



City of Otsego Newsletter

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Spring/Summer 2026

NEW BATHROOM BUILDING COMING TO TOP PAVILION IN 2027!



After receiving a \$400K grant from the DNR last year we will soon be designing and creating a new public bathroom building in coordination with the TOP Pavilion. Expected construction to take place Spring of 2027. Stay tuned for details and updates.



UTILITY RATE INCREASES

By: Aaron Mitchell, City Manager

I have the unfortunate task of informing all of our customers that our water rates will be going up starting on July 1st. This is in response of having a comprehensive rate study on our water and sewer rates this past year. Our sewer rates will be going up the traditional 5%; however, the water rates will have to go up substantially.

The rate study was conducted by a third-party specialist who reviewed all expected costs which includes capital expenditures (more on that in a little bit) and along with the important task of calculating the necessary revenues. Then plan out the needed rate increase to cover all of the costs. And there are a lot of costs to operate a municipal water system! Not only are the testing requirements higher than ever before, but the energy costs are also higher than ever before. But, honestly those are not the biggest cause of the increase. That title is applied to the recent unfunded mandate coming from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). EGLE is requiring for all municipal water systems to replace all lead service lines into the homes. And that must be paid by the municipal water system. While Otsego has never had a bad test for lead, we still must comply with this requirement. That work must be completed within the next 8 years and is estimated to cost over \$3M! That is the largest reason why we need to increase our water rates.

The recommended and now approved water rates are sizeable increases. But, you have to remember that water rates are only a quarter of your utility bill. That makes the increase much more tolerable. The average customer with a usage of 18,000 gallons will see an increase of \$63.40 per quarter. That is only \$20 per month. You should know that this decision was not made lightly and we could no longer push off the increases. Going forward we will be on firm footing to handle all EGLE requirements and continue to provide clean drinking water to our residents. If you have any questions or want more details on this increase please feel free to stop by City Hall and I will do my best to help.

REMINDER

CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

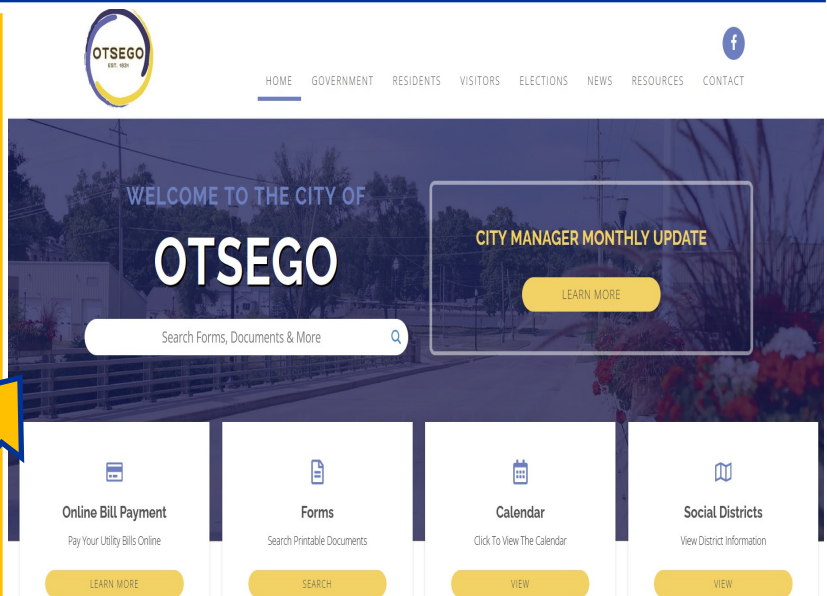
1ST AND 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE

WWW.CITYOFOTSEGO.ORG

NEW - CITY MANAGER UPDATE

FOR AGENDAS, MINUTES & OTHER IMPORTANT CITY INFORMATION



CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

May 25, 2026; July 2, 2026; & Sept. 7, 2026



City Manager
Aaron Mitchell

CITY MANAGER'S VIEW

Memorial Day Additions

If you have ever attended a Memorial Day Parade in Otsego you have experienced the great sense of patriotism as we all unofficially welcome Summer. The day begins with a small intimate ceremony at the Mountain Home Cemetery with the parade following shortly after. The parade concludes at Memorial Park where a brief ceremony is hosted by the VFW Post 3030. Overall it makes all of us proud to be Americans and also proud to come from Otsego where patriotism is revered to the level that it is. There are plans in place for us to expand the Memorial Day traditions in 2026. We are looking at adding the following events:

Veteran Light Pole Banners- You may have already seen the ad recently in the Shopper's Guide for the purchase of personalized banners displaying our local veterans. The plan is to have pictures and details for those who have served, for a nominal fee to pay for the production of the banners. The banners will be displayed during the patriotic holidays throughout the year like Memorial Day, the 4th of July and Veteran's Day. For more details reach out to the VFW.

