



CITY Manager

JUNE Update

Thanks to all who came out and celebrated Memorial Day with us during the parade and VFW ceremony. It is always a special day and with us trying to grow the parade, it makes it even more fun for those in attendance. As we go forward; OPS will be on summer break and that means the kids will be out at all times of the day. So, when you are driving, please keep your eyes alert and your speedometer down. Enjoy your June, everyone.

M89 Resurface- In the coming weeks and months you will be talking about the M89 Road Construction. I want to make sure everyone is aware that this project is on a State highway meaning that it is a State project. We do not have any voice in the decisions made. It will not be fun, no matter how you look at it. The mill and fill project will run from the Kalamazoo River Bridge just west of town all the way to 12th St. immediately before US131. The 1st step will include some sidewalk repair but I would expect the month of July to be problematic to get down M89 in a timely manner. The project through the City will be broken up into 2 sections; West of S. Platt St. and East of S. Platt St. West of Platt contains 3 lanes and east of Platt consists of 4 lanes. The portion west of Platt will require a flagger to direct traffic at times and the east of Platt section should always have 2 lanes of traffic open. But considering the significant amount of traffic that travels M89 every day; there is no way that this is not going to be felt by all of us. Please bear with the State contracted employees during the frustrating and hot weeks from June 8 to August 15. Those are the established time frames for the road work to be completed.

Combating Speeding- Unfortunately speeding is a problem that persists and is a difficult one to solve. We do have some tools at our disposal but there are no certainties when it comes to catching those speeding. When a resident complains about speeding we can do all or any of the following 3:

1. **Place an officer on site.** This will definitely slow speed down, at least initially. When people see a police officer sitting on the side of the road, they immediately slow down whether they are speeding or not. If they don't, they may end up with an expensive ticket. However, the hard part is that once the police officer leaves, the speeds quickly go back up. Unless people become conditioned to drive slower for whatever reason, they will go back up when they do not see an officer. Maybe an expensive ticket will be good method to condition their driving.
2. **Place a speed trailer in place.** The trailer is usually useful to let people know that we are concerned with their speed at that location. If a driver is honestly not aware of their speed until they see it on the trailer; the exercise is useful. My cynical side is doubtful many are unaware of how fast they drive. But, we give it a try at times.
3. **Placement of portable speed bumps.** We have recently purchased some portable speed bumps to help slow down traffic. Again, it is not a miracle cure to fix all. But, I think everyone will remember when they hit a speed bump when they are going too fast. Many have asked for us to permanently install some speed bumps, but that is not possible in

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Michigan. Speed bumps are impossible to safely plow around. So, the idea is that we will be placing them around town to keep everyone honest. The goal is to have drivers be so hesitant to hit a speed bump speeding that drivers will naturally drive slower at all times, even when they are not out.

Extra OPD Services- The Otsego Police Department (OPD) are an incredible asset for the City. Not only are they showing up during an emergency within minutes; they are also providing many other services. 2 of the most useful and yet unknown services are:

- **House Watch-** Are you going on vacation this summer? If so, let OPD know. They can keep a close eye on your house to help prevent anyone from taking advantage of your empty house while you are gone. It will be one less thing that you have to worry about. They can have police officers keep an extra eye on your house during the day and the night shifts.
- **Dog Watch-** If your dog gets away from you, don't be ashamed. It happens to everyone. Whether they sneak out the door when the kids are leaving or they slip out of their collar on a walk, it is OK. If you are looking for them and have no luck. Call OPD. They can keep an eye out for them while they are on patrol. A good portion of all shifts include patrolling the entire City. If they know who to contact if they do find the dog, there is a chance that OPD can help you reunite with your dog. Understand that if there is a call, they will be responding to that call and will not prioritize finding your dog over other police business. But, they regularly canvass the entire town and could definitely help.

Otsego Summer Fun Schedule- As I have mentioned before OPS and TOP will continue the free food and entertainment series for 2026. The schedule has been set and we are excited for another great year of putting smiles on the little ones. Schedule is subject to change and would suggest monitoring the City, OPS or TOP Facebook pages for the most up to date information.

