



# City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Winter 2016

Thank you to all of the Volunteers who made the Hometown Christmas 2016 a Great Success!



Photo Credit - Lori Baker

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016 HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

1. 837 Wildwood
2. 116 N. Fair
3. 702 Barton



## FROZEN WATER PIPES

If you experience discoloration in your water or reduced water pressure, please notify City Hall immediately at 692-3391. Leave one faucet running with a pencil size stream of water. Please be aware that 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, for any potential adjustment to be made on your utility bill.



### MEET YOUR CITY OF OTSEGO - CITY COMMISSION

(Left to Right) Commissioner Breedveld, Mayor Pro-Tem Gilmer, Mayor Trobeck, Commissioner Wieber, and Commissioner Misner.



**Holiday Wishes  
From  
The City of Otsego  
Staff  
Have a Happy &  
Safe Holiday Season!**



**VISIT US ON THE WEB  
[CITYOFOTSEGO.ORG](http://CITYOFOTSEGO.ORG)**



**City Hall Will Be Closed**

**December 23, 26, & 30, 2016, & January 2, 2017**

# City Manager's View



City Manager  
Thad Beard

**SOUTH FARMER STREET PROJECT:** Thank you for your patience as we completed the total reconstruction of a portion of South Farmer Street. Watermain and service lines were replaced, storm and sanitary sewer mains were replaced, curb and gutter and sidewalk were removed and replaced, and the entire road bed and surface was replaced. The City received \$375,000 from the State of Michigan Small Urban funding to offset much of our cost for the street project. We know it was an inconvenience but expect the new road surface to last several years.

**LEAF REMOVAL:** This time of year is also one of the busiest times for the Department of Public Works (DPW). You have surely noticed the many yellow front end loaders and trucks working throughout the city removing leaves from the curb lawn. Each year we collect roughly 1,800 cubic yards of leaves. The great weather delayed leaves from falling but sure did assist with the leaf removal. This activity generally takes two full weeks of man power and an estimated \$40,000 annually to assist in beautifying the city. Thank you for your assistance in keeping the leaves out of the street after the street sweepers have cleaned your street.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DPW:** The City staff competed in a tree decorating contest with the trees at Brookside Park. Congratulations to the DPW, who won this year's competition. Last year, the employees from the waste water plant won, but this year, the judges awarded the grand prize (breakfast served by the City Manager) to the DPW staff.

Be sure to drive through the downtown and by Brookside Park at night. The City employees take pride in making them both light up for Christmas. I am (we are) blessed with great employees who make Otsego a great place to work, play and ultimately stay.

Happy Holidays!



## TRANSFER STATION HOLIDAY HOURS

**CLOSED - Saturday, December 24, 2016**  
**CLOSED - Saturday, December 31, 2016**

A special thank you to all of the Election Workers who worked the elections this year. There were a total of four elections in 2016, with the November 2016 Election, turning out 1660 Voters (62%). We are very fortunate to have such dedicated Election Inspectors. Thank you for your long hours and for serving your community.



## REMINDERS

As Winter Returns -

PLEASE REMEMBER:

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



## 2016 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review will be meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall. If you have a discrepancy regarding your Principal Residence, Disabled Veteran's or Poverty Exemption, you must contact City Hall before Friday, December 9, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer's office at 692-2741.



## 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 prohibited during the months of November through April in order to facilitate snow removal. Violators will be ticketed.

## 2016 Winter Taxes

Matthew Storbeck, City Treasurer

Winter tax bills were mailed to arrive on December 1. Please note that tax bills are sent to both property owners and mortgage servicers. If you did not receive one, please call our office at 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 9<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 2017.

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 receipts will not be mailed back for 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.



**SALE - 1/2 Priced**

**CITY LOTS FOR SALE**

**THINK SPRING!**

The City of Otsego has several lots remaining in the improved Eley Acres Residential Subdivision. Choice single family residential home sites are for sale in this restricted plat. Lot prices range from \$23,000 to \$37,000. For additional information please contact the City Clerk's Office, 692-3391.

