

# Community Connection

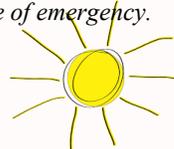
ISSUE #19

JUNE 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 are held at 8 pm the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at the Municipal Building and are open to the public.
- Make sure the Utility Department has a current phone number in case of emergency.
- June 26th GOBA bicyclists arrive in Ottawa.
- School is out! Be careful and watch out for children!
- Dear Summer,  
Can you please go slow this year! ... Everyone



## Welcome Summer!

## MAYOR'S UPDATE

Well, by the looks of the green grass and the beautiful flowering trees around the Village, I would say that summer has officially arrived! This is a great time of year to accomplish a lot of projects around town and we are ready!

I'm sure you read about this in the last issue of *Community Connection*, but I would like to extend my personal congratulations to Elaine Sunderhaus, Utilities Billing Coordinator, who will be retiring on June 5th. Congratulations, Elaine! I'm very happy for you (although a bit jealous!) and offer my sincere wishes for a Happy Retirement! Elaine did a great job for the Village these past 13 years and she will definitely be missed!

So, next I would like to introduce you to the newest member of the Clerk's Office, Julie Niese, soon to be Julie Pedrosa. Julie was selected from a pool of nearly 70 applicants and has been working alongside Elaine since April 20th. Julie will be getting



married this month and is a resident of the Village of Ottawa. Please stop by to say "Hello" and welcome Julie!

Some quick project updates:

- The gas company project on SR 65 should be finished by the time you receive this newsletter. It was scheduled for completion by June 1st.
- Council member Dave Michel has included an article below about Street Projects.
- The West Ottawa Pump Station Project should be nearly complete. Grass may not be planted till fall to allow the soil to settle.

And, I have a reminder from the Utilities and Public Works Departments... please try to help keep the catch basins clear by not mowing into the streets. The grass can create quite a problem after a rain washes it into the storm sewers.

So, enjoy the summer sunshine and  
**Congrats to Spring Titan Teams!**  
**And... Go Tribe !**

—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

## First Fridays & Farmers Market Kick off Friday, June 5th 4 to 7 p.m.

- ◆ Located at Main & Oak St in downtown Ottawa
- ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Touch-A-Truck featuring over a dozen vehicles
- ◆ FREE children's activities, ice cream and balloons
- ◆ Farmers Market, new vendors!
- ◆ Free child car seat checks by Health Department, call 419-523-5608 for an appointment
- ◆ Face painting
- ◆ Alex's Lemonade Stand
- ◆ Food available for purchase
- ◆ Downtown sidewalk sales & merchant specials

## Upcoming Street Paving

As we roll into summer, the Village will begin our street improvement projects for 2015. You might have noticed around town that some of the concrete work has begun in preparation for the pavement work. We hope to have these projects completed sometime in August. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact the Village. The street paving list is as follows:

Agner St. – from the curve to Eastowne  
Hickory St – Main to Third St.  
Northview Ct. – Fourth to dead end  
Oak St. – Second to bridge  
Seventh St. – Taft to Railroad Tracks  
Sixth St. – Taft to Railroad Tracks  
Walnut St. – Main south to Alley  
Municipal Parking Lot



Hall St. – Third to Fourth St.  
Maple St – Third to Fourth to the dead end  
Ohio St. – Main to Fourth St.  
Railroad Ave.  
Sherman – Main to Fourth St.  
Third St. – Pershing to Ohio  
Woodland Dr. – Sugarmill to Railroad Tracks

Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding.

—Dave Michel, Council Member

## FOLIAGE FACTS



As the weather warms and residents are taking to the outdoors for yard work and maintenance, the Shade Tree Commission (STC) would like to talk about a few regulations related to trees located on residents' properties. First though, I would like to remind everyone that trees in the public right-of-way (*generally the area between the sidewalk and the curb*) **cannot** be trimmed or removed. If you have a question about ownership or concern with a tree in the public right-of-way please contact the Village offices at 419-523-5020.

Residents should prune trees on private property so they do not obstruct street lights or signs, the passage of pedestrians on sidewalks, or the view of any street or alley intersection. There should be clearance of at least 8 feet over sidewalks, and 12 feet over all streets except truck thoroughfares, which have a clearance of at least 16 feet. Private trees may also be pruned for shaping purposes or sprayed as long as all spraying meets specifications and regulations for the spray materials being used.

Owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees and broken or decayed limbs on their private property which constitute a *menace to the safety of the public*. The STC may recommend and/or direct the pruning or removal of any tree or shrub when it interferes with the visibility of a traffic control device or sign. They may also direct pruning or removal if the tree or shrub is in an unsafe condition or could damage sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, other public improvements, or is affected with any fungus, insect or pest.

### Fall Planting

The Village of Ottawa partnered with the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership and applied for and was approved to receive grant monies through the USDA Forest Service. As a result of this application, approximately 795 trees will be planted throughout the Village, as part of a major fall planting. The majority of these trees will be planted on flood-affected HMGP properties, with the remaining trees planted in the parks to replace those lost during the June 29, 2012 wind storm. As you can imagine, a great deal of pre-planning and preparation has already taken place in anticipation of receiving and planting this many trees. Our Village can look forward to the benefits that these beautiful trees will offer for many years to come.

— Jo A. Deskins, Council Member and Liaison to STC

## Welcome Cyclists to Ottawa



The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA) rolls into Ottawa on Friday June 26 and will bring 2,000 cyclists to the community overnight. Ottawa is the sixth, and final, night of the bicycle trip. The cyclists arrive in Ottawa on 11<sup>th</sup> Street from mid-

-morning until about late afternoon. Most of the cyclists will be staying in tents on the grounds of Ottawa Elementary and the Putnam County YMCA which will be transformed into a miniature city of its own for the event.

The influx of visitors to local restaurants and businesses as well as non-profit groups working the event and the fees GOBA pays for use of facilities and law enforcement will have a positive economic impact, up to \$30,000 according to GOBA.

Many special events will be happening June 26, and the public is invited to join in the fun! The arts community will be in full gear with special exhibits and hands-on activities in businesses on Main Street, Walnut Street and North Hickory Street. The Ottawa Farmers Market and live music will be open 1:00-7:00 p.m. downtown. Visit the local non-profit groups who will be selling food at Ottawa Elementary School or visit with cyclists while you enjoy a wedding-style dinner at Sts. Peter and Paul School. Then from 6:00-9:00 p.m. enjoy live entertainment in Ottawa Memorial Park including the GOBA Song Contest, local band Cross-Eyed Willie playing new country and old rock 'n roll, and the P.C. Children's Theater. Ottawa Baseball Association will fill up the fields with baseball games in the early evening and the swimming pool has extended hours and discounted admission. We hope you'll help us come fill up the park and extend your hospitality to these cyclists while they're in our community.

The Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce is the Village coordinator for GOBA. If you would like to volunteer in some capacity, they could still use help. Please contact them at 419-523-3141 or [ottawachamber@earthlink.net](mailto:ottawachamber@earthlink.net).

Take a ride  on the wild side!

### CONTACT INFO

#### Email addresses for Council members

<a href="mailto:tmacke@ottawaohio.us">tmacke@ottawaohio.us</a>	<a href="mailto:ghovest@ottawaohio.us">ghovest@ottawaohio.us</a>
<a href="mailto:jdeskins@ottawaohio.us">jdeskins@ottawaohio.us</a>	<a href="mailto:tyant@ottawaohio.us">tyant@ottawaohio.us</a>
<a href="mailto:dmichel@ottawaohio.us">dmichel@ottawaohio.us</a>	<a href="mailto:jsalsburey@ottawaohio.us">jsalsburey@ottawaohio.us</a>

## SAFETY FIRST WHEN THE WATER RISES

Remembering safety during a flood may be difficult especially when, as the water is rising, all you can think about is how to save your family, your pets or your important possessions. Some people take risks by wading through their house in water deep enough to make contact with electrical outlets. This is extremely dangerous. Water easily conducts electricity; and, the risk of deadly shock is high.

Driving through flood water is another common, dangerous activity. Once your tires lose the friction that holds them to the street, your car *will* float; and, this can happen in as little as 12 inches of water. (Even if you drive an SUV) The greatest number of flood-related deaths are attributed to drivers' failure to heed high water signs.

Walking through flooded areas holds hidden dangers as well. Muddy waters can hide "popped" manhole covers caused by the backpressure of flood water. These "popped" covers create deep dangerous holes which, when combined with flood water currents, hold the potential for people (and pets) to drop into the storm sewer system and drown. It may sound dramatic; but, it is very possible.

Finally, one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to evacuate when safety professionals suggest you move to higher ground. The window of opportunity to make it safely to a dry area may be small. Although leaving your home may be traumatic, your safety should always come first.