



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

SUMMER 2015

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



CONGRATULATIONS to Tom Dunn, WWTP Superintendent for your service to the City of Otsego. In honor of his long time service to the City of Otsego - the new Headworks Building was dedicated in his honor.

Pictured below Mayor Gilmer & Tom Dunn



PUBLIC NOTICE

TRAFFIC CALMING MEETING OPEN FORUM - CITY HALL

JUNE 9th - 10 A.M. & 7 P.M.



If you are unable to attend, you are encouraged to contact a City Commissioner with your comments or send a signed letter to City Hall at 117 E. Orleans Street, Otsego MI 49078. **** PLEASE Note - REVERSED ANGLE PARKING IS NOT being considered at this time.**

FREE GARAGE SALE DATES ANNOUNCED

June 12 & 13, 2015

IMPORTANT GARAGE SALE INFORMATION

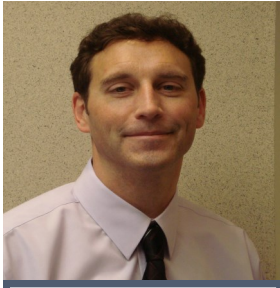
The Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual Free Garage Sale Days. Call the Chamber for details. A permit is not required for these dates only.

Information For Garage Sales (Excluding the Chamber Event) - 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.



**CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED
FRIDAY, JULY 3 & MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2015**

CITY MANAGER'S VIEW



City Manager, Thad

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS: Every summer the City identifies street improvements to complete before fall. This year, we are focusing our resources in the downtown. While we are still evaluating whether or not we will continue with the "road diet", we still plan to improve the downtown. Planned improvements include new stamped concrete in place of the brick pavers, realignment of the trees, so they do not impede visibility or accessibility to businesses, bumpouts at the main intersections (these will be modified to meet the traffic patterns determined acceptable by the City and MDOT), upgraded traffic signal, to include pedestrian pushbut-

ton crossings and underground utilities are planned in order to accommodate a future sound system.

DOWNTOWN PAVING DELAYED: The final improvement we are anxious to have completed is the re-paving of M-89 in our downtown. This improvement will also include modifications to the sidewalk crossing in order to make them handicapped accessible and is being completed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). While MDOT originally planned to have this completed before October of this year, they recently notified us that it is delayed until the spring of 2016. Budget and staffing issues have required MDOT to delay this until the 2016 construction season, so we will have to live with the current road conditions until next spring. But, once MDOT is done, the downtown improvements will be complete and our downtown should be even more beautiful and more functional.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



CAMPING SEASON IS FINALLY UPON US! WITH THAT IN MIND, HERE ARE SOME CAMPFIRE SAFETY TIPS.

1. Build your fire away from vegetation.
2. Make sure to surround your fire with stones, bricks, or some other barrier.
3. Have a water source nearby in case the fire gets out of control.
4. Never leave the fire unattended.

When extinguishing your campfire, make sure to drown the entire fire with water. It is important to make sure there aren't any hot embers, or coals. If water is not available, you may substitute with dirt.



WE ALSO HAVE ENTERED THE SEASON OF FIREWORKS. HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR SAFE USE OF FIREWORKS.

1. Read cautionary labels before using.
2. Light one firework at a time.
3. Do Not relight a dud.
4. Have a water source nearby.
5. Light them in an open area, away from structures, and wooded areas.



Please remember, that the Allegan County Emergency Siren is tested the 4th Friday of every month at approximately 11:00 am.



SALE - 1/2 Priced
CITY LOTS FOR SALE

The City of Otsego has several lots remaining in the improved 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.



WELCOME!

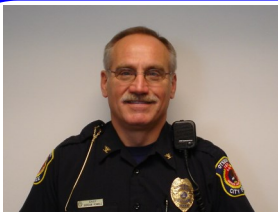
City Hall staff welcomed Ashlee Rose, our new Accounts Receivable Specialist, on April 3rd. Ashlee recently obtained an Associate Degree in accounting from Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is working toward a Bachelor Degree at Davenport University. A graduate of Martin High School, Ashlee and her husband Robert reside in the Otsego community.



VISIT US ON THE WEB



DID YOU KNOW ? The City has a Barking Dog Ordinance? The City has an Ordinance specifying how long your Trash Bin can be at the side of the road? The City has a Tall Grass Ordinance? The City has a Front Yard Parking Ordinance? That you are to put your Brush out the "Day Before" the scheduled Pick-up? These regulations are all outlined on the City's Website under the "Ordinance Section." Also, Please do not blow yard clippings into the street, as they can plug the street drains and increase pollution in the rivers. Please feel free to contact City Hall if you have specific questions.



