



# City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

WINTER 2019

## MEET YOUR CITY OF OTSEGO - CITY COMMISSION

(Left to Right) Commissioner Krueger, Commissioner Breedveld, Commissioner Milhiem, Mayor Pro-Tem Withee, & Mayor Trobeck.



## 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 -

The City's website has been updated. Please visit us at:

[www.cityofotsego.org](http://www.cityofotsego.org)



## OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT A YEAR IN REVIEW

2018 was an interesting and remarkable year for the Otsego Fire Department. Beginning in July, Lieutenant David Kranz was hired as the department's first full-time Firefighter who responds to daytime calls, assists with administrative duties, and works on grants and other projects. David has been a tremendous asset, and through his efforts, the department has been awarded numerous grants and donations that would otherwise not have been possible due to a lack of personnel time from paid-on-call firefighters. The department also hired six new probationary paid-on-call firefighters, and two new Cadets in 2018, some of whom had prior training and/or experience. Seven have begun their formal state sanctioned Firefighter training and several others have completed their EMS training. Before being released from probationary status, each of these individuals will have completed training equivalent to 17 credit hours at a community college.



The Otsego Fire Department continues to see a significant year over year increase in call volume, ending 2018 with 956 emergency calls for service! This marks the fourth consecutive record-breaking year of highest call volume in the department's 130 year history, making the department the busiest fire department in Allegan County for several years in a row. To put that into perspective, it means that someone called 911 for fire department services on average every 9 hours, 9 minutes, and 47 seconds throughout the entire year for 2018! Quite a daunting task and a job well done by people who are your friends, neighbors, co-workers, who have regular full-time jobs, school, family, and social responsibilities on top of that.

We have largely been fortunate with mild winter weather thus far this fall/winter. However, this shouldn't lull us into a false sense of complacency, since we've all heard the expression, "Welcome to Michigan. If you don't like the weather, wait around five minutes, it'll change."



That said, we may end up with mild weather the rest of the season, or Old Man Winter might be just around the corner. Either way, each of us needs to be prepared, which doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. Simple tasks like keeping your vehicle's gas tank filled in case you get stuck, keeping jumper cables in your vehicle, and having a jacket or blanket in your vehicle if you are stranded or must walk can make a life or death difference, or at least make you a little more comfortable while waiting for assistance. Similarly, at home, \*if\* we ever get snow, simple procedures such as keeping furnace intake and exhaust vents free and clear, refraining from heating homes with ovens/stoves or other inappropriate sources of heat, and having a carbon monoxide detector can be effective at keeping you and your family safe and healthy. Remember that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors have a recommended replacement interval and a finite lifespan. Consult the manufacturer of yours for their recommendation. Many newer models will tell you by means of a display that they need replacement. Others may have a manufacture or replacement date stamped on it somewhere. Regardless, for either device, it's important to know the difference between an *alarm* and a *low battery* or *bad sensor* alert. Generally, a continuous, loud audible signal indicates an *alarm* while a periodic "chirp" signals a *low battery* or *bad sensor* alert.



# CITY MANAGER'S VIEW



City Manager  
Aaron Mitchell

## Marijuana

As I am sure you are already aware of, in November recreational marijuana was legalized with the approval of Proposal-1. That changed a lot of things related to enforcement of marijuana usage in Michigan. Some things are clear and some are not, at least not yet.

**Still Illegal-** All of the changes relate to adults over the age of 21. It is still illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess or consume marijuana. It is also still illegal to drive under the influence of marijuana. If caught driving under the influence, you will still be facing just as harsh of penalties as before the passage of Proposal-1.

**Where?-** This proposal does allow for someone to possess 2.5 oz. marijuana on private property. You still cannot consume and/or possess marijuana on City or any public property!

**Grow your own-** The law allows for residents to grow 12 plants, and possess 10 oz. of marijuana at a personal residence.

**Marijuana Businesses in Otsego-** The State of Michigan is working on exactly what the sales process will look like. The State agency of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) is currently working to set up the appropriate infrastructure to handle the licensing side of marijuana businesses. LARA is expected to approve the first license by December of 2019, so they have about a year to get this process completed. The five types of marijuana business classifications are: dispensary, growing, processing, transportation and safety and testing facilities. All Michigan municipalities must decide whether any and/or all of these businesses are allowed within their municipalities. This is done by opting-in (allowing for any and/or all of the types of businesses) or opting-out (not allowing any and/or all of them).

