



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Spring 2016

CITY COMMISSION WILL ASK FOR DEDICATED PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE - MAY 3, 2016 - ELECTION



For Additional Information - Please view the Powerpoint Presentation on the City's Website and Facebook. Please see Page 2 for Open Forum Meeting Schedule and the Mayor's office hours to answer questions.



BALLOT WORDING : *Shall the City of Otsego levy a total of two mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000.00 on taxable value of property located in the City of Otsego) for ten years beginning with the 2016 tax levy year and running through the 2025 tax levy year, which will raise in the first year of such levy an estimated revenue of \$205,700, to be used for the specified purpose of operating, maintaining, equipping and purchasing for the City's police and fire departments and any other public safety purpose authorized by Law? If approved, this would be a new additional levied millage.*

CONGRATULATIONS TOM DUNN

Thank you for your 35 Years of dedicated Service to the City of Otsego as the City's Wastewater Superintendent.



TRANSFER STATION COUPONS AVAILABLE

Coupons will continue to be distributed during the months of March, April, and May. City residents will be entitled to dispose of one load of trash/rubbish (no larger than a pick-up truck can hold) free of charge. Household garbage is NOT accepted at the Transfer Station. Please remember, this service is for Otsego City Residents only. In order to take advantage of this service, pick up your coupon at City Hall when you pay your utility bill. One coupon will be issued per address, per year. City residents who do not pay their own water bills may bring proof of address within the City limits to City Hall to receive a coupon. The Transfer Station is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. For further details or questions, please call City Hall.

WINTER PARKING RULES REMAIN IN EFFECT



Remember - Parking is PROHIBITED on any public street in the City of Otsego from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., during the months of November through April in order to facilitate snow removal. Violators will be ticketed.

ELECTION NEWS - MAY 3, 2016

The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, 2016, for a Special City Election. **NEW** - If you wish to obtain an Absentee Voter Ballot, you will have to provide Photo ID when picking up the ballot at City Hall. Call City Hall if you would like a Absentee Application sent to you. You may call Angela Cronen, City Clerk, at 692-3391, to check on your voter registration status.



City Hall Will Be Closed Friday, March 25 & Monday, May 30, 2016

City Manager's View



City Manager
Thad Beard

South Farmer Street Improvements: As winter comes to an end, the City is preparing for another major road project. With the assistance of Michigan Department of Transportation Small

Urban Funding, South Farmer Street is slated to be removed and reconstructed. The rebuild will include removing the street surface, curb and gutter, sidewalk, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water mains. This will be a major project which will require traffic detours.

Two Phases: Due to the cost and complexity of the project, this will be done in two (2) phases. The first phase is scheduled to begin in the summer of this year (late June or early July) and is expected to require 140 days of work. This means, we expect South Farmer Street to be a mess until the first of November. The first section of road being totally reconstructed includes the intersection of East Orleans south to approximately 100 feet south of the Hammond Street intersection. South Farmer Street from Orleans to Allegan Street will be improved by removing the top section of asphalt and replacing that with new pavement (also known as a "mill and fill"). The second phase of South Farmer Street reconstruction is expected to occur in the summer of 2017. It too, will include total reconstruction of the street, sidewalk and under-



Otsego Assistant Fire Chief, Kyle Baker Bronze Medal Winner



Did you know that in Kyle's free time he spends many hours training to compete in the Men's Senior Karate Division? He recently competed in the North American Cup in Orlando, Florida, where he represented the organization USSSA for Team USA and brought home the Bronze Medal. He was representing the USA National Team.



At this competition, he qualified to be a member of Team USA at the World Championships that will be held in Canada in October 2016. Kyle also represented the Otsego Fire Department at the World Police and Fire Games in New York in 2011. At this competition, he received a Bronze Medal. Congratulations to Kyle Baker and thank you for representing Otsego!

PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE INFORMATION - In April, Mayor Gilmer will be at City Hall on Tuesday 4/12, 4/26 from 2-3:00 p.m. and on Thursday 4/14, 4/28 from 10-11 a.m. Commissioners will also be available on Saturdays from 10-11am in April at Mezzo Coffee. The Mayor will be at City Hall on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. before the Commission Meetings, in April. Open Forum Meetings are scheduled for April 12th and 26th, from 7-8:00 p.m., location to be announced.

