



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Fall 2019

*Retirement Open
House in Honor of*

Police Chief, Gordon Konkle



November 8, 2019 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm

*Presentation at 6:00 pm

Otsego City Hall - 117 E. Orleans Street



ELECTION NEWS 2020

AV BALLOTS - With the passage of Proposal 03-18, the State of Michigan does not require a reason to obtain an Absentee Ballot. Postcards were sent to all registered voters to explain no-reason absentee voting and an opportunity to return the postcard and be put on the City's Permanent Absentee Voter's List.

PERMANENT LIST - What happens if I return the post card or request to be on the Permanent Absentee Voter List? An Application to Vote will be sent to you in advance of the election. The voter will need to return the Application to Vote and then a Ballot will be issued and sent in the mail - or Ballots can be picked up at City Hall. Please note, you will not receive a Ballot in the mail, unless you FIRST fill out and return the Application to Vote.

Please feel free to contact the Clerk's Office for more information.

POTENTIAL ELECTION DATES:

Presidential Primary - Tuesday, March 10, 2020 (Date Not Confirmed)

Special Election (If Requested) - Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Primary Election - Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Presidential Election - Tuesday, November 3, 2020

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 28th - Nov. 1st

**Farmer Street & M-89 - Nov. 1st

2nd Round - Nov. 11th - Nov. 15th

**Farmer Street & M-89 - Nov. 15th

****Please do not put the leaves out before October 26th.**

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.

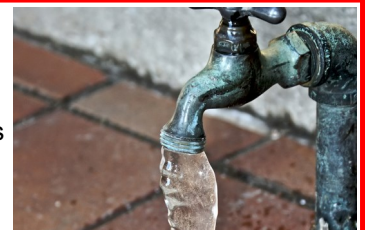
Please do not place anything except leaves in the street. The City places these leaves on a compost pile and therefore, branches, twigs and other yard waste must not be included. (Brush and other yard waste may be taken to the City's Transfer Station free of charge - during regular hours). It is the 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.

NEW WEBSITE

The City's website has been updated.
Please visit is at www.cityofotsego.org

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.



NOW is the time to prepare for cold temperatures and insulate your water pipes. Please be advised that if your inside pipes freeze, it is not the responsibility of the City, and credits will not be issued.



City Manager
Aaron Mitchell

CITY MANAGER'S VIEW

Michigan Lead and Copper Rules

The State of Michigan has recently released the updated Lead and Copper Rules (LCR), which are regulations that apply to all municipal water systems throughout the entire state. These new LCR guidelines are a direct response to the recent Flint water crisis. Much of the LCR are based around the removal of all lead services. Lead services are not dangerous, if properly maintained. This maintenance includes "corrosion control". Corrosion control is a continuous chemical process that insulates pipes from actually touching the water directly (think of it as a slime like substance on the inside of the pipes that creates a barrier). When corrosion control breaks down, lead issues will show up shortly after with lead pipes. Flint had many variables in play. But, the genesis of their problem came from the switching of water sources, and not adjusting their corrosion control accordingly.

Rest assured, the City of Otsego has always maintained a safe and steady corrosion control program. So we have never had any lead issues. However, under the new LCR all lead mains and services must be replaced within the next 20 years. Some of the hardest work in complying with this regulation is the documentation of all service line pipes within our water system. In our research we have found that we have roughly 26 service lines with some part of lead, and over 300 services that we are still uncertain of. The 26 will be replaced and the other 300+ will be inspected. If they are found to contain lead, they as well will be replaced.

The State of Michigan requires for all of the replacements to take place within the next 20 years. What makes compliance difficult is the fact the City of Otsego will not be receiving any funding to comply with this new regulation. When one starts to calculate the costs for these replacements, they add up quickly! The State of Michigan explicitly requires this work to be paid by an increase in water rates. That has left us with the difficult task of trying to budget for these large expenses. After discussing this within city employees from multiple departments and the City Commission; we believe the best route forward is taking all 20 years to complete the work. This path would allow for modest water rate increases. We have already started these replacements this year.

In the recent weeks, we have begun the process of informing home owners of those who have lead pipes, or may have lead pipes. We will begin to schedule those replacements methodically. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call City Hall.

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.



**FALL BACK
NOVEMBER 3, 2019**



REMINDERS

As Winter Returns -

PLEASE REMEMBER:

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



**Sorry We're
CLOSED**

TRANSFER STATION HOLIDAY HOURS

CLOSED - December 24, 2019
CLOSED - December 31, 2019



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



2019 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2019; at 8:30 a.m., City Hall. If you disagree with the percentage shown for your Principal Residence Exemption on your **Winter 2019** taxes, you must contact City Hall **before** Friday, **December 6, 2019.** If you have any questions, please call 692-2741.



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.

Well here we go again; it's a new season as it seems like summer rushes by faster and faster each year. With the change in seasons there are also a few other changes I want to make you aware of. On September 2, 2019, changes in the Youth Tobacco Act took effect making it illegal for anyone to sell, give, or furnish vaping products to anyone less than 18 years of age. The real change to the act involved alternative nicotine products, vapor products, and liquid nicotine containers sold to or possessed by minors under 18 years old. A person convicted of selling, giving, or furnishing to a minor is committing a misdemeanor with the first offense punishable by a \$100.00 fine, a \$500.00 fine for a second offense, and \$2,500.00 fine for third or subsequent offenses.

Nothing in the act has changed where it involves minors and tobacco products. Anyone less than 18 years of age still can't possess any tobacco product, such as cigarettes

without being in violation of a misdemeanor and possible fine of \$50.00.

