



# City of Otsego Agenda

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF

Fall 2018

## GENERAL ELECTION

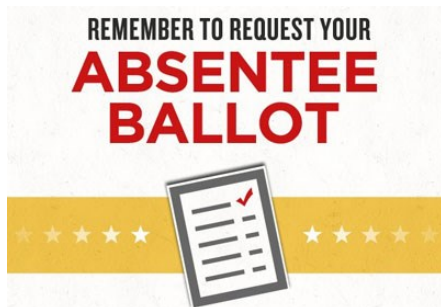


The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m. **Tuesday, November 6, 2018**, for the General Election. Electors will be voting for State, Local Candidates, and Ballot Proposals. The Michigan Secretary of State is predicting that the voter turn-out is likely to be very high. In order to expedite the process at the polls, please check prior to election day to make sure that you are a registered voter of the City of Otsego.

**PLEASE, HAVE YOUR PHOTO ID  
READY AT THE POLLS!**

You may call Angela Cronen, City Clerk, at 692-3391 or email at [acronen@cityofotsego.org](mailto:acronen@cityofotsego.org) to check on your voter registration status.

**Absentee Voter Applications  
are available at City Hall.  
Call City Hall to see if you qualify.**



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants **October 8 through October 19**. 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.



## 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 are the following:**

**1st Round - October 29th - Nov. 2nd**  
**\*\*Farmer Street & M-89 - Nov. 2nd**

**2nd Round - Nov. 12th - Nov. 16th**  
**\*\*Farmer Street & M-89 - Nov. 16th**

**\*\*Please do not put the leaves out before October 24th.**

Watch for additional announcements on the City's website, in the "Shoppers Guide", and Facebook.

The City's policy is to canvass all streets twice during the two week pick-up period. **REMEMBER: With the exception of Allegan & Farmer Street, all leaves are to be raked into the street next to the curb.** 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.

## 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.



## NEW WEBSITE



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



**FALL BACK  
NOVEMBER 4, 2018**



City Manager  
Aaron Mitchell

## CITY MANAGER'S VIEW

The City of Otsego has recently sold its last lot within Eley Acres. It was a longtime coming, but we are now officially completed with Eley Acres. It was a great experiment and produced an amazing family friendly neighborhood for the city. It started decades ago with the purchasing of farm land and its development into residential lots. The lasting effect was having available residential growth for decades. It provided for a pleasant, diverse and quiet neighborhood. It was difficult at times to have city owned property sitting vacant (not receiving tax revenue) until a buyer became available. But, the ability to provide reasonable housing options for the foreseeable future was vital for the growth of Otsego to what we know it as today. However, like I said we do not have any more room to grow in Eley Acres.

That brings us to today and trying to create the next great neighborhood within the City of Otsego. I am sure many of you are aware, housing has gone up considerably in the past year or two. There are multiple reasons why that is believed to be the case. I personally think it is the lack of new houses readily available to meet recent demand. This has spurred a sharp increase in the amount of new construction leading to an increase in building materials and making the cost of a new house tremendous. In response many turn to previously lived in houses. That has made that market take off as well. Otsego is not the only community dealing with these obstacles. Just about all of west Michigan has seen a sharp increase in property values. If you have looked at building or buying a house recently I am sure that you are feeling this pain. The City is currently trying to make sure that new residential housing is a real possibility for anyone looking to join us here in the City of Otsego. One possibility of that is what we call the "Armintrout Property". It is a 25+ acre piece of property that the city owns on the northwest end of town. It is heavily wooded, in fact it was previously a Christmas tree farm before the city obtained it through auction. It is a beautiful secluded piece of land that would make for unique building sites. The City will be looking at finding the best way to develop this piece of property into residential units of some kind. The goal is to alleviate some of the residential pressures this region currently holds. We are trying to hit that sweet spot that is affordable housing, but also is built of a quality that will generate decades of quality housing, similar to what Eley Acres has produced. This may not be simply single family residential, it could be in the form of condos or townhouses as well. We have already had some engineering done to develop the potential layout for a residential development. We are now left with deciding whether we do the development and sell the lots ourselves, or do we sell the land to a developer and have them sell the lots. There are advantages to both sides. More to come on this topic, we will be looking to hear the community's opinion in the coming months. Hopefully, we can have some more information on the costs for either option soon.

