



# City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Spring/Summer 2018

## OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

The Otsego Fire Department is accepting applications for the position of firefighter. The Otsego Fire Department is a paid on-call department and firefighters respond to fires and emergency situations as their own schedules allow.

Qualifications for this position include: Minimum eighteen (18) years of age; Residence located within a four minute response time from the Otsego Fire Station; Valid Michigan driver's license, with a good driving record; Successful completion of Otsego Fire Department physical ability test; Ability to successfully complete training courses designated by the department.

Preferred Qualifications may include: Firefighter I & II Certification or equivalent; Hazardous Materials Operations Certification; Confined Space Rescue Operations Certification; Medical First Responder License.

Applications are on the City's website or available at City Hall.

Applications are being accepted until June 30, 2018, at Otsego City Hall, Attn: City Clerk, 117 E. Orleans St., Otsego, MI. EOE/M/F/H



## WELCOME NEW CITY MANAGER AARON MITCHELL



My name is Aaron Mitchell and I am excited to be joining the amazing Otsego team! Southwest Michigan is all that I know. I was raised in Edwardsburg, until I went to school at Western Michigan University, where I graduated with a BA in Political Science. Shortly after that, I moved to Paw Paw where I currently reside (until I find a house in Otsego, of course). Along the journey, I married my wife, Heather and had two children Taylor (10) and Jackson (9). The choice to move to Otsego is a choice that we took seriously and thought through extensively. We are all eager to set up roots within the Otsego community. The schools were obviously a big draw for our children along with the overall positivity which makes us feel like we will fit in very well here.

## FREE GARAGE SALE DATES ANNOUNCED June 8 & 9, 2018

### IMPORTANT GARAGE SALE INFORMATION

The Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual Free Garage Sale Days. Call the Chamber for details 694-6880. A permit is not required for these dates only.



**Information For Garage Sales (Excluding the Chamber Event)** - Each residence is permitted two sales per year with a maximum duration of three days each. Signs shall not exceed 480 sq. inches, shall NOT be placed on any public property (including utility poles), commercial property, on any curb lawn, or at any public parking area. Legal signs must be removed within 24 hours of the sale. A sign placed illegally will be removed and a \$50.00 citation may be enforced. If you have questions, please call 692-3391.

## IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

**Tues., Aug. 7, 2018 - Primary Election**  
**Tues., Nov. 6, 2018 - General Election**

The polls will open at City Hall at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m.

If you are not Registered to Vote, visit City Hall.

Call the City Clerk if you want to verify your Voter Status!

Absentee Applications are available at City Hall

Please be prepared for longer lines at these Elections. Please plan accordingly.

If you have any questions, contact the City Clerk, Angela Cronen at 692-3391.



## CITY COMMISSION PETITIONS AVAILABLE

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 6, 2018. 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, August 7, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.



**CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED**  
**May 28, July 4, & Sept. 3**

# City Manager's View



City Manager  
Aaron Mitchell

## Kalamazoo River Greenway Master Plan (KRGMP)

The KRGMP is a grant funded opportunity for the entire Kalamazoo River region to have a Recreational Master Plan created by listening to local municipalities and residents to offer the future land use along the river. The idea is to find recreational opportunities that would best serve the communities along the way. The concept is to have a Master Plan for the entire Kalamazoo River up to Lake Macatawa. That region is obviously too large to tackle as a whole. So that has been divided into regional groups. The City of Otsego obviously falls within the Otsego-Plainwell region. This also includes the local townships of Otsego and Gun Plain as well. The Town Hall meeting to discuss the future of the Kalamazoo River will take place on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm at Gun Plain Township Hall. If you would like to join the conversation, or are just simply curious about what the potential recreational uses for the Kalamazoo River are going forward, please join us at the meeting. Once a Recreational Master Plan has been formed, grant-funded opportunities will be much more possible to complete some of the plan's contents going forward.



## 18-19 Fiscal Year Begins July 1<sup>st</sup>

As I am sure many of you are aware; the City of Otsego's fiscal year begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the

point of the year that we begin to accomplish our major goals for the year that have been budgeted and planned for multiple years. That could include anything from purchasing equipment to reconstructing a major road. Looking at what is budgeted for 18-19, the City's projects will be much smaller in scope, there are some small "mill-n-fills" scheduled to take place, but that is it. Nothing like what took place last year with S. Farmer St. In 18-19, we are approaching our aged snowplow truck differently than we have in the past. It is scheduled to be replaced in this upcoming year; the problem is that a new one is over \$150,000, and our current truck is fully operational. The trouble is that the rust has begun to take hold of all parts and components of the truck, but the engine and drivetrain are still incredibly strong. Our solution to this is to have everything stripped down, sandblasted and repainted (to remove rust), while replacing all components/hoses that were exposed to the elements. This operation will only cost \$70,000 and the end result will be equal to a brand new truck. In fact it will be better, because a brand new truck will have much higher maintenance costs going forward (higher EPA requirements and more sensors to maintain versus the older model). DPW Superintendent Bosch brought this idea to the City and I think it is a great opportunity to save a significant amount of money while still providing excellent service.



