



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Fall/Winter 2022

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022

POLLS ARE OPEN 7AM UNTIL 8PM



The City of Otsego will be open for in-person voting on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

A voter also has the right to cast an Absentee Ballot. If you prefer to cast an Absentee Ballot, please contact the Clerk's Office to obtain an application. Once the application is returned, signature is verified, etc. - you will be mailed a ballot. Please Contact City Hall for cutoff dates.

The City Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm for Absentee Ballot purposes. If you have any questions regarding Election Day, please call the City Clerk's Office, and we will be glad to assist you.

CITY'S DROP BOX

If you have an Absentee Ballot to turn in, please consider using the new drop box. It is conveniently located on the northwest side of the building and you can drive right up to it for easy access. The drop box is checked periodically throughout the day and is under surveillance 24/7.



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 - October 31– Nov. 4th

****Farmer & Allegan St. (M-89) - Nov. 4th**

2nd Round - Nov. 14th - Nov. 18th

****Farmer & Allegan St. (M-89) - Nov. 18th**

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

****Please do not put the leaves out before October 30th.**

Watch for additional announcements on the City's website, in the "Shoppers Guide", and Facebook.

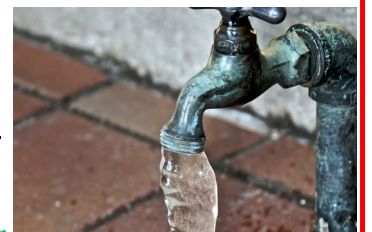
The City's policy is to canvass all streets twice during the two week pick-up period. **REMEMBER: With the exception of Allegan & Farmer Street, all leaves are to be raked into the street next to the curb.** If the leaves are not in the street they will not be picked up.

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.



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 any questions.



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

New Zoning Ordinance Amendments

In the recent months we have amended our Zoning Ordinance (ZO) with two new additions. They are two items that you may not have ever thought about but I can offer you an update on what is allowed. Feel free to give us a call at City Hall if you have any questions. Those two amendments are described below:

2nd Driveways

Many residents have asked previously about the allowance of a 2nd driveway on private residences. The ZO has never listed specific allowances for additional driveways, meaning it was not allowed. After discussions at the Planning Commission, we have added guidelines for 2nd driveways to be allowed for single and two family dwelling units under the following circumstances:

- You have an accessory building that the driveway will address
- Your property has over 120' of road frontage (corner lots can add both roads' frontages)
- The 2nd driveway is over 25' from another driveway and/or intersection



Private Vehicle Sales

You will now be eligible to sell 1 vehicle at a time with a "For Sale" sign on your property within all zoning districts. The vehicle must be parked in your driveway or on an improved surface for no more than 14 days. This is referencing private sales only. Commercial vehicle sales are unaffected by this amendment.



The goal with the passing of both of these text amendments as always is to have the ZO that best represents the residents and patrons of the City of Otsego. Which is the #1 task of the Planning Commission. If you have any interest in attending upcoming Planning Commission meetings; they are held at City Hall on the 4th Monday of every month. Please check our website prior to assure the meetings are not canceled, which often happens. If there is no business, the meeting will be canceled.

Otsego Main Street Program Update & Otsego MS Downtown Dollars

As of November 1, 2022, the City of Otsego has graduated from the Michigan Main Street Program. The Downtown Dollar Program will be ceasing on June 30, 2023. If you have Downtown Dollars to use, make sure to utilize them before June 30, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall.



**MONDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2022
4PM TO 6PM
TRAIL FOR TREATERS
DOWNTOWN OTSEGO**
Presented by:
Otsego Rotary



**Saturday,
December 3rd**

Watch the Shopper's Guide for event times. Many New activities for 2022! Activities for all ages. If anyone wants to volunteer at the event, please contact 692-3391.

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 6, 2022**



OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.



Police Chief, Bradley E. Misner

As we replace our beach bags full of toys for backpacks full of books, we would like to remind you, now that school is back in session and traffic is a little heavier on our streets, student safety becomes a community-wide role. Be vigilant and alert behind the wheel. Watch for students walking or riding bicycles to/from school and/or bus stops.

As school safety is a high priority for the City of Otsego, Otsego Police Department and Otsego Public Schools, these entities have collaborated to implement, for the first time ever, a School Resource Officer (SRO).

The role of an SRO is multi-faceted. As a sworn officer with Otsego Police Department, Officer Sikkema will promote safety in and around the school by addressing crime and serve as a liaison between the school and outside agencies. The SRO will also be a key part of our district safety team and assist with the development of comprehensive safety plans or strategies, in coordination with school administration or local first responders.

"We are looking at this officer to be an educator and counselor to share topics related to law enforcement with our students, geared toward promoting positive student behavior, and to build positive relationships with our students, reinforcing positive behaviors and connecting youth with needed services," says Jeff Haase, Otsego Public Schools Superintendent.

SRO Sikkema recently completed additional training and is certified to work in the Otsego Public School system. SRO Sikkema began his duties on 09/12/2022 and states, "I'm honored to have been given this opportunity



to build relationships with students and staff but most importantly I'm focusing on school security, ensuring parents their students are safe while attending Otsego Public Schools."

