



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Fall 2013

26th Annual Creative Arts Festival



Mark your Calendar for September 28!

Just a few short weeks until the 26th 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: **Car Show, Parade, Motorcycle Show, Tractor Show, Pet Parade, Arts & Crafts, Children's Activities, Entertainment Stage, Food Court and much more!** **Don't forget to sign up for the Otsego Rotary 5K!** 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 Otsego Chamber at 694-6880.



GENERAL ELECTION November 5, 2013

The City Election will be held for Three open seats on the Otsego City Commission. 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. Candidates Include: RYAN WIEBER; TOM GILMER, AND KATHY MISNER

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

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.

HAVE YOUR PHOTO ID READY AT THE POLLS!

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", "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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013
Creative Art's Festival & Rotary 5K

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013
Planning Commission Public Hearing for the Master Plan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2013
Christian Neighbor's 5K

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2013
Main Street - Riverwalk Scavenger Hunt

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2013
Otsego Chamber Christmas Parade & Main Street Activities

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants **September 23 through October 4.** 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

Master Plan: The Planning Commission recently began the arduous task of reviewing and updating the City of Otsego Master Plan. The Master Plan (also known as Land Use Plan) is the document used by the City Planners in determining how the City should grow or change over the next five (5) to ten (10) years.

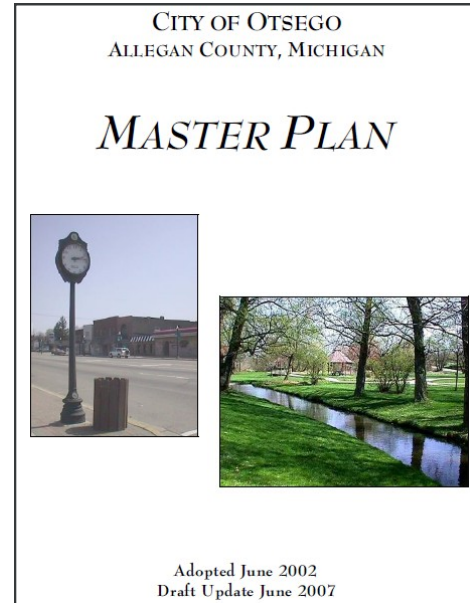
The current Master Plan was adopted in 2002 and updated in 2007. The Master Plan is made up of several components, including a Community Profile, Community Vision, Goals and Objectives and the Future Land Use Map. The profile provides demographic statistics provided by the US Census and shows patterns or trends which impact the City. The Community Vision provides the overall focus of the Plan and the Goals and Objectives are used in combination with the Future Land Use map to strengthen areas of pride or change areas identified as potential problems.

It could be argued that the most important part of the plan amendment is public input. The Planning Commission will host a Public Hearing on October 1, to review the trends and current land uses before receiving feedback from the community on desired changes in the near future. For example, do we need to focus more on protecting riverfront properties or do we need to establish specific goals to increase inter-connecting pedestrian trails. This process goes "hand in hand" with the recent Main Street visioning sessions which identified specific desirable changes in the downtown, and

many of the goals and objectives will be the same in the two plans.

Ultimately, the Master Plan should be the tool that guides the revisions to the City Zoning Map and the Zoning Ordinance, which then direct the redevelopment of the City as a whole.

Please be our guest October 1, at 7:00 pm, at City Hall, as we discuss the future of Otsego.



OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Otsego Fire Department - Upcoming Events/News

Creative Arts Festival - September 28, 2013

Creative Arts Festival at the Otsego Fire Station:

- ◆ Meet the Firefighters
- ◆ Smoke House
- ◆ Sparky the Fire Dog

October 2013 Activities

- ◆ Fire Prevention Week - Fire Prevention Week started in 1922, and has been observed Sunday-Saturday of the week in which October 9th falls within. In addition, the President of the United States has proclaimed Fire Prevention Week every year since 1925.
- ◆ Candy Checks - October 31 will be the annual candy check at the Fire Station.

NEW FIRE TRUCK UPDATE

The City of Otsego and Otsego Township recently approved the purchase agreement to order the new Fire Truck. Look for exciting updates in the near future. Thank you Voters!

TWITTER & FACEBOOK

Otsego Fire is now on Twitter. Please follow us @OtsegoFire for the latest, up to the minute road closures, recalls, news and daily activities of our Fire Department. Find us on Facebook - Otsego Fire Department.



QUESTIONS?