Gravestone Cleaning- In coordination between the Otsego Area Historical Society and Otsego Public Schools' National Honor Society; the graves of local veterans will be cleaned prior to Memorial Day. This small task will make a huge impact to the families of those who have served.

Parade Expansion- We are hoping to bring back the days of long parades that includes entries and floats of all kinds. We are inviting any agency, business, organization, club, entity, etc. interested in entering the parade to sign up. The Chamber of Commerce will assist the VFW in organizing and marketing the parade.



If you have interest in participating in any of these new additions, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or the VFW to point you in the right direction. If nothing else, plan on coming down to downtown Otsego to honor and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for you and our amazing country on Memorial Day.



DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE





Director of Police & Fire, Brad Misner

OTSEGO POLICE DEPT.



Welcome Officer Elisabeth Hoffman to the Otsego Police Department

The Otsego Police Department is proud to announce the addition of Officer Elisabeth Hoffman to its team.

Officer Hoffman joins the department after previously serving as a Road Patrol Deputy



with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department. During her time there, she gained valuable experience in patrol operations, emergency response, and community policing, strengthening her commitment to public service and safety.

A lifelong member of the community, Officer Hoffman is a graduate of Otsego High School. She went on to complete her law enforcement training at the Kalamazoo Valley Police Academy and earned her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Western Michigan University.

Returning to serve the community where she was raised is especially meaningful to Officer Hoffman. "I'm excited to be back in my hometown of Otsego and look forward to engaging with the local community and do my part in keeping the city safe," she shared.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, Officer Hoffman enjoys hiking and spending time outdoors.

Please join us in welcoming Officer Elisabeth Hoffman to the Otsego Police Department.

We are confident she will make a positive impact and continue the department's strong tradition of service and community partnership.

Scam Awareness

Tax season and home improvement season often bring an increase in scams. Be cautious of:

- Unsolicited calls demanding immediate payment
- Door-to-door contractors requesting large upfront payments
- Emails or texts asking for personal information

If you suspect fraudulent activity, contact the Otsego Police Department immediately at 269-692-6111.

Community Engagement

Spring is a wonderful time to reconnect as a community. Officers will be increasing neighborhood patrols, visiting local parks, and participating in upcoming community events. We encourage residents to stop by, say hello, and share any concerns.

See Something, Say Something

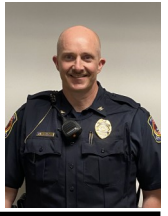
Your partnership makes our community stronger. If you see suspicious activity, report it promptly. For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies, contact the Otsego Police Department's non-emergency line at 269-692-6111.





OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Director of Police & Fire, Brad Misner



Spring Safety Message from the Otsego Fire Department

As the snow melts and warmer weather returns, the Otsego Fire Department would like to remind residents that spring brings unique seasonal safety concerns. From home improvements to storm preparedness, a little prevention goes a long way in keeping our community safe.

Spring is also a great time to check smoke alarms, review family emergency plans, and make sure everyone in your household knows what to do in case of fire. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries as needed. Working smoke alarms save lives.

Spring Storm Preparedness

Spring weather in Michigan can change quickly. Thunderstorms, strong winds, and occasional tornado warnings mean it's important to stay prepared.

- Monitor weather alerts
- Secure loose outdoor items
- Know the safest location in your home (lowest level, away from windows)

Keep an emergency kit with flashlights, batteries, water, and first aid supplies

If you encounter downed power lines, stay away and contact emergency services.



Hydrant Awareness & Fire Access

As snowbanks disappear, please ensure fire hydrants near your property remain clear of debris, landscaping, or parked vehicles. Fire crews need quick access in emergencies.

When driving, remember to:

- Slow down and move over for emergency vehicles
- Never follow closely behind a fire truck

Yield the right-of-way at intersections

Your cooperation helps us respond quickly and safely.

