

Community Connection

ISSUE #31

JUNE 2017

The Village of Ottawa * 136 North Oak Street * Ottawa
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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.
- Mark your calendars... Little Nashville will be Friday, August 4th, 2017
- Be sure to keep grass and debris out of the storm drains

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Ah, summer! I do love summer weather and the ability to be outdoors more. Just being outside and doing some gardening is such a great way to spend some time and relax! Although, I can't deny that golfing season is always a big part of our summer fun too!

Spring was pretty good to us this year. We had a few days with a lot of rain which brings concerns about flooding. It appears that the reconstruction of the I-9 Bridge approach worked as we had hoped. In the past, with that much consistent rainfall, water would have been across West Main Street. We did have to close a few of the side streets although this was not unexpected as these streets are rather low lying and typically the first to close. We anticipate the diversion channel to bring even more relief to our Village and we should know more about this project by the end of June.

On a different topic, I would like to remind you about our CRA (Community Reinvestment Area) Program for new home construction and/or remodeling. This is a program that Council authorized at the end of 2014 allowing for a property tax exemption. For residential property, a tax exemption will be given on new construction or on the increase in the assessed value resulting from improvements. The abatement can be realized between five and fifteen years depending on the location of your property. There are options for retail and/or commercial facilities as well. Stop by the Village office if you have questions about the CRA, would like to fill out an application or think you may qualify for this property tax abatement.

Speaking of construction and summer work, the bids for Street Project 2017 were opened on May 18th at noon. Council awarded the contract to Ward Construction so you will see some pavement repairs and a lot of concrete work being done this summer. Completion for this job is scheduled for October 31, 2017.

So, it's time to get outside and enjoy this nice weather and our beautiful parks! And since I won't talk to you again until August... Happy 4th of July and God Bless America!

Congrats to all our outstanding students and athletes!!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

And of course... 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

COME & SWIM

Memorial Pool is now open under management of the Putnam County YMCA.

Swim Lessons

Monday—Thursday mornings

June 12–June 22 or

July 10—July 20

Tadpole, Super Tadpole, Ray

11 to 11:30 for 3-5 year olds

Pollywog, Guppy, Minnow

11:30 to 12:15 for 6 years and up

New Hours

1 to 8 pm Wed & Fri

Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Sat

1 to 6 pm

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VILLAGE CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY



On April 28th, representatives from the Village of Ottawa's Shade Tree Commission (STC) and Mayor Dean Meyer, visited Sts. Peter and Paul and Ottawa Elementary schools to present a program to 4th graders in recognition of Arbor Day. A brief history of Arbor

Day by the Mayor, was followed with a planting activity by the students. A buckeye tree, which the fourth graders at SPPS named "Barbie", was planted by the students along Locust Street, while a Kentucky coffee tree, named "Ken" was planted by fourth graders in front of Ottawa Elementary, on Putnam Parkway.

Following the presentations, each student attending was given a California spruce seedling and encouraged to engage their family members in its planting, while also taking pictures and submitting to the Village for posting on their website. Students at both schools, at the request of the STC, had previously been engaged in creating Arbor Day posters, and a winner from each school was recognized with a personalized plaque. Avery Laubenthal of Sts. Peter and Paul and Cadan Coram of Ottawa Elementary were the 1st annual recipients of this award.

The STC would like to extend its thanks to classroom teachers and administrators Barb Schroeder and Nate Lanwehr of SPPS, and Jill Schumaker, Nicole Ruhe, and Dean Brinkman of OE for their support of the Arbor Day poster contest and program. A special thank-you also goes out to Sarah Gerten and the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District for their donation of the tree seedlings and the poster contest plaques. Your support was so greatly appreciated in our efforts to make Arbor Day relevant in our community. Please check out photos on the Village of Ottawa website—Shade Tree Commission. — Jo A. Deskins, Council Member and Liaison to STC

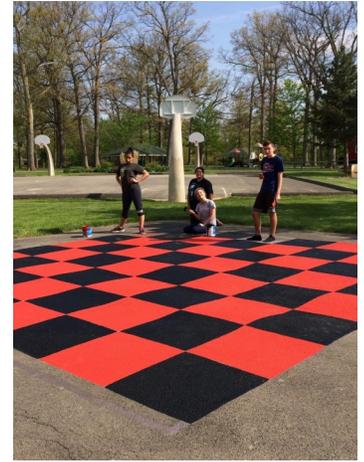


A CAT PLAN

Over the past several months, the issue of stray cats in the Village has been discussed at length in Council Chambers. After hearing from many agencies including PETA, ASPCA and several humane societies, Council is moving forward working with Humane Ohio. They are a non-profit spay/neuter clinic out of Toledo that will come to Ottawa, assess the number of cats, loan traps if needed and work with caregivers. Along with this, if you would like to surrender a cat or cats, Wyandot Humane Society in Upper Sandusky will accept them. If you are a cat owner, please keep your pet in your yard and do not let them wander. —Dave Michel Council

Checkers in MEMORIAL PARK

So, you like to play checkers? Students from Ottawa-Glandorf High School Art Department recently painted a giant checkerboard in Memorial Park. It is located close to the newly renovated restroom. The checkers will be in a tub underneath a bench that is located close by for spectators! Please help



us to keep this game for everyone's enjoyment by placing the checkers back in the tubs when you are finished playing. This project was the brainchild of Carol Siebeneck, Park Board Member. Thank you to the students and to Carol for making Memorial Park even more fun! We are looking forward to the hopscotch game that will follow either later this summer or next year. Good Luck!



TIPS FOR DETERRING CATS

You may be seeing cats in your yard and they do not belong to you... Like all outdoor animals community cats make their homes where they feel they can find shelter and food. We understand that not everyone enjoys living with cats and other wildlife in their yards. Some simple tips are listed below from Humane Ohio to help you divert community cats from your yard or garden.

Suggestions for deterring cats:

- Push wood chopsticks or 10-inch chopsticks into flower beds every 8 inches to discourage digging and scratching.
- Try a non-chemical cat deterrent called Cat Scat. The mat has flexible plastic spikes that are harmless to cats and other animals but are effective in discouraging excavation.
- Scatter orange and lemon peels or spray with citrus scented spray—cats dislike the smell of citrus.
- Use cayenne pepper, coffee grounds and or pipe tobacco to repel cats. Lavender oil, lemon grass oil, citronella oil, eucalyptus oil and mustard oil may also work.
- Spray cat repellent around edges of yard, top of fences or on any favorite digging areas or plants.
- Cover exposed ground in flowerbeds with large attractive river rocks to prevent cats from digging.
- Motion activated sprinkler—cats dislike getting wet
- Garden repellent called Reppers (available at PetSmart)
- Soak strips of old towels or rags with old perfume and place or hang where cats are digging