



Fall 2008

2125 Richards Road, Ottawa Hills, Ohio 43606
Phone: (419) 536-1111 Fax: (419) 535-3550
Website: www.ottawahills.org

Mayor: Kevin Gilmore
Vice-Mayor: Robert Reichert
Council Members: Rex Decker, Jeffrey Gibbs, Norma King
Jack Straub, Jim Walter
Clerk-Treasurer: Katherine O'Connell
Village Manager: Marc Thompson

**Shred Day
Computer Recycling
Saturday, October 18th**

For the second year, the Village is partnering with AccuShred to promote proper disposal and destruction of personal information. On Saturday, October 18th from 9 am to 12 pm at the Municipal Building, 2125 Richards Road, residents will be able to shred up to 50 pounds of personal documents, floppy disks and CD's (approx. 2 banker boxes). Assistance will be available to help unload boxes. Residents can watch the documents being shredded from their car, if desired. Material over the 50 pound limit can be destroyed for \$3.00 per container.

This year AccuShred will also offer disposal of computer equipment. Computers, DVD players, VCR's, and cell phones will be taken at no cost. TV's will be accepted, but there is a \$10 waste disposal charge. Everything will be destroyed and ultimately recycled.

Call 419-531-4849 with questions.

2006-2007 Audit

The Village's financial records are audited every two years by the State Auditor's office. Work on the 2006-2007 audit was completed in August. The audit should be released soon. Once released the audit results will be available for review on the State Auditor's website. It is anticipated that the audit will be positive, and will contain recommendations for some policy improvements.

**Halloween
Friday, October 31st 6 pm – 8 pm**

Halloween 2007 was a terrific success, with positive response from both residents and visitors and a larger than usual number of trick-or-treaters. Based on the success of last year's "pedestrian-only" Halloween in the Plat III section of the Village, this set up will be followed again for 2008.

Roads in the Plat III section will be closed off to vehicular traffic to allow families to walk safely through the area. Volunteers will be on hand to assist residents and visitors. Parking for visitors will be available on Indian Rd. at the elementary school and the high school.

Again this year the Boosters and the Police and Fire Departments will offer treats. Boosters will man their concession trailer and police officers and firefighters will distribute goodies at the elementary school.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Safe disposal of hazardous waste is critical. Placing hazardous materials in with household trash is dangerous to our employees and to the community, when those items make their way to the landfill.

To dispose of hazardous materials safely, please contact Lucas County Solid Waste at 419-213-2230.

Road Salt

Recent articles in the Toledo Blade have described a problem with municipalities and contractors accessing road salt for the 2008-09 winter season. As residents may remember, salt usage was very high last winter leaving suppliers and users with no reserves. The Village used over 1,000 tons of salt compared with 500 tons in a typical year. This has resulted in much higher prices and limited availability of road salt.

The Village recently solicited bids for road salt from five companies and each responded that they were unable to provide salt at this time. We are talking with other entities about buying salt and are looking at alternate methodologies for addressing slick pavement.

Due to the high prices and low availability, the Village like most other municipalities will change strategies for salting roads this winter. Less salt will be used and it will be focused more on main roadways. It is expected that this is a temporary problem. The Great Lakes area is rich in underground salt. If this winter is more typical, suppliers should be able to recover and produce more of the commodity.

Snow Removal

With winter around the corner, our Service Dept. will be preparing equipment for snow removal.

This year more than ever, residents need to make certain that driveway contractors do not leave a trail of snow across the street after plowing driveways. The snow can freeze on the pavement and create safety problems.

Sometimes Village snowplows do minor damage to lawns, sprinkler heads and mail boxes. This is a particular problem on streets without curbs. The Village will repair or replace these items. Please do not hesitate to call if you believe our snowplows caused damage. The Village will work with each citizen to assure that the problem is resolved.

Sign Regulations

This is the time of year that political signs dot the landscape reminding us of the upcoming election.

The following requirements apply to all signs on residential property in the Village of Ottawa Hills.

- ξ A permit must be obtained from the Village.
- ξ Signs may not be in excess of 48 inches high.
- ξ Signs may not be in excess of 10 square feet.
- ξ Signs may not be placed in the public right-of-way (usually 15 feet from the pavement, or behind the sidewalk).
- ξ Signs which are placed in the public right-of-way are subject to confiscation.
- ξ Placement of yard sale signs and garage sale signs on private property is permissible. Placing of such signs on street corners, utility poles, etc. is not permissible. (Note: No permit is required from the Village to hold a garage sale.)

Signs which are in violation will be picked up and brought to the Village offices. They may be retrieved from a large box at the rear of the police station.

Improving Water Quality

Almost all rainwater and snow melt from Ottawa Hills flows to the Ottawa River. It is important that we all work toward not having pollutants get into the river. Simple things that can help include:

- Do not put anything in street drains (catch basins), especially things like motor oil, weed killer, and pesticides.
- Keep fertilizers off hard surfaces such as your driveway or the street.
- Clean up after your pet. Dog waste is a very large contributor to water pollution in urban/suburban settings.