Home Improvement & Fire Prevention

Spring is a popular time for home improvement projects. Keep fire safety in mind:

- Store oily rags in metal containers with tight-fitting lids
- Keep grills at least 10 feet away from structures
- Have chimneys and dryer vents cleaned annually

Use extension cords temporarily—not as permanent wiring

On behalf of all members of the Otsego Fire Department, we wish you a safe and enjoyable spring season. As always, we are proud to serve our community.



FIRE SAFETY

A choice you will never regret.



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.



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

HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE



The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants **April 20 - April 30**. 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.



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



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



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 692-6111, or City Hall 692-3391.

SUMMER FUN NIGHTS

**Beginning June 9, 2026
Watch the City's Entrance Sign for More Details**

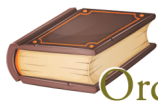


Find us on:
facebook®

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.

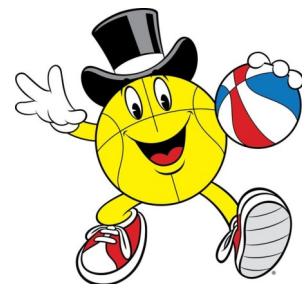


Code of Ordinances

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, 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.

GUS MACKER 2026 AUGUST 20 - 23





Angela Cronen

City Clerk's Office

EARLY VOTING - Early Voting will be available for the August Primary Election and the November General Election.

August Early Voting Dates: Beginning Saturday, July 25th to Sunday, August 2, 2026. Polls will be open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Polling Location: City Hall

November Early Voting Dates: Beginning Saturday, October 24th to Sunday, November 1, 2026. Polls will be open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Polling Location: City Hall

If you have questions regarding Early Voting or any other election questions, please contact the City Clerk.



PERMANENT BALLOT LIST - The City of Otsego maintains a Permanent Ballot List. If you signed up to be on the Permanent Ballot List, you will automatically receive a ballot, once they are provided to the Clerk. If you are interested in participating and want your ballot automatically sent to you, you can sign up by filling out an application for an absentee ballot and indicating that in the future, you want to receive a Permanent Ballot. Contact the City Clerk for more information or if you want to check if you are on the list. The City of Otsego no longer automatically sends absentee ballot applications. If you have any questions, call or email (acronen@cityofotsego.org) Clerk Cronen.



CITY COMMISSION OPEN SEATS

Petition forms are now available at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 117 E. Orleans St., for election to the Otsego City Commission. The City Election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Three City Commission seats will be open for election this fall.

The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to four-year terms and the third candidate will be elected to a two-year term.

In order to qualify for the Office of City Commissioner, a candidate must be: A resident of the city for not less than one year immediately preceding his or her election and a Registered Voter.

Nominations for office are determined by petitions signed by not less than 40 registered voters of the City of Otsego. Petitions need to be submitted to the City Clerk's office no later than Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

VOTE

PRIMARY ELECTION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026
GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Polls will be open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Please note that there are
“Early Voting Hours” for this Election

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


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Superintendent, Michael Bosch




Spring is finally here, or at least the calendar says it is. Michigan winter was definitely back this year and I can't count the number of times I heard the saying "we surely don't get winters like we used too" over the past few years. Well that changed this year. We had a white Thanksgiving and a green Christmas and a cold, long, snowy January and February. The city Ice rink was up and running and had pretty good consistent ice for about 6 weeks, not a record but it was great to have some good old Michigan fun for more than just a week or two. Thanks to everyone who helped manage and maintain the surface.

With spring here now, I would like to inform and remind you of some of the things to know about Spring and Summer activities. The City of Otsego has an amazing solid waste program for its residents. Once a month the DPW employees canvass the City to pick up trash and brush. Brush Pickup is the first Tuesday of every month. Brush and limbs can be put out to the curb edge a day or two prior to the pickup date. Please do not put any in the roadway. Limbs should not be more than 8' in length and try to stack piles in an open area not around signs, trees or hydrants. Trash is picked up on the first Thursday of every month. Trash is limited to **no** household waste and the equivalent of 2 small bags or boxes that can be lifted by one individual. No furniture or mattresses. A complete list of acceptable items is available on the City's Website. Below is an example of notices that either the DPW employees or the City Police Department put out for violations on these days. Looking them over and reading them provides great information of what can and can't be put out on brush and trash days. **Remember the City has these opportunities once a month plus access to the Transfer Station 3 days a week. We are different than Otsego Township and their rules. Please know and remember where you reside and what set of guidelines you must follow.**



CITY OF OTSEGO, MICHIGAN
BRUSH PICK-UP



Date: _____

NOTICE TO RESIDENT AT:

- Brush pick-up day is the **FIRST TUESDAY** of each month.
- Brush **will NOT** be picked up on other days during the month.
- Please have brush set out the night before pick-up.

