

Community Connection

ISSUE #9

OCTOBER 2013

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

Special Points of Interest:

- *Trick or Treat—Thursday, October 31st from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.*
- *Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2013. Don't forget to VOTE!*
- *Christmas Parade is Sunday, December 1st at 2:00 p.m.*
- *The Shade Tree Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month at 8 pm*
- *Reminder: Quarterly tax payments for those who do not withhold Municipal Income Tax at their place of employment are due and payable to RITA.*



MAYOR'S UPDATE—Village Charter... What is it and Why Amend it?

WHAT? A Charter is a blueprint for municipal government that defines its organization, powers, functions and essential procedures. Adopting the Charter in 2000 allows Ottawa to keep the organization simple and streamlined should the population exceed 5,000 and it becomes the "City of Ottawa." A committee was formed to periodically review the Charter which includes Chairman Urban Lauf, Thomas Doepker, Eugene Hovest, Chris Pfahler and Ethel Walker. The Committee met in 2013 and have recommended several changes to update the Village Charter. The sections that have changes proposed are listed below; however more detailed information is available on the Village website at www.ottawaohio.us. *(the first bullet point on the home page)*

Mayor—Section 3.06 Acting Mayor and Section 3.07 Mayoral Vacancy

Council- Section 4.05 Salaries; Compensation, Section 4.06 Council Vacancies and Section 4.08 President of Council

Authentication, Recording and Publication of Ordinances- Section 4.11 Authentication, Recording & Publication of Ordinances

Contracting Procedures-Section 4.14 Contracting Procedures

Utilities Board—Section 8.01 Utilities Board (Eliminates this section)

Membership—Section 8.02 Membership (Eliminates this section)

Duties of the Charter Review Advisory Commission—Section 12.03 Duties (Requires a meeting at least every 5 years)

WHY? Updating the Charter addresses several issues that have arisen over the past 13 years including the elimination of the Utilities Board and making a change to the bidding process. A document outlining the current Charter language, the proposed changes and the reasons behind the change is available on-line. Please visit www.ottawaohio.us or contact a representative at the Municipal Building and a copy of this document will be provided. A copy is also posted at the Board of Elections and will be available at the Putnam County YMCA prior to voting. So, the following question will be on the November ballot:

"Shall the proposed Charter Revisions framed by the Charter Review Advisory Commission and approved by Council of the Village of Ottawa, Ohio be adopted?"

I hope you will vote "yes" to make these necessary changes to our Village Charter. Thank you and ... *Go TRIBE!!* —Dean Meyer, Mayor



Memorial Park Horse Shoe Pits

- Interested in starting a league for next year?
- Interested in taking over the maintenance of the horse shoe pits?
- Questions or ideas about the horse shoe pits?
- Call the Village offices at 419-523-5020 and information will be provided.



Oct. First Friday is "Dog Days of Summer!"

The final First Friday of the year is October 4th between 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Parking Lot at the corner of Main & Oak Streets in downtown Ottawa. The theme is "Dog Days of Summer!"

Planned activities include:

- Ottawa Farmers Market
- Food vendors on-site
- Free doggie treats
- Pet portraits
- Dog costume parade with prizes

- Pets available for adoption
- Training tips and more!

First Friday is open to the public. If you have a dog, bring your pet with you on First Friday! All dogs welcome! Dogs must be on a leash for their own safety and the safety of other children and families in attendance.

—Amy Sealls, Executive Director
Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce



Trick or Treat
is scheduled for



Thursday,
October 31, 2013
between
6 and 7 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Replacing a fence? Adding a deck? Placing a storage shed in your back yard? Building a new house? These are some of the issues that require building permits from the Village of Ottawa. If the location of these property additions meet Ottawa's ordinances for set-backs from the property line, the Village Building & Zoning Coordinator types up the permit and secures signatures from the Village officials for approval. If siting or zoning issues do not meet code, a variance must be requested by the property owner from the Village Planning Commission.