As mentioned above, safety is high priority for Otsego Police Department and we take pride in knowing crime rates are very low within the city. Did you know the police department has a House Watch Program that you can sign up for while you are away from home? Officers will walk the perimeter of your residence while you are away making sure all is secured. This service is free to all city residents and is kept confidential. If you are interested in this service, you may submit a request by visiting the police department page under the city's website or stop by the department and pick up a form. We want to make sure your time away from home is stress free.



**TRANSFER
STATION
HOLIDAY HOURS**

**CLOSED
November 24, 2022
December 24 & 31 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.





OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Brandon Weber

The last two and a half years have been trying, to say the least. As this is being printed, COVID-19 numbers are some of, if not the, lowest we've seen since March 2020. That should sound like good news...and it is. However, COVID-19 is far from just a glimpse in our rearview mirror. According to the World Health Organization, as of September 11th, 2022 (yet another anniversary milestone for us...has it really been 21 years?!), there have been over 605 million confirmed cases and 6.4 million deaths reported worldwide due to COVID-19. As the weather gets colder, we inherently move indoors where it is warmer, which leads to closer contact with others, which leads to greater potential to contract, and pass the virus along to others. Additionally, seasonal illnesses such as Influenza become more prevalent, potentially weakening an already strained or compromised immune system.

Due diligence and vigilance are key to remaining healthy. Getting vaccinated and receiving a booster have been statistically shown to decrease chances of contracting COVID-19, and even in breakthrough cases, lessens the chance of becoming severely ill. Vaccinations are readily available. Good hand hygiene, covering your cough, social distancing, and staying home when manifesting any symptoms also significantly decrease your chances of contracting the virus or passing it along to others.

Heating season is upon us, and October, which is Fire Prevention Month is just around the corner. Statistics show that most fire deaths occur in the overnight hours; with 50% of those fatal fires starting in the living room, 17% in the kitchen, and 16% in bedrooms. We encourage you to check smoke detectors in your own houses, as well as those of elderly friends and family members who may not be able to take care of this important task on their own. Recommended placement of smoke detectors include on every level of the home and in every sleeping area. Hand in hand with this is identifying, and correcting, and fire hazards in the home! Along with smoke detectors and heating comes carbon monoxide detectors and their foibles. We also encourage you to not only test these important devices, but also to learn the difference between a low battery/age alert tone from an alert coming from the presence of carbon monoxide. Both types of devices have finite lifespans and need to be replaced periodically. Consult the manufacturer of yours to know its lifespan and limitations.



Snow is invariably not far away. As a reminder, 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.



The department is currently in the process of developing specifications for a replacement aerial ladder truck to replace its current 29-year-old truck. A project team has



been assembled and has been meeting every two weeks to come up with a piece of equipment that will meet the needs of the community now and hopefully for the next 20 years to come. As the specifications are fine-tuned, we will have concept drawings and schematics in the coming months to share with the public.

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.



Property Owner Water/Sewer FAQs

By: City Manager Mitchell

As a property owner and customer of the City of Otsego Water and Sewer Department, there are some frequently asked questions that you should be aware of. If there is an interruption of service, it is usually a really bad day! So the more you can plan ahead of time and understand the roles and responsibilities of the property owner and the City, the better. These systems are vitally important for our safety, convenience and at the end of the day sanity. If either water or sewer is not available, our lives are turned upside down until they return.

Q1: Where does **my** water service line (and responsibility) end?

A1: A property owner's water service (and responsibility) goes up to the shut off valve which is normally near the property line. The City's responsibility is after the shut off valve to the water main.

Q2: What do I do if I have a water break, or loss of pressure?

A2: 1st call City Hall and we will inspect. If it is in the main we will be responsible. If the break is in your service line it will be left to you to call a plumber to repair.

Q3: Where does **my** sewer line (and responsibility) end?

A3: The property owner's responsibility goes out to the connection in the sewer main which will likely be all the way out into the road.

Q4: What do I do if I have a sewer back up?

A4: 1st call City Hall and we will check and see if the main is backed up. If it is not, you will need to call a plumber.

Q5: Is there anything a property owner can do to prevent a sewer backup?

A5: One can install a backflow preventer, which can be costly after construction or you can purchase an insurance rider that would cover any damages (consult your insurance agent on details).

Q6: How much should I expect to budget for a replacement of my water and sewer lines, when replacement is needed?

A6: Each property is unique. It all depends on the location of the water and sewer lines. That question would have to be answered by a plumber who has inspected your property and pipes. It should be known that properties along M89 will have a series of additional obstacles to consider with the deep placement of the sewer lines and MDOT requirements.



ALWAYS REMEMBER

Call City Hall 269-692-3391, first if you have a Sewer Back-up.

If it is **after hours**, please contact our

Police Department at 269-692-6111.

