

Otsego VIEW



NEWSLETTER • FALL 2014

TOP SPONSORS



OTSEGO PRAIRIE FESTIVAL *is happening Saturday, September 13!*

The Otsego Prairie Festival will feature familiar events and activities that so many have enjoyed in previous years **starting at 10:00 a.m. on September 13, 2014** at Prairie Park.

The Otsego Prairie Festival this year includes activities for all ages and interests including displays by community organizations and businesses and there will be more than **50 CRAFT VENDORS** offering their works. **OTSEGO ROD AND CUSTOM** returns again this year to sponsor the car show open to all street, modified, restored or hot rod cars, trucks and motorcycles. A wide variety of **FOOD VENDORS** are also signed on to serve festival attendees, including a **BEER GARDEN** hosted by the Otsego Lions. This year there will also be many exciting new attractions not the least of which is **LIVE MUSIC DURING THE DAY TO BE FOLLOWED BY FIREWORKS AT DUSK!**

EVENTS

LOWE'S WORKSHOP PETTING ZOO
BEER GARDEN FOOD VENDORS
LIVE MUSIC INFLATABLES
FIREWORKS
PAINTBALL PERFORMERS
& MORE!

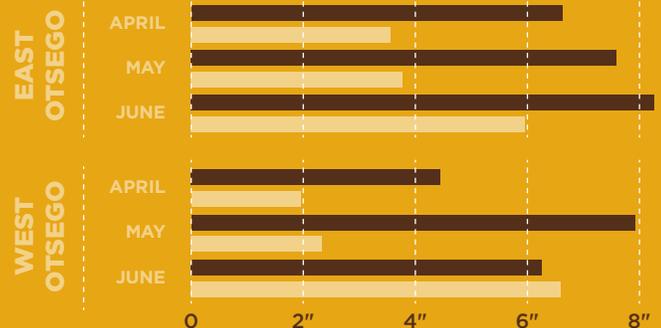
More information about the Otsego Prairie Festival, including schedules and information regarding sponsors and exhibitor information, is available at the event website at www.otsegoprairiefestival.com. We look forward to seeing you and your family at the Otsego Prairie Festival!

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RAINFALL TOTALS

■ 2014 ■ 2013



SCHOOL NEWS

School districts and charter schools operate independently of Otsego and other cities they serve in terms of financing, facilities management and long-range planning. However, the interests of the City and Elk River Area Schools IDS 728, St. Michael-Albertville ISD 665 and Monticello Public Schools ISD 882 are interrelated when it comes to growth, development and school enrollments. (A map of the school district boundaries in Otsego is available on the City's website or by calling City Hall.) For this reason, the City communicates regularly regarding development activity in Otsego and stays informed of school district plans. Below is a summary of recent school district activity relevant to Otsego residents:

- **ELK RIVER AREA SCHOOLS REFERENDUM:** The School Board received input at public meetings and via a community survey regarding capacity at school facilities being over-capacity (including Otsego Elementary and Rogers High School) with growth in enrollments expected to continue. The November 4, 2014 election will include a two question ballot for an operating levy to open and operate new facilities, to hire more teachers to reduce class sizes and provide more class room technology. The second question is for a bond to provide for construction of new District-wide facilities to be complete by Fall 2016, including the following improvements benefiting Otsego students:
 - Build a third classroom wing at Rogers High School.
 - Build a E-8 school in Otsego at MacIver/80th Street on land already owned by the School District.
 - Eliminate existing temporary classrooms at Otsego Elementary.

The School District estimates the School District portion of the property taxes for a \$250,000 home would increase by \$42 if both referendum questions pass. If the referendum questions fail, the School Board has already decided to proceed with the addition to Rogers High School and expansion at two elementary schools south of the Mississippi River using a mechanism known as a lease levy. **The School District property tax impact of this alternative, if the referendum questions fail, is estimated as a \$79 increase for a \$250,000 house.**

More information about the Elk River Area School District referendum is available at the School District's website at <http://www.elkriver.k12.mn.us> or by calling 763.241.3418.

- **KALEIDOSCOPE CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION:** The City has approved plans for Kaleidoscope Charter School, located west of LaBeaux Avenue (CSAH 19) and north of 70th Street, to expand their program to a K-12 facility. The expansion of 29,300 square feet includes additional classrooms, a media center, cafeteria and full-kitchen, as well as some remodeling of existing administration areas. The original school was built in 2008 and construction of the expansion will break ground in October and be complete by Fall 2015. The move is expected to grow the school to more than 500 students.

