

# Community Connection

ISSUE #34

DECEMBER 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—Dec 11th at 8 pm and Dec 18th at 7 pm
- Shade Tree Commission - 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm
- Planning Commission - 3rd Friday of each month at 8:30 am
- Park Board does not meet in December, but will reconvene Jan 22nd
- Council Reorganizational Meeting will be January 2nd at 4 pm
- December 25th... MERRY CHRISTMAS!



## MAYOR'S UPDATE

Fall went by quickly! It almost feels like I missed it! If it wasn't for that delicious Thanksgiving dinner and pumpkin pie I had...!! The Christmas parade always helps me accept the fact that winter is coming and this year's parade was very successful once again! Thanks to the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce for all the orchestrating that goes into this event!



It's been a great go, but after the November election, it appears we will have to say good-bye and thank you to two Council members and welcome two new gentlemen onto the team. Council member, Tim Macke, decided to retire after seventeen (17) plus years of serving on Council and on numerous committees. We will also be saying good-bye to John Salsburey who served for four (4) years and contributed to several committees. It's not always easy making tough decisions based on the what is in the best interest for our entire Village. So as these two take a break from public life, I would like to welcome Tim Maag and Tom "Duffer" Rosenbauer who were elected to serve four year terms and congratulate Dave Michel as he starts his fifth year serving Village residents as a Council member. The oath of office will be administered on January 2, 2018 at the Reorganizational Meeting at 4:00 p.m. In case you wonder what the oath actually entails:

I, (state your name), solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Ordinances and Charter of the Village of Ottawa, and that I will faithfully, honestly and impartially discharge the duties of Council Member of the Village of Ottawa, Ohio during my continuance in said office.

Serving on Council is quite an honor. It is sometimes a thankless job and can attribute to some sleepless nights. I really appreciate all that our Council members do to make our community a safe, enjoyable and prosperous environment for past, present and future residents.

Now for my public service announcement... Not that I anticipate snow or anything, but... please keep your sidewalks clear for those energetic people who still walk all winter. Also, remember to move vehicles and trailers from the street to make plowing a little bit easier for our Public Works Department! Stay safe and warm this winter!



**May each of you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**  
**In the words of Star Trek's Mr. Spock, "Live long and prosper."**  
**Go Tribe! Go Titans! —Dean Meyer, Mayor**

### COUNCIL MEMBERS EMAIL ADDRESSES

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### 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



## ACH for UTILITY BILLING

The Village of Ottawa water and sewer bills are due on the 15th of each month. Unfortunately, if your bill ends up in another country, it is still due on the 15th! In an attempt to make the bill paying process easier, the Utilities Department currently accepts cash, checks, credit/debit cards and utilizes ACH.

ACH is an acronym for Automated Clearing House. ACH is a network used for electronic payments and money transfers. It is a way to move money between banks without using paper checks, wire transfers, credit card networks, or cash. The utility bill will continue to be mailed to your home, however, it is imprinted, "Memo Bill. Do Not Pay." This will allow time to call the Water Department prior to the money being taken out of your account if something unexpected occurred such as a water leak. The ACH file is sent to the bank on the 15th of each month. If the 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, money does not leave your bank account until Monday.

If you are interested in the ACH payment option to pay your utility bill, there is a document on-line (click on "Services" then "Permits and Documents" at the top). The title of the document is Authorization Agreement for Automatic Pay of Water & Sewer Bills and it is located by the Water Department. We can mail a form if you like or you can stop by to fill it out in the office.



## Let There Be Light...

Thanks to the donations and support of many generous Ottawa businesses and individuals, a process that began three years ago is "seeing the light of day". The Ottawa Memorial Park Capital Campaign Committee, (MPCCC), is pleased to announce that in addition to the newly erected scoreboard at the park, that Memorial Field, will also be getting a new lighting system.

A campaign that began in 2014, with a group of concerned citizens wishing to return night baseball to Ottawa and help fund other projects in Memorial Park, is beginning to see the fruits of its labor. Already erected this past spring was the large scoreboard, purchased with initial, major donations from the O-G Rotary Club, the Ottawa Kiwanis, American Legion Post #63, and the Village of Ottawa. In addition, planning has already taken place at Memorial Field, where stakes have been driven to mark the pole sites and foundations for the new lighting system, and lights and poles have been ordered.

These improvements would not have been possible without the support of the many Ottawa businesses, individuals and organizations, who alongside corporate sponsors stepped up to further fund the campaign. "When the going gets tough, indeed, the tough get going!"

When the campaign met with budgeting shortfalls, due to an estimated 5-7% annual increase in the proposed cost of a new lighting system, the MPCCC contacted the O-G Rotary, asking their consideration in securing a loan for an amount to cover the committee's deficit so that lights could be purchased at 2017 prices. The Rotary agreed, dependent upon the MRCCC securing advance commitments and pledges to cover the Rotary's loan commitment. In a full charge forward, the Committee ramped up its fund-raising efforts, and with generous community response and giving, have received pledges and commitments, that over a 5 year period will pay back the loan amount, secured by the Rotary.

The MPCCC thanks the community for supplying the funds needed to make immediate and future improvements in Ottawa's Memorial Park. Park improvements are a sign of revitalization, providing environmental, aesthetic, and recreation benefits. They are a source of positive economic benefits, including enhanced property values, increased municipal revenues, and bring in homebuyers. The recent improvements to Memorial Park will contribute to community engagement, providing opportunities for family nighttime events, support of youth sports activities, and neighborhood comradery.

- Jo A. Deskins, Village Council Member and MPCCC Member

## Repurposing Open Space Properties

In the last Community Connection, we talked about the Open Space Committee coming up with ideas on what we could do with empty properties we have acquired through the HMGP grants from the state of Ohio. The committee came up with a list of three properties that were designated as priorities. They were the former Arrowhead mobile home park on W. Main St, the former Paul's/Ace Hardware site on E. Main St., and the open block of land between Third and Fourth Streets and Maple and Sugar streets on the west end of town. At our November 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the committee presented some options on repurposing these properties.

### Arrowhead Park:

Phase 1 – canoe/kayak access, trail within park boundary & landscaping.

Phase 2 – Restrooms, parking lot, extend trail and creation of a wetlands area in the bottom ground.

Phase 3 – Playground equipment & exercise area with remainder of landscaping.

### Ace Lot:

Stage area with roof and leisure area for downtown visitors

### West End:

Two soccer fields on either side of Fourth St

Council authorized the committee to seek approval from the Ohio EMA for these projects and to allow the committee to seek grant funding for the work. The committee members are John Agner, Ron Black, Don Croy, Teresa Croy, Barb Hermiller, Phyllis Macke, Tim Macke, Dean Meyer, Sarah Rieman, Amy Sealts, and Gillian Stechsulte. If you see them, please thank them for their time and efforts. - Dave Michel, Council Member