OTTAWA HILLS 2008 LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE

Leaves will be picked up WEEKS OF:					
Oct. 6 & 13 - Throughout the Village					
Oct. 20	Nov. 3	Nov. 17	Oct. 27	Nov. 10	Nov. 24
AREA 1			AREA 2		
Ashborne Place Bexford Road Brantford Road Brookside Road - 4300 to 4700 ONLY Brookview Drive Central Avenue Cheryl Lane Darlington Road Dunkirk Road Evergreen Road - 2200 to INDIAN ONLY Falmouth Road Forestvale Road Forestview Drive Gallatin Road Grimsby Road Halifax Road Hardale Blvd. Hempstead Road Indian Road Inlands Court Kirkwall Road Manchester Road Miner Road Northmoor Road Olde Brookside Road Orchard Road - 2274 to 2600 ONLY Orkney Road Osborn Road Pelham Road Pembroke Road Scarborough Road Sheraton Road Talmadge Road - North of River Valleyview Drive Westchester Road Woodhill Road	Avatar Court Bancroft Street Bonnie Brae Circle Bonniebrook Road Boshart Way Brittany Road Brookside Road - 3300 to 4200 ONLY Canterbury Court Carriage Hill Drive Chaledon Court Chestnut Hill Road Citation Road, North & South Collinway Street Damascus Drive Dauber Drive, East & West Derby Road Dundas Road Edgehill Road Edgevale Road Emkay Drive Evergreen Road - 2100 to 2199 ONLY Exmoor Fordway Street Hasty Road Hawthorne Road Hillandale Road Innisbrook Road Orchard Road - 2000 to 2241 ONLY Parke Road Richards Road Ridgewood Road Riva Ridge Road Secretariat Road Stableside, North & South Sulphur Spring Road Talmadge Road - South of River Underhill Road Whitehall Road				

Note: Leaf pickup will continue beyond the schedule as weather dictates.

*Leaf pickup crews will be on each street at least once every two weeks, weather permitting.

*Please notify your lawn service of the leaf schedule so that they can coordinate their leaf raking.

*Do not place branches or other materials in leaf piles - these can damage our equipment.

*Refrain from parking in the street during leaf pickup weeks.

2008 Construction

2008 has been another busy year for road projects in the Village. We have completed work in the Forestview/Falmouth area. Currently underway is work in the Pembroke area along with Hawthorne Road. This is a significant construction project, complicated by poor conditions under the pavement on Hawthorne. However, the contractors have made good progress. We appreciate the patience of residents in this area. We are confident that the improvements will be worth the temporary inconvenience to residents. Our contractor has worked hard to address any concerns of our residents.

New paving has also been installed at the Municipal Building. Driveways and parking areas along with the Talmadge Road extension were resurfaced.

River restoration and reinforcement of the river banks upstream and downstream from the former dam has been completed. This project will help protect Secor Road and Edgevale Road from future erosion concerns, while improving the quality of the stream, all at minimal cost to the Village.

The site still shows the effects of heavy equipment but the area has been leveled, seeded, and should return to its prior state soon. Hundreds of trees were planted along the riverbank, which should provide good shade for the area and the river. Shade is an important aspect of keeping the water temperature low which is positive for fish health. Removal of the dam has significantly improved fish migration in the Ottawa River.

Projects this year have also included bank stabilization on Bonniebrook, storm sewer repairs near Evergreen and minor improvements to Geresy Field drainage.

2009 Construction

Next year the Village expects to do further repaving on streets west of Talmadge and a multi-year project in the Orchard Road area

will begin. Engineering has started on both of these projects. Increasing costs, however, may affect the extent of new paving projects.

The Village is submitting applications for grant funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission. We work hard to structure projects that may be eligible for state grants. Potential projects include paving on Bancroft Road as well as sewer evaluation and improvement in areas that have experienced flooding.

2008 Budget Update

The 2008 Budget as originally adopted reflected a balanced operating budget and an extensive capital budget which would draw on existing funds. Capital expenses were expected to draw on reserves for over \$1.5 million.

From an operating standpoint expenditures are currently below budget. It is expected that higher costs for utilities, fuel and snow removal will be offset by savings in other areas of the budget.

2008 road construction has been more costly than originally budgeted. Both increases in scope and the cost of raw materials are causing the final costs to exceed original estimates. The Council has increased the budget to reflect these changes and to allow the projects to go forward.

To date the primary source of revenue for the Village, income taxes, has shown a small increase over 2007. Most municipalities are suffering from reduced revenues. The Village has been fortunate that revenues continue to support the current level of services. Estate tax revenues will be higher than budgeted this year. The estate tax is imposed by the State of Ohio, but municipalities receive most of the tax. Estate tax revenue has historically been used to fund capital projects because it is an unpredictable source of funds. The additional taxes this year will be useful to help reduce the deficit caused by capital expenditures.

