



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Spring/Summer 2021



FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Angela Cronen

2020 was filled with four elections and the added challenges of elections during a pandemic. The City of Otsego also held its first ever All Mail In Election in May. The efforts and determination of the Election Inspectors and the City Hall Staff made these elections successful. Yes, there were lines and yes, there were new challenges - but, the elections went on (successfully) in the City of Otsego. I am sure many voters do not know the procedures that are followed after the polls are closed. I am pleased to report that the City of Otsego balanced the number of

voters in the pollbook to the number of ballots processed through the tabulator for all four elections. I want to thank the voters for your patience at the polls, and your willingness to adapt to new processes. It takes a team to make all of this work and the Election Workers and the community worked together to have four successful elections. If you ever have any questions about an election or an election process, please don't hesitate to contact me!

If you happen to see these amazing (front line) election workers, please take the time to thank them for a job well done! **Jamie Jameson, Ashlee Rose, Matthew Storbeck, Monica Nagel, Heather Mitchell, Laurie Andrus, MaryIn Langeance, Jackie Stineback, Pam LaHuis, and Judi Roberts.** These individuals will be recognized at an upcoming City Commission Meeting. Thank you also to the DPW for assisting setting up City Hall, the Police Department for monitoring the process and being present at the polls, and to the Otsego Fire Department for responding to a medical incident at City Hall and then sanitizing the entire facility for the safety of the voters (not once but twice).

Thank you!



HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants April 26 through May 7. 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.

CITY HALL IS OPEN

City Hall is now open regular hours 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you would like to use the drop box, please feel free to use the one located on the northeast side of the building attached to the building or we now have a drive-up drop box located on the north side of City Hall. These drop boxes are monitored and checked frequently. If you use the drop box and would like a receipt, please indicate that and one will be mailed to you. Thank you for your patience with the COVID mandates. It is great seeing customers back at the counter!



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 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.



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



"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."

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED April 2, May 31, July 5, & Sept. 6, 2021

City Manager's View

ROCK-TENN UPDATE



City Manager
Aaron Mitchell

You may have seen Rock-Tenn in the news recently. This was due to the recently approved Rock-Tenn Brownfield Plan by City Commission and the Allegan County Board of Commissioners. A Brownfield Plan is a mechanism to redevelop old, blighted, environmentally questionable industrial properties into a productive asset for years to come. The goal of a Brownfield Plan is to take the property and prepare it for development as much as possible. In Rock-Tenn's case that includes demolition of the facilities, environmental testing, land development and upgrade of infrastructure. What makes the Brownfield Plan a game changer is the fact it provides a mechanism to pay for those expenses. That mechanism is a tax capture. This will alleviate up to \$5M for the future developer! The future tax revenue will pay back those investing in the property, for the next quarter century. This is a very important step we are taking. This step has taken multiple years with community partners to come to the table with hopes of making this property as attractive as possible for a developer. These partners include the Allegan County Board of Commissioners driven by County Commissioner Gale Dugan, the Allegan County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and the Allegan County Administration with the hard work of Dan Wedge. The next steps will be to begin the demolition of the facilities, which could occur as soon as the end of this summer. Simultaneously a developer could come on board to begin the process of developing the next chapter of this vital piece of property. It may seem quiet at 431 Helen Ave. as of now, but there is a lot of work taking place behind the scenes to prepare for a lot of action to occur in the coming months and years. Stay tuned!

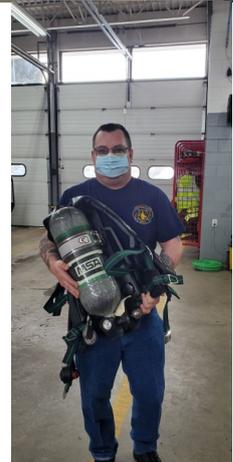


OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Otsego Fire Department has had some exciting news these past few months with the recent acceptance of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. With the \$138,000 grant Otsego Fire Department was able to purchase and place into service new SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) units to better protect our firefighters while keeping the community safe. After proper training and familiarity with the equipment, the new SCBA's have been placed into service replacing the 15-year-old units previously used.



