

# Community Connection

ISSUE #10

DECEMBER 2013

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



## Special Points of Interest:

- December Council meetings are scheduled for December 9th at 8 pm and December 16th at 7 pm
- Ottawa Christmas parade and festivities at 2 pm on Sunday, December 1st in downtown Ottawa.
- Post-parade activities to include Santa Claus visits, music, entertainment and food will be in the municipal parking lot at Main and Oak Streets.
- 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 2014!



## MAYOR'S UPDATE

The Charter Amendments were the main topic of my last update in the Community Connection. So, in this issue I would like to thank the Village of Ottawa residents for voting to approve them. We are very pleased to move forward with the changes as proposed by the Charter Review Advisory Commission.

On another note, the Village will not be picking up leaves this fall, but there is an area behind the municipal garage for residents to dispose of their leaves and yard trimmings. Please be responsible by not raking your leaves onto the

streets as this can have a detrimental effect on the storm sewers.

We are winding down our street projects for the year. I think all of the repairs we made as well as the repaving of Main Street by the state, have really made the town look great. Thank you all for your patience during these road closures.

And looking forward to winter, don't forget to keep the sidewalks, curbs and gutters free from snow, ice and other debris... unless of course it doesn't snow!

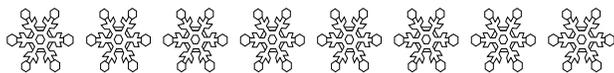
Finally, from the Village Council, and my family, I want to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Go TITANS !!  
—Dean Meyer, Mayor



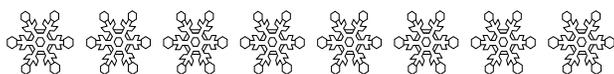
## Thank you Village Residents!

From the Village of Ottawa Council and the Charter Review Advisory Commission for voting to support our Charter amendment!



*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on Earth, good will to men!*

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



## WELCOME SANTA PARADE

The Welcome Santa to Ottawa Christmas parade is scheduled for December 1, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

The route has been changed and the parade will start at the Waterworks Park on Pratt Street, turn on Main Street, turn on Oak Street, turn on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and end at Sts. Peter and Paul Church. ALL food, entertainment, horse drawn wagon rides and Santa visits will be in the downtown Ottawa Municipal Parking Lot immediately following the parade. Be sure to come out and join in this afternoon of family festivities!

—Amy Sealts, Executive Director Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce

*Visit Memorial Park  
to see the  
2013 Christmas  
Lights In the Park!*

## THANKS TO:

All of the organizations who worked together to add new features to the park lighting display this year!

*The park will be lit from December 1st  
until December 28th*



# FLOOD MITIGATION ON-GOING



It's been six years since Ottawa experienced the devastating flood of August 2007; and, since that time, through partnering with the City of Findlay and Hancock County, the Village of Ottawa has been working diligently with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to formulate cost effective mitigation solutions to reduce the damaging effects of flooding. Area political representatives from local, state and federal levels have supported these flood mitigation efforts; and, although the progress appears slow, the Village is continuously reminded by those with USACE mitigation project experience, that forward movement since 2007 has actually been remarkable.

But the progress has been mostly behind the scenes, and Ottawa's floodplain residents have yearned for some sign of tangible progress when it comes to flood mitigation - enter FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Immediately following the 2007 flood, Ottawa applied for, and was awarded, four separate HMGP acquisition/demolition grants totaling over \$2.3 million dollars. These buyouts created permanent open space for flood waters to absorb into the ground, as well as provided the

option for at-risk residents to move to an area outside the floodplain. While the HMGP is not often thought of as a part of Ottawa's strategy to reduce flood risk, it most certainly is. Every structure removed from the floodplain, holds the potential to reduce overall flood depths.

In the past two years, Ottawa has again had the opportunity to apply for additional HMGP funds. The Village has recently been awarded over \$800,000 to purchase and demolish floodplain structures, most of which are located in the high flood risk west end neighborhood. In addition, two more applications for over \$1.2 million dollars in mitigation buyouts are currently at the state review level, waiting to be forwarded to FEMA for final approval. HMGP grants consist of 75% federal funds and 25% local funds. The local share of these most recent grants is expected to be paid out of state disaster monies administered by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Blanchard River Watershed grant funds set aside by the Ohio legislature. This removing of structures from Ottawa's flood-prone areas is part of the non-structural plan that USACE indicated in its "final array" of plans presented in late 2012.

This is the part of proposed flood mitigation that is within the borders of the Village of Ottawa.

In addition to the non-structural proposals of the final array, there were the structural proposals:

1. Modifying the I-9 Bridge area by removing portions of the bridge embankment, restoring the natural floodway and allowing water to flow over the roadway during high water events
2. Constructing a diversion channel to avoid the meandering of the Blanchard River near the I-9 Bridge area
3. Constructing water detention areas along the Blanchard River to protect low-lying areas, store flood water and then slowly release floodwater back into the river as it recedes.

These structural proposals would take place outside of the borders of the Village of Ottawa and will require partnering with not only USACE, but also Ottawa Township, Putnam County, and the Maumee Conservancy District. Ottawa continues to work with USACE toward the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) which will recommend which of the proposals will be included in reducing Ottawa's flood damages.

—Deb Bauer, Council Member

# LANDLORDS

The Village of Ottawa Income Tax Ordinance requires the owner of rental or leased units to report names and addresses of renters moving in or out of their properties. The required occupancy form is available on the Village home page at [www.ottawaohio.us](http://www.ottawaohio.us), or by contacting the Clerk's Office. The form must be returned to the Village Office at 136 North Oak Street semi-annually on or before January 31st and July 31st of each year or you may fax it to 419-523-4246. If you have questions, please contact the Income Tax Commissioner at 419-523-5020.

A very special

## THANK YOU

to outgoing Council Members Deb Bauer and Dave Beckett!

Mrs. Bauer served countless hours on various committees including the Blanchard River Flood Mitigation Steering, Personnel, Fire, Communications, Unsafe Structure and Finance.

Beckett also served a great number of hours working on regionalization of utilities as well as serving on the Infrastructure, Safety and Finance Committees.

The service, insight and experience they contributed to the betterment of the Village of Ottawa was greatly appreciated!



# WHO SHOULD I CALL??

At a recent Council meeting, there was discussion about follow-through on Village infrastructure projects; namely, the restoration of grass following street/curb projects. There were residents who expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of soil and the success of replacing grass in the Village right-of-way along their yards. When monies are expended for a project, the intent is to improve the infrastructure and make Ottawa a better place. When contractors are involved, the Village cannot always control the timing of property restora-

tion, but we need to know if residents' expectations have not been met so their concerns can be addressed. In the case of grass replacement, residents can help by watering and caring for the replanted area. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your Council representatives, Mayor Meyer, or the Village office at 419-523-5020. Also, for your information, each Council meeting agenda has a "Concerns, Hearings, and Requests" item which allows residents to bring matters before Council for consideration. Thank you for helping us improve our community.

