



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Fall/Winter 2024

2024 NOVEMBER ELECTION

ELECTION DATE:

General Election - November 5, 2024

NINE DAYS OF EARLY VOTING

Nine days of Early Voting will begin on **Saturday, October 26, 2024 through Sunday, November 3, 2024**. Hours for Early Voting are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.



IF YOU SIGNED UP FOR A PERMANENT BALLOT

If you signed up as a Permanent Ballot Voter - you should have received your ballot. Remember if you are not on the Permanent Ballot List, you will need to fill out an application to receive an Absentee Ballot. If you choose to request an Absentee Ballot you may do so at the Clerk's Office or request an application and mail it in.

Angela Cronen, City Clerk

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR OUR CITY PARKS?

The City of Otsego is currently updating the Community Parks and Recreation Plan which will guide park improvements and funding for the next five years. Please take our survey. Survey closes November 8. How can you take the survey???

****Scan the code or visit the City's website.**



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 28 – Oct. 31

****Farmer & Allegan St. (M-89) - Oct 31**

2nd Round - Nov. 11 - Nov. 14

****Farmer & Allegan St. (M-89) - Nov. 14**

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

****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.

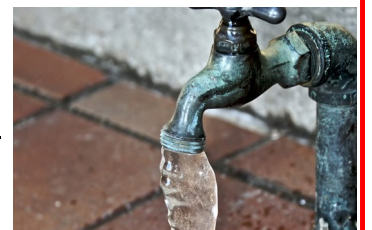
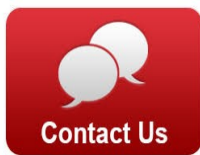
The City's policy is to canvass all streets at least twice during the two week pick-up period. If the leaves are not in the street they will not be picked up. **REMEMBER: With the exception of Allegan Street & Farmer Street, all leaves are to be raked into the street next to the curb. FINAL ROUND OF PICK-UP WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE STREET SWEEPER. Once the Street Sweeper has passed pick-up is complete.**

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

Rental Restart

If you have been a renter or owner of a residential property, you may have noticed a lack of residential rental property inspections in recent years. I have some good news! We will be starting that back up in 2025. If you are familiar with the City of Otsego residential rental inspection program, you will remember the vital role that it plays for not only the property owners but also their tenants. The purpose of the program is to assure that all City of Otsego rental properties are safe for all involved. If repairs are needed, the property owner must complete them in order to legally rent out the property.

The inspections provide security that rental dwellings will be safe against any major electrical, plumbing, mechanical or general building issues. Tenants can sleep peacefully knowing that their family is living in a safe residence that meets the expected rental code. It also provides a property owner confidence knowing that their property is safe and up to date with building maintenance. They will be assured that they have met all expectations to keep the house safe for their tenants, which is priceless.

The reason we suspended the program years back was due to a monumental judicial opinion that ruled such inspections to be unconstitutional. The opinion was against the City of Detroit, but set precedent for all rental inspection programs. This was due to the requirement of only having the rental property owner to sign off on the inspection. The court ruled that the procedure violated the tenant's 4th Amendment constitutional rights and viewed it as an illegal search of their premises. We have modified the application to require for the tenant to sign the inspection application as well before any inspection occurs.

The City of Otsego Rental Inspection Program requires for rental properties to be licensed and inspected. While the inspections have been suspended for years, we will begin to get caught up in 2025. It will take multiple years to make up the loss ground. The licensing of rental properties has not officially stopped and properties are expected to be complying immediately. Don't worry, it is a rather simple process for the licensing. Once the properties are licensed, we can begin to schedule an inspection. For those properties we have on file as a residential rental property, we will be sending out a letter detailing the restart and what is expected from the property owners. If you own a residential rental property feel free to call City Hall and we can make sure its license is active.

CITY HALL HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY 7:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.
FRIDAYS - CLOSED

HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants October 14-24, 2024. 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.