## URGENT – REMINDER – URGENT



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.

**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 compliant - call the Police Department or City Hall.



"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)."

**SALE - 1/2 Priced**

## CITY LOTS FOR SALE



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

## NEW EMPLOYEE

The Otsego Police Department has hired Eric Tollefson as it's newest part-time Police Officer. Eric is currently



employed as an Allegan County Sheriff's Deputy working Court House Security. He will be riding with another officer while he completes his Field Training Program. Welcome Officer Tollefson!

## VISIT US ON THE WEB & FB

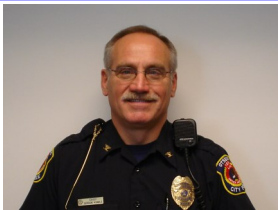


PLEASE SEE THE CITY'S FIREWORK ORDINANCE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE.

[www.cityofotsego.org/pdfs/153OtsegoFireworksOrd.pdf](http://www.cityofotsego.org/pdfs/153OtsegoFireworksOrd.pdf)



**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, an ordinance specifying how long your trash bin can be at the side of the road, a 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](http://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.



Police Chief, Gordon Konkle

With what appears to have become a weekly news event, gun violence whether at a school, shopping mall, church, or even road rage on our streets, the reports just keep coming. There are national and local debates involving our rights as citizens to own and bare arms as compared to those pushing for stricter gun control laws. Both can make very emotional and thought provoking points. My job is not to make laws or push for changes. It is to enforce those laws that the legislature has passed and the courts have upheld as constitutional. The only plea you will hear from me is to please use caution in owning, storing, handling, and shooting any gun or other weapon you own. While we used to think that here in our town we were immune from the attacks, threats, and fear in our schools and community, that belief has been shaken by several local incidents which teach us that we all need to remain as attentive as ever.

# POLICE BEAT



We live in a very safe community and have an excellent school system that remains vigilant but, we also need to be aware that no one is immune or 100% safe from the action of someone who is determined to act out in a violent manner. We all realize that and sometimes it's hard not to be a little paranoid, especially when we imagine our children at risk. Unfortunately, fear gives the power to those who are looking for a mechanism to push their agenda or act on their mental issues. We all wish for a simple answer to make our lives safe from this unspeakable violence, but if there is one, I haven't seen or heard it yet. As I stated earlier, our schools are extremely vigilant. They practice lockdowns and drills involving someone entering their buildings. Also, as a community you have passed recent mileages to improve safety measures at all of our public schools. These improvements have made a big difference and the schools are continuing to search for equipment and techniques to improve the safety of our children while at school. They are doing their best to make it a safe and healthy learning environment for our children, and I applaud their efforts.

But, let's not forget that gun safety especially that of our children begins at home. The dramatic increase in people applying to purchase handguns in the past several years is unbelievable. We are seeing it first hand right here in Otsego. Now, again I am not going to offer my opinion on more or less gun control. But I will not be shy about saying that if you own a gun it is your responsibility to make sure it is used and stored safely. Educate your children on the dangers of handling firearms and when they are old enough, teach them how to handle them safely. Keep your guns locked and out of reach or access of your children or their friends as guns invoke a natural curiosity to children and teenagers. When not in use, store your guns and ammunition in separate places and never leave a loaded gun where a child can reach it. Accidents happen, they always have and they always will. Just do everything you can to make sure one of these accidents doesn't happen to you.





# CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

## MAY, 2018

1	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
3	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
14	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
28	CITY HALL CLOSED—MEMORIAL DAY	

## JUNE, 2018

4	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
4	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
5	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
11	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
18	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## JULY, 2018

2	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
4	CITY HALL CLOSED	
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 RECYCLING DAY	
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## AUGUST, 2018

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
6	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
7	PRIMARY ELECTION	POLLS OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M.
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
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## SEPTEMBER, 2018

3	CITY HALL CLOSED	
4	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
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## OCTOBER, 2018

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	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

## NOVEMBER, 2018

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
6	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	GENERAL ELECTION -	POLLS OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M.
11	VETERANS DAY SERVICE	11:00 A.M.
12	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
19	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	CITY HALL CLOSED	
23	CITY HALL CLOSED	
26	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
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
Stacey Withee.....	Commissioner
Nick Breedveld.....	Commissioner
Jim Misner.....	Commissioner
Aaron Mitchell.....	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
Joel Saukas.....	Main Street Manager

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



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## Save the Dates!!!!