Please, send any Fire related or EMS question to kbaker@cityofotsego.org



One question will be selected to be featured in the next newsletter.

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.



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.

2013 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on December 10, 2013, 8:30 a.m., at City Hall. If you disagree with the percentage shown for your Principal Residence Exemption on your **Winter 2013** taxes, you must contact City Hall **before** Friday, **December 6, 2013.** If you have any questions, please call 692-2741.



City Hall Will be Closed

November 28 & 29
December 24 & 25 & 31
January 1, 2014

REMEMBER! NOVEMBER 3RD



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

Of course by now everyone is aware that school is open again. Rejoice for parents and mixed emotions for the students. By the way, as every year I want to remind you to use caution in the mornings and after school for children. They feel bullet proof or at least car proof. Watch for them crossing the street and even walking in the roadway exercising that juvenile surge of power they seem to get by not moving for cars. If you live around the Washington Street Elementary, Otsego Middle, and Otsego High Schools you can't help but notice several blocks of new sidewalks installed this summer. This was done just to make the trip to and from school much safer for those children who walk every day. If that includes your children, please talk to them about using the sidewalk and not walking in the street. We will be. Hopefully parents and the police will all be on the same page for this important and expensive safety feature undertaken this year. Having four children myself, I do understand the teenage psyche. We know that when there is a crowd, normal well behaved teenagers can sometimes become social rebels.

OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

We won't be making a federal case against children walking in the street, but we will be enforcing the laws to keep them safe. I hope we can all work together to make it a safe trip for everyone.

While we are on the subject of safety, for those of you that have the exciting experience of a new teenaged driver, first let me say, it will get better, just keep the faith and continue to exercise your control over their new freedom for your sanity and for their safety. Remember there are some pretty tight restrictions on that new driver. Make sure they understand the rules and if they don't or you're not sure contact our office or the Secretary of State and get it first hand. Allegan County is a wonderful place and in particular Otsego to me is the jewel of the county, but for all of the good things happening here the scariest part is that Allegan County continues to be one of the most dangerous places for young drivers. I wish I could tell you why, but it doesn't make sense to me. So it is up to all of us to look out for those young drivers. Besides all of the license restrictions, parents need to demonstrate good driving habits and make sure that your children do too. They won't like it, but you have the control. Driving is not a right it is a privilege and more than a privilege to society, it is a privilege that starts at home. The combination of cell phones while driving is dangerous and the act

of texting while driving is illegal. It only takes a second to be distracted with the consequences sometimes being life altering. Yes, it is wonderful that they have a phone so that they can call for help, let you know where they are, and call you if there is an emergency. **But not while they are driving!** Make them put it someplace where they can't answer it while they are driving. The temptation is just too great if it is accessible. And here is the most important part. Be a parent, not a friend. If they violate your rules take away their privileges. Make them understand how important it is by holding them accountable even if it is more of a punishment to you than it is to them. They won't be happy, but they will learn by your good example and they will know that you do it because you love them (okay, not at first but that's because they are still just kids). By now you already know what a tough job it is to be a parent, so hang in there, it will get better.

A final word on fireworks, some common sense has finally prevailed in our state legislature allowing city governments to add some restrictions to the new fireworks laws. Beginning September 8, 2013 it will be a violation of the City's Ordinances to discharge consumer fireworks between the hours of 1:00 am to 8:00 am on the days allowed under the current state statute. This new ordinance (#153) governing fireworks is available in complete detail on the City's webpage.

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

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 A.M. CITY HALL
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
31	HALLOWEEN	

NOVEMBER, 2013

4	CITY COMMISSION	
5	CITY ELECTION POLLS OPEN AT	7:00 A.M. CITY HALL
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
5	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00 A.M.
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	

DECEMBER, 2013

2	CITY COMMISSION	
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
10	BOARD OF REVIEW	
16	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
24	CITY HALL CLOSED	
25	CITY HALL CLOSED	
31	CITY HALL CLOSED	

JANUARY, 2014

1	CITY HALL CLOSED	
2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
7	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP	
13	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 AM CITY HALL
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

FEBRUARY, 2014

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

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
Open	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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269-692-3391



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BUCKLE YOUR SEATBELTS..

OTSEGO MAIN STREET IS IN HIGH GEAR!



Over the past few months, volunteers on our four committees have been brainstorming ideas that support the goals that have been set for our first year as a Main Street Community. As a reminder, the five goals are:

***Increase Shopper Loyalty**

***Increase Riverfront Awareness**

***Develop Strong Communication Plans**

***Address Vacancies**

***Increase and Support our Volunteer Base**

The following committee reports outline the projects we're currently working on. While they're not **all** "fun and games", they do all play an important role in strengthening our economic base and providing a community that people want to be a part of!

