

Community Connection

ISSUE #36

APRIL 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:

- Council meetings—8 pm the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at Municipal Building
- Shade Tree Commission - 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm
- Planning Commission - 3rd Friday of each month at 8:30 am
- Park Board meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm
- E-file your annual municipal income tax return online at www.ritaohio.com
- Arbor Day is Friday, April 27th. Plant a Tree!
- Call if you have questions about the Hazardous Tree Assessment



MAYOR'S UPDATE



I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter and now I'm guessing that you are looking forward to Spring as much as I am. I can hardly wait for the temperatures to warm up so that we can "putt" the winter coats away and get outside! Maybe by the time you read this...

So, for now, if I can't talk anymore about golf, I'd like to talk a little bit about trash! The Village of Ottawa currently has a contract with Republic Services for residential trash/recycling services within the corporation limits. At their regular meeting on February 12th, Council approved a third year option, so the current contract will remain in effect until April 1, 2019.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Terry Thompson, Area Municipal Market Manager from Republic Services, to discuss our contract and some concerns expressed by Council. Mr. Thompson presented a computer/tablet/phone application called "My Resource" which residents can use to pay their bill, report cart damage, request additional services and more. Messages can be sent from this App 24/7 and they bypass the Call Center, going directly to the Lima Dispatch Office. This sounds like a pretty neat option as it allows the responses to be immediate since they are assigned as soon as the dispatcher receives them. Another item we discussed was the calendar. This is also available on-line at their website <https://www.republicservices.com> by clicking on "schedule" at the top and entering your address and zip code. The schedule is fairly easy but if you don't have computer access or don't want to look it up, here it is. Trash / Recycling services will run one day behind after the following six holidays: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The Call Center phone number remains the same 1-800-491-1115; but don't hesitate to call the Clerk's Office if you have an issue that you cannot get resolved.

Another item that is sort of related is the cleaning of Tawa Run. Last year, Council petitioned the Putnam County Engineer's Office to clean the ditch which runs through the Village. This was going to be an assessed cost, however, Council decided to pay for the Village portion with Village funds. The County still has to go out for bids on this, but they are estimating the cost between \$30,000 and \$35,000. This project should be happening this year and will also help with our flood mitigation efforts.

Arbor Day is scheduled for Friday, April 27th. Last year, we planted trees (remember Barbie & Ken?) at Sts. Peter & Paul and Ottawa Elementary Schools and held a poster contest for 4th grade students at both schools. Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation has once again generously volunteered to donate a plaque to the poster contest winners as well as provide a sapling for every 4th grade student to take home. Some special classroom lessons related to trees and the benefits have been organized by members of the Shade Tree Commission. This event has really grown into quite the celebration and we'd love it if you joined in!

WOW!! It's great to be a Titan fan! Congratulations to all our fine winter athletes on some terrific accomplishments!! Go Browns and Go Tribe! - 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

Hazardous Trees

The Hazardous Tree Assessment was completed in early 2017. The following addresses have trees scheduled for removal in 2018:

541 E. 2nd	638 E. Main
1217 E. 2nd	717 E. Main
205 W. 2nd	1040 E. Main
1525 E. 3rd	299 N. Maple
717 E. 3rd	260 Hall
704 E. 3rd (2)	591 S. Perry
617 E. 3rd	235 N. Perry
910 E. 3rd	151 S. Sherman
1405 E. 3rd (2)	530 N. Taft
529 W. 3rd	491 S. Walnut
505 E. 4th	228 N. Walnut
653 S. Oak	204 N. Walnut
503 S. Oak	101 Concord
733 S. Oak	157B S. Hickory
543 S. Oak	236 N. Hickory
421 S. Oak	201 N. Hickory
339 Crescent	

ARBOR DAY DESIGNATION



It has been over 135 years since J. Sterling Morton founded Arbor Day, and his simple idea of setting aside a special day for tree planting is now more important than ever.

On **Friday, April 27, 2018**, the Village of Ottawa Shade Tree Commission (STC) will join the fourth graders of Sts. Peter & Paul and Ottawa Elementary in tree plantings at their respective schools.