**Saturday,
December 7TH**

**Watch the Shopper's
Guide for event times.
Many New activities for
2024!
Activities for all ages.**



**RECYCLE
PICK-UP**



**FIRST & THIRD TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH**



**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2024
4PM TO 6PM
TRAIL FOR TREATERS
DOWNTOWN OTSEGO
Presented by:
Otsego Rotary**



**FALL BACK
NOVEMBER 3, 2024**



Director of Police & Fire, Brad Misner

OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.



In law enforcement the term "Rookie" is sometimes used for new police officers. Otsego Police Department hired Eric Luthy in July 2024, however, he is no rookie, actually, he retired from Plainwell Department of Public Safety after 21 years of service.

Eric earned a BS degree from Grand Valley State University in Economics, History and Criminal Justice.

When Eric is not working, he enjoys playing strategy boardgames and traveling with his wife Amy.

The job of a police officer is extremely difficult, especially in these ever-changing times, however, we are honored and excited to have Eric, bring out of retirement, all of his law enforcement knowledge and experience to be a part of our community. Please help us in welcoming Eric Luthy to Otsego Police Department.



Fall is a beautiful time of year, full of color. The leaves are changing, mums are blooming and front porches transform into creative masterpieces from cozy warm fall décor to scary Halloween displays and soon enough, to a winter holiday presentation of sparkling lights and evergreens.

As we transition from fall to winter, it's also important to protect yourself from "porch pirates." What's a porch pirate you ask? Porch Pirate is a term used to refer to people who steal packages from other people's homes, particularly the porch, as it is relatively easy to grab and dash. Such crimes become more prevalent during the holiday season as these thieves are hoping the packages contain valuable merchandise that can be resold such as: phones, video gaming systems, computers, etc.

What can you do to protect yourself from a package thief? The best way to deal with package thieves is through preventative and security measures. Set up a video surveillance system so that the suspect can be identified and tracked down. There are many inexpensive video surveillance systems on the market. Some can even be purchased locally at business such as Home Depot or Walmart.

Other ways to protect yourself from porch pirates is to have your package held at the post office; install motion detector lights; network with neighbors; have your package delivered to your work. However if these suggestions are not an option, have your delivery driver leave your package somewhere out of plain sight from the sidewalk or roadway.

If you become a victim, please contact Otsego Police Department at 269-692-6111 to file a complaint.



**TRANSFER
STATION
HOLIDAY HOURS**

**CLOSED
November 30, 2024
Dec. 24, 2024
Dec. 31, 2024**

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

Director of Police & Fire, Brad Misner

Finally, my favorite time of year is upon us. The fall colors are changing, temperatures are dropping, and orchards are busy with customers looking for those delicious apples and donuts. October is "Fire Prevention Month", proclaimed by President Calvin Coolidge to be a national observance, one of the longest running public health observance in our country. Does anyone know why it is observed the week of October 9th? Well let me tell you. Fire Prevention week is observed the week of October 9th to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8th, 1871. This horrific fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more that 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land. A devastating fire in our country's history. Yes, I pulled those stats from Googles.

Fire Prevention Week continues to remind us that we can all practice fire safety, whether that be adults and/or children. It's also a good reminder of all the sacrifices and hard work the men and women who serve honorably give in the fire service throughout the amazing country. Almost 3 of every 5 house fire deaths have no smoke detectors or non-working detectors. (NFPA) Carbon Monoxide is the #1 cause of accidental poisoning. (CDC) Unattended cooking is the #1 cause of home fires. (NFPA) And finally, fire departments respond to house fires every 23 seconds in the United States. (NFPA)

Smoke alarms should be considered to be an essential piece of fire protection in your home. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, hallways next to sleeping areas, and on each level to include the basement. Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed the same areas as smoke alarms. Fire prevention week is a good time to replace the batteries in each detector. Get in the routine of checking smoke alarms each month. Replacing the detectors every 10 years or when they fail their monthly test is a good way to ensure your family members safety.

If you have any questions about your smoke detectors or fire prevention in general, feel free to stop by the Otsego Fire Department or give us a call at (269) 694-4390.