However, a minor shall not do any of the following with respect to "alternative nicotine products" and "vapor products":

- ◆ Purchases or attempts to purchase.
- ◆ Possess or attempt to possess.
- ◆ Use in a public place.
- ◆ Present or offer false, fraudulent, or someone else's proof of age to purchase, possess, or attempt to purchase or possess.

A minor who violates this act is responsible for a civil infraction. After two or more prior judgments, each subsequent violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$50.00 for each violation. As with most laws involving juveniles, there are exceptions and methods such as community services and diversion programs to educate minors on the health hazards with continual use of the restricted products. The bottom

line is that minors can't use tobacco or any of these vaping or alternative nicotine products. This has become a hot topic across the entire country with states searching for methods to control these unknowns or at least little understood health consequences from the use of these products.

Finally, the next change for the Otsego Police Department is my retirement and the hiring of a new Chief of Police. I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful opportunity that I have been given to serve as your Police Chief. I have always felt proud to be a part of such a wonderful, supportive community here in Otsego. I must admit it is a strange feeling, one as if I am leaving home, but I know that I am leaving the community and Police Department in good hands. We have a wonderful city staff and very professional police department with dedicated employees who have made my job a pleasure.

Thank you,

Chief Gordon Konkle



CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

November 28 & 29 - December 24 & 25 & 31 - January 1, 2020

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

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	DDA/MS INFORMATIONAL MEETING	6:00 P.M. CITY HALL
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	

JANUARY, 2020

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

FEBRUARY, 2020

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

MARCH, 2020

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	
9	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
10	*PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY TENTATIVE DATE	
16	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23	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

Cyndi Trobeck.....	Mayor
Stacey Withee.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Brent Milhiem.....	Commissioner
Dustin McNees.....	Commissioner
Laurie Krueger.....	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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Otsego Main Street DDA Updates

The Riverfront Pavilion Fundraiser is only going to continue for a few more weeks! The campaign to raise \$50,000 is already over halfway complete. It's your last chance to be a part of this new community icon along the Kalamazoo River, and have your donation be matched by the MEDC. Give now at patronicity.com/riverfrontpavilion or contact Joel Saukas at 269-692-2336 for questions.



EVENTS -

Otsego Main Street will be having it's annual Hometown Christmas event on December 7th this year. Save the day so you can enjoy Breakfast with Santa, ornament making workshops for kids at the Museum, Hay Rides, the Parade, and more! Check in with the Otsego Main Street Facebook page as we get closer to the event date for details.

VOLUNTEERS -

Calling all volunteers! We are always looking for more faces when it comes to volunteering in our community. Whether it's for a 1 day commitment during our cleanup, or a more in-depth job of planning downtown projects, all are welcome! Reach out to Main Street Director Joel Saukas to learn more by calling 269-692-2336 or emailing him at jsaukas@cityofotsego.org.

Building Community at the Core



OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Otsego Fire Department is pleased to recognize its five newest Cadets and Probationary Firefighters! Zachary Chartier joined the department in late September. He comes to us already having his Firefighter I & II, Hazardous Materials, and Vehicle Extrication training. Cadets Grace Krueger and Dylan Bush, and Firefighters Reggi and Delano (Lane) Haskins joined the department in early October. All have begun their training and responding to calls with us.

As this goes to print, the weather is starting to get a bit cooler, which means that fall is either right around the corner, or already here. With that comes heating season. Therefore, it's a good idea to get furnaces and heating appliances inspected and tuned up, BEFORE they're needed. Modern heating appliances are wonderful inventions that function as designed most of the time, but they do require a little TLC to do their jobs. Make certain that air filters are clean (and installed correctly), and that inlets and exhausts are clean and free of obstructions. Alternative fuel source heaters, such as pellet stoves and wood stoves, have gained in popularity in recent years. Make sure that they are properly installed with adequate clearance around them, vented appropriately, and that chimneys are clean.



Fall is as good a time as any to make certain that smoke detectors are installed, tested, and have fresh batteries. The same goes for carbon monoxide detectors. It's important to know how your detector works, and what any lights or noises they make mean. Frequently, we are called for a "fire alarm" or "carbon monoxide leak" when often, it is simply a bad sensor or more commonly, a low battery. When one of these devices is truly in alarm, they will invariably be shrieking loudly and continuously to alert occupants. Occasional chirps or beeps, or patterns thereof, typically indicate some other type of condition. When in doubt, don't hesitate to call 911, but be aware that as firefighters, we are not experts with your make/model of detector and that all these devices have finite life spans and recommended replacement schedules.

Right on the heels of fall comes, dare I say it...winter. This means snow, bad roads, and the inherent delays that come with it. Please remember that residents are responsible for maintaining free and unobstructed access to fire hydrants. We thank you in advance for keeping those accessible to us when we urgently need them.

When traveling, remember to leave adequate time to reach your destination safely based upon road and weather conditions. Nothing will ruin your already stressful commute like an unplanned ride to the ER in an ambulance! Having an emergency preparedness kit can prove invaluable. Jumper cables, road flares or reflective triangles, a blanket, and a shovel can be a life saver. Maintaining sufficient fuel in your vehicle's tank is also important with bad weather if you get stuck or are stalled in a traffic back-up. Remember, "E" on that little gauge on your instrument cluster doesn't mean "enough"!



The Otsego Fire Department is always accepting applications from those interested in becoming a paid-on-call firefighter. Residency, training, and attendance requirements apply, but those interested in joining are encouraged to complete an application. Applications may be downloaded from the City's website under the Fire Department page, or applications may be picked up from City Hall or the Otsego Fire Department during normal business hours.