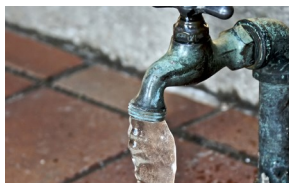
If you have any information you would like to share on housing in Otsego or any other topic; please feel free to email me at [amitchell@cityofotsego.org](mailto:amitchell@cityofotsego.org) or give me a call at City Hall at 269-694-6146.



## FROZEN WATER PIPES

If you experience discoloration in your water or reduced water pressure, **please notify** City Hall immediately at 692-3391.

As temperatures fall, our Water Department may advise customers to **leave one faucet running with a pencil size stream of water.** Please be aware if it is a very cold winter ~ although temperatures may rise above freezing, the potential still exists for freezing water lines. Do not stop running water until you have called City Hall and been advised to do so. Otsego City Hall **must be notified when you begin running your water and when you cease running your water, for any potential adjustment to be made on your utility bill.** Please watch for Public Notices in the **Shopper's Guide, pertaining to running water. Call 692-3391, if you have a question.**



## REMINDERS

As Winter Returns -

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- WATCH FOR SNOW PLOWING VEHICLES
- REMEMBER FRONT YARD PARKING IS PROHIBITED.
- REMEMBER SIDEWALKS NEED TO BE KEPT CLEAR



## MAIN STREET EVENTS

**October 6**  
**Fall Downtown**  
**Decorating**

**October 14**  
**Family Fall Fest**

**December 1**  
**Hometown Christmas**



**TRANSFER**  
**STATION**  
**HOLIDAY HOURS**

**CLOSED - December 25, 2018**

**CLOSED - January 1, 2019**

## 2018 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on December 11, 2018, 8:30 a.m., at City Hall. If you disagree with the percentage shown for your Principal Residence Exemption on your **Winter 2018** taxes, you must contact City Hall **before** Friday, **December 7, 2018**. If you have any questions, please call 692-2741.



*Police Chief, Gordon Konkle*

## OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

Along with the change in seasons, the Otsego Police Department is experiencing personnel changes that will shape the direction of our department for years to come. Earlier this summer Sgt. Kenneth Worstell retired from the Otsego Police Department after serving 46 years. His experience and commitment to the City of Otsego will be greatly missed for some time to come.

Then this October, Detective Bruce Beckman decided to retire after 41 years, with the final 15 years as the only detective the Otsego Police Department has ever had. Bruce has been the key investigator in all serious crimes since that time. Bruce soon became the liaison between the Otsego Police Department, the Prosecutor's Office, and District Court. His investigations included securing search warrants, forensic interviewing of child victims, collection and submitting evidence to the MSP Crime Lab, as well as, interviewing victims and suspects of both misdemeanor and felony crimes. His reputation as a professional investigator earned him an excellent relationship with area Detectives, Prosecutors, Judges, and even Defense Attorneys. Bruce earned his

reputation by working hard, assisting other departments with cold cases and cooperating with area detectives whenever possible. He developed a network that gave him access to crime information not only occurring here but many times in jurisdictions several miles away. He has interviewed suspects or witnesses as far away as Arizona and investigated crimes involving murder, suicide, sexual assault, computer crimes, and child abuse and neglect.

Besides felony cases, Bruce investigates and secures warrants on all misdemeanors and traffic crimes. However, criminal investigations are not the only thing Bruce excels at. Bruce has been involved in every major department purchase with significant input on the department's weapons, video equipment, computers, in-car cameras, and police vehicles. He maintains the evidence room which requires sorting, cataloging, and storage of evidence to maintain the chain of custody necessary for successful prosecution of criminal cases. Bruce's knowledge of the department's computer system, including trouble shooting has been invaluable over the years. He has been a dependable, reliable, professional and an extremely valuable asset to the Otsego Police Department and the community we serve. We all wish a wonderful retirement for him, but at

the same time are a little nervous not to have him here.

