



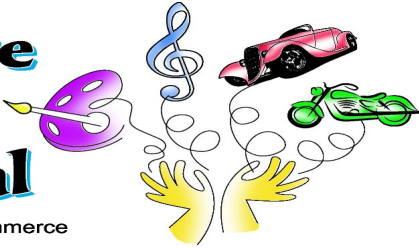
City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Fall 2015

Creative Arts Festival

Otsego Chamber Of Commerce



Mark your Calendar for September 26!

Just a few short weeks until the **28th 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. This year, the festival will include: **Car Show, Parade, Motorcycle Show, Tractor Show, Pet Parade, Children's Activities, Arts & Crafts, Corn-Hole Tournament, Beer & Wine Tent, Pie & Hot Dog Eating Contests, 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. For more information Visit - otsegocreativeartsfestival.com



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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants **September 28 through October 9**. 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.



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

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", Facebook, and the City's website.

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.

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Improvements continue in the downtown. After input from MDOT and community involved public hearings, the intersection will be more efficient than it was two years ago. Improvements included the addition of a right turn lane, smaller bump-outs, new pedestrian signals, new stamped concrete sidewalks, and **NO REVERSE ANGLE PARKING**. Excited to report that we are halfway through construction, with the south side of the sidewalks being completed and work will soon begin on the north side of Allegan Street. Construction is scheduled to be completed in time for the Creative Arts Festival.

SPECIAL ELECTION November 3, 2015

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 available at City Hall, upon request.**



**FALL BACK
NOVEMBER 1, 2015**



CITY MANAGER'S VIEW

Members Added to Fire Department: At the regular City Commission Meeting on August, 15, eight (8) new members were sworn in to the Otsego Fire Department. The ceremony included the new members each receiving their badge from the Chief in front of the City Commission and a large group of family and friends. The new members include Taylor Knight, Kris Alderman, Tanner Dunklee, Hunter Krueger, Devon Thomas, Ty Wolhuis, David Kranz and Timothy Holmes.

City Manager, Thad Beard Over the course of 24 weeks, each member successfully completed 360 hours of training and successfully passed the written and physical examination. The time and energy committed to this is significant in and of its self. However, the knowledge that these individuals commit to this as a volunteer for their community, knowing they will be toned out for over 800 calls a year, is even more significant. We have an extremely well trained and dedicated department who do this as a service to their community, not as a job. Thank you! To all of these men who serve Otsego area so well.



OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

Commemorating a conflagration

According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. But recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.

The 'Moo' myth

Like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening. But if a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, what was? Over the years, journalists and historians have offered plenty of theories. Some blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Leary's may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago.



The biggest blaze that week

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, and roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

Nine decades of fire prevention

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

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. 11 - Fall Riverwalk Event
- Dec. 5 - Hometown Christmas Celebration



2015 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on December 15, 2015, 8:30 a.m., at City Hall. If you disagree with the percentage shown for your Principal Residence Exemption on your **Winter 2015** taxes, you must contact City Hall **before** Friday, **December 11, 2015**. If you have any questions, please call 692-2741.



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

Here we go again, summer is almost over and soon school will start back up. Each year we remind you to watch out for the buses and students going to and from school. While there are definite changes in the seasons, there are also some big changes happening here at the Otsego Police Department. Officer Leonard (Lennie) Borgman has retired, with August 30, 2015 as his last day and on that same day it also marked his 38th year as a full time police officer with the Otsego Police Department. I'm sure Lennie can tell you that a lot of things have changed in those 38 years in police work and in our community as well. Lennie is perhaps the most recognizable officer of the Otsego Police Department.



Officer Borgman

He is not only a police officer, but an extremely active citizen within the community. He was the face of the Otsego

OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

Police Department's D.A.R.E. Program having a whole generation of school children go through not only a drug resistant program, but also a big self esteem and anti-bullying theme to his classes. He loved his classes and involvement with the schools and students but his community activities didn't end with D.A.R.E. Lennie is an active member in the VFW having served as Post Commander of Otsego's VFW Post 3030. If he wasn't working on Memorial Day, then you would find him marching in the parade along with our other local heroes. What always stood out to me about Lennie's work here as a police officer, is that he saw himself as an active part of the community. He took great pride in this community and had a vested interest in keeping it a wonderful place to live and raise a family. He saw his job as a way he could help to keep it that way.

I am sure he will be one of the first people to say that it is time to pass the torch onto a new generation, but in doing so I will be charged with finding someone who can also build on those strong community connections when filling his position. Only time will tell,

but, I do believe that I have found someone who also has answered the call to community service. Officer Brandon Weber has been hired as the new full time police officer to fill Lennie Borgman's position. Brandon is an Otsego High School graduate and life long resident of the Otsego area. He comes to us with an extremely impressive background in police work, as well as, emergency medical and fire experience. While his education and work experience make him more than qualified for the position, it's his strong ties to the community that will hopefully make him, like Lennie, take a bigger role in the community than just his job.

Congratulations Lennie, I hope you have a long and wonderful retirement.



Officer Weber



CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

November 26 & 27 - December 24 & 25 & 31 - January 1, 2016

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER, 2015

1	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
3	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY HALL CLOSED	
8	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
8	CURBSIDE RECYCLING 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	

DECEMBER, 2015

1	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
3	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
14	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24 & 25	CITY HALL CLOSED	
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
31	CITY HALL CLOSED	

JANUARY, 2016

1	CITY HALL CLOSED	
4	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
4	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
5	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
11	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
18	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLE	
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

FEBRUARY, 2016

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	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
15	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	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 Seat	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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