



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Fall 2014

Creative Arts Festival

Otsego Chamber Of Commerce



Mark your Calendar for September 20!

Just a few short weeks until the **27th 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!** 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.



Reminder!



**RECYCLE PICK-UP IS
THE FIRST AND THIRD
MONDAY OF THE
MONTH**



**FALL BACK—
NOVEMBER 2, 2014**

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, they will not be removed. It is the resident's responsibility to dispose of the leaves at the Transfer Station.



CITY LOTS FOR SALE

1/2 Price Sales

The City of Otsego has lots remaining in the Eley Acres Residential Subdivision. Choice single family residential home sites are available in this restricted plat. Prices range from \$13,000 to \$20,000. For additional information please contact the City Clerk's Office, 692-3391.



GENERAL ELECTION November 4, 2014

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants **September 22 through October 3**. 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.



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

You may 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.**

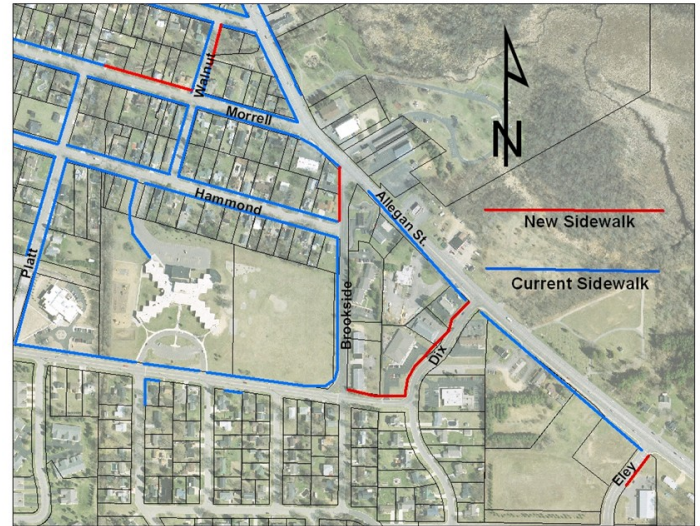


City Manager, Thad Beard

CITY MANAGER'S VIEW

Complete Streets: Some of you may recall that the City was one of several communities who adopted the Complete Street Principles. One of the underlying goals of Complete Streets is to provide a complete network of sidewalks, with emphasis on routes to schools. The Planning Commission completed a survey of the City and identified "gaps" in the sidewalk system and filled several "gaps" in the western portion of the City in 2013. This year, they are focused on the eastern portion of the City and the map shows the proposed new sidewalk in red. This work will be done through the Special Assessment process, which includes a 50% contribution from the City and the property owner which the sidewalk borders.

Below is a map showing the areas where new sidewalk is planned:



OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

CADET PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

Have you ever thought of becoming a Cadet for the Fire Department? If you meet the following requirements and are interested in the program, you may apply by filling out an application which are available at City Hall.

1. Cadets must be a minimum of 16 years of age with a valid driver's license.
2. Parent/Guardian must be present at time of interview to sign application.
3. Cadets must maintain grades equal to that of the eligibility for sports or a minimum of a **2.0 GPA**. If less, Cadet will be suspended from duties until grades improve. If not improved within two marking periods Cadet will be dismissed. He/she may reapply after six months.
4. Cadets will present grades to a Command Officer within 1 week of receiving them; failure to do this will result in immediate dismissal. Another option if available would be for the parent/guardian to allow the Command Officers access to electronic viewing of grades i.e. Pinnacle Program.
5. Cadets are not permitted to leave school to attend any Otsego Fire Department function or to have department issued pager on school property.
6. Cadets parent/guardian shall always have discretion to apply more strict rules than stated in this policy.
7. Cadets shall abide by all by-laws and standard operating guidelines governing all firefighters.
8. Cadets shall not exhibit any behavior or use of language that would discredit the department while representing Otsego Fire Department. This is a zero-tolerance policy and if proven this happens, the Cadet will be immediately dismissed.
9. Cadets can attend department monthly meetings and at no times will department business be discussed outside of the department. This is also a zero-tolerance policy and if proven that this had happened the Cadet will be immediately dismissed.
10. Cadets will be expected to attend all cleanups, meetings and drills. The Command Officers or the Chief will approve any exceptions.
11. School comes first. Do not let the Cadet program come before your schoolwork or activities.
12. At no time will Cadets be allowed at the station alone, except in conjunction with calls of service (i.e. no hanging out at station alone or with friends).
13. Cadets will be evaluated on a regular basis by the Command Officers and/or the Chief for participation, performance, and attitude.
14. Cadets may only be involved in Otsego Fire Department functions on school nights (Sunday-Thursday) until 10:30pm.



CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

November 27 & 28 - December 24 & 25 & 31 - January 1, 2015

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.

MAIN STREET EVENTS

- Oct. 5 - Fall Riverwalk Event
- Oct. 9 - Historic Walking Tour, begins at Museum 6:30pm
- Oct. 12 - Autumn Bliss - Decorate the Town for Fall!
- Oct. 24 - Ladies Night Out
- Dec. 6 - Hometown Christmas Celebration

2014 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on December 9, 2014, 8:30 a.m., at City Hall. If you disagree with the percentage shown for your Principal Residence Exemption on your **Winter 2014** taxes, you must contact City Hall before Friday, **December 5, 2014**. If you have any questions, please call 692-2741.



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

Recently, a local Police Agency was in the news when among other things questions were raised on the number of reserve officers working at the department and the acquiring of surplus military equipment that is readily available to State and Local police agencies through the Federal Government. We must all make due with the resources our community can provide and many local agencies take advantage of State and Federal Surplus resources. We have applied for and received military surplus generators, night vision goggles, and State surplus paper shredders. That to me is responsible management of resources. However, where the real rub appears around the country is the availability of military weapons, vehicles, and other equipment that was never intended for domestic police service. Sure it would be nice to have an armored Humvee or maybe a Tank to knock down walls, doors, or even the entire house of a

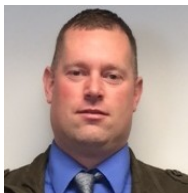
OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

barricade gunman instead of placing precious human life in the line of danger. Now in Los Angeles, New York or some other large city these pieces of equipment may come in handy at fairly regular intervals, but here not so much. Besides looking really awesome, once that equipment needed repairs, you would probably see it sitting next to the tank at Memorial Park. For us, having this equipment not only gives the wrong impression of who we are, it erodes the trust the community has that the police will not over react at the expense of those that we have been entrusted to serve.

So while I don't know the full reason behind the outcry in that Local Police Agency, I do see the anger and frustration around the country with what has become the perception of a military state in some of our larger police departments. As long as I can remember the statement that "perception is everything" when it comes to police work has always rang true to me. Perception almost always trumps facts every time and by the time the facts are acknowledged the damage has already been

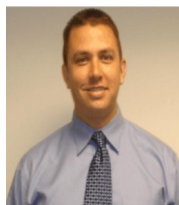
done. So while I will continue to take advantage of government surplus when appropriate and available, don't look forward to seeing any heavy military hardware here at the Otsego Police Department.

I have also been asked many times about the creation of a reserve program at the Otsego Police Department. Reserves are regularly used at Sheriff Departments in the programs such as the Mounted Division or Marine Division where full time staffing would not be cost effective. The liability and continual training makes it impractical for smaller police agencies. We utilize part-time officers to fill in shortages such as vacations, sick time, and when the officers must attend mandatory training classes. These are state certified Police Officers, that are held to the same standards as our full time officers. They must have a college degree and complete a State Certified Training Academy before they can be employed by us or another agency. We have three part-time officers and I have included a picture and short biography of each one.



Officer Ryan Rewa has been employed with the Otsego Police Department since February of 2014 and is also employed as a part-

time Sheriff's Deputy with the Allegan County Sheriff's Department. He holds an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Kalamazoo Valley Community College.



Officer Paul Farber has been with the Otsego Police Department since May of 2013. Officer Farber is also employed as a part-

time Police Officer with the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Police Department and has a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University.



Officer Dekota Tatrow has been employed with the Otsego Police Department since April of 2014. He holds an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Grand Rapids Community College.

WELCOME

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER, 2014

1	CITY HALL CLOSED	
2	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 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	CURBSIDE RECYCLE DAY	
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

OCTOBER, 2014

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

NOVEMBER, 2014

3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
3	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
4	CITY ELECTION POLLS OPEN AT	7:00 A.M. CITY HALL
4	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
10	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00AM
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
27	CITY HALL CLOSED	
28	CITY HALL CLOSED	

DECEMBER, 2014

1	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
1	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	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
24 & 25	CITY HALL CLOSED	
31	CITY HALL CLOSED	

JANUARY, 2015

1	CITY HALL CLOSED	
2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
6	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
12	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
19	CURBSIDE RECYCLE	
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

FEBRUARY, 2015

2	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	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	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
16	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
23	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
Matt Shankle.....	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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