



# City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego Fall/Winter 2021

## NEW CITY HALL HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY 7:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.  
FRIDAY - 7:30 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.

## 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 - Nov. 1st - 5th  
\*\*Farmer & Allegan St. (M-89) - Nov. 5th

2nd Round - Nov. 15th - Nov. 19th  
\*\*Farmer & Allegan St (M-89) - Nov. 19th



**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT RANDOM PICKUPS MAY OCCUR BEFORE AND BETWEEN SCHEDULED PICKUPS.**

**\*\*Please do not put the leaves out before October 31st.**

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. 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.



## UPCOMING MAIN STREET EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021  
4PM TO 6PM  
TRAIL FOR TREATERS



Saturday, December 4, 2021

For Details or to Volunteer visit the Otsego Main Street Facebook Page or call 692-2336

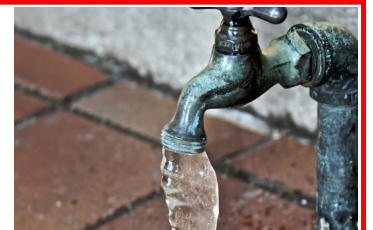


## HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants October 18 through October 22. 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.

## 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*, our *Facebook Page*, & *Website 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'S VIEW



City Manager  
Aaron Mitchell

## Addressing Blight in Otsego

No city or township is immune to blight in the year 2021. It seems like years past it was a rarity that a blight ordinance would even be needed. However whether it is a generational thing, a cultural thing or something else entirely; blight is now prevalent in all municipalities no matter what shape or size. And unfortunately the City of Otsego is no exception.

Blight means a lot of different things to different people. For example: some people feel that the City has no right to limit the amount of old tires they store in their front yard, while other residents believe we have the power to force homeowners to paint their house if we deem needed. The best practice is somewhere in the middle. Our Blight Ordinance was updated a few years ago so it is relevant and prepared to address the issues of 2021. We set a reasonable standard about what is acceptable and what is not. Over the last year or so we have been working on getting compliance from a couple of specific properties. Some of these properties have been blighted for years and we have to begin with educating the property owners about why blight is a bad thing. This has required patience and creativity. We always work for compliance and that takes some flexibility and trust from both sides. Blight complaints can take upwards of 150 days from the time the complaint is filed to receive a court ordered judgment, due to legal requirements. However, once the judgment is issued we can finally take action. Every ticket we write and every court hearing we attend costs the City money. So we try to avoid writing tickets if we can get compliance without it. It usually consists of starting the ticket writing process while working with the property owner to bring the property into compliance. It is slower than we wish, but we usually get there. We have cleaned up multiple properties in

the past year. I am hoping you have noticed some of the blighted properties that have recently been cleaned up. If you have a property within your neighborhood that you feel is blighted and is in need of some attention, feel free to call our Police Department to bring it to our attention.

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## Front Yard Parking Ordinance Amendment

The City Commission recently made a small but significant amendment to the Front Yard Parking Ordinance. **Starting on October 24<sup>th</sup>** you will no longer be allowed to park your vehicles (boats, kayaks, snowmobiles, etc.) and utility trailers in your front yard. That includes the parking of non-trailer vehicles as well. This change may raise some questions. Let me try to answer those:

Q-Why was an amendment made?

A-There was a small loophole in our previous ordinance that left out small vehicles and utility trailers. We received some complaints of these being parked in the front yard, the previous ordinance had no limitation of them being stored in front yards.

Q-Where can I park my boats and trailers?

A-You may still park vehicles and trailers within your side and back yards. You are also still able to park them in your driveway, if needed. You must stay on the driveway though.

Q-What exactly is my "front yard"?

A- Any property that is between your street and the closest point of your house is classified as your front yard. The front yard is the only location that you are **not** allowed to park your vehicles and/or trailers.

We understand that these changes are new and will require some time to comply with. As always, we seek compliance not writing tickets. If you are willing to be flexible and work with us, we will approach each incident with an open mind.

## WINTER REMINDERS

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



**RECYCLE  
PICK-UP**



**FIRST & THIRD TUESDAY OF  
THE MONTH**



**FALL BACK  
NOVEMBER 7, 2021**



Police Chief, Bradley E. Misner

# OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.



With fall comes change...the time changes...the leaves change...the weather changes....great things happen with change. There's even change at Otsego Police Department as we recently added another officer to our roster. I would like to take this opportunity and introduce to you the newest member of our team, Judd Sikkema.

