

State of the City



Mayor Robert M. Eschbach

October 14, 2008

FIRE DEPARTMENT

There are 29 employees in the Ottawa Fire Department consisting of three shifts of nine men, Deputy Chief Jeff Newbury and Chief Jim Duback. All members serve as firefighters and as Emergency Medical Technicians. Approximately 80% of the call volume is for medical emergencies both in the City as well as the surrounding Ottawa area. These EMT's are licensed through the Illinois Department of Public Health and maintain their training through Ottawa Regional Hospital and Healthcare Center. Commissioner of Public Health and Safety Ed Whitney oversees the Ottawa Fire Department operations.

In addition to responding to 2,500 Medical calls per year and approximately 450 fire calls, members of the department train both in the field as well as the classroom to enhance their skills and capabilities, logging over 3,300 hours of fire training last year. The Ottawa fire department has been proactive in training members to respond to county or statewide emergencies as members of the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System). Three members serve on the Hazardous Materials Response Team and six members serve on the Technical Rescue Team. An emergency generator and light plant is housed at the main station for deployment when needed.

The Fire Department participates in fire prevention and education activities in the community which include visits to schools, clubs, and fire extinguisher training for various organizations. An Open House was held recently for Fire Prevention Week and safety materials were distributed to school age children. The Fire Department hosts tour of the fire station throughout the year. The Department's Fire Safety House is used throughout the area to enhance learning for children. Site visits are made at many properties in the city by the department for pre-planning tactical response in the event of emergency.

In the past year the Department has taken delivery of a new 2008 MedTech ambulance built on a 2008 International Chassis. This unit cost approximately \$168,000 and replaced a 1997 model.



Last year a new 250 kilowatt Generator was installed at the Central Police and Fire Station, and this fall a 25 kw generator is being installed at the Southside Firehouse to replace a failing 37 year old backup unit. A 2007 Suburban that serves as the Deputy Chief's vehicle has been equipped as an Incident Command Squad capable of coordination communications with all emergency agencies in the State of Illinois, as required by MABAS and the Illinois Terrorism Task Force. The City is exploring the possible purchase of a new fire engine within the next year.



Deputy Chief Newbury has been attending classes throughout the year to attain a Fire Officer III level status with the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. Chief Duback has attended Fire Inspector classes and National Fire Protection Association Training in Life Safety Code 101 application. The Chiefs are working with other department heads as well as Community Development personnel at City Hall in areas of design and review, planning, code compliance, and inspection of new development, hydrant placement, alarm systems and other areas of fire protection concern.

Chief Duback serves on the City's Electrical Commission as well as the 9-1-1 Board. Deputy Chief Newbury serves as Vice President of MABAS Division 25 and as part of the Emergency Management Committee at Ottawa Regional Hospital. As well as on the 9-1-1 Board.

Building Official Mike Sutfin and Chief Duback are also working to present a proposal for the establishment of a Fire Prevention Bureau that would assist with building inspections, code compliance review and training of personnel to assure alarm systems, fire pumps and suppression systems are properly working and maintained throughout the community. They are also researching the International Fire Code for possible adoption by the City.

The Board of Fire and Police Commissioners authorized the hiring of three new firefighters this past year. Bryce Johnson from Boody, Illinois, Kevin Theis from Sycamore, IL, and Jeff Clift from Streator, IL. These men replaced Lt. Craig Billings, who retired late last year, Matt McLaughlin, who left for other employment, and Captain Bob Boyle, who retired after 28 years of service. The Board is also in the process of authorizing the hiring of one more person, to replace Lt. Dave Larson, who retired on October 11.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Ottawa Police Department has again had a very busy year in its pursuit to become one of the most modern, professional and well-respected law enforcement agencies in the area. Through changes in manpower, tactics and equipment the department is able to provide more effective law enforcement services to the City.

The department has reorganized its rank structure. For many years the Ottawa Police Department has worked with a rank structure that allowed for first line supervisory personnel to be assigned to patrol shifts only. As employees retired, the need arose for promotions to positions of rank vacated by the retiring officers. Often times, these promotions would come from officers serving in the Detective Division. With no provisions for positions of rank within this division, there was a revolving door of sorts within the division, with seasoned officers being promoted and being forced back to patrol, creating vacant positions within the Detective Division that were then filled by less experienced officers. This rank structure worked well for each patrol shift, but not having an equivalent rank structure within the Department's Detective Division adversely effected the division's ability to perform most efficiently.

With the new rank structure in place, experienced detectives have been placed back into the Detective Division. The result has been expedited investigations and a high percentage of successful case closures.

Another tool of the department is the newly organized Child Abduction Response Team, or CART. The CART Team, the fist of its kind in the county, was developed by members of the Detective Division and includes police department personnel from the various divisions within the department as well as representatives from the Ottawa Elementary School System, Ottawa High School and the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office.

When a child is reported as missing or abducted, time is of the essence in successfully locating the child and returning him or her home safely. The CART is structured with predetermined protocols aimed at specific types of missing or

abducted child incidents or situations. With these protocols supervising the direction of the investigation and the specific duties of each CART Team member, the involved parties are able to more rapidly obtain the necessary investigative information without the risk of confusion or overlapping investigation. It is certainly the hope that the department never finds the need to activate this team, but we are well prepared if that need arises.

With the creation of the Narcotics Officer position within the Ottawa Police Department nearly two years ago, the Department has naturally become more proactive in addressing drug crimes without needing to seek the help of outside agencies such as the District 17 Drug Task Force. In turn, the Police Department has executed additional search warrants within the city, some of which, because of unknown factors, could be classified as high risk. The Department's own Tactical Response Team (TRT) addresses this risk.