"The City of Otsego Citizen's Guide, Performance Dashboard, Debt Service Report and Projected Budget Report are available for viewing at the Otsego City Hall or online at www.cityofotsego.org."




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. For additional information please contact the City Clerk's Office, 692-3391.

HYDRANT FLUSHING
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
 (Due to the Weather Conditions)



The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants April 18 through April 29. This is done to remove any stale water that may be in the system and ensure 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. Please Note - Updates will be posted on our Facebook Page, the City's Website, and in the Shopper's Guide.



Welcome John Vandenberg


John Vandenberg was hired on Jan. 18, 2016, to work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. John is married to Korene and has two children, Canton & Max. John is a 1984 graduate of Martin High School. After high school, John worked several years in the construction trade until 2012, when he went to work for the City of Kalamazoo. When not working, he enjoys camping, watching sports, and following Michigan athletics. WELCOME JOHN!

Otsego Main Street Website: otsegomainstreet.org
 Visit the Otsego Main Street Facebook Page

City of Otsego Website: cityofotsego.org
 Visit the City of Otsego on Facebook



GARAGE SALES



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.



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

POLICE BEAT



It's spring and along with all the good things coming we must also contend with good ole Uncle Sam and the State of Michigan by filing our income taxes for the previous year. While it is not the taxes I want to talk about, it is the yearly Internal Revenue Service scams and what you should do if you receive one of these threatening phone calls. Yes, each year we are contacted sometimes several times a week about residents getting threatening phone calls from the IRS. While the IRS and paying taxes aren't necessarily well liked by most people, you need to know that they will never call you and demand that you send them money. Trust me, if you owe the IRS money they will contact you, but it won't be by phone and they will never suggest that you immediately send them money using a prepaid money card, giving them your bank account routing numbers over the phone, or tell you that you are about to go to jail. These are scams perpetuated by everyone's fear of an audit or just the IRS itself. Don't give out personal information such as your social security number, your date of

birth, or your address over the phone. If they were from the IRS, trust me they would already have that information. I have taken this directly from the IRS web-page, where the IRS warns people of the following in concerns about scammers: **"Rest assured, we do not and will not ask for credit card numbers over the phone, nor request a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer"**. They further state: **"If someone unexpectedly calls claiming to be from the IRS and threatens police arrest, deportation or license revocation if you don't pay immediately, that is a sign that it really isn't the IRS calling."** Phone scammers are making thousands of these phone calls and are hoping to scare someone into giving them enough personal information so that they can steal your money. Tell them to contact you by mail and then hang up the phone. Just remember don't give them your address because if they were from the IRS they would have already sent you something in the mail. If for any reason you receive something that you believe is "fishy" in the mail, bring it to us at the Police Station and we will check to make sure it is legitimate before you answer it. The old saying "nothing is certain but death and taxes", is pretty much true, and the IRS will collect all the taxes they believe are due from

you but they just won't waste their time making threatening phone calls to you.

Now on to unpleasant contacts you may receive from us. I have directed our staff to send out letters on unpaid parking tickets that have been issued over the past two or three years. I understand that getting a letter on a three year old parking ticket is not high on your list of pleasant correspondence, but we are hoping that these tickets were somehow not paid by mistake. In that light, we are not increasing the amounts as punishments for the delinquent tickets but are giving people a chance to take care of these before I send them to the District Court in Allegan. Once that occurs the cost always goes up to cover their costs and then finally if the tickets are still ignored the Court can place a hold on the driving license for the registered owner of the vehicle cited. Most of the time the person receiving the letter doesn't realize the ticket is still unpaid, so please take care of these unpaid parking tickets before they become a much bigger problem. And as always, if you think you have received a letter by mistake contact us so that we can make sure it is correct.

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

MARCH, 2016

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	
8	PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION	POOLS OPEN 7AM - 8PM
13	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	
14	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
15	BOARD OF REVIEW	
16	BOARD OF REVIEW	
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
25	CITY HALL CLOSED—GOOD FRIDAY	
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

APRIL, 2016

4	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
4	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
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 RECYCLING DAY	
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

MAY, 2016

2	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
3	CITY ELECTION	POLLS OPEN 7AM - 8PM
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
16	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
30	CITY HALL CLOSED—MEMORIAL DAY	

JUNE, 2016

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
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

JULY, 2016

4	CITY HALL CLOSED	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
5	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 RECYCLING DAY	
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