More information about Kaleidoscope Charter School is available at their website at www.KCSMN.org or by calling 763.428.1890

It's pronounced "ot-SEE-go"!

A strategic goal of the City Council is improving identification of Otsego and strengthening a sense of community.

This can be a major challenge for a former township where rural families more often identified with adjacent towns. Even though Otsego became a City in November 1990 and has experienced an influx of more new families than were here at that time, the community still faces challenges such as having five zip codes, being served by three school districts and developing two growth areas on different freeway corridors. The following are a list of ways the City Council encourages residents to identify themselves with Otsego and promote our shared community:

- **Otsego properties are served by five post offices each with a separate zip code 55301, 55330, 55362, 55374, and 55376.** Because the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is not adding new Post Offices it is unlikely Otsego will have its

own designated Zip Code. But the City Council has worked with the USPS and area Post Masters to get approval for property owners to utilize "Otsego" as their mailing address regardless of Zip Code.

- **Otsego residents should list "Otsego" on their drivers license and vehicle registration.** This can also save you money and avoid confusion if you buy license tabs in Sherburne County and be mischarged a wheelage tax applicable to residents of that County.
- **When calling 911, please be sure to identify your address as "Otsego"** to aid emergency services in responding to your location as quickly as possible. This is especially true if calling 911 within Otsego from a cell phone as calls carried by cellular towers in Sherburne County will be automatically routed to the Sherburne County 911 response center.

Greetings Neighbors!

The City recently received several questions in response to the approval of a license for the planned Target off-sale liquor store.

I want to therefore take an opportunity to provide information as to the regulation of businesses in Otsego through the City Code and Zoning Ordinance so that there is an understanding of the reasons why the liquor license was approved in this case, and how decisions are made regarding other businesses.

Decisions as to the number of any type of specific business that open in Otsego is almost entirely market driven. It is a misconception that the City can control the number of liquor stores, gas stations, restaurants, dentists, doctors, banks or other businesses that can locate in Otsego. The City adopts a Zoning Ordinance regulating land use that designates districts over areas of the City in which similar and compatible uses are to be allowed. The extent of the City's review of any proposed business is limited to determining compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, issuing a license when required by State Statutes or the City Code and review of building plans for compliance with the building code.

Liquor stores are defined by the Zoning Ordinance as retail uses the same as Target or a clothing store or a drug store and considered to be a permitted use in commercial zoning districts in Otsego. Certain uses are deemed to be allowed as conditional uses under the Zoning Ordinance because of characteristics that require closer review due to the effect that they may have on an area in terms of compatibility, traffic or utility needs and require a public hearing before the Planning

Commission and approval of the City Council. But whether a business is a permitted or conditional use, the City does not have the latitude to deny the right to locate within Otsego when that business complies with the Zoning Ordinance, City Code and other applicable State laws. To deny a business outside of the City's purview for compliance with the Zoning Ordinance and City Code may result in a lawsuit against the City that it would have a very hard time defending.

We hope this information is helpful. The City Council and City staff welcomes the opportunity to address any questions that residents or businesses within our community may have in understanding the City's position regarding development.

Jesmar Stockamp

CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Political signs are not regulated by the City Code. However, people may not post ANY signs within the public right-of-way. Generally, signs need to be placed at least 16 feet behind the curb or edge of the street to be on private property. Any signs placed within the public right-of-way are subject to removal by the City and will be disposed of.

2014 Election Information

Otsego residents will head to the polls again on **Tuesday, November 4, 2014** for Federal, State, County, School District and City elections. The polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. The City is divided into three precincts that will vote at two polling places.

To determine which Precinct you are in, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>. A map showing the Precinct boundaries and polling places is also available on the City's website or you may call City Hall for more information on the election process.

The polling places are as follows:

PRECINCT 1-A	PRAIRIE CENTER 8899 Nashua Avenue NE Please use the main entrance
PRECINCT 2-A	OTSEGO ELEMENTARY 8125 River Road NE Please look for signs directing you to the appropriate entrance
PRECINCT 3	OTSEGO ELEMENTARY 8125 River Road NE Please look for signs directing you to the appropriate entrance

11.04.14

CITY OF OTSEGO
**PARKS &
Recreation**



Visit www.ci.otsego.mn.us for more programs, information or to register online or call 763.235.3148.