DESIGN

- **B&B Art Project:** This city beautification project will allow the community to get involved by adding some color and art to the downtown. Individuals, businesses, groups, etc.. May "purchase" a city bench or wooden trash bench and add an artistic flair! Benches and Bins will be judged at the Creative Arts Festival, but will be on display downtown all year!
- **Building Basics Workshop:** Otsego Main Street businesses are eligible for free design services through Michigan Main Street. These services apply to façade improvements. In many cases, there are grant dollars available to assist in the actual construction costs. In order to be considered, interested building owners are required to attend this Building Basics Workshop. The workshop looks specifically at Otsego's structural history—so many people will enjoy this workshop!
- **Downtown Garden:** The Otsego Barber Shop has graciously agreed to allow the design committee to create a garden on the east side of the barber shop. In addition to the beauty that the garden itself will bring, we'll be inviting the community to participate by purchasing and designing a round garden paver. (Only \$10 each!) 90 round pavers will be needed to complete the project. Eventually, we hope to add a sculpture to the garden!
- **Historic Walking Tour:** Main Street and the Historical Museum will be partnering to bring this project to fruition. We'll be developing an Historic Walking tour that will bring historical education and awareness to the community. We hope to offer this tour on a regular basis all throughout the spring and summer months.
- **Murals:** We are so excited to announce that we will be commissioning a mural for one of our downtown building exterior walls. We are in the process of identifying our first "canvas" and will soon be reaching out to area artists!

ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

- We're developing a Business Development team. When potential new businesses contact Main Street, we'd like to be able to connect them to local experts at no cost! These experts will be donating their time and expertise in order to assist new businesses.
- **Mixer on Main:** This first year, we plan to host 6 Mixers at various businesses in town. These mixers are an opportunity for businesses to build relationships with each other, while receiving relevant business trainings from reputable consultants.
- **Visitor Survey:** The ER committee plans to collect information from visitors that will help the ER team and the Promo Team to develop plans that will support merchants and promote Otsego.

PROMOTION

- Swag Discount Days: The goal of this “sales event” is to drive traffic to downtown businesses by offering discounts on specific days when people wear “Love Otsego” apparel into a local store or restaurant.
- Demo Days: We’ll be coordinating with businesses to establish a day each month where businesses will have scheduled product demonstrations. Our businesses have a lot to offer! It’s time to take advantage.
- Family Riverwalk Events: Seasonally, we’ll be offering events along the riverwalk. Our first event (this fall!) will be an interactive nature scavenger hunt. In addition, there will be face painting and other fun hooks to draw you in. Stay tuned for more information.
- Hometown Christmas Celebration: Last year’s celebration was a great success! We’ll be partnering with the Chamber of Commerce again this year to provide another magical event for the community. If you’d like to be a part of this planning, please call the Main Street Office at 692-2336.

ORGANIZATION

- Volunteer Management Database: When working with 200+ amazing volunteers, a comprehensive software tool is necessary. Currently, volunteers are working to input data into this system. In addition, our efforts to increase our volunteer pool are underway. We hope that YOUR name will be in our database soon!
- Hot Jobs: A component of our new database allows us to post “hot jobs” that volunteers can sign up for. These “jobs” are simply tasks that we need help with in order to complete all of the projects that we’re working on. With this tool, volunteers will be able to choose the tasks that best fit their skills and volunteer desires.
- Monthly & Yearly Volunteer Recognition: We LOVE our volunteers, and we NEED our volunteers! This project will ensure that we are giving our volunteers all of the TLC and appreciation that they deserve! In addition to recognizing a Volunteer of the Month and a Volunteer of the year, we’ll be hosting a celebration that honors all of our amazing volunteers!
- Main Street Newsletter: With so much Main Street activity going on, we want you to always be in the loop! We’re developing a bi-monthly newsletter that will do just that! If you wish to receive our newsletter electronically, please let us know by emailing otsegomainstreet@gmail.com.

Let's Pull Some Weeds Day

Have you noticed how beautiful our downtown sidewalks and gutters look? 27 volunteers pitched in to help! We pulled barrels full of weeds and swept piles and piles of dirt and debris from our sidewalks. This was just phase one! Additional “clean up” days will be coming... **A special thanks to all of our Volunteers who came out to help!**

