

Community Connection

ISSUE #41

FEBRUARY 2019

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

All meetings at Municipal Building

- Council meetings—7:30 pm on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month
- Shade Tree Commission - 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm
- Park Board—4th Monday of each month at 6:30 pm
- Planning Commission - 3rd Friday of each month at 8:30 am
- E-file your annual municipal income tax return online at www.ritaohio.com



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!



MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

Time flies when you are having fun and we are definitely having some fun and making big changes in the Village of Ottawa. Main Street has taken on a new look this year. Thanks to the efforts of the Open Space Committee and countless others, driving down Main Street you can see the Rex Center Park featuring the Ark Pavilion. What an awesome addition to our Village especially since it was built entirely with donated funds. I would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in making this project become a reality. Now we have to encourage open communication and figure out a method to bring activities and events to utilize this amazing new space.

If you were walking or driving down Locust Street in the evenings during May, June or July you could have seen the new lighting at Memorial Field. The improvements in the park and the ball diamond are very impressive. I feel really warm and fuzzy when I see the improvements that resulted from the coordinated efforts of local government and civic minded organizations and some determined individuals.

On the topic of improvements, the Village had a total investment in 2018 of over \$6.3 million dollars. Around 3.5 million of that was for new homes and home improvements. I think the Community Reinvestment Area, the (CRA) is doing exactly what we wanted by encouraging improvement and development. The remaining 2.8 million investment was in commercial growth. I think this shows a lot of confidence in our community and what we're doing as a Village.

The Water Treatment Plant is in the process of some major improvements. We are working with the Ohio EPA on some items that need upgraded. Council recently contracted with an engineering firm to complete the design which should be finished the first half of this new year. The total investment in the Water Treatment Plant by the time all the required improvements are met will be around \$6 million dollars. We are also working on major improvements to the Wastewater Plant. Again working with the OEPA we will be spending in the neighborhood of \$3 million.

Another upcoming project will be the improvements to Lincoln, Jackson and Buckeye Streets out by Hirzel Canning. The existing road base at this entrance into the Industrial Park is insufficient and the proposed curbing will provide structural support to the pavement. We expect to receive approximately \$200,000 in grant monies and \$200,000 in zero interest loan money from Ohio Public Works Commission [OPWC] for this project.

On the commercial side of things, Casey's General Store was an exciting addition to our Village which opened last spring. Ottawa Feed and Grain put up a new grain bin and McDonalds just finished a major interior renovation. Cliff Schroeder from County Electric and Powerhouse added a steel building measuring over 36,000 square feet to his property off of Locust Street, Hohenbrink Excavating will be constructing a 6,000 square foot structure this year and Ottawa Self Storage built two new storage units off of S. Perry. It's exciting and very encouraging to see all of these investments in Ottawa.

Council is in the process of implementing wage increases for Village employees based on a study that was commissioned back in March of 2017. The study assessed how salaries compare to other municipalities based on population and proximity. This attempt to offer competitive wages should allow the Village to retain current and attract new employees necessary to operate efficiently under ever increasing mandates. Now I'd like to thank all of our civic organizations especially the O-G Rotary Club, the O-G Jaycees and the Ottawa Kiwanis for everything that they do to give back to our community. The folks in these organizations are always willing to give of their time and talents and they really help keep Ottawa on the map.

I also want to thank Council for all of the time that is put in to make our community a better Village, and I really want to thank all the Village employees for going above and beyond and making Ottawa a great and safe place to live and work. It's been a great year and I look forward to 2019 which will hopefully include a long spring and lots of golf! Hope you have a happy Valentine's Day!... especially my Sweetie!

Go Titans, go Tribe and go Browns. Glad to stick it to the Steelers in the end. - J Dean Meyer, Mayor



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

FACT OR FICTION?

Chicago is called the "Windy City" because of the winds and weather from Lake Michigan? **FICTION!** It seems this nickname references Chicago's overly chatty residents and politicians, who were deemed to be "full of hot air."



LET'S TALK TRASH

Republic Services, Ottawa's present trash and recycling carrier, has shared with the Village two specific concerns related to rising costs of recycling as a part of curbside trash pickup; 1) reduced price in resale of recycled bales, and 2) costs related to inappropriate items found in recycling.

First, trash companies have collected your recyclables curbside for years, either breaking even or experiencing loss, knowing they could sell it for profit to China. China, however, is no longer buying our dirty recyclables because of their own clean air problems and thus the value has plummeted. Carriers who used to get anywhere from \$150-200/ton are now getting only \$100/ton, if that.

Secondly, when inappropriate items are recycled and end up in the bales, these bales must then be returned to their starting point on the sorting lines, broken down and the process started over again, driving up costs. It is estimated that 30% of present "recycled" items should not have been included in the recycling. When it costs more to sort and clean these items, collection is at a loss and the resale value is much lower.

The good news is that costs can be controlled if we become educated recyclers and dispel some common myths:

- ◆ plastic garbage bags **ARE NOT** recyclable in the tubs; "recycle" means taking back to the store
- ◆ plastic and tin food containers **NEED CLEANED** and **RINSED** so that they do not contaminate other recyclable items in your tub or when received at the facility
- ◆ diapers **ARE NOT** recyclable!!
- ◆ clean cardboard is an acceptable recycled item, however food boxes (i.e. pizza boxes) **ARE NOT** due to contaminants from food oils & particles
- ◆ styrofoam containers and products **ARE NOT** ever recyclables, as they can't be broken down

For a good visual of the problems contributing to rising recycling costs, visit:

<https://youtu.be/mGbRwsGwkTE>

- Jo A. Deskins, Council Member

WINTER TIPS



As winter continues in the Village, here are some winter tips for your reference:

- The Village requires sidewalks be cleared and...there are those who enjoy walking in the winter months!
- Keep your pets safe and warm and make sure they have fresh water.
- Turn down your thermostat from 72 to 68 degrees for 8 hours and you can save as much as 10% on energy costs. Every degree lowered can reduce your bill by approximately 3%.
- Winterize windows with weather stripping or plastic coverings.
- Keep an eye out for elderly relatives and neighbors and assist those who may need help clearing sidewalks or drives.



ELEVATE JOB FAIR

March 19, 2019

Leipsic Community Center

120 East Main Street - Leipsic

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Free and open to all adult job seekers

Over 45 Employers will be present



Coming Soon...

In June of 2018, Village Council contracted with CGI Communications to produce a video about the Village of Ottawa.

The purpose of this video is to tell a story by highlighting the community, businesses, organizations and supportive spirit of Village residents. Council and Administration would like to spotlight various aspects of Ottawa and encourage growth in industrial, commercial and residential areas.

The first draft of the video is complete and finishing touches are currently being discussed. Check the Village website at www.ottawaohio.us in the coming weeks for the final product!



KNOW THE RULES

RECYCLE RIGHT