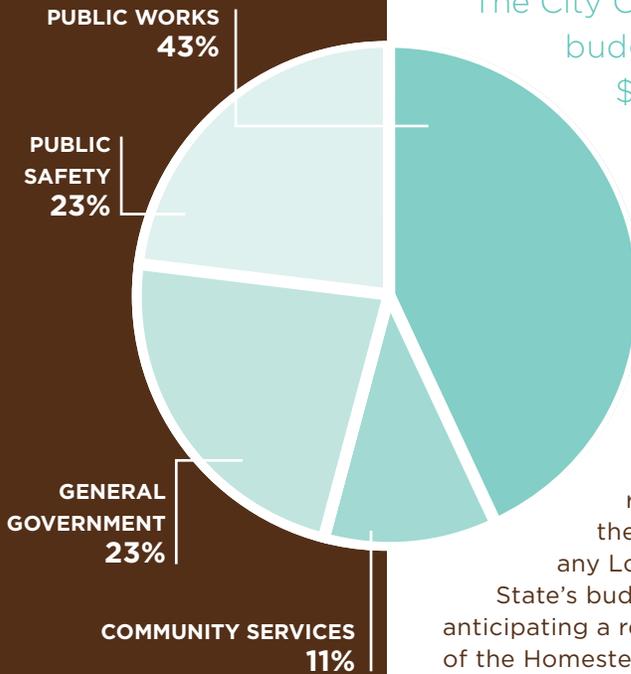


# Otsego VIEW

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2011

## 2011 CITY BUDGET

The City Council adopted a budget for 2011 of \$3.966 Million dollars.



The budget reflects a continuation of existing City service levels as well as increased costs for the Wright County Sheriff's Office and investments for future City streets, parks and trails to maintain these capital improvements and avoid more costly repairs long-term. Although the City does not receive any Local Government Aid, the State's budget issues have the City anticipating a reduction in the repayment of the Homestead Tax Credit in 2011, which is also reflected in the 2011 Budget. The City Council continues to be committed to

providing quality, efficient City services for Otsego's residents and businesses recognizing that the current economic conditions are a challenge for all.

The taxes paid for your property include monies for the City, Wright County, School Districts and Hospital District. Thus the total amount of the property taxes statement is affected by the budget decisions of all four jurisdictions. While residential properties continue to see a drop in property value this year, commercial and industrial properties also saw significant value decreases that results in a shift of the tax burden from commercial and industrial to residential properties. The result is that many homeowners whose values dropped from the 2010 to 2011 assessment may see a smaller than expected decrease or even an increase in the amount of their property tax bill.

### Pride in Our Parks and Adopt-A-Street

**The City encourages people of all ages, including residents, community groups and businesses, to help keep Otsego clean, safe and more attractive through two community programs:**

**Pride in Our Parks** volunteers assist in picking up debris, raking leaves, planting and maintaining vegetation or other special projects and help identify needed repairs in our parks.

**Adopt-A-Street** is a partnership between volunteers and the City Public Works Department whereby participants assist in picking up debris, planting and maintaining boulevard

vegetation or other special projects and make visual inspections of roadway areas to identify maintenance issues.

Pride in Our Park and Adopt-A-Street volunteers make a one year commitment for activities. Otsego Public Works staff provides basic oversight, safety vests, tools and materials as may be needed. The City also places a sign within the park or at the approaches to the adopted street crediting the individual, group or organization for their efforts.

More information about Pride in Our Parks and the Adopt-A-Street Program, including possible projects, available parks or streets and application forms, is available at the on the City's website or by calling City Hall.

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## **ATTENTION** Sanitary Sewer Customers:

The Utilities Department is experiencing on-going problems with clogs in the municipal sanitary sewer system due to household items being flushed.

More than \$50,000 was spent in 2010 for equipment and City staff to unclog blockages in the sewer system due to items like these being flushed. And, unless the City together with its sewer customers can stop the disposal of these household items to the sewer system, additional equipment will need to be installed.

The costs for equipment and/or staff time to address this problem are paid for directly and only by funds generated by sewer fees. Continued expenditures either to unclog blocked sewer lines and pumps or the purchase of additional equipment will result in higher utility rates. The City has the ability to trace disposal of these items to specific neighborhoods and could add a surcharge to those areas where this issue occurs regularly.

This debris not only clogs the sewer system but may create a blockage in the service line to your home causing sewage to back up into homes. The City is not responsible for any damages within your home from a sewage backup caused by a blockage within your individual service line.

Your cooperation to not dispose of these household items through the municipal sanitary sewer system is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please do not hesitate to contact the operations staff in the Utilities Department at 763.428.9215

Items that are causing these blockages include the following that may come in packaging saying they are "disposable":

### **Cleaning Supplies**

- Disposable floor dusters/mops (Swiffer pads), toilet cleaners, etc.
- Disinfection wipes
- Shop towels
- Paper towels

### **Hygiene Products**

- Dental floss
- Baby wipes
- Adult wipes
- Feminine products
- Prophylactics

### **Cooking Grease**

# OTSSEGO FACTS

Otsego's sanitary sewer system has two waste water treatment facilities with the ability to treat **1.6 MILLION GALLONS OF WASTE PER DAY** collected through **68 MILES OF PIPE**.

