

Community Connection

ISSUE #4

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

DECEMBER 2012

Special Points of Interest:

- Two important **public meetings** with Army Corps representatives to discuss flood mitigation plan Monday, December 10th @ 6:30 p.m. at OGHS Tuesday, December 11th @ 9 a.m. at Educational Service Center on Putnam Parkway
- Council meeting on December 10 will be held after the Public meeting in Council Chambers
- Christmas Lights are on display in Memorial Park
- Reminder: Quarterly tax payments for those not withholding Municipal Income Tax at their place of employment are due and payable to RITA. Call 1-800-860-7482 for information.
- Renter Occupancy Form is due by January 31, 2013



MAYOR'S UPDATE

This is the first opportunity I've had to communicate with you directly since the elections were held in November. I have just a few thoughts on those issues that passed and on those that did not.

On behalf of Village Council and the Ottawa Volunteer Fire Department, I want to thank you for your support of our 1.1-mill, five-year renewal levy for fire protection. This will ensure we maintain a well trained and dedicated fire department of which I am very proud.

As you well know the 0.69-mill, five-year additional levy for fire protection that

would have funded the replacement of an aerial platform truck and two heavy rescue units was defeated by Putnam County voters. Council and the Ottawa Fire Department will continue to work with the Putnam County Fire Association and the Putnam County Commissioners to find a solution to what truly is a regional issue.

Even though the aggregation issues were defeated by a small margin, Village Council does not plan to go back to the voters in an effort to create a Governmental Aggregation program for electricity and natural gas. If you would

like to know more on how you, as an individual, can save on your utility bills visit www.puco.ohio.gov.

Ward Construction will work as long as the weather allows on curb replacement and road paving. Plans are for them to return in the spring of 2013 to resume work on those projects already approved by Council. Go to www.ottawaohio.us to see the project lists.

Finally, from the Village Council, and my family, I want to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

—Dean Meyer, Mayor



'Tis the Season!

Just a Reminder

The Village has an ordinance which requires the owner or occupant of abutting lands to keep sidewalks, curbs or gutters free from snow, ice or any nuisance.

NEW PAYMENT OPTION - NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS

The Village has recently incorporated a new payment option. Credit/debit cards will now be accepted for water and sewer bills, mulch, building permits, shelter-house rentals, and other miscellaneous items. Credit card payments will be accepted on-line,



at the front counter in the office at 136 N. Oak Street, or by phone. The Village does not pay any fees to offer this service. However, the customer will pay a convenience fee ranging from a minimum of \$3.00 to a maximum of 4.95% of the total transaction. This fee is added to the amount due at the end

of your transaction.

To make a payment online, go to the Village web page at www.ottawaohio.us and click on the tab at the top titled "Make a Payment." This will direct you to the site of *PayGOV.us* where you will fill in pertinent information to complete your transaction. If you have any questions re-

lated to credit/debit card payments, you may contact the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 419.523.5020 during regular office hours. Representatives at *PayGOV.us* are also available 24/7/365 to answer questions or accept payments after hours. The toll free number is 1-866-480-8552.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Flood Mitigation Update

An important public meeting for Ottawa residents has been planned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Monday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m.* at the Ottawa-Glandorf High School auditorium. To accommodate those unable to attend the evening meeting, the public meeting will be repeated the next morning on Tuesday, December 11, at 9 a.m. in the Assembly Hall at the Putnam County Educational Service Center (ESC), 124 Putnam Parkway. At the public meetings, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will present what they have tentatively determined is the most viable plan for flood mitigation in Ottawa. There will be information on structural impediments in the river, such as the I-9 bridge area and "non-structural measures" which include purchase of properties that have suffered repeated flooding. Some "very rough" cost estimates may also be discussed.

Thanks to the diligent work of the

Village's Clerk's office, 39 substantially damaged housing units have already been removed through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Federal & State grant funds have paid \$644,808 for these properties, with the Village of Ottawa expending only \$25,000. Recently, Ottawa submitted a full application for HMGP to purchase 9 more structures and has submitted a pre-application (the first step to being invited to submit a full application) for 8 additional structures. Owners of repeatedly flooded properties meeting certain criteria received a mailing assessing their interest in participating in these buyout programs. For more information on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, contact Denise Balbaugh, Ottawa's certified flood plain administrator.

After the August 2007 flood, the Mayor appointed the Blanchard River Flood Mitigation Coalition (BRFMC) Steering Committee to spearhead Ottawa's flood

mitigation efforts. On the second Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m., the BRFMC hosts a meeting at the Putnam County ESC, 124 Putnam Parkway in Ottawa. The public is invited to attend for information, input and feedback on flood issues. Special thanks go to the private citizens on the BRFMC Steering Committee: Bob Fawcett, Clyde Schroeder, and Nick Schroeder. Gene Hovest and Deb Bauer represent Ottawa Council on this committee, and Jeff Loehrke, Ottawa's Community Development Director facilitates the committee's activities.

**Because of the importance of this flood mitigation public meeting, the December 10th meeting of Ottawa Village Council will start at 8:30 p.m., or immediately following the public meeting. (Village Council normally meets at 8:00 p.m.)*

—Deb Bauer, Council Member

*Visit Memorial Park
to see the
2012 Christmas
Lights in the Park!*

THANKS TO:

*Ottawa Area Chamber
Ottawa Kiwanis Club
O-G Rotary Club
Ottawa Eagles
Ottawa Lions Club
American Legion Post 63
Ottawa Fire Department
Ottawa-Glandorf Jaycees*

For sponsoring the display

*Thank you,
Village of Ottawa
residents, for voting
to support our
Volunteer Fire
Department!*

RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS

The Village of Ottawa Income Tax Ordinance requires the owner of rental or leased units to report names and addresses of renters moving in or out of their properties to the Village semi-annually on or before January 31st and July 31st of each year. The required occupancy form is

available on the home page at www.ottawaohio.us, or by contacting the Clerk's Office. The form must be returned to the Village Office at 136 North Oak Street or you may fax it to 419-523-4246. If you have questions, please contact the Income Tax Commissioner at 419-523-5020.

WATER FLUORIDATION AWARD

The Ohio Department of Health announced the Village of Ottawa Water System has received a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in the water to an optimal level for preventing tooth decay. The award recognizes communities that maintained a consistent level of optimally fluoridated water throughout 2011.



Community water fluoridation has been recognized by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th Century. The Ohio Department of Health recommends water fluoridation as an effective and inexpensive method of preventing decay. In fact, every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves at least \$38 in costs for dental treatment.

COUNCIL INTRODUCES POLICE SPECIALS

At a September 10th meeting of Ottawa Village Council, three individuals were hired as "Police Specials" to the Ottawa Police Department. Police specials are part-time employees to the police force required to work a minimum of 16 hours per month. However, they typically average 16 to 20 hours of service every two weeks. These officers have the same training and employment requirements and support the force with the same authority as their full-time counterparts. Recently hired to the Ottawa Police Department are Police Specials Ryan Selhorst, Aric Kosch and Russell Lammers as pictured below (left to right).



—Jo Deskins,
Council Member



Village of Ottawa Officials:

- Dean Meyer—Mayor
- Council Members
- Tim Macke, President
- Gene Hovest
- Deb Bauer
- Dave Beckett
- Jo Deskins
- Troy Yant