The brush left out front of your house **was not picked up** due to the reason(s) checked below.

Brush pile was too large (more than one truck.)

Limbs were not cut to 8 feet or shorter.

Yard waste

Other _____

Items may be brought to Otsego City Transfer Station, 243 N. Farmer St., Tues, Thurs. or Sat., 9am-11:45am and 1pm-3:45pm

***Failure to remove brush within 12 hours shall be considered a public nuisance and result in a citation. Inquiries can be made to Otsego City Hall at 269-692-3391.**

~Thank you for your cooperation~



CITY OF OTSEGO, MICHIGAN
TRASH PICK-UP



Date: _____

NOTICE TO RESIDENT AT:

- Trash pick-up day is the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month.
- Trash **will NOT** be picked up on other days during the month.
- Please have rubbish set out the night before pick-up.

The material you left for pick-up in front of your house **was not picked up** due to the reason(s) checked below.

Trash means two or three small cartons or containers of non-garbage refuse.

Bed springs, furniture, refrigerators, stoves or any similar objects will not be picked up.

Tree limbs or logs, cut or un-cut will not be picked up

Other _____

Items may be brought to Otsego City Transfer Station, 243 N. Farmer St., Tues, Thurs. or Sat., 9am-11:45am and 1pm-3:45pm

***Failure to remove rubbish within 12 hours shall be considered a public nuisance and result in a citation. Inquiries can be made to Otsego City Hall at 269-692-3391.**

~Thank you for your cooperation~

Parks are back open! I love that each park is different and how you can coordinate your activities around which park you want to visit. Memorial Park being our sports park with ball fields, sand volleyball, basketball and pickleball courts. Brookside Park being our quieter natural park and with a short walk you can get some ice cream at the end of your visit. Riverside Park is a small pocket park with ladder ball and cornhole, a walking trail along the rivers edge and almost always a cool breeze to relax with a picnic under the pavilion. And last and certainly not least Northside Park (Castle Park) where the little ones can play safely on the huge wooden structure and maybe even have a youngster's birthday party under the pavilion. We all know what had happened to our beloved wooden structure last year. The DPW is gearing up to replace what was destroyed in last years fire. It may not be exactly the same but it will fill the void that has been left in our hearts and minds.

I would like to thank the Otsego community for allowing me to serve you over the last 13 years. If there are ever any questions about how things operate and are maintained at the City with roads, parks, municipal buildings, Transfer Station and even waste water and our drinking water systems, please feel free to contact me through the website or stop into City Hall or my Office and ask for me as I would love to talk with you and listen to any questions and concerns you may have and see if we can improve in any way.

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

APRIL, 2026

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

MAY, 2026

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	
18	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
19	CURBSIDE RECYCLE	
25	CITY HALL CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY	
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 PM CITY HALL

JUNE, 2026

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	
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
16	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

JULY, 2026

2	CITY HALL CLOSED - INDEPENDENCE DAY	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	CURBSIDE BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
9**	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
25-AUG 2	EARLY VOTING FOR AUGUST PRIMARY	CITY HALL
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. TBA

AUGUST, 2026

2	LAST DAY OF EARLY VOTING	CITY HALL
3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. TBA
4	PRIMARY ELECTION	7:00 AM - 8:00 PM CITY HALL
4	CITY BRUSH PICK UP DAY	
4	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
6	CITY TRASH PICK-UP	
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. TBA

SEPTEMBER, 2026

1	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
1	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
3	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY HALL CLOSED - LABOR DAY	
8	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.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

OCTOBER, 2026

1	CITY TRASH PICK UP DAY	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
6	CITY BRUSH PICK UP DAY	
6	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24 - NOV 1	EARLY VOTING NOVEMBER GENERAL	CITY HALL
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. TBA
30	TRAIL FOR TREATERS - DOWNTOWN	
NOV 3	GENERAL ELECTION	7:00 AM - 8:00 PM 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



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
Brian Kelley.....	Treasurer
Lydia Paille.....	Assessor

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



CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

May 25, 2026; July 2, 2026; & September 7, 2026