



# OTTER LAKE VILLAGE NEWS

April 2018

## Village President

David Dorr

## Village Trustees

Ray Benson

Terry Gill

Nancy VanAmburg

Ana Lerma

## Village Clerk

Joan Skias

## Village Treasurer

Susan Miller

## **Village Council Meetings:**

First Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall, 5902 Genesee Street

(Minutes of each council meeting are posted on the Village's website.)

## **Village Website:**

Villageofotterlake.com

www.facebook.com/villageofotterlake

## **Contact Information:**

Office: 810-793-2665

DPW: 810-793-2245

## **Office Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am until 12:00 noon (Closed all holidays)



## Council Meetings Overview:

### January 2018:

- Bills totaling \$29,469.87 paid
- Approved change to GCBG grant projects per request of county.
- Discussed condition of streets and possible repair work for this summer.
- Approved financial reports.

### February 2018:

- Bills totaling \$11,624.03 paid
- Held Public Hearing on proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-2019.
- Approved Marathon Area Fire Authority proposed budget for 2018.
- Approved Fire Department's special events request for a beverage/entertainment tent on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Approved financial reports.

### March 2018:

- Bills totaling \$14,205.63 paid
- Approved wage increases for DPW workers.
- Authorized the spread of special assessments, signing of warrants and signing of bank cards.
- Approved Cardinal Wishes to hold 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Motorcycle Poker Run on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Reappointed Valley and Pins to Planning Commission.
- Approved financial reports.

(For complete meeting minutes, visit the Village's website.)

## Upcoming Meetings/Events:

### Upcoming Village Council Meetings:

- Monday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 13 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m.

### Planning Commission Meetings:

Wednesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Other meetings may be called as business arises. These will be posted on the Village's website.

## General Information:

### **Disposing of Broken Glass:**

Recently one of our garbage collection workers was cut by a piece of broken glass placed in a garbage bag. While the injury was not serious, we would like everyone to please properly dispose of broken glass as follows:

Small items of broken or shattered glass (light bulb, vase, etc.) should be placed INSIDE of a heavy paper bag or cardboard box (cereal box, snack box, etc.) prior to placing it into your garbage bag. By doing this, there is less risk of the broken glass cutting through your plastic garbage bag.

For large pieces of broken glass, such as a mirror, tape over the parts of the glass that are broken so no sharp edges are exposed. Also, place tape across the item in both directions to help contain the broken pieces.

(continued on next page)

## MARATON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

(This includes Village Residents)

# SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

## Saturday - May 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

### Columbiaville Soccer Fields

Dumpsters will be available to dispose of building materials, dry paint cans, furniture, small appliances, electronics and other unwanted "stuff". If disposing of large building materials, please bring help to do the unloading. Thank you.

Items containing Freon, pesticides, toxins or oil based paints CAN NOT be accepted.

Passenger vehicle tires will be accepted free of charge – thanks to a grant through the DEQ!

For more information, please call 793-2002 during normal business hours.

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### **Volunteers Needed:**

The Village is looking for residents that would be willing to volunteer some of their time to serve on various committees and boards as the need arises. Some of these are:

- Planning Commission, 3 year term
- Marathon Area Fire Authority, 3 year term
- Southern Links Trailway Management Board, 3 year term
- Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
- Special Events Committee, annually
- Flower Bed Maintenance – warm months only!
- Chamber of Commerce / Museum, annually

The time commitment varies, but typically is 1 to 1 ½ hours per month. If you would be interested in helping, but cannot commit to serving, we would still be interested in hearing from you. These committees do need help with special projects from time to time. AN EXAMPLE: The Village's "Community Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Plan" needs to be updated and filed by the end of the year. This five year plan must be filed with the DNR if the Village wishes to apply for any recreational grants. We do need your input! If you do have an interest, please call the Village at 810-793-2665 and someone will be contact.



# OTTER LAKE VILLAGE NEWS

January 2018



## Upcoming Meetings/Events:

### Upcoming Village Council Meetings:

- Monday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 13 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m.

### Planning Commission Meetings:

- Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Other meetings may be called as business arises. These will be posted on the Village's website.

## General Information:

### **Snow Plowing:**

When removing snow from your driveway, sidewalk, etc., **please do not** push it across or blow it into the street. Tim and Joe do not have time to be constantly re-plowing streets, particularly on weekends. This also creates a potential safety issue by creating slick areas on our streets. If you hire someone to plow for you, it is your responsibility to clearly let them know where to push the snow they are clearing from your property. If your property is limited in size, please contact Tim to work out a possible solution. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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## Council Meetings Overview:

### October 2017:

- Bills totaling \$8,333.19 paid
- Approved KoZi Kitchens request to block off Detroit St for fall festival on October 28.
- Set hours for trick or treating from 6 to 8 p.m. on October 31.
- Approved financial reports.

### November 2017:

- Bills totaling \$30,920.76 paid
- Discussed condition of Washburn Rd and the need to grade it.
- Reviewed proposed sewer rate analysis presented by USDA consultant Leo Dion.
- Scheduled special meeting to discuss block grant funding.
- Approved financial reports.

### November 20 – Special Meeting:

- Discussed possible projects for Genesee County Block Grant Funding for 2018 totaling \$3,472.

### December 2017:

- Bills totaling \$9,298.58 paid
- Approved projects for 2018 Genesee County Block Grant funding.
- Approved sewer O&M increase.
- Approved contract with Mr. and Mrs. Reeves to manage park for 2018 season.
- Approved financial reports.

(For complete meeting minutes, visit the Village's website.)

### **Sewer Rate Increase:**

Beginning January 1, 2018, an additional charge of \$7.50 per month will be added to your sewer bill. It will be noted on your bill as **Debt Retirement**.

Trustee Ray Benson, Clerk Joan Skias and Treasurer Susan Miller have spent many hours reviewing all sewer O&M accounts and past practice in the Village's billing of the sewer fees. Some minor irregularities were discovered and corrected. Checks and balances have been put in place to make sure these occurrences do not occur in the future. These items were simply mistakes or misunderstandings, no monies were missing or improperly spent. The sewer fees charged have been covering the Village's operating cost of the system; however we have been unable to set aside enough funds to cover equipment replacement as required by the USDA. Last summer an independent consultant that works with the USDA reviewed fees collected, current operating costs and projected future operating cost and presented his findings and recommendations to the Village Council in November. It was discovered that the consultants that helped the Village set the original sewer rates failed to correctly estimate the funds needed to retire the debt for the total system. This new charge corrects this oversight and will allow us to fund future equipment replacement.

The Village has also compared the fees we charge to other local communities' sewer fees. While a direct comparison is hard to make due to different billing methods (some villages charge a flat fee plus a metered fee based on usage) it appears we are in line with these other communities and in many cases lower.

Treasurer, Susan Miller, is willing to work with any resident that may wish to set up a monthly payment plan. While only one bill will still be sent out quarterly, she will set up accounts and keep track of monthly payments for those who may find this a better option for them. If you may be interested, please stop into the office and discuss it with Suzie.

It is very important that your bill be paid in a timely manner, as the Village has monthly bills to pay from operating the system. When the O&M accounts are short on funds to pay these bills, money must be borrowed from other accounts. This is NOT good operating procedure and can lead to mistakes in our accounting system.

Your sewer bill is a utility cost, just like your electric and gas bills. Failure to pay those bills results in shut off of those utilities; an option the Village does not have, nor do we wish to have.

**Again the Village is willing to work with any resident to develop a payment plan that works for them.**