City of Otsego Property Tax Collection

2022 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	13.8189					
Operating		11.1452	18.9%	26.8%	11.1452	
Solid Waste Reduction		0.8295	1.4%	2.0%	0.8295	
Fire Truck Debt		0.0000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0000	
Public Safety		1.8442	3.1%	4.4%	1.8442	
Allegan County	6.9483					
Operating		5.1272	8.7%	12.3%	5.1272	
Ops. VET Relief Fund		0.0200	0.0%	0.0%	0.0200	
Road Tax		0.9654	1.6%	2.3%		0.9654
Senior Service		0.4930	0.8%	1.2%		0.4930
Medical Care Facility		0.2448	0.4%	0.6%		0.2448
Conservation		0.0979	0.2%	0.2%		0.0979
Otsego Public Schools	25.7574					
Operating		17.2674	29.3%	EXEMPT		17.2674
2006, 2007 & 2020 Debt		8.4900	14.4%	20.4%		8.4900
Allegan Area Educational Svc Agency	4.8564					
Operating		0.1400	0.2%	0.3%		0.1400
Voted Special Ed.		2.9783	5.1%	7.2%		2.9783
Voted Voc. Ed.		1.7381	3.0%	4.2%		1.7381
State Education Tax	6.0000		10.2%	14.4%	6.0000	
Otsego District Public Library	1.5177					
Operating		0.9677	1.6%	2.3%		0.9677
Debt		0.5500	0.9%	1.3%		0.5500
TOTAL MILLAGE (NON-P.R.E.)	58.8987		100.0%		24.9661	33.9326
LESS SCHOOL OPERATING FOR EXEMPT PRINCIPAL RESIDENCES	-17.2674					-17.2674
TOTAL MILLAGE (P.R.E.)	41.6313			100.0%	24.9661	16.6652

2022 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 9th and an adjustment can be made for this year's taxes. Otherwise, corrections to the winter tax cannot be made until July of 2023.

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 26th or February 10th, 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,

2022 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2022; at 8:30 a.m., City Hall. If you disagree with the percentage shown for your Principal Residence Exemption on your **Winter 2022** taxes, you must contact City Hall **before** Friday, **December 9, 2022.** If you have any questions, please call 692-2741.

REMINDER

CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

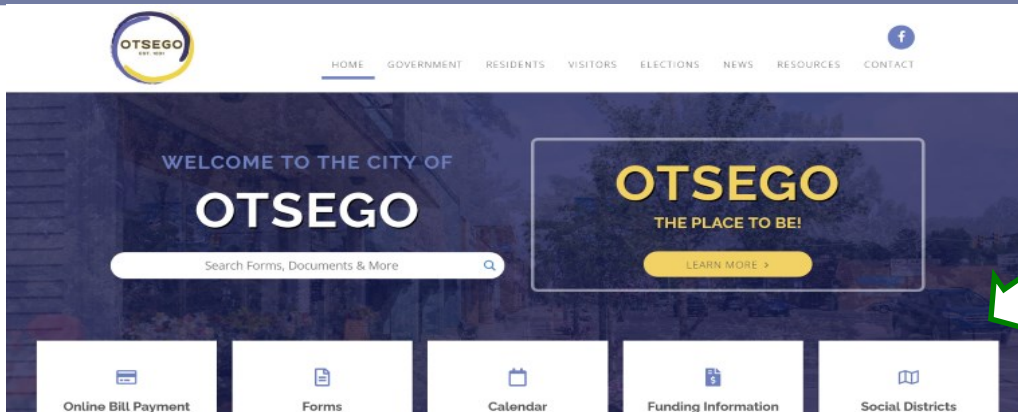
1ST AND 3RD MONDAY
OF THE MONTH

PLEASE CHECK OUR

WEBSITE

WWW.CITYOFOTSEGO.ORG

FOR AGENDAS AND
MINUTES & OTHER
IMPORTANT
INFORMATION



Find us on:
facebook®

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

OCTOBER, 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 RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
31	TRAIL FOR TREATERS	4:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER, 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
8	ELECTION DAY	
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00 A.M.
14	SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING	
14	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
15	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
23	CITY HALL CLOSING AT 1:30 PM	
24 & 25	CITY HALL CLOSED	
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

DECEMBER, 2022

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
3	HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS	
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
13	BOARD OF REVIEW 8:30 AM	
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	CITY HALL CLOSING AT 12:30 PM	
23 & 26	CITY HALL CLOSED	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
29	CITY HALL CLOSING AT 1:30 PM	
30	CITY HALL CLOSED	

JANUARY, 2023

2	CITY HALL CLOSED	
3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
3	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY HALL CLOSING AT 12:30	
9	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
16	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLE	
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

FEBRUARY, 2023

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
14	WINTER TAXES DUE	
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

MARCH, 2023

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
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 Manager694-6146

City Clerk692-3391

Finance Director692-2741

Dept. Public Works694-6636

Website:

www.cityofotsego.org



The Agenda is a quarterly publication of the
CITY OF OTSEGO

Stacey Withee.....Mayor
Lauri Krueger.....Mayor Pro-Tem
Brent Milhiem.....Commissioner
Chuck Moore Jr.....Commissioner
Jason Smith.....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

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



CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

November 24 & 25 - December 23 & 26 & 30, 2022 & Jan. 2, 2023