

Community Connection

ISSUE #16

DECEMBER 2014

The Village of Ottawa * 136 North Oak Street * Ottawa
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Special Points of Interest:

- December Council meetings are scheduled for Monday, December 8th at 8:00 pm and December 15th at 7:00 pm
- Park Board will reconvene in January with their first meeting of the year on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
- Reminder: Quarterly tax payments for those who do not withhold Municipal Income Tax at their place of employment are due and payable to RITA.
- **HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Welcome 2015!**



Merry Christmas!



MAYOR'S UPDATE

First we have some old news...

September 27th, a Recycling Event was held at the Putnam County Educational Service Center. This event was a huge success! Residents brought paint, outdated medication, steel, televisions, cell phones, batteries and mercury thermometers to be recycled. This is a great program to keep items out of the landfill. A total of 9.507 tons of recyclable materials was collected in just three hours!

And now for a little more current news. You may have already noticed that Memorial Park is not decorated for Christmas this year. Many years ago, the Chamber of Commerce started the tradition and spearheaded the organization of area groups, businesses and various volunteers to decorate the park. Unfortunately, the Chamber was unable to secure enough volunteers to help

with this project. So, this year, the park will not be quite as bright as years past. Maybe next year will be different!

On an exciting note, November 29th was Small Business Saturday and I hope this date was a big success for our local businesses! It is so important to support our neighborhood and take this opportunity to give back to the locally owned businesses who give so much to our community.



Holidays are such a great time of year and especially Christmas! So, from my family to yours, "*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*"

Go TITANS, Go TRIBE, Go BROWNS!
—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

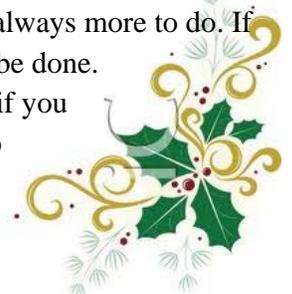
WITH THANKS...

With the Christmas season approaching, it is a good time to say *thank you* to all the volunteers who make this community a great place to live. There are many people among us who donate a great deal of time to serve the needs of all of us. The firefighters and EMS personnel, who respond day or night when we are in need of help, provide a service that none of us can do without. We have many service organizations that help promote our town and provide financial assistance to many different projects that improve our quality of life

as well as our children's. There are many committees, boards, groups and even individuals like youth sports coaches who deserve a pat on the back for giving up their time for the good of others. And while there is a lot being accomplished, there is always more to do. If each of us does a little, a lot can be done.

Thanks to all the volunteers and if you can, please get involved and help make our Village great.

— Council Member —Dave Michel



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



In 1971, the Village of Ottawa put together a Comprehensive Plan to guide development in the Village. In 2002, the Village completed Project Good Start, which surveyed the community to understand village needs, goals to suggest further planning for development. One of the 2002 recommendations was to develop a new Comprehensive Plan for the Village. Many of the Project Good Start recommendations were implemented, but a new Comprehensive Plan was not one of them.

Earlier this year Council approved the appointment of a Community Development Committee to prepare a Comprehensive Plan for the Village. The committee members are Stan Beckman, Barb Hermiller, Tony Imm, Al Inkrott, John Love, Tim Macke, Dean Meyer, John Recker, Mike Ruhe, Amy Sealts, Julia Siefker, and Troy Yant.

Comprehensive planning consists of studying the existing conditions, assessing the desires of the community, and discussing trends for the future. Land use patterns, housing conditions, population, commerce, and infrastructure are some of the elements studied. The Comprehensive Plan aims to use the study results to create a long-range, general guide for Community Development by focusing on physical development and relating that to the goals of the village. This useful

CONTACT INFO

Email addresses for Council members

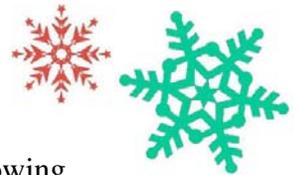
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tool will serve as the basic handbook for the future development of our community.

As part of the study, the committee is asking for your feedback. Please review the following questions and provide your comments to one of the committee members or e-mail them to tmacke@ottawaohio.us or tyant@ottawaohio.us. Our village's future needs your input.

1. What are some broad objectives you have regarding Ottawa? Describe your hopes and goals for Ottawa, in terms of economics, quality of life, and general living opportunities.
2. What do you see as the greatest challenges/threats to Ottawa's future?
3. Do you have solutions (policy, programs, projects) that you would like to see as part of Ottawa's Community Development Plan?
4. How can Ottawa improve in communication and outreach to our citizens?

Council President —Tim Macke



“SNOW ON THE PUMPKINS”

Snow has blanketed the Ottawa streets a little earlier than usual this year, and the Village has begun the first removal of the season. When determining the order in which streets are to be plowed, employees use a priority system, which places each of Ottawa's streets in one of three categories. Category 1 streets include most major thoroughfares that allow access into and out of the Village. Category 2 streets include connecting streets and those that cross the main thoroughfares, while

Category 3 streets include most side streets, residential neighborhoods and alleyways. Separate priority lists are used for parking lots and sidewalks. A list of Ottawa's street categories for snow removal is available on the Village website.

When weather forecasts call for snows of one to two inches and are not preceded by rain, as was the case in this season's first snow, the streets are sprayed with a brine mixture in anticipation of the snowfall. This mixture aids in “snow melt” and a reduction in the need

for further plowing.

Residents are reminded of their responsibility for snow removal from the sidewalks in front of their properties. Ottawa residents 60 years of age and older may make inquiries as to snow removal assistance from their sidewalks and walkways, through the Putnam County Council on Aging at 419-523-4121.

Council Member —Jo Deskins



Christmas



*Every time a hand reaches out
To help another.
That is Christmas.*

*Every time someone puts anger aside
And strives for understanding
That is Christmas.*

*Every time people forget their differences
And realize their love for each other
That is Christmas*

*May this Christmas bring us
Closer to the spirit of human understanding
Closer to the blessing of peace!*

~Anonymous