



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Summer 2019

WELCOME NEW CITY COMMISSIONER DUSTIN MCNEES



At the July 1, 2019, City Commission Meeting Dustin McNeess was sworn in as the new City Commissioner, term to expire November 2020. Dustin McNeess is a married father of four, originally from Plainwell. After studying journalism at Michigan State University he and his young family eventually found their way to Otsego, where they purchased their first home. Dustin currently works as a Policy and Procedure Development Specialist and freelance writes on the side. When he's not working or volunteering, he's either playing tennis with friends, watching movies with his wife, reading books by himself, or getting whooped by his sons at video games.

Congratulations New Fire Department Members



Congratulations to the Firefighters who were sworn in at the July 15, 2019, City Commission Meeting. Many hours of education and training were accomplished by these new firefighters. Please welcome New Firefighters - **William McKim, Michael T. Bush, Drew McPherson, Cameron Stevenson, Michael McGrail, Alexis Greenman, and Rae Barlow**. Thank you for serving our community.

REGISTERED VOTERS

PERMANENT AV LIST IS NOW
AVAILABLE

**GREAT
NEWS!**

Are you tired of waiting in line to cast your VERY IMPORTANT vote at the polling place? ***All registered voters are now eligible to vote an Absentee Ballot, since the passage of new election laws, you will however need to meet the photo ID rule.*** Absentee voting is a method of voting in which you can receive, and mark your ballot before Election Day.

How do I get on this list?

- ⇒ Complete a request form (available at City Hall) and return it to the Clerk's office, in person, by Mail or using the dropbox located on the northeast corner of City Hall.
- ⇒ E-mail a request to acronen@cityofotsego.org (Include your full name, address and year of birth)
- ⇒ Call the City Clerk's Office at 269-692-3391 for a form to be sent to you.

2020 Election Dates

March 2020 (TBD) Presidential Primary Election
May 5, 2020 - Open Election Date
August 4, 2020 State Primary Elections
November 3, 2020 Presidential-State General

DOOR TO DOOR SALES

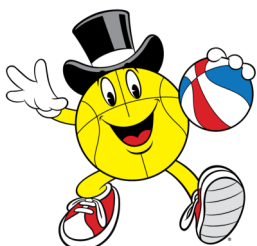
Remember to make sure that the salesperson has a signed permit from the City. Just a reminder that the City is in no way endorsing any of the salespersons or their products by signing the permit. The signed permit only means that they have filled out the proper paperwork and a background check has been completed, per the City's Ordinance. If you have a complaint - call the Police Department or City Hall.



Upcoming Special Events in the Downtown

- ⇒ The Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament--August 24 & 25
- ⇒ The Creative Arts Festival--September 28
- ⇒ Small Business Saturday--November 30

The Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament--August 24 & 25



- * This is one of Otsego's biggest events! Come downtown near Otsego City Hall to see hundreds of teams face off in this two day tournament
- * Many vendors will be present selling food and drink
- * Note that part of East Orleans and South Fair Street will be closed during this event

CLOSED

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED Sept. 2, 2019

City Manager's View



City Manager
Aaron Mitchell

City of Otsego Kayak Launch

As you may have noticed we have recently received an incredibly generous donation of a new kayak launch from The Plainwell Kayak Company. It is situated right behind the Otsego Museum/Main Street office along the Kalamazoo River. The installation of this kayak launch is exactly what the city had intended for this stretch of property. The DDA River Redevelopment Master Plan has focused on making the Kalamazoo River more open to recreation, while making it a draw for the City of Otsego.

This stretch of river has not been traveled by many for the last 125 years. Once the City of Otsego dam was installed it was nearly impossible to get any water craft in the river from that location. So when you are floating down the river behind downtown Otsego, make sure to take a second and recognize how few people have had the opportunity to experience that within the last century. Which makes the voyage very unique and special. Plus it is beautiful!

When you make plans for utilizing the new kayak launch you will need to be aware of a few things.

- ◆ Prepare for your exit- There are opportunities to exit the river at two separate locations; Pine Creek and Trowbridge Township. Please make the appropriate transportation arrangements before you launch.
- ◆ No metal watercrafts- Metal kayaks and canoes can damage the launch. So please make sure that any watercraft you launch has a plastic, fiberglass or wood composition.
- ◆ Be Careful- Wear a life jacket. There are inherent dangers with traveling down the Kalamazoo River. Please be aware of the river conditions, including the nearby N. Farmer St. bridge. Should the river rise extensively, clearance under that bridge will be restricted. Please be aware of the conditions before you launch.



If you get a chance and have an interest in taking a trip down the Kalamazoo River in a kayak, take the trip! We are anticipating this kayak launch to be a real asset for the City of Otsego going forward. If you are new to kayaking and not sure what to expect, call the Plainwell Kayak Company, they can provide a kayak and the transportation to ensure you have a great day on the river.



Article by Fire Chief Weber

It seems like just a couple of weeks ago that I paid my last gas bill from the winter's heating season, and now my air conditioner is running non-stop. Since it's Michigan, we come to expect strange weather patterns and this year is no exception. From bitter cold to scorching heat; from large and frequent amounts of rainfall to barren drought, we seem to get it all.

With such weather comes a variety of hazards that we need to be ready for. For the moment, following this spring's heavy rainfalls, we seem to be past any imminent flood hazards, but that could change on a few days' notice if such conditions resume. When flooding does happen, remember to stay out of moving water, especially water greater than knee deep, and never try to drive through water over the road. The power of moving water is immense, relentless, and merciless.

With clean-up and redevelopment of the Kalamazoo River, paddle sports such as kayaking, canoeing, and rafting are gaining in popularity. While the river is quite safe, paddlers should be aware that it is not the lazy river you would find at Cedar Point or Michigan's Adventure. Novice paddlers should seek out guidance from experienced paddlers before going it alone and EVERYONE should WEAR a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) while on the water. Merely having it in the watercraft does little good after you've overturned your vessel and it's floating downstream away from you. Similarly, make it a practice to secure all possessions to the watercraft while on the water. Not having mile markers or phone booths on the river make it very difficult to summon help when you've lost your cell phone and have no idea where you are. Most of our river rescues revolve around such easily preventable circumstances.

As drier weather is seemingly now upon us, use caution with outdoor heat

sources such as grills, campfires, and fireworks. It only takes one errant spark to start a grass/wildland fire in dry conditions. The same goes for maintaining vehicles, and particularly trailers. You'd be amazed at how often sparks from dragging safety chains on a trailer being towed have started dozens of ditch fires along a stretch of roadway passing through multiple jurisdictions.

And of course, with late summer weather comes tropical storm and hurricane weather on the Gulf coast and eastern seaboard. What does that have to do with southwest Michigan, particularly Otsego, you ask? Plenty! These massive storms impact everything from our local weather, to fuel availability (or at least its price), to food prices, and demand for emergency services on a national scale. As I write this, Hurricane Barry has already made landfall, wreaking havoc on Louisiana and other parts of the country. This serves as a poignant reminder for us all to be prepared for severe weather. This includes having family emergency plans, supplies of food, water, medications, and fuel to last at least 72-hours without outside assistance. Families with children, elderly, or individuals with medical or functional needs should be especially vigilant, as these demographics are particularly at risk.

For those with standby or emergency generators, make sure they are wired and ventilated properly. Improperly wired generators can feed current back onto utility power lines while emergency responders and utility crews, are trying to clear roadways and restore power. Also improperly ventilated generators can cause fires and/or give off carbon monoxide, which is odorless, colorless, and tasteless, yet is deadly.

Hand in hand with these precautions come day-to-day situational awareness and common sense. Don't forget to check vehicles before exiting for children and pets. There have already been numerous instances of children left in vehicles perishing from heat stroke this summer. Let's not have another unfortunate statistic!

REMINDER



PLEASE **DO NOT** flush **baby wipes, diapers, feminine products or flushable wipes** down your toilets! These items are not really flushable. They do not break down like toilet paper is intended to do. They are beginning to be the cause of major problems and backups throughout the City. Please help yourself, your neighbors and community by not disposing of these items in this way. Please use your local refuse service to dispose of these items. Your cooperation in this would be greatly appreciated by everyone. Thank you.