Judd joined us in May 2021 with six (6) years of experience, five (5) of those years with Richland Police Department. He enjoys, hunting, being outdoors, spending time with his family and watching the Lions lose on Sunday. As you can see, Judd not only brings a great sense of humor to the department but a great deal of compassion and positive energy. He is a great asset and addition to our team. Please help me in welcoming Judd to Otsego.



As the City of Otsego grows, so does our police department. We are always looking for new police officers to join our team. If

you are interested or know someone that would be a great asset to our department, please contact Otsego Police Department for more details.

**Trails for Treaters** will be held on Friday, October 29, 2021 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in downtown Otsego. This is a family friendly Trick-or-Treating event where businesses will be waiting to pass out candy to all little ghosts and goblins. Please remember some important safety tips while Trick-or-Treating this year.



\* Watch for vehicles and use crosswalks and sidewalks when available

- ◆ Make sure you are visible, flashlights are a great accessory for any costume
- ◆ Walk in groups and in well-lit areas
- ◆ Only visit homes with lights on and never enter a stranger's home
- ◆ Wait to eat any candy until a parent can inspect. If you suspect any tampering with candy, please notify our department immediately.

**Park Vandalism** unfortunately has been on the rise in the City of Otsego. Our beautiful parks have fallen victim to recent thefts and vandalism focused mainly in the public restrooms including, but not limited to, urinals, sinks and soap dispensers being torn off the walls and stolen. We are asking for the communities help in finding these vandals.

As a friendly reminder, city parks and playgrounds are open to the public only between sunrise and 10:00 p.m. The city also has a curfew ordinance that regulates the hours minors are allowed to remain on public property.

Please contact my department if you would like more information regarding the city's curfew ordinance.

One thing I love about Otsego is there is so much pride and strength within this community, there is no doubt that together, we can catch these vandals. If you see something, say something and remember, you can always remain anonymous.

*Brad Misner, Chief*

## TRANSFER STATION HOLIDAY HOURS



**CLOSED**  
**November 25, 2021**  
**Dec. 23, 25, & 30, 2021**  
**January 1, 2022**

## 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.



# CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

## OCTOBER, 2021

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

## NOVEMBER, 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
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00 A.M.
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
16	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
25 & 26	CITY HALL CLOSED	

## DECEMBER, 2021

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
4	MAIN STREET- HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS	
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
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23 & 24	CITY HALL CLOSED	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
30 & 31	CITY HALL CLOSED	

## JANUARY, 2022

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 RECYCLE	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## FEBRUARY, 2022

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	WINTER TAXES DUE	
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

## MARCH, 2022

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

## 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
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
Lydia Paille.....	Assessor
Kahler Sweeney.....	Main Street Manager

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



## CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

November 25 & 26 - December 23 & 24 & 30 & 31



# OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Brandon Weber

You wouldn't know it to look or venture outside lately, but fall is most definitely upon us. While we've been blessed with mild weather of late, it's only a matter of time before the leaves start turning...and falling, and there becomes a nip in the air. That means that heating season will also soon be upon us.

Heating season means taking a few minutes yourself or having a reputable service provider coming in and tuning up, or at least inspecting chimneys, flues, heat exchangers, and the like to make certain they are serviceable, and furry and feathered friends have not made a nest somewhere that they shouldn't have.

October is Fire Prevention month, which is a good time to check/change smoke detector and/or carbon monoxide detector batteries. These lifesaving devices have a finite lifespan, and should be replaced according to manufacturer recommendations, typically every 5-7 years. One of the most common "smoke detector/carbon monoxide detector going off" calls the Otsego Fire Department responds to is related to low battery or malfunction due to age. It's also very important to know the difference between the different beeps, chirps, and other tones, and what those mean. This can mean the difference between a life-threatening situation or a benign situation.



Like it or not, winter, and its minion, snow, will be making their appearance in the not-so-distant future as well. This brings with it, the inevitability of slippery roads and sidewalks. There's no time like the present to start preparing for these conditions, checking and replacing tires on your vehicles as needed; maybe getting up a little earlier to properly clean off vehicles, and allowing extra time to reach destinations; and allowing a little bit more following distance.

On the home front, this means keeping driveways, sidewalks, and steps free and clear for emergency responders, and maintaining free and unobstructed access to fire hydrants on your property.

When traveling, having an emergency kit can prove invaluable. It can mean the difference between being able to remedy a dead battery with jumper cables or waiting in relative comfort wrapped up in a blanket; and shivering while waiting for a tow truck while stuck in a ditch!