Otsego Summer Fun Nights (Tuesday Evenings @Pavilion 530-7)

June 9- Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary
June 16- Touch a Truck
June 23- Movie Night (Zootopia 2)
4TH OF JULY WEEK BREAK
July 7- Red, White and Blue Night
July 14- Color Run/Fitness Night
July 21- TOPs Art Night
July 28- Beach Night

Otsego Summer Fun Days (Wednesday Afternoons @Northside Park 12-1)

June 17- Alan Kazaam (Magician)
June 24- Mr. Juggling Mans
4TH OF JULY WEEK BREAK
July 8- Holland Outdoor Discovery Center
July 15- Home Depot Building Project
July 22- Christmas in July (Sponsored by Parker)
July 29- Back To School Backpack Giveaway

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Get The Kids Out Of The House!- As summer time hits and schedules begin to open up; this is the time to start making plans for this summer. For most of us it is usually somewhere around the middle of August that we realized that we never did anything fun because the summer slipped by so fast. Now is the time to start thinking about those day trips and activities before it gets too late. I just listed the Otsego Summer Fun Series above and I am sure that you are aware of our wonderful park system which is always available. But in addition to that; below is a list of activities that should also be considered in the area if you have kids:

- **Kalamazoo Valley Museum-** An incredible place for elementary aged kids to explore. It is not far away at all being located on Rose St. in downtown Kalamazoo. Did I mention it is also free?
- **Memorial Park OPS Activities-** OPS has scheduled sport camps and fun activities for kids of all ages right here in Otsego. Check out OPS's website and/or Facebook page for dates and more details.
- **Otsego District Public Library-** The library here in town offers an amazing amount of activities and special events including outdoor music for kids of all ages. Stop by or check out their website for more details.
- **Holland Outdoor Discovery Center-** Located between Hamilton and Holland; the ODC has a lot of land to get out and explore. Great for kids interested in birds and reptiles.
- **Beaches-** We are under an hour's drive from some incredible clean beaches. South Haven, Saugatuck and Holland offer a great place to cool off on those hot summer afternoons.
- **Local Golf Courses-** There are 4 courses in the area that would be great for a summer afternoon (Lynx-Otsego, Lake Doster-Plainwell, Shamrock Hills-Gobles and Cheshire Hills-Allegan). Some even offer a cheap summer membership for high school students.
- **Kal-Haven Trail-** Just south of town on 6th St. you will find the Kal-Haven Trail which will get you to "you guessed it; Kalamazoo and South Haven". It is a well-maintained safe bike/walking trail that is excellent for the whole family.

TOP Artisan Market- TOP is once again holding their Artisan Market on June 20th at the Community Pavilion. The Artisan Market has been growing each year in popularity. It is similar to a farmer's market except it is filled with local artists' work and not local produce. It is an incredibly diverse selection of types of art from all local artists. Check out TOPs Facebook page for more details.

City Website- I would like to take a second and encourage you to check out our website at www.cityofotsego.org. It is a wealth of valuable information:

- **News-** All recent happenings within the City is found online. Whether it is a posting or update; it will be front and center of our website. Postings are still a legal requirement to have upcoming meeting agendas and previous meeting minutes.
- **Calendar of Events-** Our website will offer you any and all upcoming meetings and City events. It will offer a schedule of all of the important dates such as brush pick up and hydrant flushing among many others.
- **Contact Information-** No matter what department; you will find the appropriate contact information for email or phone.
- **Bill Pay-** If you need to pay your utility bill online, you can do that as well.

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- **Documents-** Whether it is a Master Plan or a zoning permit, you will be able to find any and all City documents on our website. The search bar can help narrow down the search.
- **Ordinances-** Frequently people will call and want copies of our ordinances or ask questions about what regulations are within them. The good news is that you can find any and all ordinances within our municipal code on our website.

Aaron Mitchell
City Manager

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