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

The weather is finally becoming what we have been looking forward to for months. With the warmer weather and longer days, please make sure you know where your children are and what they are up to. It's wonderful being a teenager, but if you can remember that far back, also think about how easy it was to do something we shouldn't have done just because we were with a group of friends. With school coming to an end we see many more children out late at night. Curfew for children under twelve years old is 10:00 p.m., those under sixteen years old is 11:00 p.m., and under the age of seventeen is 12:00 midnight. There is something really fun about being out late at night when you are a kid, but that is also the time when bad things happen or peer pressure gets the best of them and they do something they know they shouldn't. There really is nothing positive for them that is happening after curfew. Use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol frequently begins with young people during this time. And in the dark away from the eyes of the public and parents are when

OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

these children are the most vulnerable to being abused or assaulted. Please set the standards and hold them accountable. Model your values to them and don't give up, because if you do they will be influenced by someone else in a way that you may not necessarily want.

With the nicer weather we have experienced some of this negative activity already. Alcohol, drugs, and curfew violations along with trespassing into abandoned buildings have attracted a group of young people. Not only are their activities precursors to more problems in the future, but also the inherent danger of being in an abandoned factory in the dark is a recipe for disaster. Fires started in the buildings put their lives along with the lives of officers and firefighters in precarious situations. I have heard from parents after the fact that they were aware of these activities because of Facebook comments, afterwards is many times too late. Once someone falls into an open pit or is caught in a fire there maybe no second chance for them. So please let us know if there is something you are seeing or hearing from your child that is putting others in danger so we can act before it is too late.

Now most of the time when groups of juveniles do act out they only cause minor aggravation (I think that might be in the dictionary if you look up teenager). Like walking or skateboarding in the street and not moving for cars, writing or carving obscene words into picnic tables or children's play structures, and arguing with adults who try to stop them from swearing around young children at the park. These things are very aggravating but they are sometimes done by children that you would never expect, because they just want to fit in with everyone else. Peer group pressure can change that wonderful, respectful child into an incorrigible brat that parents do not recognize. Before you get too mad at them just remember, we all just wanted to fit in back then and most of us would have done just about anything to show off to our friends. We outgrew it and they will too.

Continue to model your values to them and it will sink in. Don't give up on them or your principals, they will get it. They just won't let you know until sometime much later in life. Have a great summer!

Save the Dates!!!!

June 19-	Ladies' Night Out
July 18 -	O-Town Brings Back Motown - Mud Volleyball
July 30 -	Movies at the Museum
August 6	Movies at the Museum
August 8 -	Otsego Steins & Vines - Beer & Wine Tasting Event
August 13	Movies at the Museum
August 20	Movies at the Museum
August 28	Movies at the Museum
August 29-30	Gus Macker
September 26	Creative Arts Festival
October 11	Fall Riverwalk Event
December 5	Hometown Christmas Celebration



The Spring Bins & Benches Competition took place on Memorial Day. There were five entries which included 4 benches and 1 bin. Otsego art teachers, Cassandra Boyce and Kristy Jergensen were our judges for this competition. They used a rubric of points, judging on theme, positive message, craftsmanship, and overall design. They chose "Never Give Up Hope", by Penny Browning as the winning entry. We then hosted a "people's choice" competition on our facebook page. The winner of that contest is Sara DeHaan for her bin "Changing Seasons". We love the color and artistic element that these lovely bins and benches bring to our downtown.

Another important element of our Community Art Garden has been installed. This beautiful sign, designed and crafted by local artist, Julie Baptiste, acknowledges the many individuals & businesses who contributed to the development of this lovely Otsego pocket park. We know you'll agree that it is a perfect addition to our Art Garden!



Otsego Main Street News!

The rain didn't stop us from celebrating Memorial Day with our Ice Cream Social! Volunteers served up some 150 bowls of delicious ice cream, generously donated by Dean's Ice Cream and Plainwell Ice Cream. Visitors that came to our event also enjoyed carnival games along the Riverwalk and an Ice Cream Eating Contest! Congratulations to Ashley Hare for hanging onto your championship title for the 2nd year in a row!



The first of several **Historic Walking Tours** was held on May 23rd. This guided one hour tour around the main four blocks of downtown Otsego features unique stories about the buildings and the people who occupied them.



If you missed it in May, you'll have several opportunities this summer to catch it; June 27, July 25, August 22 and September 19. All tours begin at 10am at the Otsego Historical Museum.



Main Street's annual **Downtown Spring Clean Up** took place on Saturday, May 16th. Approximately 30 volunteers, including residents and downtown business employees showed up with brooms, buckets and garden gloves – ready to make the town sparkle! THANK YOU volunteers, for getting involved and demonstrating the pride you have in your downtown!



CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

JUNE, 2015

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
9	PUBLIC FORUM MEETINGS-- ROAD DIET	10:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
15	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

JULY, 2015

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

AUGUST, 2015

3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
3	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
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

SEPTEMBER, 2015

3	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY HALL CLOSED	
8	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
8	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
8	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
14	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
26	CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL	
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

OCTOBER, 2015

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

NOVEMBER, 2015

2	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY SPECIAL ELECTION POLLS OPEN AT	7:00 A.M. CITY HALL
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
9	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00 A.M.
16	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
16	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
26	CITY HALL CLOSED	
27	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
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
Brandon Weber.....	Fire Chief
Kevin Harris.....	Assessor
Molly Wieber.....	Main Street Manager

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269-692-3391



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