TEMPORARY YARD SIGNS (POLITICAL SIGNS)

As the political season ramps up I would like to remind everybody about the Temporary Yard Sign regulations within the City of Otsego. All political signs fall under the category of “Temporary Yard Signs”. If you are not aware; we have a few regulations within our Zoning Ordinance related to the placement of Temporary Yard Signs in your yard. They are divided by Residential Districts and Non-Residential Districts and detailed below:



Residential Districts

Maximum Size and Number	Maximum combined surface area of 15 sq. ft. per parcel or lot. Maximum number of signs shall be limited to 5.
Size	No greater than 6 sq. ft.
Location	Minimum of 15 ft. from any side or rear property line
Height	No higher than 6 ft.

Non-Residential Districts

Maximum Size and Number	Maximum combined surface area of 30 sq. ft. per parcel or lot. Maximum number of signs shall be limited to 6.
Size	No greater than 30 sq. ft.
Location	Minimum of 5 ft. from the front property line, minimum of 15 ft. from any side or rear property line
Height	No higher than 6 ft.

As you can see there are differences in regulations for residential districts versus all other districts in maximum size, number, size and location. You should also remember that no temporary yard signs can be placed within the curb lawn (the area between the road and the sidewalk).

I would like to take this time and ask for everyone to offer others an extra serving of patience and forgiveness. It is not unheard of for neighbors to have disputes and end friendships over political candidates. No political candidate is worth losing a friendship over. Don't worry it will be over soon and we can go back to our regular lives where yards are judged by the quality of grass and landscaping not the signs placed within it.

WINTER REMINDERS

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



HELP US KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW

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.



SEWER BACK-UPS - Call City Hall first at 692-3391. If it is **after hours**, please contact our Police Department at 692-6111.

City of Otsego Property Tax Collection
2024 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	16.3998					
Operating		11.0103	17.7%	24.9%	11.0103	
Solid Waste Reduction		1.4379	2.3%	3.3%	1.4379	
Fire Truck Debt		0.0000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0000	
Public Safety		3.9516	6.4%	8.9%	3.9516	
Allegan County	6.9902					
Operating		5.1419	8.3%	11.6%	5.1419	
Ops. VET Relief Fund		0.0200	0.0%	0.0%	0.0200	
Road Tax	(tentative)	1.0000	1.6%	2.3%		1.0000
Senior Service		0.4887	0.8%	1.1%		0.4887
Medical Care Facility		0.2426	0.4%	0.5%		0.2426
Conservation		0.0970	0.2%	0.2%		0.0970
Otsego Public Schools	26.4900					
Operating		18.0000	29.0%	EXEMPT		18.0000
2006, 2007 & 2020 Debt		8.4900	13.7%	19.2%		8.4900
Allegan Area Educational Svc Agency	4.8142					
Operating		0.1400	0.2%	0.3%		0.1400
Voted Special Ed.		2.9517	4.7%	6.7%		2.9517
Voted Voc. Ed.		1.7225	2.8%	3.9%		1.7225
State Education Tax	6.0000		9.7%	13.6%	6.0000	
Otsego District Public Library	1.4607					
Operating		0.9607	1.5%	2.2%		0.9607
Debt		0.5000	0.8%	1.1%		0.5000
TOTAL MILLAGE (NON-P.R.E.)	62.1549		100.0%		27.5617	34.5932
LESS SCHOOL OPERATING FOR EXEMPT PRINCIPAL RESIDENCES	-18.0000					-18.0000
TOTAL MILLAGE (P.R.E.)	44.1549			100.0%	27.5617	16.5932

2024 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on **Tuesday, December 10, 2024; at 10:00 a.m., City Hall.** If you disagree with the percentage shown for your Principal Residence Exemption on your **Winter 2024** taxes, you must contact City Hall **before** Thursday, **December 5, 2024.** If you have any questions, please call 692-2741.