The water system has three water towers able to store **2.4 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER** distributed by **63 MILES OF PIPE**.

The Public Works Department and City's contracted Utilities Operator, PeopleService, Inc, perform cleaning and maintenance on 20 percent of the sewer and water pipes, inspect approximately **250 MANHOLES** and flush **712 HYDRANTS** each year.

## Greetings neighbors!

Winter continues and as it does, I want to say thanks to the Public Works Department for the many hours they have put in clearing snow in Otsego this season. The Public Works Department has logged many more hours plowing snow so far this winter compared to last and has included many weekend storms. The City Council greatly appreciates all of their efforts. The Public Works Department establishes procedures every fall for snow removal operations and this year is using 10 trucks to complete the job with additional equipment used in cul-de-sacs, trails and parking lots at City properties.

I had an opportunity to ride along with one of the plow operators after a snowstorm to see first-hand what a difficult job plowing snow is – being aware of the road, the plow and sand/salt mixture on the move as well as surrounding traffic.

**To ensure everyone's safety and to make snow removal operations go as quickly and efficiently as possible, I wanted to provide the following reminders:**

- There is no parking on any public street between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM between November 1 and April 30. Vehicles parked on public streets during these hours are subject to immediate ticketing and/or towing.
- There is no parking on any public street after a snowfall of 2.5 inches or more until after the street has been plowed to its full width. Vehicles parked on public streets during a snow emergency are subject to immediate ticketing and/or towing.
- Snow from private property may not be deposited on the traveled portion of any public street, sidewalk or trail.
- Property owners are responsible for removal of snow, ice and other debris from concrete sidewalks adjacent to their property within 12 hours after the snowfall has stopped.
- Drivers need to slow down and stay behind the snowplows. Drivers should allow at least five car lengths between their vehicles and snowplows keeping the mirrors of the snowplow in view.

~Jessica Stockamp

# Otsego Festival Royalty

**The Otsego Festival Committee is seeking applicants to be considered for Otsego Royalty for 2011-2012.**

The Otsego Royalty include Little Mister and Little Miss Otsego (*ages 7-9 years*) and Junior Miss (*age 10-13 years*). Three candidates for each category are being sought and candidates must be residents of the City of Otsego. The new Otsego Royalty is crowned at the Otsego Festival in September each year and then represent the Otsego community by participating in City events, community outreach programs and parades in nearby communities.

Parents interested in having their child participate in the Otsego Festival Royalty program can contact **Rose Cassidy** at **763.441.8769** or by e-mail at **ROSDAY@msn.com** after April 15 to receive an application or with questions.

Notes  
from the  
Mayor



2011-2012





The annual Easter Egg Hunt is planned for **APRIL 9** from **11 AM TO 1 PM** at **PRAIRIE PARK**, 8899 Nashua Avenue (behind City Hall). This free event is sponsored by the Otsego Parks and Recreation Commission. Kids are invited to hunt for Easter Eggs (which will be replenished throughout the event) and visit with the Easter Bunny – bring your own camera for photos. For more information, visit the City’s website or call City Hall.



[www.ci.otsego.mn.us](http://www.ci.otsego.mn.us)

## FIRE HYDRANTS

With the amount of snow that has fallen this winter it is important that residents and businesses help to remove snow around fire hydrants near your property.

The Public Works Department does not remove snow from around fire hydrants as part of snow plowing operations. Clearing snow from around fire hydrants will ensure that they are visible for fire fighters and greatly speed response time in case of an emergency.

This is an informal voluntary effort and there is no need to notify City Hall. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

### Hydrant Flush Schedule

The Utilities Department will also be flushing the water system using fire hydrants throughout City neighborhoods based on the following schedule:

- Riverwood National:** April 14th
- East Otsego:** Week of April 18-22
- West Otsego:** Week of April 25-29



[www.ci.otsego.mn.us](http://www.ci.otsego.mn.us)  
City Website

Doug Schroeder  
Dan Scharber  
Vern Heider  
Tom Darkenwald  
Jessica Stockamp (Mayor)  
**CITY COUNCIL:**

Utility Department  
Mon-Thu: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fri: 8 a.m. – Noon

Building Department  
Mon-Thu: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Fri: 8 a.m. – Noon

Administration  
Mon-Thu: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Fri: Closed

### OFFICE HOURS:

Main/Administration: 763-441-4414  
Building Dept.: 763-441-2593  
Utility Billing: 763-441-2310  
Fax: 763-441-8823

### PHONE NUMBERS

8899 Nashua Avenue NE  
Otsego, MN 55330

### CITY HALL:

