

Community Connection

ISSUE #52
FEBRUARY 2021

The Village of Ottawa * 136 North Oak Street * Ottawa
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Special Points of Interest:

- Council meetings - 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month
 - Shade Tree Commission - 2nd Monday of each month @ 6:30 p.m.
 - Planning Commission - 3rd Friday of each month @ 8:30 a.m.
 - Park Board - 4th Monday of each month @ 6:30 p.m.
- *Meetings available via Zoom - Contact the Clerk's Office for information**



Mayor's Annual Address



I think we all can look back on last year and wonder, "What the heck just happened?!"

A pandemic is something I've never experienced. It has changed our everyday lives; from not thinking twice about using hand sanitizer every fifteen-minutes to wearing a mask inside a restaurant or store. This is our new normal and has also impacted the way we as a village operate. Closing the Municipal Building to the public and links to join meetings via Zoom have become the norm. I guess it's just something that we need to get used to.

Now, on to the happenings around the Village in 2020...

The much anticipated diversion channel has been completed!!! With the lowering of the I-9 bridge approaches and newly completed diversion channel, we can expect the river level to be roughly 18" lower during 100-year flood events. A huge thank you to everyone that helped make this happen and a job well done. The Village is looking into the creation wetlands and nature preserves along the channel providing a great place to take a walk and enjoy the view.

With building permits totaling over \$9.4 million, the Village saw significant development this year. Sts. Peter & Paul School, Whirlpool and Omega Dental all contributed by constructing additions. Ottawa Feed & Grain erected a new grain bin and Morman Family Chiropractic relocated to the former Family Dollar building, transforming this once eyesore to a focal point on North Perry Street. Some new businesses in town include Dollar Tree on Meadow Glen Drive and Well Grounded Café at the corner of 224 and 65. The café is a welcome addition to downtown Ottawa and I am hopeful for the future of its neighboring structure, the Crossroads 226 Building. You may have also noticed the former Shell Gas Station on Elm Street has been demolished. Bruster's Car Wash is in the process of calling this location home. Look for more on that in 2021. We welcome all of these businesses to Ottawa.

The Industrial Park will also see some new development in the near future. Thanks to the CIC's successful marketing of Tawa Drive, Hohenbrink Excavating has purchased an additional parcel and will be expanding their operations. A purchase agreement recently approved by Village Council will also be executed with closing scheduled in January for another parcel.

Again, this year the Village received about \$600,000 in grants, most of which is attributed to acquisition and demolition projects for flood mitigation.

Our Wastewater Treatment Plant Headworks Improvements Project has been completed and the final cost was \$2.35 million, about 6%, less than the estimate.

The Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project started this year. The current estimate for this project is \$7.2 million which includes upgrades and bringing the facility into EPA compliance. *(continued on next page)*

HAPPY
Valentine's
Day

Village Council

Dave Michel	Jo Deskins
Tim Maag	Tom Rosenbauer
Matt Black	Troy Yant

This estimate may be reduced by completing some of the work ourselves, but this is still a considerable and necessary upgrade. The Village was able to obtain 0% financing through the Ohio Water Development Authority for this project.

These improvements will compel the Village to increase the water rates by 15% over a three-year period. Sewer rates will remain the same for 2021.

In 2020 the Village spent a little over \$700,000 on street improvements. Most notably were Second Street, Pleasant Drive and East Main Street. Like last year, the snow hasn't been too bad so our snow removal budget hasn't had much activity.

Our parks looked wonderful this past summer. I know we couldn't use the playground equipment this year but we could still get out of the house and enjoy the walking paths and watch a little baseball. I also had the opportunity to walk along the river and catch quite a few nice smallmouth bass.

The Rex Center usage was fantastic and I want to thank the Cultural Committee for arranging the entertainment and good eats on Thursdays all summer long.

The West End Soccer Fields, another Greenspace Development project was completed this year. It's been great to see the kids out there numerous times this past fall.

The Village is still working on installing Blanchard River access points behind the reservoir and near the bridge along west 224. We've applied for grants to get these funded. It's going to take about \$100,000 to make that happen. We're hopeful.

Again, this year I really want to thank the service groups in town. They put in countless hours on projects that benefit our community and need to be recognized. Thank you OG Rotary, OG Jaycees, Ottawa Kiwanis, Lions Club and all.

Our staff in the village is wonderful to work with. Without dedicated employees like you, we could never accomplish all that happens to make Ottawa a great place to live, work and play.

To the Village Council, I say thank you. You make the decisions that allow us to get things done.

To former Councilman Ducey, I wish you well. We didn't always agree but you made us better.

I welcome back Troy Yant. I look forward to working with you again. Thanks for your dedication.

As I said in the beginning, it's been a strange year. Who would have imagined the Cleveland Browns making the playoffs?

In conclusion, as always, *go Titans, go BROWNS and go Tribe!*



Respectfully submitted January 4th 2021,
J. Dean Meyer,
Mayor of Ottawa

Recycling Schedule		
2021		
	Green Section	Blue Section
January	5th, 19th	12th, 26th
February	2nd, 16th	9th, 23rd
March	2nd, 16th, 30th	9th, 23rd
April	13th, 27th	6th, 20th
May	11th, 25th	4th, 18th
June	8th, 22nd	2nd, 15th, 29th
July	6th, 20th	13th, 27th
August	3rd, 17th, 31st	10th, 24th
September	14th, 28th	8th, 21st
October	12th, 26th	5th, 19th
November	9th, 23rd	2nd, 16th, 30th
December	7th, 21st	14th, 28th

2021 RECYCLING SCHEDULE

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO REFLECT THE UPDATED DATES FOR 2021.

Circled dates indicate a difference from the normal pickup day due to a holiday.