## POLICE BEAT



*Police Chief, Gordon Konkle*

It is disheartening to turn on the national news to hear about the latest police officer killed in the line of duty, especially when there has been so much scrutiny given to what appears to insinuate that police officers are out of control and your life is in immediate danger whenever you contact an officer. I don't believe this is even close to reality, and I hope anyone that I come in contact with doesn't feel this way about me. Now, make no mistake there are people who go into a police career for all the wrong reasons. I will never justify the actions of every police officer or make excuses for criminal acts committed by them. Throughout my career, I can't remember a time when cities weren't trying hard to hire and maintain a police department that was representative of the community they serve. The news makes it sound like this is a new idea. That is also far from the truth; the problem is that this has never been an easy task as the job has

not always been seen as an acceptable option for some segments of a community. I have witnessed firsthand the stress these honest, well meaning men and women have suffered by being the pioneers in their field due to their race or gender. They struggled with disrespect and ostracizing while performing their jobs, but worse yet also from the very segments of the community that they tried so hard to represent.

Trust between the community and its officer's is sometimes hard to earn, especially after years of suspicion and skepticism that true change can occur. No one is perfect, we all must work together to make positive change. Police officers are nothing more than a cross section of ordinary people who have chosen to enter this line of work. One thing I can say with conviction is that there are good and bad people in all professions. As a Police Chief, all I can do is to hold officers accountable by screening them out early when necessary, or by prosecuting them for their actions should they commit crimes. But no matter what one officer does, it never justifies murdering innocent police officers because of the actions of a few. These murdered officers were innocent victims of misplaced violence fueled by the media and others seeking to influ-

ence mass civil unrest for their own misguided reasons.

Recently, terrible news of the murder of a police officer working in the Detroit area who was also a local graduate of the Gull Lake School system has brought this epidemic so much closer to home. This has always been a dangerous job. Every officer understands that and accepts the reality of those dangers. However, the purposeful targeting of police officers in this country makes me wonder if I would continue in this career if I were starting all over again. I guess in my mind that is a silly question. I have always worked in a community that has made me feel what I am doing is important. Earlier this year when the anti-police rhetoric was at its highest I can't tell you how many people from this community went out of their way to stop all of us and tell us how much they appreciated our service and were concerned for our welfare.

During this Christmas season, I have a lot of things to be thankful for, but as I look forward to this holiday it is easy for me to realize how lucky I am to be working in a community that shares the same values and goes out of its way to express support for everyone in the community including those who serve it.



# CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

## DECEMBER, 2016

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
3	MAIN STREET- HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
6	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
12	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
19	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23 & 26	CITY HALL CLOSED	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
30	CITY HALL CLOSED	

## JANUARY, 2017

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

## FEBRUARY, 2017

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

## MARCH, 2017

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
6	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
7	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
12	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	
13	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
20	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## APRIL, 2017

3	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
4	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
10	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
14	CITY HALL CLOSED—GOOD FRIDAY	
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## MAY, 2017

1	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
1	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
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
15	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	
29	CITY HALL CLOSED—MEMORIAL DAY	

## 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
Tom Gilmer.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Ryan Wieber.....	Commissioner
Kathy Misner.....	Commissioner
Nick Breedveld.....	Commissioner
Thad Beard.....	City Manager
Angela Cronen.....	City Clerk
Mike Bosch.....	DPW Supervisor
Luke Keyzer.....	WWTP Superintendent
Gordon Konkle.....	Chief of Police
Matthew Storbeck.....	Treasurer
Brandon Weber.....	Fire Chief
Kevin Harris.....	Assessor
Josh Owens.....	Main Street Manager

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



Printed on Recycled Paper

“The City of Otsego Citizen’s Guide, Performance Dashboard, Debt Service Report and Projected Budget Report are available for viewing at the Otsego City Hall or online at [www.cityofotsego.org](http://www.cityofotsego.org).”



# OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Well, we are once again heading into those winter months. While we have largely been spared some of the more severe weather we would normally have experienced by now, or that other areas of the country have already seen, I'm sure it's only a matter of time before it does get here.

So with that, please be aware of, and observe, some of those easy practices that can keep you and your family safe this winter:

If you haven't already, change your furnace's filters, and have your heating system, including chimneys and exhaust, inspected, to make sure it is going to be up to the job for keeping your home warm and safe this heating season.



If you haven't already done so, make sure smoke detector and carbon monoxide batteries have been changed.

Speaking of carbon monoxide detectors, not only make sure that there are fresh batteries in the unit (assuming it's not a direct plug in model), make sure yours is up to date. Carbon monoxide detectors do not have an infinite lifespan, and should be replaced every 5-7 years. Over time, the sensors inside them will frequently either fail to register carbon monoxide, or, as the Fire Department more frequently sees, will begin going off for no reason. Take the time now to check to see when yours was manufactured, or when the manufacturer recommends it be replaced (usually stamped someone on the detector). The overwhelming majority of carbon monoxide calls the department responds to are a result of low batteries or bad sensors.