One of the main purposes of the Planning Commission is to approve any proposed plats to sub-divide property in the Village. In addition, new commercial buildings or building additions must be

reviewed by the Planning Commission for site plan approval.

If a property is in the flood zone, there are special requirements for building, building additions, and renovations, both residential and commercial. Denise Balbaugh CFM, the Village Building & Zoning Coordinator, 419-523-5020, is available to answer questions about flood plain and other building permit issues.

Signs placed in the Village of Ottawa are governed by a sign ordinance and an approved sign permit must be secured before the sign can be displayed.

Members of the Planning Commission include Bill Hanna, Dennis Recker, and Randy Verhoff. Mayor Dean Meyer chairs the Planning Commission, and Tim Macke is the representative from Village Council.

Also in attendance at the meetings are Jack Williams, Municipal Director; Barb Hermiller, Clerk-Treasurer; Joe Schroeder, Law Director; Jason Phillips, Assistant Municipal Director; Rich Knowlton, Police Chief/Safety Director; and Denise Balbaugh, Secretary. The Planning Commission meets on the third Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Additional information and applications regarding planning, zoning, and signs can be accessed on the Village of Ottawa website www.ottawaohio.us under the *Local Government* tab, and then by clicking on *Planning Commission* or by contacting the Ottawa Clerk-Treasurer's office at 419-523-5020.

- Deb Bauer, Council Member

Road Closed

As reported in the April issue of the Community Connection, the Village of Ottawa and Ottawa Township have joint authority over the grade crossing located at Township Road L-10. The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) recommended for safety reasons, the **permanent** closure of this crossing to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

A Public Hearing was held on August 13, 2012 to discuss the issue and no concerns were heard.

Ohio Department of Transportation and ORDC have been working closely with the Village to coordinate the closure and will contribute financially. Although an exact date has not been determined, this safety improvement will be completed during 2013.

All of the pavement on the west side of the tracks will be removed and a portion on the east side. Barricades will be installed on both sides.



PARK BOARD

Most residents are aware of Ottawa's Memorial Park, Water Works Park, and Our Lord's Park, but did you know that the Ottawa Park Board also oversees Arrowhead Park, Theo Kersh Park, the Ice Skating Park, West End Water Tower Park, and the Park by the River? The Park Board consists of volunteers appointed by the Mayor. Currently, Dave Niese serves as president, and the members are Scott Hershberger, Brad Leis, and

Carol Siebeneck. Each member serves a four year term

The Park Board meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building. Also attending are Jason Phillips, Asst. Municipal Director; Troy Yant, Council Liaison; and Erin Hughes, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer.

Park volunteers, coordinated by Carol Siebeneck, meet on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Mondays of April through October, weather permitting.

Some of their activities include planting and maintaining flowers, raking leaves, and litter pick-up. If you would like to join the volunteers in the park please call the Village offices at 419.523.5020.

— Deb Bauer, Council Member

"October gave a party; The leaves by hundreds came-
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples, And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet, And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing, Professor Wind the band."

- George Cooper, *October's Party*



Village of Ottawa Officials:

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

Keeping Ottawa Beautiful

As Ottawa residents prepare for a change in the seasons, by pruning or removing trees on their properties, The Shade Tree Commission (STC) suggests referencing Chapter 945 of the Village Ordinance. "Owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs on their property which constitute a menace to public safety. The Shade Tree Commission may recommend the removal of any tree which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines or other public improvements or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or pest."

Any citizen who wishes to relay concerns related to trees within the Village may do so by calling the municipal building and filing a report. The STC meets the third Tuesday of each month to tour the Village, noting any trees on both public and private properties which it feels may be hazardous to public safety and which have been reported as possible hazards by Ottawa residents.

— Jo Deskins, Council Member

Welcome Santa to Ottawa Parade

Sunday - December 1st
2:00 p.m.

Parade route details will be available soon!

Photos and visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus
Horse drawn wagon rides
OGHS Show Choir
Entertainment by local dance students
Chili, hotdogs, cookies
Hot chocolate