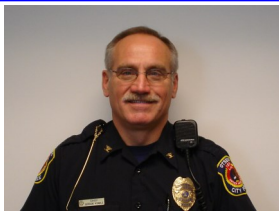


Have you ever wanted to report a street light out, or a pot hole, etc. We now have a convenient way to put in a Service Request or ask a question. Visit our website and look for the **"Contact Us"** Tab, on the Home Page.

PLEASE note that if you have an emergency, please call City Hall or the Police Department.

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.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS - The City has many Ordinances that you might not be aware of, here are a few that may be of interest to you: Barking Dog Ordinance, an ordinance specifying how long your trash bin can be at the side of the road, a Tall Grass Ordinance, No Open Burning Ordinance, and Front Yard Parking Ordinance, to name just a few. Ordinances can be found in detail on the City's website www.cityofotsego.org. The City also asks now that mowing season is here to please not blow yard clippings into the road, 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

Well the calendar says that it is summer, but the rain and lower than normal temperatures seem to want to tell us something else. One thing is for sure, the grass is growing like crazy and with all the rain it is hard to keep our yards mowed. Please be aware that we will be contacting residents whose yards need mowing with a little reminder. We do understand that this has been a hard year to keep up with the grass, but for the sake of your neighbors please try. If you live next to a home that is vacant and the back yard grass is high, let us know as sometimes we can't see it from the street. That tall grass is a mosquito haven and they seem to be as much of a bumper crop as the grass itself. I also want to remind everyone that with all the storms we have suffered through this year, there is a lot of tree limbs and brush that has caused problems being cleaned up. Remember the DPW picks up both brush and trash once a month. These items can be put out the day before the scheduled pickup. Like everything in life there are always problems or circumstances that don't fit into placed schedules. In cases where a tree or limb falls and needs to be cleaned up after the scheduled pickup,

POLICE BEAT



this material can always be taken to the transfer station by Otsego City residents free of charge. In cases where junk or trash is the problem, the transfer station is available at a small fee or perhaps you got a free transfer station pass when you paid your water bill this spring. That is a great benefit and you should get the pass every year because even if you normally would never use it, it comes in handy if something unexpected happens.

The fourth of July has come and gone but soon a new fireworks ordinance will take effect. This is a more common sense ordinance in that it recognizes that a lot of people need to sleep in order to go to work the next day. Under the amended ordinance a person may ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks only on the following days after 11:00 a.m.:

- ◆ December 31 until 1 a.m. on January 1.
- ◆ The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- ◆ June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- ◆ July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.

- ◆ The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.

These changes reflect an amendment to the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act regulating usage within City and Township jurisdictions adopting the suggested changes. More importantly, the fine for violating the ordinance has substantially increased to \$1,000.00. So have fun, but be careful and respectful of your neighbors.

Finally, remember there is a Curfew Ordinance. For children under 12 years old it is 10:00 p.m., for those under 16 years old the curfew is 11:00 p.m., and those under 17 years old it is midnight. As adults we remember that there is something exciting as a kid to be out at night when they aren't suppose to be, but as parents we are responsible for our children and with age we all realize that nothing good happens with them out late at night. So for their sake please make sure they are home and safe during these times.



CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

JULY, 2019

1	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
2	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
4	CITY HALL CLOSED	
5	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY** DAY LATER DUE TO HOLIDAY	
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

AUGUST, 2019

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	
12	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

SEPTEMBER, 2019

2	CITY HALL CLOSED	
3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
4	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY ** DAY LATER DUE TO HOLIDAY	
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
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

OCTOBER, 2019

1	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
1	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 RECYCLING DAY	
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

NOVEMBER, 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	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00 A.M.
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
28	CITY HALL CLOSED	
29	CITY HALL CLOSED	

DECEMBER, 2019

2	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
3	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
7	MAIN STREET- HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS	
9	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
16	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
24 & 25	CITY HALL CLOSED	
31	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

Cyndi Trobeck.....	Mayor
Stacey Withee.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Dustin McNees.....	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

117 East Orleans Street
Otsego MI 49078
269-692-3391



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