Along those same lines, be aware of the common signs & symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure: chest tightness or shortness of breath, tiredness/fatigue, nausea, confusion, headaches, and/or dizziness. Remember that carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Hence the importance of a well maintained heating system and detection equipment in the home.

If you heat with wood, make sure to keep up on removal of ashes. Never allow ashes, especially hot ashes, to accumulate in living space, and never dispose of them with combustible materials.

While it is unlikely that we would experience such severe weather that it keeps us homebound for weeks, make sure that you have sufficient food, fuel, medications, and other critical supplies to make it through at a minimum, several days. This includes backups or other forms of critical medical devices and/or equipment such as oxygen, CPAP/BIPAP, pumps, etc.



Be mindful of hypothermia, and heart or breathing problems brought on by exertion while working outdoors.

Some sources recommend keeping  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  tank of fuel in your vehicle during the winter. There are mechanical reasons for this, such as keeping the fuel pump cool by having it immersed in fuel, and keeping condensation of water in the tank to a minimum. There is also a more practical reason...you never know when you're going to get stuck in traffic because of a pile up or white out conditions, or slide off the road and have to wait a long time for a wrecker or other help to arrive. That extra bit of fuel can allow you to run the engine and stay warm. Remember, "E" on the fuel gauge doesn't mean "Enough"!

Also for your vehicle, keep an emergency kit with some basic essentials; blanket, jumper cables, 12-volt cell phone charger, etc. on hand.



Regardless of where you are, keep your cell phone charged, so you can call for help if needed, and most important of all, pay attention to your surroundings, and know where you are.

Yes, we can "usually" get your GPS coordinates from your cell phone when you call 911, but it's not foolproof, and it takes precious time.



Lastly, from all of the emergency responders who may be called upon to help you if you need it this winter, keep your driveways, sidewalks, porches, steps, and patios clear of snow and ice. Have your house clearly numbered and the numbers visible, and if you have a fire hydrant on your property, keep it accessible and shoveled out.



**City of Otsego Property Tax Collection  
2016 Tax Year**

12/5/2016

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.)]

<b>TAXING UNIT</b>	<b>TOTAL RATE</b>	<b>BREAK-DOWN</b>	<b>NON-P.R.E. PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>P.R.E. PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>SUMMER BILLING</b>	<b>WINTER BILLING</b>
<b>City</b>	<b>14.1358</b>					
Operating		12.0854	20.4%	29.2%	12.0854	
Solid Waste Reduction		1.5795	2.7%	3.8%	1.5795	
Fire Truck Debt		0.4709	0.8%	1.1%	0.4709	
<b>Allegan County</b>	<b>6.0839</b>					
Operating		4.6302	7.8%	11.2%	4.6302	
Ops. VET Relief Fund		0.0200	0.0%	0.0%	0.0200	
Road Tax		0.9984	1.7%	2.4%		0.9984
Senior Service		0.4353	0.7%	1.1%		0.4353
<b>Otsego Public Schools</b>	<b>26.5000</b>					
Operating		18.0000	30.3%	EXEMPT		18.0000
2004 Debt		8.5000	14.3%	20.6%		8.5000
<b>Allegan Area Educational Svc Agency</b>	<b>4.9457</b>					
Operating		0.1157	0.2%	0.3%		0.1157
Voted Special Ed.		3.0500	5.1%	7.4%		3.0500
Voted Voc. Ed.		1.7800	3.0%	4.3%		1.7800
<b>State Education Tax</b>	<b>6.0000</b>		10.1%	14.5%	6.0000	
<b>Otsego District Public Library</b>	<b>1.6588</b>					
Operating		0.9888	1.7%	2.4%		0.9888
Debt		0.6700	1.1%	1.6%		0.6700
<b>TOTAL MILLAGE (NON-P.R.E.)</b>	<b>59.3242</b>		100.0%		24.7860	34.5382
LESS SCHOOL OPERATING FOR EXEMPT PRINCIPAL RESIDENCES	-18.0000					-18.0000
<b>TOTAL MILLAGE (P.R.E.)</b>	<b>41.3242</b>			100.0%	24.7860	16.5382

