

Community Connection

ISSUE #18

APRIL 2015

The Village of Ottawa * 136 North Oak Street * Ottawa
Phone 419.523.5020 * Fax 419.523.4246 * www.ottawaohio.us

Special Points of Interest:

- Council meetings—8 pm the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at Municipal Building
- Reminder: Quarterly tax payments for those who do not withhold Municipal Income Tax at their place of employment are due and payable to RITA.
- E-file your annual municipal income tax return online at www.ritaohio.com
- Arbor Day is April 24th—Plant a tree!
- Make sure the Utility Department has a current phone number in case of emergency



MAYOR'S UPDATE

Well, thankfully, spring is right around the corner! I think I speak for most of us when I say that this winter has been... long! As the weather warms, the Village has some exciting projects on the radar.

First, I would like to tell you about the CRA passed by Council at the end of 2014. CRA stands for Community Reinvestment Area and offers a tax abatement for both commercial/industrial and residential property owners. For residential properties the abatement will be 100% for five years or ten years for properties located within any special flood hazard area for a remodeling project with a value of at least \$20,000 on a single family home. The abatement will be on the improvement only.

For residential dwellings containing two units, the abatement is the same; however, the cost of remodeling must be at least \$40,000. The abatement is still on the improvement only. Note this abatement is on the property and is transferrable to subsequent owners for the life of the original abatement.

For new construction of a single family residential dwelling, the abatement is 100% for five years or ten years for properties located within any special flood hazard area. If you think you may qualify for this tax abatement or are planning a remodeling or new construction project, contact the Village for more information on a CRA.

Another exciting project that residents

will be able to watch is a tree planting project. The Village of Ottawa partnered with Hancock Park District and the City of Findlay to work with the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership to apply for some grant monies. The grant was successful and the Village will be planting between 600 and 800 trees; 90 of which will be in the parks. Quotes were requested and Croy Mowing was awarded the contract to prepare the soil this spring and plant the trees in the fall. As part of the grant process, maps were submitted designating the location of the trees so all the trees are spoken for. If you would like to see the maps or find out more information on this project, call the Village offices.

A traffic note—Railroad Avenue, next to the recently torn down Kuhlman building (formerly known as Medlaw), has been made a two way street again.

And finally, don't forget all Council meetings are open to the public. If you want to be on the agenda, call the Wednesday prior to the meeting, but you are always welcome to come and observe. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday evening of each month at 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers which is located in the Municipal Building at 136 N. Oak Street.

Congrats to Girls & Boys Titan Teams for Great Basketball Seasons!

Go Tribe and Re.....s! (I just can't do it!!!!)

—Dean Meyer, Mayor

Village of Ottawa Council

Dean Meyer—Mayor

Council Members

Tim Macke, President

Gene Hovest

Jo Deskins

Troy Yant

John Salsburey

Dave Michel

Planning Commission

Dean Meyer—Chair

Tim Macke

Bill Hanna

Denny Recker

Randy Verhoff

Arbor Day—April 24th

Ottawa was named a 2014 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to urban forest management.



Ottawa achieved this recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Cleaner air, improved storm water management, energy savings and increased property values and commercial activity are among the benefits enjoyed by Tree City USA communities. More information is available at arborday.org.



REMINDER: All Village of Ottawa residents are required to file yearly Municipal Income Tax returns by April 15, even if no tax is due. For filing requirements, visit www.RITAOhio.com or call 1-800-860-7482.

Congratulations, Elaine!



Ottawa Village Council regretfully accepted the retirement resignation of Elaine Sunderhaus, Utilities Billing Coordinator, at its meeting on March 9th, 2015. Elaine has been a valued employee of the Village for the past 13 years, and will begin her retirement effective June 5, 2015.

As the Utilities Billing Coordinator, Elaine's responsibilities have included the review of residential and business meter readings for discrepancies that might indicate leakage, addressing billing complaints and issues of concerns from Village residents, and the overseeing of new meter installations. She has been responsible for the monthly billing of utilities usage by both residents and businesses throughout the Village of Ottawa and has handled any issues that might arise from those billings. Elaine states that the biggest changes to her job have arisen from the conversion of meters; first from manual read to touch read and then from touch read to the present-day radio read meters.

In her retirement, Elaine looks forward to spending more time with grandchildren and more time camping and traveling. The Village wishes Elaine a long and joyous retirement, filled with fun and happiness. Please share your well-wishes with Elaine the next time you stop into the Municipal Building or the Utilities Office.

Council Member—Jo Deskins

Construction Update

The West Ottawa Pump Station Project is proceeding on time. The majority of the construction that affects traffic on Main Street should be completed by early April. Thanks for everyone's patience dealing with the traffic issues along with the dirt. In the next issue of the *Community Connection*, we will list the streets that are scheduled to be improved this summer.

Council Member—Dave Michel

Take a ride on the wild side!

Get ready to roll out the red carpet in Ottawa this June! Over 2,000 cyclists from around the United States will arrive here on Friday, June 26, to eat, explore the community, enjoy recreation and camp overnight on the grounds of Ottawa Elementary School.

The cyclists are part of the 27th Annual Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA) which is a week-long bicycle trip for adults, youths and children. The public is also invited to enjoy the special activities that are being planned for the cyclists.

The Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce is acting as the town coordinator. There are six committees working to ensure the community is prepared for the cyclists. More volunteers are appreciated! If you would like to help, please contact them at 419-523-3141 or ottawachamber@earthlink.net.

Director Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce—Amy Sealts



CONTACT INFO

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LIVE IN A FLOOD HAZARD AREA?

The risk of flooding in the Village of Ottawa has received prominent news coverage since the near record event of August 2007. If you owned a home or business at that time, you certainly know whether or not you are at risk when the Blanchard River or Tawa Run begin to rise; but, if you are new to the Village, do you know the potential consequences of a flooded River?

Early Sunday morning, March 15th, the Blanchard River crested at 22.64 feet, just under the flood stage of 23 feet. At this height, the river floods the bottom ground, but does not require any street closures. For comparison, the river crested at 31.40 feet on August 23, 2007, the second highest flood crest in the Village's history.

Obviously, if your property is bordered by a water source - the River, the Tawa, or an unnamed ditch, you are at risk of flooding; but, you do not have to be able to see a water source from your property to be located in a flood hazard area. Curious if you are at risk? Contact the Village offices at (419) 523-5020 or e-mail dbalbaugh@ottawaohio.us for a flood hazard area determination.