

Community Connection

ISSUE #15

OCTOBER 2014

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

Special Points of Interest:

- Show your Titan spirit with a Blue & Gold Titan Flag! They cost \$35 and are available from Brad Leis @.419.234.5260
- TRICK OR TREAT—Thursday, October 30th between 6 and 7 p.m.
- Information on Adopt-a-Tree program available in Clerk's Office.
- Interested in a project? Pioneer Cemetery could use some help!



"A grandmother pretends she doesn't know who you are on Halloween!" ~ Erma Bombeck

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Fall is such a great time of year! Perfect temperature! The Village is finalizing several projects and starting numerous more. One project that is almost ready to begin is the West Ottawa Pump Station Project. This project will eliminate the siphon under the Blanchard River on the west side of town. Funding will be through the Ohio Public Works Commission with most of the monies being a 0% interest loan and a portion will be a grant.

Another great project is the extension of Putnam Parkway. This project should be complete some time in October. Please be patient and stay out of the contractors way as they are working. The street is not open to the

public quite yet... but will be soon!

The Rainbarrel Rebate Program is coming to an end soon. The barrel must be purchased and installed before October 15, 2014. So far, seven (7) residents have taken advantage of the program and secured the \$20 rebate as well as a great water conservation method.

And the last item I would like to mention is the closing of Paul's Ace Hardware. Personally, this was one of my favorite stores in downtown Ottawa and will be greatly missed. I wish the owners the best of luck with their future plans. **Go TITANS and... Go TRIBE!**

—Dean Meyer, Mayor



GOOD NEWS from MWCD

Recently, the Village of Ottawa requested the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) assume the leadership and governance of the flood reduction project in the Lower Blanchard River. It is good news that with the State of Ohio's financial assistance, we will be able to progress with flood control in and around our community.

The MWCD is one of twenty three active conservancy districts in Ohio, whose work focuses on flood reduction, recreation, water resource preservation, and drain-

age assistance. The district covers fifteen counties in Northwest Ohio including Putnam. Along with a three-member board of directors, a judge from each county serves on the Conservancy Court, which is the decision-making authority for the district.

A big thank you goes out to all of our residents for their patience and understanding. It appears we are finally going to move past the planning stage and in to the doing part.

Council Member —Dave Michel



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

Ottawa Farmers Market

final one of the season

Friday, October 3rd

4:00-7:00 p.m.

Municipal parking lot on Main Street

Stop and visit the market for great produce and baked goods while you're downtown for the OGHS homecoming parade.



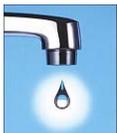
TTHM Update

Village of Ottawa residents, along with anyone who is provided Ottawa water, have been receiving a "Drinking Water Notice" with the monthly water/sewer bill. These notices provide information on Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and are required by the Ohio EPA. TTHM are formed as a by-product when chlorine used to disinfect the water breaks down. In 2013, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) authorized a combination of aeration and advanced mixing in the water towers as a viable option to reduce TTHMs. Village Council hired Utility Services to provide plans which were subsequently approved by OEPA. Utility Services began installing the system in 2013 and finished in June of 2014.

All the systems are now on-line and the results are great. Reduction levels are even better than originally calculated. Since water samples are taken quarterly and based on an annual average, it will take some time for the notices to stop, however, we are close! For further information on TTHM, you may contact the Water Director, Jason Phillips at 419.523.5020.

Halloween Safety

- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see children.
- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help children see.
- Always WALK and don't run from house to house.
- Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- Only visit houses with the porch light on.
- Have a bunch of fun!



WATER & SEWER BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

To assure timely payment of monthly water and sewer bills and avoid possible late fees, residents should be aware of a number of payment options provided by the Village of Ottawa.

Pay in Person: Bring stub and payment during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday) directly to the Utilities Department, located within the Municipal Building, at 136 N. Oak Street on or before the 15th of each month.

After hours payment: Payment may be placed in the drop-box, located behind the Municipal Building on Court Street. Payment must be received by the 15th of each month.

Mail: Return stub and payment in an envelope, addressed to Ottawa Waterworks, 136 N. Oak St., Ottawa, OH. 45875-1810. Envelopes must be postmarked by the 15th of that payment month.

Automatic Withdrawal: By completing and returning the appropriate form, residents may authorize the Village of Ottawa Utilities Billing Office to initiate debit entries to their checking/savings/credit union accounts. These payments are not taken out any earlier than the 15th of each month. To download the appropriate form, go to the Village of Ottawa website: www.ottawaohio.us. Click on Water Department (pops-up when you hover over Departments) and then click on Authorize Direct Payment from Bank Account (in red). Print the form, fill it out, and return along with a voided check to the Utilities Office at 136 N. Oak Street. Please allow the Office and Depository a reasonable amount of time to act on your request.

Credit / Debit Cards: The Village has recently incorporated a new payment option, allowing for credit and debit card payment of water and sewer bills. Residents can access the Village of Ottawa website, www.ottawaohio.us, click on Make a Payment, click on Water & Sewer Bill and once there, complete the information required for credit or debit card payment. Postings are not immediate, so use of this option should be made to allow timely payment on the 15th of each month. A convenience fee ranging from \$3.00 to 4.95% of the total transaction may apply. Residents can also call the Municipal Building during regular hours with credit card information.

Personal Bank Account "Bill Pay": Most financial institutions offer their customers the opportunity to pay bills directly from their personal checking/savings accounts and those arrangements are made directly by the resident with their lending institution. When using any "Bill Pay" option, residents should be aware that automatic transfers are not made, but that actual checks are cut from the resident's checking/savings account and mailed by the bank to the Village of Ottawa. Please make these payments at least one week before actual due date, to allow timely payment. All mailings from these lending institutions, must still be postmarked on or before the 15th of the month, to avoid a late fee.

It is the hope of the Village of Ottawa Utilities Billing Department, that residents take advantage of one of the above options on or before the 15th of each month, to keep their water and sewer bills current, as a 10% late fee is assessed on all outstanding balances.

- Council Member —Jo Deskins

CONTACT INFO

Email addresses for Council members

tmake@ottawaohio.us	ghovest@ottawaohio.us
jdeskins@ottawaohio.us	tyant@ottawaohio.us
dmichel@ottawaohio.us	jsalsburey@ottawaohio.us