Yard Waste Disposal Site

Clean Wood Recycling

419-843-9663

Residents can dispose of yard waste, free of charge, at Clean Wood Recycling/Future Lawn, located on Bancroft Street just west of the 23/475 overpass. Yard waste must be emptied from all bags and cans. The bags and cans cannot be discarded at that site.

The Village will continue its leaf pickup program (schedule enclosed) but other yard waste materials cannot be collected.

Branches lost due to storm damage are picked up at the curb, but trimmings from routine yard maintenance will not be picked up. The Village is prohibited from bringing yard waste to the landfill.

Property Maintenance

Property maintenance legislation exists to preserve property values, and to avoid blighting and deteriorating influences on our neighborhoods. The regulations require that exteriors be kept painted or protected and in good maintenance. It also addresses yard conditions, requiring that lots be kept free of unsightly materials, brush piles and debris. Limits are also placed on construction projects.

Regarding vehicles, inoperable or unlicensed vehicles may not be stored in yards. Utility trailers are prohibited from private property. Vehicles identified as "For Sale" are not permitted on private property or public right-of-ways. Recreation vehicles can be stored for no longer than 48 hours.

The Village has successfully taken several property maintenance cases to court recently. Legal actions are only taken when an owner is unresponsive to Village requests for action required by ordinance. The Village is not immune to problems of the real estate market and foreclosures are likely to increase the number of property maintenance issues.

If you have questions or concerns, contact the Village Manager at 536-1111.

Large Item Trash Pick Up

There are two remaining opportunities for residents to sign up for large item trash pick up this year. The Village contracts with Waste Management to collect a variety of items that cannot be handled on the regular trash route. To register, stop by the Village offices and submit a brief form and the \$40 fee. The remaining dates are as follows:

<u>Pick Up Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Sign Up</u>
Friday, Oct. 10 th	Tues., Oct. 7 th
Friday, Oct. 24 th	Tues., Oct. 21 st

Community Coordinator

Our Community Education and Recreation Coordinator, Bev Gottlieb, wants to hear from you. If you are new to the Village and haven't talked with Bev, please call her at 419-537-9852 (especially if your number is unlisted).

If you have suggestions for community classes you would like to see offered, or if you have a talent or skill to share as an instructor, Bev welcomes your suggestions.

Local Income Tax

The Village has a 1½% income tax on income earned in the Village or income earned by Village residents. Residents who pay income taxes to another community receive partial credit for those taxes, and pay a reduced income tax to the Village. All residents, whether renters or owners, are subject to the tax on earned income. The Village income tax ordinance does not have an exemption for students or a minimum taxable income. However, the Village does not bill or refund amounts under \$5.00.

Income tax provides more than 50% of the funding for services in the Village, including police, fire, refuse and road maintenance.

Our tax department is staffed by Diane Haas, Tax Administrator, and David Johnson, Tax Assistant. They are both happy to answer any questions or help with your local tax return. Contact the Income Tax office at 536-6502.



2125 Richards Road
Ottawa Hills, OH 43606

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
TOLEDO OH
PERMIT #1144



*Wrong name on this label?
Please call 419-536-1111 to correct our mailing list.*

43606@2599

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Ottawa Hills Schools #1 in the State!

Congratulations to school district employees, administration, students and the community for ranking first in Ohio on the Performance Index. Your high achievement reflects well on the entire community.

November 4, 2008 Election 6:30 am – 7:30 pm

To vote in the November election voters must be registered by Monday, October 6, 2008. Registration forms can be picked up at the Municipal Building. The deadline for requesting an absentee voter ballot is Saturday, November 1, 2008.

Every voter will be required to provide proof of identity before voting. Identification includes a current and valid photo identification card, military identification, copy of utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or government document showing your name and current address.

2008 CALENDAR

Fall Festival, Saturday, Sept. 27th 11 am – 5 pm

(Geresy Field – Indian @ Evergreen)

Town Meeting, Sunday, Oct. 5th 1:30 pm

(OH High School Auditorium)

Council Meeting – Oct. 13th – 7:30 pm

Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31st 6 pm – 8 pm

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 27th

Thurs. Recycling on Wed., Fri. Recycling normal

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24th

Offices closed at noon

Christmas, Thurs., Dec. 25th

***NEW SCHEDULE - Recycling 1-day delayed

(Thurs. Recycling on Fri.; Fri. Recycling on Sat.)

New Years Eve, Wednesday, Dec 31st

Offices closed at noon

New Years Day, Thurs., Jan. 1st

***NEW SCHEDULE - Recycling 1-day delayed

(Thurs. Recycling on Fri.; Fri. Recycling on Sat.)