AUGUST, 2016

1	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
1	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
2	ELECTION	POLLS OPEN 7AM - 8PM
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

SEPTEMBER, 2016

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY HALL CLOSED	
6	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
19	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
26	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
Stacey Withee.....	Commissioner
Ryan Wieber.....	Commissioner
Cyndi Trobeck.....	Commissioner
Thad Beard.....	City Manager
Angela Cronen.....	City Clerk
Mike Bosch.....	DPW Supervisor
Luke Keyzer.....	WWTP Superintendent
Gordon Konkle.....	Chief of Police
Matthew Storbeck.....	Treasurer
Brandon Weber.....	Fire Chief
Kevin Harris.....	Assessor
Josh Owens.....	Main Street Manager

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269-692-3391



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OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the month of October, members of the Otsego Fire Department found themselves to be very busy. Not only did they manage to juggle weekly trainings, equipment checks and running calls, but several of them also came down to assist with Fire Prevention Tours that took place. Each year during the month of October, because it is designated as the Official Fire Prevention Month, the department is contacted by elementary classes and various pre-schools located throughout the community. This year was certainly not an exception of the rule, and due to the fact that we changed how the tours were conducted, it appears as though we saw a larger number of interest.



Historically, we would pick the children up from the schools, bring them to the station, give them a presentation, and then drop them back off at the school. This typically would take about one hour per group. Due to the concern of potential liability with having the children on the truck, we changed our policy on the tours, and actually conducted them at the schools. This allowed us to better utilize our time and get more children through the presentations.

Through collaborated efforts between the schools and our Fire Department, 369 children ranging from pre-school to first grade received instruction on what number to dial if there is a fire, the proper way to stop, drop and roll, as well as what a firefighter would look like if they ever show up to their house. Captain, Joel H Thompson believes "it is more than fair to say that we (the firefighters) get as much, if not more, out of these presentations as the children." He continues, "there is no better feeling than knowing that you were able to make a child smile, as well as be able to be someone who positively impacted his/her life." Capitan Thompson stated "without the dedication to the community from our members, the department would not be able to make things like this happen!"



Thank you Otsego Volunteer Firefighters!

2016 Property Assessments

By Matthew Storbeck, Finance Director

Property owners will receive their 2016 Assessment Notices during the first week of March. This notice includes the 2016 Assessed Value (AV), State Equalized Value (SEV), Taxable Value (TV) and classification for the property. AV is the amount the City Assessor calculates to be one-half of the fair market value of the property based upon construction, square footage and sales studies of similar properties. SEV is the State of Michigan's belief of one-half of the fair market value of the property after applying a factor to all properties within a class (residential, commercial, etc.). To my knowledge, the City has not ever received a factor from the State of Michigan.

Over the past year residential properties experienced an overall market value increase of 2.10 percent. Commercial properties increased in value 6.72 percent overall. Changes in market value affect both the AV and SEV. The Inflation Rate Multiplier is 1.003 (.3 percent increase) and is based on the Consumer Price Index from October through September of the preceding year. This multiplier is used to calculate the change in TV. TV, the value that determines property taxes, cannot increase more than the inflation rate, as determined by the Michigan Department of Treasury, or 5 percent, whichever is less, until there is a change in ownership of the property.

Also, please verify the Principle Residence Exemption (PRE) in the notice. Previously referred to as the "Homestead Exemption," this was often confused with the state income tax exemption of the same name. PRE is the owner occupied percentage of a property. If the property consists of a multiple residence or includes a commercial use, the PRE should be the percentage of the total square footage occupied by the owner as their residence. This PRE percentage reflects the amount the property is exempt from the 18 mill public school operating millage for 2016.

Protest to the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further residential valuation and exemption appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal and/or for classification appeals to the State Tax Commission. Properties classified Commercial Real, Industrial Real or Developmental Real may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31. Commercial Personal, Industrial Personal, or Utility Personal Property may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31, if a personal property statement was filed with the local unit prior to the commencement of the Board of Review as provided by M.C.L. 211.19.

The Board of Review will meet Tuesday, March 15, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until noon, and 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 16, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Otsego City Hall, 117 East Orleans Street, Otsego, Michigan. The Board will also meet Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. for organizational purposes only. Please call (269) 692-3391 to schedule an appointment. You may also mail your protest to City Hall, but they must be received by Wednesday, March 16, 2016.