As we approach this beautiful spring and summer weather Otsego Fire Department would like to remind everyone of safe practices while camping, grilling, and having small fires. Be sure to have a running water source nearby at all times. Make sure someone is monitoring the fire for the duration of the burn. Be up to date on your local ordinance for recreational fire pits. Have a great spring and summer and stay safe! For more information we encourage you to visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Wildfire-safety-tips>



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.

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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.



PLEASE SEE THE CITY'S FIREWORK ORDINANCE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE.

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, Brad Misner

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Over the past year we have seen the onset of a world-wide pandemic, the shut down of many local businesses due to the pandemic, a crazy election, and the vaccine introduction. But the one thing that has been constant throughout the year with the Otsego Police Department has been our customer service provided to the Otsego community. That service was not without many changes as well. We needed to change procedures and protocols on how we interact with citizens. Those changes were needed to keep our officers safe as well as protect our citizens.

The Otsego Police Department also saw a few changes within the last year. Monica Nagel was hired as our new Administrative Assistant / Dispatcher, along with Lacey Ryan as our new full time Police Officer. Both are welcomed additions to our police department family. Along with the two new additions to the department, we have purchased body cameras for the

officers during their tour of duty. This was a collaborative decision made between the City Commission, City Manager, and myself. The National trend has been moving in the direction for all officers to wear a body camera. We applied and received a small grant to assist with this purchase. This is an accepted piece of equipment that will not only protect the citizens, but the officers as well. We are in the final stages of working all the technical bugs out, but you will see each officer wearing the cameras.

As we move towards spring, we would like to remind folks in the community about keeping your properties clean and esthetically pleasing. Our officers will be monitoring those properties that need a little sprucing up by removing the junk. We will work diligently with our citizens, offering as much help/assistance as we can to resolve the blight issues. If you have not been contacted personally, but found a notice on your door, please do not ignore it. If you have questions, feel free to contact the officer leaving the notice or stop by the department during business hours.

Another reminder for those who might zoom around the city streets with that lead foot, beware we are watching. We receive many complaints about speeding, especially near our local educational facilities. If you are experiencing speeding problems in your area, and would like to see more patrols or possibly our speed/radar trailer placed on your street, you can just call us. We will begin moving the trailer around since the snow has finally stopped.

We are looking forward to moving out of this pandemic and getting back to some sense of normalcy. This may take a bit of 2021, but make no mistake, we are definitely heading in the right direction. We continue to strive to improve our excellent customer service to the citizens of Otsego. You will see us doing foot patrols throughout the downtown area and moving that concept into the neighborhoods. If you see us, don't be shy, say hello.

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

MARCH, 2021

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
9 & 10	BOARD OF REVIEW	
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
16	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

APRIL, 2021

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
2	CITY HALL CLOSED—GOOD FRIDAY	
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	

MAY, 2021

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
31	CITY HALL CLOSED—MEMORIAL DAY	

JUNE, 2021

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

JULY, 2021

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY HALL CLOSED	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
6	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
6	CURBSIDE BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
12	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	BOARD OF REVIEW	
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

AUGUST, 2021

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
16	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

SEPTEMBER, 2021

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY HALL CLOSED	
7	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
8	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY ** DAY LATER DUE TO HOLIDAY	
13	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
27	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 McNeas.....	Commissioner
Laurie Krueger.....	Commissioner
Aaron Mitchell.....	City Manager
Angela Cronen.....	City Clerk
Mike Bosch.....	DPW Supervisor
Luke Keyzer.....	WWTP Superintendent
Brad Misner.....	Chief of Police
Matthew Storbeck.....	Treasurer
Brandon Weber.....	Fire Chief
Kevin Harris.....	Assessor
Kahler Sweeney.....	Main Street Manager

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269-692-3391

