

# Community Connection

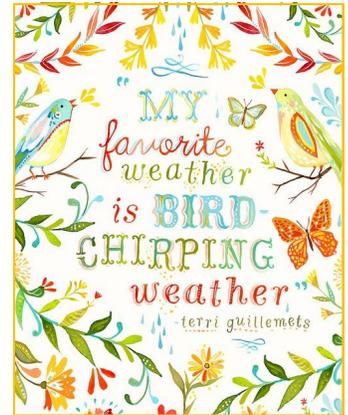
ISSUE #24

APRIL 2016

The Village of Ottawa \* 136 North Oak Street \* Ottawa  
Phone 419.523.5020 \* Fax 419.523.4246 \* [www.ottawaohio.us](http://www.ottawaohio.us)

## Special Points of Interest:

- Council meetings—8 pm the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at the Municipal Building
- Park Board meetings—7 pm the 4th Monday of each month at the Municipal Building
- Planning Commission meetings—3rd Friday of each month at 8:30 am
- 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](http://www.ritaohio.com)
- Arbor Day is April 29th! Plant a tree!



## MAYOR'S UPDATE



Hard to believe, but the end of the school year and graduations are right around the corner! Congratulations, in advance, to all our students for their achievements!

I don't want to rush spring... but warmer weather is close and I do love being outside! Things around the Village are starting to come back to life after a fairly uneventful winter. The Village did not have to use a lot of salt this year. Applying brine to the streets prior to snow (the forecaster was not always correct with the amount of snowfall) was very helpful and saved the Village a lot of money. We are starting to see some of those "green" projects that were finished prior to winter like all the tree planting and the grass on the property fka Pauls Ace Hardware.

Residents will be seeing some new development in the Industrial Park soon. The Village is working with Curt Croy from the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) to sell some land to several different entities. New buildings will be constructed to house these businesses along "Tawa Drive" which will be located off of Industrial Drive beside DOGR Properties.

And now let's talk trash! Republic Services was granted an exclusive contract for the next three years to collect residential garbage, rubbish and recyclable materials within the Village of Ottawa. The new contract is starting April 1st so many of you have already seen an increase in your bill. There are several options available:

- \$15.17 per household per month for unlimited weekly trash collection with one "bulk item" per week.

- \$13.80 per month for unlimited trash collection and one "bulk item" per week for those 62 years and older (previously this was 65!). Just call 1-800-491-1115 and provide your Golden Buckeye number or if you don't have a number, they will send you an affidavit to sign verifying your age.
- Rent the 65 gallon blue recycle tub for an additional \$2.75 per month.
- Bag service—if your household doesn't generate enough trash for a weekly collection, bags are available to purchase for \$2.25 each at several locations around the Village including the Municipal Building and both Party Mart locations (746 N. Perry Street and 1724 E. Main). Then this pre-paid bag can be taken to the curb on the day the trucks are in your neighborhood and picked up whenever it is full.
- "Bulk items" include anything that won't fit in a trash bag such as: TVs, mattress, box spring, microwave, chair, couch, carpet (must be cut into 4 foot length—rolled and tied), dryer, washer, refrigerator (freon must be removed and item tagged by a qualified HVAC technician) and the list goes on, but I think you get the idea! Please note if your bill has any language included that states you must call prior to setting out a "bulk item" or that there will be an extra charge... that message was pre-printed on the statements and does not affect the Village of Ottawa. **You do not have to call and there is no additional charge.**

## Village of Ottawa Council

Dean Meyer—Mayor

Council Members

Tim Macke, President

Jo Deskins

Troy Yant

John Salsburey

Dave Michel

Jeff Ducey

## Planning Commission

Dean Meyer—Chair

Tim Macke

Bill Hanna

Denny Recker

Randy Verhoff

So, all that being said, there is really no need for a spring clean-up anymore! We can keep our garages and basements free of all that clutter! I think I might have some work to do...



**Congrats to the Girls & Boys Titan Teams for a terrific season! and... Go Tribe!**

—Dean Meyer, Mayor

# Village “Branches” Out and Receives Recognition

As you turn over another month on the calendar, you might note that April 29<sup>th</sup> is designated as “Arbor Day”, an annual observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care. The creation of such a holiday, began when nature-loving pioneers moved into the Nebraska Territory in 1854. They missed their trees, but more importantly trees were needed as wind-breaks to keep top soil in place, for fuel, and for building materials for homes.

The Village will recognize this year’s Arbor Day with a tree planting ceremony at both Sts. Peter and Paul and Ottawa Elementary Schools, and an Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Meyer. For their part, local residents are encouraged to reference the Arbor Day Foundation site, [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org), where they have the opportunity to receive up to 10 free trees with an Arbor Day Foundation membership, a tree guide describing planting and care of over 200 different tree species, and most importantly, resources for connecting children and grandchildren to nature.

The Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, is also responsible for recognizing communities who have proven themselves successful in providing a viable tree management program. According to the Foundation, such a community will have met each of 4 standards; a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual budget that demonstrates a commitment to growth, and an Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation. To that end, the Village of Ottawa has repeatedly been identified as a “Tree City USA” community by the Arbor Day Foundation.

In addition, the Village has also met eligibility requirements for the “Tree City USA Growth Award”. This award recognizes community commitment to providing and supporting education related to tree maintenance, forming partnerships with outside agencies, establishing a tree planning and management program, and continuing efforts to plant and maintain trees within the community.

—Jo Deskins, Council Member

## CONTACT INFO

### Email addresses for Council members

<a href="mailto:tmacke@ottawaohio.us">tmacke@ottawaohio.us</a>	<a href="mailto:jducey@ottawaohio.us">jducey@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>

## AGGREGATION—Now What?

With an overwhelming majority, the vote for electric and gas aggregation passed and it will now become a reality in Ottawa. There are several legal steps that need to be taken before we can reap the benefits of this money saving program. The dates listed are tentative, but all these steps must be taken by law. There will be public meetings held at the Putnam County Educational Service Center, 124 Putnam Parkway, to review the plan documents on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 and 5:30 PM for electric and 4:30 and 6:00 PM for natural gas. Council will then address the documents and if approved they would go to PUCO (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio) and be held for 30 days. Once approved by PUCO and a Community Certificate issued, Aspen Energy can then contact the utilities to retrieve data for the Village and begin to shop for rates. Once approved by Council, opt-out notices will be sent to residents who are not under contract with a supplier and are current on their local utility energy bill. Obviously there is a lot of work to do, but there is light at the end of the tunnel for implementing our aggregation program.

-Dave Michel, Council Member



## 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.

Here comes the sun.



**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](http://www.RITAOhio.com) or call 1-800-860-7482.

