

Community Connection

ISSUE #6

APRIL 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:

- 2012 income taxes are due and payable to RITA by April 15. Call 1-800-860-7482 or visit www.ritaohio.com for more information or to e-file your taxes.
- Information on the Adopt-a-Tree program available in Clerk's Office
- May Council meeting dates will be Monday, May 13th and 20th due to Memorial Day holiday.
- Charter Review Advisory Commission has convened. Meetings scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday evenings prior to Council meetings. See the website for further details.
- Village employees are working to change out old water meters with new radio read meters!



Tree Planting for Arbor Day 2012

MAYOR'S UPDATE

At their regular meeting on December 17, 2012, Council members expressed support and appreciation for a new program being implemented by the Ottawa Knights of Columbus (K of C). It is called the 2nd Responder Program and is designed to help people in need reduce damage to their property in the event of a natural disaster.

At this time, the program is being geared toward flood events and will help residents and business owners move their belongings to higher ground. As you will read in an article on the back page of the *Community Connection*, the program will be available to help



after all types of natural disasters, not just flooding.

This type of support and teamwork will provide a critical service to Village residents and business owners. Thank you in advance, Ottawa K of C members, for your cooperation and assistance to our community.

On a different note, as you know, the fire levy to purchase a new aerial ladder truck that was put on the November ballot by the Putnam County Commissioners was defeated by a pretty large margin. Ottawa still has a ladder truck in service, but it is 33 years old and takes a lot of money to keep it running. The Village has decided to

implement a charge to use this vehicle *when requested* for mutual aid runs. Now, anytime the ladder truck is called outside of the Ottawa Volunteer Fire Department Fire District, a fee of \$2,000 will be assessed as soon as the truck is dispatched. The dispatching entity will also be charged \$200 per hour while the truck is in use.

This policy has been put in place to preserve our ladder truck for as long as we can for the citizens of the Village of Ottawa and to help offset maintenance costs.

Congratulations OG Titans Boys and Girls Basketball! What a great season!
—Dean Meyer, Mayor

RR Crossing Closure



The Village of Ottawa and Ottawa Township

have joint authority over the grade crossing located at Township Road L-10 and have agreed, for safety reasons, to permanently close this crossing to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic of any kind.

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

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Ohio Rail Development Commission (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 must be completed within one year.

Ottawa: A Proud Tree City USA Community!

Tree City USA, which began in 1976, supports the planting of all types of trees and provides towns and cities with guidance regarding their care. Ohio for the 32nd year, is the top Tree City USA state in the nation and Ottawa is among the 237 cities, villages and townships enrolled in the program, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. Ottawa has held the distinction as an Ohio Tree City for nine years, having met each of four core criteria: 1) it has an established tree board, referred to as the Shade Tree Commission (STC), 2) it enacts a community tree ordinance for direction, 3) it funds the community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita and 4) it celebrates Arbor Day with a community ceremony and proclama-

tion by the Mayor.

Eligible communities may apply annually for a Tree City USA Growth Award by earning points for new or improved programs and projects across four eligible categories, including education and public relations, partnerships, planning and management and tree planting and maintenance. Ottawa qualified for the Growth Award in both 2010 and 2011 demonstrating strengths in the education and tree planting and maintenance categories.

Since 2004, Ottawa's STC has planned a celebration of Arbor Day that typically includes the planting of two trees by students at Ottawa Elementary and Sts. Peter and Paul schools. Students are given planting experiences and provided the benefits

of planting and caring for trees.

In 2013, the STC will plant 25 trees; 15 of those to be planted this spring and another 10 in the fall. The goal is to begin to replace the many trees lost to the emerald ash borer and in last summer's wind storm.

The Village of Ottawa has recently been invited to attend the Tree City USA Northwest Ohio Awards Ceremony to be held in Whitehouse, Ohio on April 18, 2013. This event is to be hosted by the Village of Whitehouse and City of Waterville Tree Commissions. Ottawa was the host of this event in 2010. As Ottawa citizens, we can be proud of our community's fine achievements in urban forestry.



—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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHANGES

When Jeff Loehrke left his long time position as Ottawa's Community Development Director to take a job with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Ottawa Council had to decide how to move forward. The Community Development Director position included leadership roles in economic development, flood mitigation, parks & recreation management, public relations, and other duties as assigned by the Mayor and Village Council.

In light of current budget constraints, Municipal Director Jack Williams will assume the role of Economic Development Liaison, with the assistance of newly hired intern, Alina

Raulinaitis. Ms. Raulinaitis, a public administration graduate student at Bowling Green State University, will be networking with Ottawa area businesses to assess their needs for maintaining and expanding employment. Ottawa is also investigating a more active role in the Putnam County CIC.

Mr. Williams along with Jason Phillips will also be directing Ottawa's parks and recreation, working with the Park Board and the YMCA as well as with the Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. Phillips has been promoted to Assistant Municipal Director, and along with his duties as Water Director, will oversee Ottawa's Public Works department. To free up Phillips'

schedule for additional duties, a new public works operator will be hired. Mr. Phillips has had a very active role in flood mitigation as Ottawa's technical liaison to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Because the EPA has requirements for water and wastewater hours and certifications, part-time, weekend operators have been hired to avoid over-time hours for Ottawa's full-time operators. This should help relieve some of the burden of additional duties taken on by Mr. Williams and Mr. Phillips. Ottawa is fortunate to have several employees with Class III, Class II, and Class I water and waste water certifications.

—Deb Bauer, Council Member



*"The sun was warm
but the wind was chill.*

*You know how it is
with an April day."*

~Robert Frost



Go to www.blanchardriver.org for more info on Rain Barrels.



OTTAWA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 2nd RESPONDER PROGRAM

A goal of the Knights of Columbus is to make life better in our community. To achieve this goal the Ottawa Knights of Columbus, Council 1757, established a program to assist our neighbors in the event of a natural disaster. The name, Knights of Columbus 2nd Responders, differentiates this program from the brave 1st responders who act to save lives. As 2nd responders, volunteers aid citizens in limiting

damage to property.

Although the program is meant to assist in any natural disaster, to get started the Knights of Columbus focused on assisting citizens affected by flooding. We will assign a team of six volunteers to specific homes or businesses. Our plan is to have the team meet with the residents and review with them what help they want and how best to assist them. In a

flood event the team will mobilize to their assigned homes and help move belongings to safety and help secure structures from the water.

Prior to this happening, The Knights of Columbus need to establish and prioritize the households or businesses needing help.

If you want the 2nd Responders to assist you in a flood event, please complete the form below

and mail it to the address noted on the form.

If you have any questions related to the 2nd Responder Program, please contact one of the Core Team members listed below:

- Tim Macke—419-523-4753
- Keith Schierloh—419-796-5914
- Harold Gerten—419-659-5914
- Mike Ebbeskotte—419-638-6328
- Mike Tobe—419-523-4894



Please cut on dotted line and mail form below to: Ottawa Knights of Columbus, 2nd Responders, PO Box 13, Ottawa, OH 45875

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Home _____ Business _____

Best time to call: _____ Rent _____ Own _____