With an eye to the future, we are fortunate to have good experienced, professional officers that take great pride in their work and profession. There obviously will be changes and growing pains along the way, but I am confident that through these changes we have the staff in place to ensure we continue to provide the City of Otsego with a Police Department that everyone can feel proud of. To that end, Officer Aaron LaLone has been promoted to replace Bruce Beckman as our Detective. Aaron has been with the Otsego Police Department for 11 years. He is a graduate of Lake Superior State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.



*Detective LaLone*



## CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

**November 22 & 23 - December 24 & 25 & 31 - January 1, 2019**





# OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT



Otsego Fire Department would like to welcome its six new Probationary Firefighters and two new Cadets to the Fire Department. The probationary firefighters are as follows:

**Probationary Firefighters:** Rae Barlow, Michael T. Bush, Tanner Dunklee, Alexis Greenman, Drew McPherson, & Cameron Stevenson

**Cadets:** Nathan Bush & Dylan McFarlen

The probationary firefighters will be very busy over the next couple months and years as there are several classes that they will be attending. New probationary firefighters have two years from their hire date to successfully complete Firefighter I & II. Additionally, in Otsego we require them to become licensed as a Medical First Responder.

The probationary firefighters will also be attending regularly scheduled department meeting, trainings, and running calls. Once they have completed their initial required training, they will then be responsible to attend continuing education training so that they can keep up the licenses and certifications they have obtained.

Otsego Fire Department has recently had some promotions within the officer ranks, as well, and would like to recognize those individuals.

**David Kranz Promoted to Lieutenant**



**Bud Smith Promoted to Lieutenant**

**Todd Campbell Promoted to Lieutenant**

## New Full-Time Firefighter

The Fire Department is pleased to announce that the Fire Station is now manned Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm. Please welcome David Kranz to this position.



## Halloween Safety Tips

Purchase costumes and props labeled flame resistant or flame retardant.

Purchase costumes that are bright, reflective and fit properly.

Remember to keep exits clear of decorations ensuring egress.

Instead of using candles in jack-o-lanterns, consider using battery operated candles or a flashlight.

Remind children not to eat the treats until they have been inspected properly.

## Candle Safety

Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.

Use sturdy, safe candle holders that will not tip or burn and



Otsego Fire Department would like to express much gratitude and appreciation to our local Wal-Mart! Recently Store Manager Shawn Hardy and his team worked with OFD in donating \$800.00 to fund new equipment for our reporting systems, inventory, and maintenance. Thank you!



The Otsego Fire Department's 269 Association has teamed up with Hillside Youth Adults Campus to bring awareness and acceptance to Autism. Please contact the Fire Department to purchase a T-shirt. Order forms are available on the Fire Department's Facebook Page.

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

HOMETOWN  
CHRISTMAS 2018  
SAT., DECEMBER  
1ST ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED  
ALL DAY



# CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

## OCTOBER, 2018

1	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	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
16	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
31	HALLOWEEN	

## NOVEMBER, 2018

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
6	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
6	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	GENERAL ELECTION -	POLLS OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M.
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00 A.M.
12	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
12	CITY COMMISSION - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	CITY HALL CLOSED	
23	CITY HALL CLOSED	

## DECEMBER, 2018

1	MAIN STREET- HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS	
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
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24 & 25	CITY HALL CLOSED	
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
31	CITY HALL CLOSED	

## JANUARY, 2019

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

## FEBRUARY, 2019

4	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
19	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
25	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](http://www.cityofotsego.org)



The Agenda is a quarterly publication of the  
**CITY OF OTSEGO**

Cyndi Trobeck.....	Mayor
Tom Gilmer.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Stacey Withee.....	Commissioner
Nick Breedveld.....	Commissioner
Jim Misner.....	Commissioner
Aaron Mitchell.....	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
Joel Saukas.....	Main Street Manager

117 East Orleans Street  
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