**What the City of Otsego is doing relating to marijuana businesses-** The City of Otsego in December officially opted-out of all types of marijuana businesses, via Ordinance. This is in response to the large amount of uncertainties that are still left to be determined by LARA. The City Commission would also like to hear from you, to know where you stand on this issue. We are going to be holding at least one Public Hearing on January 21, 2019, at our City Commission meeting at 7 pm at City Hall if you wish to inform the City Commissioners of your thoughts on the allowance of marijuana businesses within city limits. The City Commission can Opt-in and begin to allow for marijuana businesses to be established within city limits by simply voting to do so at any point. So nothing is set in stone going forward. We are excited to take the pulse of the community with the Public Hearing.



## 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



Thank you

A special thank you to all of the Election Workers who worked the elections last year. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated Election Inspectors. Thank you for your long hours and for serving your community.

There were two elections in 2018. There were record turnouts for both the August and November Elections. Thank you voters for your patience learning the new voting machines!



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



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

## OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

As I watch the National News it seems like there is always somewhere in this country where the weather is causing a catastrophe. From forest fires to mud slides out west, hurricanes starting in the south that follow up the east coast with torrential flooding, tornadoes in the middle of the country, or even ice storms in areas ill prepared for such weather. We don't get the warm pleasant weather this time of year like they do down south and most of us have lived through some bad snow storms. But even though we know that sooner or later this time of year it is inevitable that we are going to get socked with some nasty weather, most of us are ill prepared for when it strikes. Sure, if we have enough advanced warning we can stay home for a day or two. But what happens if we lose power for several days, especially if the temperature is below freezing. Now add in the inability to drive due to heavy snow or extreme icy conditions and we could literally be stranded in our homes without heat or power with no ability to get food or water.

Okay, you might think that yes this could happen but it probably won't. Well like you, I hope so too. But wouldn't it

be better if we had a plan just in case it does? It is incomprehensible to me when I see whole communities leveled by water, fire, or tornadoes. I can't imagine what that must feel like, but we all have lived through instances where we had no power for days at a time due to ice storms covering the entire area. Many people get caught in their cars stranded until help can arrive. These can be long painful waits and sometimes we hear about those who didn't survive.

If we prepare for the worst, most of the time our time waiting for help or for the power to return can just be a big inconvenience, not the scary situations where we pray we will somehow get rescued. Like I said earlier, we here in Michigan do not get the warm winter months, but we also don't usually get the severe extremes like hurricanes, tornadoes, or forest fires. So while we could never plan for those extreme disasters that take out whole communities or neighborhoods, we can plan for the extremes that we know have a good chance of occurring. Extra blankets both in your home and in your cars, bottled water, a supply of can goods, or other food that doesn't need refrigeration, flashlights, extra batteries, a fire extinguisher, candles and matches will all help you feel better and less anxious during your wait. If you are lucky enough to have a

working fireplace, make sure you have wood available to burn. In your cars keep extra blankets, gloves, boots, and some non perishable food items. In your trunk, kitty litter or sand for traction and a small shovel could get you out of the ditch and back on the road. Also remember that if you do get stuck in a snow bank make sure that if you continue to run your car, that the exhaust is not blocked. If so, use that shovel to clear the tailpipe so you don't get carbon monoxide back into the car. If you don't have a shovel, use your foot to clear away the exhaust as the poisonous gas could be more deadly than the cold.

My point of all of this is not to make you paranoid, just prepared enough to think ahead so that you are ready for the surprises our winter wonderland can give us.



**CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019 AND MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019**

# CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

## 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

## MARCH, 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

\*\*BOARD OF REVIEW DATES TO BE DETERMINED

## APRIL, 2019

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	
19	CITY HALL CLOSED—GOOD FRIDAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## MAY, 2019

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	OPEN ELECTION DATE	
7	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
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
27	CITY HALL CLOSED—MEMORIAL DAY	
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## JUNE, 2019

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	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
Stacey Withee.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Nick Breedveld.....	Commissioner
Lauri Krueger.....	Commissioner
Brent Milhiem.....	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

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Otsego MI 49078  
269-692-3391



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"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](http://www.cityofotsego.org)."