

Community Connection

ISSUE #30

APRIL 2017

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—8 pm the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at Municipal Building
- Shade Tree Commission - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm
- Planning Commission - 3rd Friday of each month at 8:30 am
- Park Board meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm
- 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
- Arbor Day is April 28th! Plant a tree!



MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS



Spring is in the air! Good weather should be approaching soon and I can't wait...although I have already had my golf clubs out in 2017!

First with the "old news." We had a fairly quiet winter and the Public Works Department did a great job keeping the streets clean for us. They used approximately 55,000 gallons of brine for the pre-treatment process and about 100 tons of road salt. The idea of pre-treating the streets with brine not only is an effective tool to keep the streets clear, but is really a great financial savings too.

The aggregation program is now in place. We are finding that the electric rate of \$0.05495 per kWh, which is with AEP Energy for three (3) years, is a pretty good rate! You can opt in or out of this program at any time. The gas rate; however, is not quite as exciting. That rate is \$4.907 per MCF and is just for one (1) year with Constellation Energy. Good news again is you can opt in or out and we will see if our broker can get a better rate next year.

Next... "new items!" Spring is a time when we start thinking about street paving as well as curb and gutter projects. We are getting close to being able to bid this project out. The list of streets is still being discussed as some of the streets need waterline or utility repair as well.

I'm sure you've hear the news that Tractor Supply is opening a new store in Ottawa on Meadow Glen behind/beside Auto Zone. They broke ground in March and things are progressing smoothly. The tentative date for completion is early fall.

You may have noticed some large trees being removed around town. An Urban Forester from ODNR came to the Village and conducted a Hazardous Tree Assessment. Many (and I do mean many) trees will be removed because they have been deemed unsafe and around eight more just need to be pruned. After the assessment, the Village immediately had the nine most dangerous trees taken down. The rest of the trees were compiled in a list and sent out for quotes to numerous landscapers and arborists. The Shade Tree Commission has reviewed the proposals and Council will be awarding the contract on April 10th which is the next regularly scheduled meeting.

One last thought on "new" items would be that the new restroom in Memorial Park will be open this season. The Rotary Club did a fantastic job fundraising and managing this project. We will all be very thankful for this nice clean restroom facility when we are walking through the park, enjoying ball games or just watching our kids and/or grand-kids play in the park.

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

—Dean Meyer, Mayor

Village of Ottawa Council

Dean Meyer—Mayor

Dave Michel, President

Tim Macke

Jo Deskins

Troy Yant

John Salsburey

Jeff Ducey

Planning Commission

Dean Meyer—Chair

Tim Macke

Bill Hanna

Denny Recker

Randy Verhoff

COUNCIL MEMBERS EMAIL ADDRESSES

dmichel@ottawaohio.us tmacke@ottawaohio.us jdeskins@ottawaohio.us
tyant@ottawaohio.us jsalsburey@ottawaohio.us jducey@ottawaohio.us

REMINDER:

All Village of Ottawa residents are required to file yearly Municipal Income Tax returns by April 18th, even if no tax is due. For filing requirements, visit www.RITAOhio.com or call 1-800-860-7482.

BE A GOOD STEWARD OF OUR WATER RESOURCES

Are you familiar with the “Keep America Beautiful” organization? It began in 1953, and encourages recycling and proper disposal of trash. Through various anti-litter campaigns, Keep America Beautiful has been educating the public for nearly 65 years about the negative effects of littering; but improper disposal of waste is still a problem in Ottawa. Trash along our streets and in our waterways is not only unsightly, it can create flood related problems.

When trash accumulates along the Blanchard River or Tawa Run, it can be swept downstream by the current and become entangled in vegetation. If enough trash collects, it can act just like fill by altering the flow of the river or stream and holding the potential to alter the natural flooding pattern.

Degraded water quality can also be the result of careless trash disposal. Catch basins along Village streets are open access ways connected directly to the river. They are not a convenient place to rake leaves or grass clippings with hope they magically disappear, or a handy place to clean the trash from your pockets. They are most definitely not a place to pour used oil or antifreeze. Again, these are direct routes to the river with the purpose to provide a way for storm water to drain away.

Bottom line – be a good steward of our water resources. Dispose of trash in a garbage can. Rake grass clippings and leaves into bags, and dispose of them at the Municipal Garage. Bring used oil and antifreeze to the appropriate recycling facilities. Keep our waterways clean and free-flowing.



Mulch for Spring

When you are able to get outside and start your spring yard work, don't forget there is mulch available at no cost for residential use to Village residents! Come into the Municipal Building and fill out an “*Application to Load Mulch*” prior to loading. Mulch can be removed between dawn and dusk any day from the Municipal Garage. Village of Ottawa residents may load the mulch into trailers, wagons or vehicles with hand equipment. If you need help from the Village, there is a charge to have Village personnel utilize motorized equipment and the minimum charge is \$5.00 for Village residents for up to approximately three (3) cubic yards.

CAT CONCERNS

Over the last several months, Village Council has received numerous complaints about stray cats within the Village. We have talked about options of what to do about it with little success. The main problem is that there are very few options when it comes to getting rid of them. At the March 13th meeting, Dr. Baldrige from the Ottawa Veterinary Clinic came to our meeting in order to help us address the problem. He stated that catch and euthanize programs have been studied and are largely unsuccessful plus they can create a public relations nightmare. Further studies have shown TNR (trap, neuter, release) programs have had positive results. Healthy neutered cats are more territorial and over time we will see an overall decline in their population. There is a lot of information available on the internet on sites like the Humane Society and ASPCA.

Over the next couple of months, Council expects to pass legislation to deal with this problem. As always, we are looking for the best way to serve the residents of our community and we value your input. Please contact any member of Council or the Village Offices at 419.523.5020 with your ideas and concerns.

—Dave Michel, Council Member



Changes at Memorial Pool

Approved at the most recent Village Council meeting, was an agreement between the Putnam County YMCA and the Village, for management of the Memorial Park Swimming Pool. Some of the proposals made by Council and included in the 2017 contract, include two evenings of extended pool hours per week and an extended pool season.

The pool season dates will run from May 29th through August 13th, providing an additional week-end of swimming in August. Addressing requests made by working parents for additional evening hours, the pool will now be open daily from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and from 1:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday each week.

Daily admission fees and family membership information is available by calling the Putnam County YMCA at 419-523-5233.

—Jo Deskins, Council Member

