

Community Connection

ISSUE #38

AUGUST 2018

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

Special Points of Interest: All meetings at Municipal Building

- *It's Happening Again!... Little Nashville will be Friday, August 3rd, 2018!*
- *Council meetings—8 pm on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month*
- *Shade Tree Commission - 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm*
- *Planning Commission - 3rd Friday of each month at 8:30 am*
- *Park Board—4th Monday of each month at 7 pm*

MAYOR'S UPDATE



It was about one year ago, that the Village hosted a Community Idea Workshop to discuss potential uses for some of the properties purchased with flood mitigation monies. The parcel in downtown Ottawa that was the former site of Paul's / Ace Hardware was one of those properties. The Ark Stage that is now the focus of this area known as the Rex Center Park, was the brainchild of a committee of dedicated volunteers who met to discuss the ideas that came from the workshop. This group continues to meet to decide how to bring the projects to life and to secure necessary funding. The stage will be available for art related functions. Hopefully by the time you read this, Kaitlyn Schmit and The Move as the opening act and Nashville Crush as the main event have initiated the stage and park and Little Nashville has been a great success! Council will be discussing the details for using the stage as we really want to make this area the heart of our downtown and promote the Village! I will keep you posted on the results.

The Village also has some projects happening in the parks. We had quite a few young gentlemen who are seeking the rank of Eagle Scout attend the last Park Board meeting! We are looking for some great things as they undertake their projects including the interior renovation of the Memorial Field concession stand, renovation to include paint and repair of rotting wood at the caboose and new landscaping and a sign in the Waterworks Park.. Another noticeable change in Memorial Park is the refurbished bridge off of Seventh and Thomas Streets. Due to rotting boards, it was deemed unsafe and had to be closed. Industrial Millwright was hired to make the much needed repairs making it super strong and safe for generations to come. And...it looks terrific!

Well, by the time you see the next issue, it will be fall! If there is anything you would like to see included in the *Community Connection*, give a call to the Village offices at the number listed above, or let me know. We strive to keep you informed! Enjoy the summer sunshine! **Go Tribe!** —*Dean Meyer, Mayor*

STILL TIME TO SWIM

Last day to swim this season at
Ottawa Memorial Pool
is August 12th

Friday \$1.00 Admission

Lepisc pool will remain open until August 19th, and Ottawa pool pass members can swim there between August 12th & 19th with no additional charge.

**Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs &
Sat—1 - 6 p.m.
Wed & Fri
1 - 8 p.m.**



As of July 23, 2018



As of July 25, 2018

My Grandchildren
are bouts of sunshine
on my rainy days



Village of Ottawa Council

Dean Meyer—*Mayor*

Dave Michel, President

Jo Deskins

Troy Yant

Jeff Ducey

Tim Maag

Tom “Duffer” Rosenbauer

Planning Commission

Dean Meyer—*Chair*

Tim Maag

Bill Hanna

Denny Recker

Randy Verhoff

OG Rotary presents

LITTLE NASHVILLE

Friday, August 3, 2018

Downtown Ottawa Businesses
specials & sidewalk sales
throughout the day



CONTACT INFO

Email addresses for
Council members

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trosenbauer@ottawaohio.us

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Village website—
www.ottawaohio.us

AEP, Asplundh, & the Village: Clearing the Way for Power

AEP Ohio works to improve reliability by minimizing the number and length of outages, and the number of customers affected by each outage. One of the most common causes of power outages is tree limbs falling across power lines. Just one tree limb can knock out electric service to dozens of families up to several miles away. That's why AEP Ohio has a comprehensive program to manage trees and brush that grow around power lines - and it has been shown to be effective at improving the reliability of their service to Village residents.

The company Asplundh provides the professional, cost effective line clearance service to AEP for the Village of Ottawa. Asplundh provides a much wider range of specialized services, but line clearance is still the core of their business, evidenced by the presence of their distinctive orange-colored trucks working their way through our Village over the past 2 months.

AEP surveys the Village's trees every four to five years to identify branches that could potentially interfere with their power lines. Lists of trees to be trimmed are then submitted by AEP to the Village's Shade Tree Commission (STC), and upon further inspection of listed trees, the commission may recommend that trees be removed. AEP does not charge the Village for the removal of designated hazardous trees, or the grinding of stumps. If a designated tree is on private property, AEP will remove it at no charge to the homeowner, if that is the desire of the homeowner, but will not grind the stump. AEP and Asplundh mark designated trees with a green dot to indicate tree trimming, and a red X for tree removal. Brush to be removed is also marked in red.

If a resident desires to replant a tree themselves, they should first contact the STC to ensure that the proper tree species is selected for the site. A list of trees suitable for planting under overhead powerlines is available. The homeowner has the responsibility of researching which trees and shrubs will provide them with the characteristics they are looking for while maintaining a 15 foot height clearance, if placed near powerlines.

The STC is presently working toward the goal of creating a planting plan that will be established to replace trees that have been lost due to hazardous conditions and/or interference with power lines, sidewalks and utilities.

- Jo A. Deskins,
Council Member
and Liaison to STC



Future of Recycling

There have been several meetings held with representatives from the current trash hauling company, Republic Services, about recycling and rates for the next contract. The Village has a contract with Republic until April 1, 2019, so the current rates will remain in effect until then.

Americans recycle about 66 million tons of materials each year. How to complete this recycling process has recently come into question.

Prior to the launch of a new anti-pollution policy in China which became effective January 2018, the U.S. contributed 40% of all recyclable material processed in China. With the new reduction in allowable contaminants and the recent ban on mixed plastics and mixed paper, the processing centers throughout North America are struggling to clean up the material collected from many curbside programs, like ours, as well as continuing to find markets that will accept the recyclables.

Last year alone, Republic Services exported 100,000 to 120,000 tons of materials to China. This year they will be exporting zero tons. Southeast Asia and India are now accepting some of the plastic and paper which costs Republic Services and other haulers more money. The Village will continue to monitor this situation and keep you informed should there be any changes in our recycling program.



EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

On Monday night, July 23rd, Ottawa Village Council passed a new compensation package for the employees of the Village of Ottawa. This legislation has been in the works for well over a year and we are pleased to have it completed.

Early in 2017, Village Council solicited The Archer Company, a human resource management firm from Dublin, Ohio, to do a study comparing our employee compensation to several cities and villages in Northwest Ohio. Our goal was to fairly compensate Village employees along with reducing turnover while staying competitive in the job market. The Personnel Committee took this report and put it into the recently passed ordinance.

Our employees are the face of our Village. They are responsible for our streets, drinking water, finances, and safety of our persons and property among many other things. We feel we have a fine group of employees that we will hopefully be able to retain. This package allows them to know where they stand in the pay scale along with their opportunities for advancement. We will also be able to attract talented people should the need arise. This ordinance is another step forward for the Village as a whole. - Dave Michel, Council President