EVENTS • FALL 2014

ADULT KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

Call your neighbors, friends and co-works to come out and play in this the **Otsego Kick-Off adult kickball tournament**. Otsego Parks and Rec and New Life Community are teaming up and running a one day tournament. Rules and team guidelines can all be found on-line at otsego.recdesk.com/recdeskportal/.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 at Otsego Prairie Park | 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. | \$50 Per Team



COUPLES FALL COLORS CANOE TRIP

Couples will park at the Otsego Regional Park and be bused to Norin Landing. Couples will be guided down the Mississippi River back to Otsego Regional Park. At the completion of the canoe trip, a picnic lunch will be served in the park.

SATURDAY, September 27 at 10 a.m.

(Registration Deadline September 22)

Otsego Regional Park (15186 96th Street NE)

\$80 per couple (includes canoe trip and lunch)

WINE/CANVAS NIGHT AT POUR

Come for a fun, social night with a local artist who will guide you step by step in creating a fabulous piece of artwork. (16"x24") No painting experience necessary. Cost includes all art supplies and beverages are separate.

TUESDAY, October 21 *(Registration Deadline October 14)*

TUESDAY, December 9 *(Registration Deadline December 2)*

6-8 p.m.

POUR (15704 90th St Otsego)

\$40

MOM AND ME CLASS

"Brave girl portraits" - Hey moms, do you want to boost your daughter's confidence and bond with them at the same time? Then come do some portraits with your daughters and pick words that describe her from a piece of paper that has words on it such as "interesting" and "smart". No painting experience necessary!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 *(Registration Deadline Nov 4)*

6 p.m.

Prairie Center

\$30 (mother/daughter), \$10 each additional child

TINY TOT OPEN PLAY TIME

AGES NEWBORN-5 WITH PARENTS

Kids, bring your parents/caregiver to this super fun playtime. Come and play with your child and meet other adults and kids in our community.

THURSDAYS, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Prairie Center

Starting September 18*

Not Meeting October 16, November 27, December 25 & January 1.

\$2 each time

ZUMBA

Ditch the workout and join the party. Come dance your way to a firmer, better body with motivating music with unique moves and fun dance moves. It is a 'feel happy' workout and you'll love the results.

WEDNESDAYS, 5:45-6:30 p.m.

\$15 per session

FULL BODY BARRE FUSION

This ballet inspired class fuses yoga, Pilates, core conditioning & interval strength training for a total body sculpting workout. All fitness levels welcome. If you have light weights we encourage you to bring them.

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

\$15 per session

SESSIONS DATES FOR BOTH CLASSES:

Session 1: September 10 - October 1

Session 2: October 8 - 29

Prairie Center



MONSTER MASH DASH 5K

OCTOBER 25

8 A.M. AT PRAIRIE PARK

Entry Fee: \$15 Pre-registered
by 10.10.14
\$20 after 10.10.14
\$10 Kids 1K

Start Location: Prairie Center
8899 Nashua Ave NE
Otsego, MN 55330

Course: 5K (3.1 mile) course on City streets and
trails in and surrounding Prairie Park

Race Day: Registration opens at 7 a.m.



All pre-registered 5K participants will be guaranteed a race T-shirt. There will be refreshments and a chance to win attendance prizes after the race. Awards will be given for the overall men's and women's winners.

FREE PICKLE BALL CLINIC

Pickle Ball is a little tennis, a bit of ping pong, a splash of badminton and fun to play! Have you wanted to play but don't know how? Here's your chance! Attend one of our free clinics where you will learn the rules and have an opportunity to play this fun sport. Please bring a lawn chair. You need to register to attend and space is limited.

SATURDAY, September 20 or 27

10:00-12:00 p.m.

Kittredge Park Tennis Courts (*Pickle Ball Court*)

7150 Kittredge Parkway NE

FREE

YOUTH SNOWMOBILE TRAINING

Students can register if they will be 12 years of age or older by January 1, 2015. Students 16 years or older are encouraged to order and complete an adult CD from the Minnesota DNR. For the December 6 class, there will be an outdoor driving course. Students need to dress for the weather and bring a helmet. The driving test will be held with or without snow on the parking lot. 2-Day Class.

Must Pre-Register by December 1.

THURSDAY, December 4 | 6-9 p.m.

