an underground fence or a bark collar is definitely cheaper than getting two tickets.



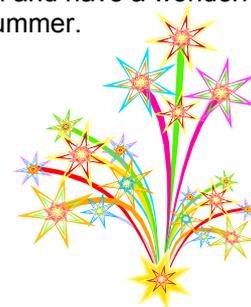
OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

Also the tall grass complaints, just like the grass, continue growing all summer long. We are leaving notices on doors as a reminder when the grass reaches the height greater than six inches and generally a little reminder is all that is needed. However, as you look around there are still several vacant houses where the grass is unkempt. We will do our best to keep on top of these so that if you live next door to one that you won't have to look at it all summer long. Trash around these houses also seems to increase once someone moves out, but besides the trash we all think about there is also the issue of people who leave their trash containers out well past the time after the trash has been picked up. Your containers can be placed out next to the curb no sooner than 24 hours before pickup and must be moved back within the same time period. I know everyone forgets occasionally, but please just don't leave it out next to the curb for an extended period of time.



The last thing that is coming up fast is the use of fireworks. It always seems to peak around the 4th of July, but remember the law was changed and it is now legal to use certain fireworks the day before, the day of, and the day after a national holiday. The new law and its rules for the use of fireworks and what types are legal to use, purchase, and sell can be found online under the Michigan Penal Code, MCL 28.451-28.471.

Just please be careful and remember that even though you can use fireworks on those days, it doesn't allow you to shoot off anything you would like at any time you wish and alcohol and fireworks not only don't mix, they are illegal to use while intoxicated. Please be careful and have a wonderful, safe summer.



Main Street News



Residents Take Ownership in Beautifying Otsego!

The past few months have uncovered great hope and promise for downtown Otsego! Now an official Main Street Community, our residents and business community have a renewed sense of pride in the community they call home.

There is no shortage of volunteer opportunities for those who want to be more involved. Most recently volunteers gathered to beautify downtown through planting flowers in and around town. Many people joined us at the DPW to fill 44 large planters with a variety of bright and cheery flowers. These planters can now be enjoyed as you walk down the sidewalks downtown. In addition, Main Street partnered with the DPW to coordinate a new effort to get our flower beds around town planted. Twenty-three flower beds were adopted by families and businesses. The DPW prepared the beds and will keep them watered all summer. Those who've adopted the beds are responsible for planting the flowers and keeping the beds weeded. This was a great project for people of all ages. In this fast paced, technology driven era, it's great to see that community service is being practiced and modeled for the next generation.

In other exciting news, May 20th—22nd Otsego Main Street welcomed representatives from both the Michigan Main Street Center, and National Main Street. The goal was to perform a baseline assessment of our community; where are we now and where we should focus our efforts moving forward. More than 50 residents and business owners attended the community visioning session, which revealed three key community assets: schools, library and strong sense of community. The session also brought light to the fact that we, as a community, want more for our downtown. We're fortunate to have a solid base of long-time businesses to build on. Main Street's 4-Point approach will help us move forward toward economic growth and development. Also during these three days, interested residents and business owners attended committee overview meetings, and engaged in conversations relevant specifically to city leaders and the business community. In all, the baseline assessment was a successful and useful encounter.

For more information about Otsego Main Street, you may call our office at 269-692-2336; like us on Facebook (Otsego Main Street); and send an email to otsegomainstreet@gmail.com to be added to our group list.

If you're looking for a LOVE OTSEGO tee-shirt, visit the Main Street office at 128 E. Allegan Street, Suite A. (Across from the M-89 Sports Bar).



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES



MOLLY WIEBER
MAIN STREET MANAGER

Molly started her new position with Otsego Main Street in April. Molly previously was a City Commissioner before being hired as the Main Street Manager. Molly has a long history with the Otsego community - she was the Executive Director of the Otsego Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Otsego Planning Commission, Otsego DDA Board member, and past Chairperson of the Otsego Creative Arts Festival. Molly is a 13 year resident of Otsego and is married to Ryan. They have three children. Welcome Molly!



MIKE BOSCH
DPW SUPERVISOR

Mike has lived in the Plainwell area with his wife Traci for the last 14 years. They have three children; Dustin, Rachel, and Daniel. Mike is a 1994 graduate of Hamilton High School and a 1998 graduate of Hope College, where he majored in Business and Economics. Mike enjoys hunting, fishing and car racing. Mike is also the owner and operator of Finish Line Excavating. Mike is looking forward to serving Otsego as the Superintendent of the Dept. of Public Works. Welcome Mike.



RYAN WIEBER
CITY COMMISSIONER

Ryan is a 13 year resident of Otsego, is married to Molly, and has three children. He is the former director of the Otsego District Library, a trustee for the Otsego Area Historical Society, and is currently the director of the Van Buren District Library. Welcome Ryan!



PAUL FARBER
PART TIME POLICE OFFICER

The Otsego Police Department has hired a new part-time police officer, Paul Faber. Paul is currently also working as a police officer for the Kalamazoo Valley Police Department and has experience working at the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department and Richland Police Department. He is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Welcome Paul!



PETER ISBELL
PART TIME POLICE OFFICER

Peter Isbell is a graduate of the Kalamazoo Valley Police Academy and holds an Associates of Applied Science in Law Enforcement from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. He comes to the Otsego Police Department with previous police experience as an officer for the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Police Department. Welcome Peter!



KYLE BIRD
PART TIME DPW EMPLOYEE

Kyle is a life long resident of Plainwell and a Grand Valley graduate. In Kyle's spare time he likes to garden, kayak and work on stained glass. Welcome Kyle!

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

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	FRIDAY 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

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	

OCTOBER, 2013

1	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
1	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP	
3	CITY TRASH PICK-UP	
7	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
14	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 AM CITY HALL
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M.
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
31	HALLOWEEN	

NOVEMBER, 2013

4	CITY COMMISSION	
5	CITY ELECTION POLLS OPEN AT	7:00AM CITY HALL
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
5	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00AM
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
28	CITY HALL CLOSED	
29	CITY HALL CLOSED	



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
Main Street Office.....	692-2336
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
Ryan Wieber.....	Commissioner
Cyndi Trobeck.....	Commissioner
Thad Beard.....	City Manager
Angela Cronen.....	City Clerk
Mike Bosch.....	DPW Supervisor
Tom Dunn.....	WWTP Superintendent
Gordon Konkle.....	Chief of Police
Matthew Storbeck.....	Treasurer
Chad Tackett.....	Fire Chief
Kevin Harris.....	Assessor
Molly Wieber.....	Main Street Manager

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