The STC challenges Ottawa residents to take this day and weekend as an inspiration for their own celebration, by: planting a tree in memory of a loved one, planting a tree in honor of a new family birth, choosing an area in your neighborhood to clean up, reading books about trees to children and grandchildren, or holding Arbor Day block parties and helping one another in residential tree planting.

- Jo A. Deskins, Council Member, STC Member

CONTACT INFO

Email addresses for Council members

dmichel@ottawaohio.us jdeskins@ottawaohio.us
tyant@ottawaohio.us jducey@ottawaohio.us
trosenbauer@ottawaohio.us tmaag@ottawaohio.us

THE DIRTY DOZEN—Tax Scams

As printed on the IRS website: "Compiled annually, the "Dirty Dozen" lists a variety of common scams that taxpayers may encounter anytime but many of these schemes peak during filing season as people prepare their returns or hire someone to help with their taxes. Don't fall prey."

Taxpayers need to guard against ploys to steal their personal information, scam them out of money or talk them into engaging in questionable behavior with their taxes. This year's Dirty Dozen list includes:

- * Phishing
- * Phone Scams
- * Identity Theft
- * Return Preparer Fraud
- * Fake Charities
- * Inflated Refund Claims
- * Excessive Claims for Business Credits
- * Falsely Padding Deductions on Returns
- * Falsifying Income to Claim Credits
- * Abusive Tax Shelters
- * Frivolous Tax Arguments
- * Offshore Tax Avoidance

Although many of these scams have appeared on the IRS's annual list in years past, it is important to note that scammers often use more desperate and elaborate mechanisms to swindle people out of their money. As these scams take on new twists and variations, the IRS hopes to alert taxpayers so they may arm themselves.

More information about all of the items listed above are posted to: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/dirty-dozen>.

TAX ABATEMENT

Have you thought about building a home in Ottawa? What about remodeling your existing home? The Village now offers real estate tax incentives through its *Community Reinvestment Area* (CRA) program.

Residential tax abatements are for a fixed length of time and a fixed percentage. For example, if you build a new home in the Village of Ottawa, after you have moved in, contact the Village and apply for a 100%, five year (or ten year if your property is located in the floodplain) real estate tax abatement. New residential construction applies to single-family homes only.

Remodeling projects also qualify for tax abatements provided at least \$20,000 is invested in a single-family home, or at least \$40,000 in a two-family home. The timeframe and percentage of abatement are the same as for new construction, 100% for five years, ten years if the property lies in the floodplain. The residential abatement for remodeling is limited to one and two family homes.

Properties are reviewed each year to verify they are being properly maintained and remain qualified for the CRA tax exemption.

For more information about the CRA program, contact Denise Balbaugh, CRA Housing Officer, at 419-523-5020, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Dave Michel, Council Member

Memorial Park Capital Campaign

The new lights are up at Memorial Field, as part of Phase One of the Memorial Park Capital Campaign. Plans are now underway designating **Friday, June 8th** as the community "Grand Reveal" and dedication of the lights. This event will coincide with opening night of the Showcase Game for the annual Tawa Tournament. The night is being planned as a community event, with food, music, and a silent auction of donated items from the Detroit Tigers, Chicago Cubs, Toledo Mud Hens and Toledo Walleyes, to take place before, during and after the games that evening. Mark your calendars now and prepare to bring out the family for an old-fashioned night of baseball, under the lights of Memorial Field. It should be noted that teams that require the use of lights, will be given access to turn on the lights, prior to the designated dedication night.

As part of Phase Two, the committee hopes to also have in place by this June date, an entryway to the ball field, to include two, four-sided, nine-foot pillars joined by a rod-iron archway welcoming fans to "Ottawa Memorial Field." This project will take place near the present Larry Cox Memorial, where a sidewalk will lead from the parking lot, around the memorial, and continue through the pillared archway to the stands. Donor recognition plaques will be placed on each of the exposed eight sides of the pillars, in a layout that recognizes various giving levels. Field upgrades and future maintenance of the present Memorial Field are also part of the present planning by the Memorial Park Capital Campaign Committee.

- Jo A. Deskins, Council Member, MPCCC member