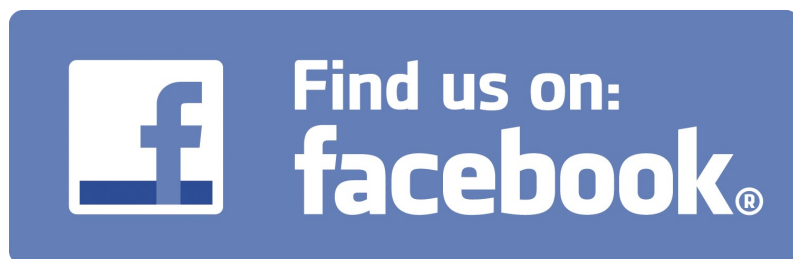
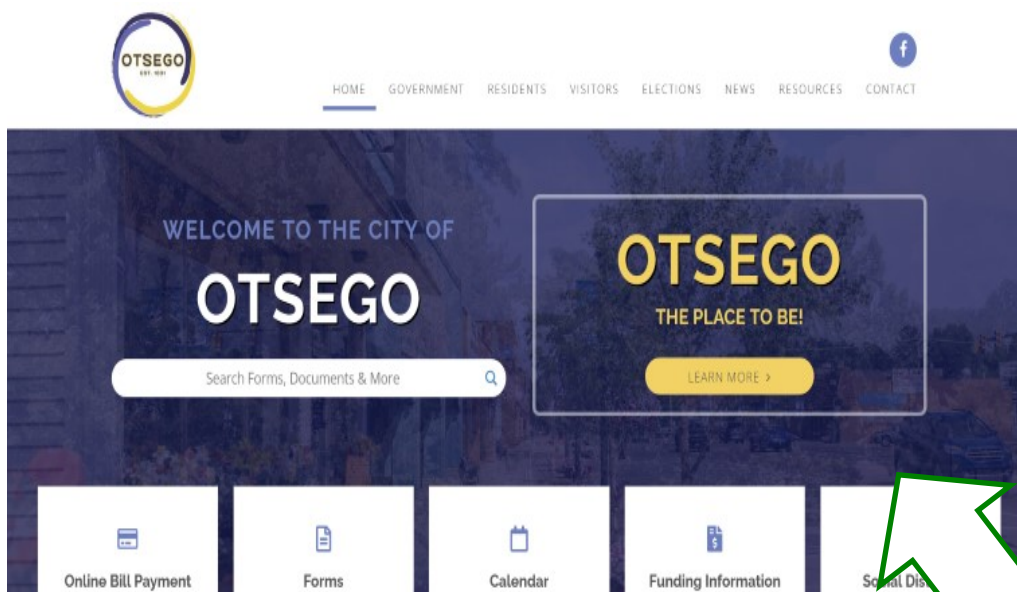
2024 Winter Taxes

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 5th and an adjustment can be made for this year's taxes. Otherwise, corrections to the winter tax cannot be made until July of 2025.

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 11th, 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 to retrieve tax and payment information, as well as make electronic payments.



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

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

OCTOBER, 2024

1	CITY BRUSH PICK UP DAY	
1	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY TRASH PICK UP DAY	
7	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
14	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
15	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
26	FIRST DAY OF EARLY VOTING	8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER, 2024

3	LAST DAY OF EARLY VOTING	8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
4	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBA
5	GENERAL ELECTION	7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
5	CITY HALL CLOSED FOR ELECTION	
5	CITY BRUSH PICK UP DAY	
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
7	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
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	

DECEMBER, 2024

2	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
3	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
5	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
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 OFFICES CLOSED	
31	CITY OFFICES CLOSED	

JANUARY, 2025

1	CITY OFFICES CLOSED	
2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

FEBRUARY, 2025

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	
14	WINTER TAXES DUE	
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

MARCH, 2024

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	
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	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
Dept. Public Works	694-6636

Website:

www.cityofotsego.org



The Agenda is a quarterly publication of the
CITY OF OTSEGO

Stacey Withee.....	Mayor
Lauri Krueger.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Wayne Rayburn.....	Commissioner
Chuck Moore Jr.....	Commissioner
Jason Smith.....	Commissioner
Aaron Mitchell.....	City Manager
Angela Cronen.....	City Clerk
Mike Bosch.....	Director of Public Services
Brad Misner.....	Director of Police & Fire
Matthew Storbeck.....	Treasurer
Lydia Paille.....	Assessor

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



CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

November 28, 2024 & December 24 & 25 & 31, 2024 & Jan. 1, 2025