SATURDAY, December 6 | 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m

FALL BALL

Otsego Park & Rec offered the spring fling dance for young adults with disabilities and it was a blast... come shake your tail feather for our "Fall Ball". Your PCA or chaperone is also welcome to join you! Dance will be from 7-9 p.m. Refreshments will be for sale at the event. A photo prop area will also be available... so cameras are welcome! Reserve your spot or buy your tickets at the door.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

7 - 9 p.m.

Prairie Center

\$5



CHEER AMERICA

Cheer America is a cheerleading and dance program for children ages 4 to 16. Students learn popular cheers, chants, jumps, leaps and choreographed pom pom and dance routines. For more info, please visit their website:

www.cheer-america-minnesota.com.

THURSDAYS: September 25-December 4

No Class Thanksgiving Day-Nov 27

4-7 Year-Olds: 6 - 6:45 p.m.

8-16 Year-Olds: 7 - 7:45 p.m.

Prairie Center

\$70

**GO
TEAM!**

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION CPR/FIRST AID/AED CERTIFICATION

This class will give participants their American Heart Association CPR Certification Child-Adult and First Aid & AED certifications. The class will be two hours each day on Monday & Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. Steve Dittbenner has been a local CPR instructor for over 25 years

MONDAY & TUESDAY, October 6 & 7

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Prairie Center

\$40



MOVIES IN THE PARK

MOVIES START AT SUNSET. Bring your family out and enjoy an outdoor movie on our 16' screen. All the movies are free and will be making a visit at a variety of parks throughout Otsego. **FREE!**

In case of inclement weather movies will move inside to Prairie Center (8899 Nashua Ave.) Please call the Rec Info line at 763.235.3150 the day of the movie.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION:

September 5 at Zimmer: The Nut Job (PG)

September 12 at Frankfort: Planes (PG)

**September 19 at Prairie Park: The Hobbit-
The Desolation of Smaug (PG 13)**

Sponsored by:  **The Bank
OF ELK RIVER**

CITY HALL:

13400 90th Street NE
Otsego, MN 55330

PHONE NUMBERS

Main: 763.441.4414
Building Dept.: 763.441.2593
Utility Billing: 763.441.2310
Fax: 763.441.9163

RECREATION INFO LINE:

763.235.3148

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday

8 a.m. – Noon

CITY COUNCIL:

Jessica Stockamp (Mayor)
Tom Darkenwald
Vern Heidner
Doug Schroeder
Jason Warehime

CITY WEBSITE*

www.ci.otsego.mn.us

**Information listed herein as being available
on the City website will also be mailed upon
request by calling City Hall.*



WRIGHT COUNTY DEPUTY RECOGNIZED

The I-94 West Chamber of Commerce recently awarded its 2014 First Responder of the Year award for Otsego to Wright County Deputy Melissa Meemken. At the award ceremony, Chamber President Rhonda Black told how in February of this year, Deputy Meemken was dispatched to a medical call of a male having chest pains. She arrived on scene and found an unresponsive male on the ground with no pulse. A female on scene had begun chest compressions and continued doing so while Deputy Meemken attached the automated external defibrillator (AED). The AED was not working, so Deputy Meemken began CPR. The patient started to breathe and gained a very faint pulse. Two additional deputies arrived and another AED was attached. The male patient was shocked and CPR continued until he was breathing on his own and had a heartbeat. He was transported to Mercy Hospital.

The City Council extended its own congratulations to Deputy Meemken at the City Council meeting on June 9, 2014, with Sheriff Joe Haggerty also in attendance. The City Council has always made the safety of the community a top priority and works together with the Wright County Sheriff's Office to provide contracted local police protection and public safety services 24/7 within Otsego. This approach provides a high level of public safety in the most cost effective manner given the extensive resources of the Wright County Sheriff's Office. An important part of their service to Otsego is that the Wright County Sheriff's Office assigns individual Deputies, such as Deputy Meemken, to regular patrol shifts within the City so that they become familiar with the community and any local issues that require more directed attention.

PUMPKIN PATCH

**OCTOBER 25
11 A.M. – 1 P.M.
AT PRAIRIE PARK**

Come to our annual event and pick out your very own pumpkin in our pumpkin patch. There will also be games, inflatables, prizes and more. Please bring a non-perishable food item for CAER. The Little Free Library is always accepting book donations.