May 19	Spring Cleanup and 5 Year Celebration Lunch
July 14	O-Town Brings Back Motown - Mud Volleyball
August 10	Movies at the Museum
August 11	Otsego Steins & Vines - Beer & Wine Tasting Event
August 24	Movies at the Museum
August 25-26	Gus Macker
September 22	Chamber's Creative Arts Festival
October 14	Fall Riverwalk Event
December 1	Hometown Christmas Celebration



## \*NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT\*

City of Otsego voters will see a new Tabulator and Voter Assist Terminal, at the August 7th Primary. The new equipment was purchased by the State with HAVA funds. If you are interested in viewing the new Tabulator and/or Voting Assisted Terminal, before the election, a time and date will be posted on our website and Facebook page when they will be on display. Contact Clerk Cronen if you have any questions, 692-3391.



## Transfer Station Coupons Available

Coupons are now available. City residents will be entitled to dispose of one load of trash/rubbish (no larger than a pick-up truck can hold) free of charge. Household garbage is NOT accepted at the Transfer Station. Please remember, this service is for Otsego City Residents only. In order to take advantage of this service, pick up your coupon at City Hall when you pay your utility bill. One coupon will be issued per address, per year. City residents who do not pay their own water bills may bring proof of address within the City limits to City Hall to receive a coupon. The Transfer Station is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. For further details or questions, please call City Hall, 692-3391.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

Well, it seems as though just the other day we had snow on the ground and now summer is just around the corner. With that comes a whole new set of hazards and challenges.

It won't be long and it'll be tornado and thunderstorm weather.

Remember that if there are trees and/or wires down, stay back a safe distance. Trees can be unstable and become fall hazards. Utility providers do their best to restore power outages quickly, but depending upon how widespread storm damage is, it could be hours, or even days before complete restoration of service occurs. We should all have a plan for these types of situations.



That may be as simple as having at least a 72 hour supply of all essential items such as non-perishable food, potable water, medications, and any other individual or family needs. That should also include a family plan on what to do, where to meet family members, and a point of contact outside the immediate area to check in with.

Some of you may have permanent or portable generators to supply electricity in the event of an outage. Like any other internal combustion engine, they need a little TLC to keep them running properly. Make sure fuel is fresh and that they are positioned and vented properly. Improperly placed generators are not an uncommon cause of structure fires from being placed too close to the structure. Likewise, improperly vented generators can easily lead to carbon monoxide poisoning and asphyxiation. Generators should never be run indoors, in a garage, or near an open window where exhaust fumes could be drawn into the structure. Another common cause of fires and other problems related to generators is improper electrical hookup. These should be wired per local code by a qualified electrician.

Another common sighting over the summer months are the beloved fireworks. Alcohol and fireworks never mix. Also, keep in mind that, alt-

hough we haven't seen any periods of drought yet, by mid-summer, it's not uncommon to have very dry conditions. Fireworks and their debris have started numerous grass and wildland fires. If you are going to be lighting fireworks in these conditions, at least have an adequate supply of water to extinguish any spot fires safely. If you do manage to light the grass, woods, neighborhood, or anything else on fire for that matter that you can't safely put out, don't delay in calling 911 to get the Fire Department coming. We'd much rather respond and find out our services are not needed, rather than get called late, and find a bigger incident than was necessary.



Lastly, many of us will be enjoying our lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water this summer. Much of this can be attributed to the increase in popularity of kayaking, canoeing, and fishing along the Kalamazoo River. Please remember that, while the Kalamazoo River is normally a gentle and easy river to navigate, some experience and skill is needed to safely navigate river bends, downed trees, dams, and other obstacles. When in doubt, please seek out appropriate training and guidance before undertaking a river trip for the first time. Please do yourself and your family a favor and wear an approved PFD. It doesn't do much good to have one floating downstream just out of reach if you overturn. Likewise, have a charged cell phone with you, at least one for each water craft in your group, in a waterproof case. There are no street signs or mile markers on the river, so getting your location off of 911 is our best way to find you. Have fun and enjoy your summer!