From a health/pandemic standpoint, COVID-19 is still an unfortunate reality, although we have multiple vaccine options to provide a modicum of safety. If you have not received your vaccination yet and are interested, most pharmacies and healthcare providers in the area would be happy to accommodate you. As of the first full week in October, guidance has been released related to eligibility for booster doses for those that have received the Pfizer vaccine. These are available from the Allegan County Health Department for review.

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 interesting 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.



# 2021 Winter Taxes

Matthew Storbeck, City Treasurer

Winter tax bills are mailed to arrive on the first day of December. Please note that tax bills are sent to both property owners and mortgage servicers. If you do not receive a tax bill, please call our office at 269-692-2741, and we will send another bill. Residential property owners are encouraged to check their Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) to make sure they are receiving the proper percentage of credit for school operating taxes. If not, please call before December 10<sup>th</sup> and an adjustment can be made for this year's taxes. Otherwise, corrections to the winter tax cannot be made until July of 2022.

Taxpayers wishing to have their tax payments taken directly from their bank account may contact us to set up this service. Payments will not be transferred until December 26<sup>th</sup> or February 10<sup>th</sup>, at the taxpayer's discretion. This will allow us time to make contact in cases where problems arise.

Also, please remember that a receipt will not be mailed back for a payment received by mail unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is sent with the payment. Please keep the top part of the tax bill and check number for your receipt. Also, you may access the City's web site at [www.cityofotsego.org](http://www.cityofotsego.org) to retrieve tax and payment information, as well as make electronic payments.

## **2021 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW**

The December Board of Review will be meeting on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021; at 8:30 a.m., City Hall.** If you disagree with the percentage shown for your Principal Residence Exemption on your **Winter 2021** taxes, you must contact City Hall **before Friday, December 10, 2021.** If you have any questions, please call 692-2741.

### City of Otsego Property Tax Collection 2021 Tax Year

Below is a breakdown of the property tax rates/millage collected by the City of Otsego by resolution of the Board of Supervisors October 15, 1962 under the auspices of Act 82, Public Acts of 1961. The separate tax rates of each operating unit have been combined into the total rate column shown below. The millage rates represent dollars per \$1,000 of Taxable Value. [Note: Residential properties are exempt from School Operating Taxes up to the percent that property is claimed as the homeowner's principal residence (P.R.E.).]

TAXING UNIT	TOTAL RATE	BREAK-DOWN	NON-P.R.E. PERCENT OF TOTAL	P.R.E. PERCENT OF TOTAL	SUMMER BILLING	WINTER BILLING
City	15.6237					
Operating		11.3657	18.9%	26.5%	11.3657	
Solid Waste Reduction		2.3773	4.0%	5.5%	2.3773	
Fire Truck Debt		0.0000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0000	
Public Safety		1.8807	3.1%	4.4%	1.8807	
Allegan County	6.3161					
Operating		4.4925	7.5%	10.5%	4.4925	
Ops. VET Relief Fund		0.0200	0.0%	0.0%	0.0200	
Road Tax		0.9760	1.6%	2.3%		0.9760
Senior Service		0.4811	0.8%	1.1%		0.4811
Medical Care Facility		0.2475	0.4%	0.6%		0.2475
Conservation		0.0990	0.2%	0.2%		0.0990
Otsego Public Schools	25.7574					
Operating		17.2674	28.7%	EXEMPT		17.2674
2006, 2007 & 2020 Debt		8.4900	14.1%	19.8%		8.4900
Allegan Area Educational Svc Agency	4.9051					
Operating		0.1389	0.2%	0.3%		0.1389
Voted Special Ed.		3.0097	5.0%	7.0%		3.0097
Voted Voc. Ed.		1.7565	2.9%	4.1%		1.7565
State Education Tax	6.0000		10.0%	14.0%	6.0000	
Otsego District Public Library	1.5184					
Operating		0.9684	1.6%	2.3%		0.9684
Debt		0.5500	0.9%	1.3%		0.5500
<b>TOTAL MILLAGE (NON-P.R.E.)</b>	<b>60.1207</b>		<b>100.0%</b>		<b>26.1362</b>	<b>33.9845</b>
LESS SCHOOL OPERATING FOR EXEMPT PRINCIPAL RESIDENCES	-17.2674					-17.2674
<b>TOTAL MILLAGE (P.R.E.)</b>	<b>42.8533</b>			<b>100.0%</b>	<b>26.1362</b>	<b>16.7171</b>