The TRT is comprised of officers, required to maintain peak individual physical fitness standards and have received specialized training in high risk building entry and securing, and in Special Weapons And Tactics, better known as SWAT. The team has already been used to make the initial entry in the case of a number of drug related search warrants where these unknown factors exist. Again, although the Police Department hopes this situation never occurs, this team is also prepared to address incidents of extremely high risk such as the need to neutralize hostage or armed barricaded subject situations.

This spring, the Ottawa Police Department purchased a radar speed monitoring trailer. As you drive the various streets of our town, you may see this trailer and be abruptly reminded of your speed and instructed by the attached four foot electronic message board to "SLOW DOWN NOW", or, if within the limit, simply instructed to "Have a nice day". Either way, the trailer is out there, usually in the areas where the most complaints of speeding exist and is meant as a tool to assist the police when they can't be present by reminding the driving public to mind the speed limit. The trailer has also been used in a number of other applications such as approaching detours or downtown events.

The Ottawa Police Department continues to work to obtain grant moneys when possible for special enforcement projects. In fact, approval has already been received for grants through the Illinois Department of Transportation to address specific traffic issues during the summer of 2009.

The Ottawa Police Department is also actively researching emergency public notification systems, often referred to as reverse 911 systems. Such a system would be able to provide telephonic notifications of pending emergency situations to specific pre-established call lists, city quadrants or even the entire city. These notifications can usually be completed in minutes, providing much needed time and assistance in incidents such as the need for mass evacuations or simple emergency requests of the public for assistance.

The Ottawa Police Department continues to be one of the best-trained law enforcement agencies in this area. Along with the continuous in-service training received by our officers, our telecommunicators continue their ongoing training for MABAS, LEADS and 911 in order to ensure accuracy, efficiency and compliance with the current regulations and procedures.

The Department's telecommunicators remain a vital link between the citizens in need and the appropriate emergency responder, be it police, fire, or ambulance, in addition to handling a host of less urgent concerns. During the past year, our telecommunicators have logged nearly 21,500 calls for service handled by the Police Department alone. Remarkably, this figure is down by nearly 1500 calls from the previous 12-month period. Although crime and calls for service are unpredictable, we like to attribute this to a professional, proactive police department.

Finally, the Police Department continues to move forward in its coordination of special community service programs such as the Peer Jury, which is used to address younger offenders, and our DARE and GREAT programs, which are steering our youth away from drugs and gang involvement.

The Police Department is working to initiate its first Citizen's Police Academy. The program, modeled after many successful programs, consists of instruction in topics such as patrol operations, drug investigations, the

importance of evidence, K-9 procedures and the laws and court decisions that affect the successes of law enforcement in general. The course will be available to members of the public through invitation and application in the spring of 2009. Captain Paul Pitstick, 20-year veteran retired from the Department on October 2, 2008. Captain Pitstick's leadership and experience will be missed by the department. Best wishes to Captain Pitstick in his retirement years.

PARKS

Through the generous donation of time and materials from Fairmount Minerals and its employees, the limestone path in the Walsh Park nature area was refurbished and culverts were installed. The park is adjacent to the company's new factory. The Ottawa Lions Club also continues to donate funds to enhance Walsh Park.



Volunteers and staff worked extra hard this year to enhance the flower beds throughout the City.



The City also received a \$240,000 OSLAD grant for improvements to Fox River park. Those improvements will include additional boat docking, additional soft surface parking, playground equipment, fishing pier and shelter. Construction on this project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2009.



You may recall that last year the City received a \$170,000 matching grant to install boat docks on East Main Street. This project is slated to begin construction in the next few weeks and will include two boat ramps, a parking lot for vehicles and boat trailers, and with a floating courtesy dock.



Site of East Main Street Boat Docks

Turnberry Park on the north side of the City has now been completed, adding more play equipment.



WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Wastewater Treatment Plant staff is celebrating the elimination of the Etna Road and Allen Park lift stations that pumped 276 million gallons per year. Now the areas served by those two lift stations flow by gravity to the wastewater treatment plant. The Allen Park combined sewer overflow (CSO) was also eliminated during this project. This year several large infrastructure projects have come to a completion. Over 24,000 feet (about 4 ½ miles) of sanitary sewer ranging from 21 inch to 48 inch diameter pipe has been installed (this does not include Heritage Harbor).

Construction taking place at Champlain Street sanitary sewer



Construction taking place at Allen Park

Wastewater Treatment Plant preparing for the September flood waters—luckily the water did not reach our plant





Tunnel being built under the railroad tracks at Allen Park to accommodate the new Allen Park interceptor

Sanitary sewer construction to Heritage Harbor Ottawa



150 feet of high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe was pushed through the existing sewer under Route 71 by Larry's Universal to avoid digging up and closing Route 71. Third Avenue sewer (Center Street to Van Buren) was also relined by Larry's Universal

Smoke Testing

Broken clean out caps, footing tiles and downspouts connected to the sanitary sewer contribute to extra water in the sewers and neighborhood flooding. Aggravating the problem of excessive flow in the sewer mains are tree roots and build-up of grease plus less than favorable past construction practices. See the pry bar in the bottom left corner going through a 2 inch diameter hole. Through smoke testing we were able to find the manhole defect. Nearby roofs and yards were draining into this hole.



Manhole defect (see pry bar in the manhole allowing storm water into sanitary sewer system)



Staff installing chimney seal during a training session

Cherie Lane Lift Station has two new pumps with a new prototype control panel



Bellevue Avenue lift station—replacing existing valves with new ones and retro-fitting to allow a portable pump to be used in the event of pump failure or power failure



WATER DEPARTMENT

The Water Department ended 2007 with a number of projects in the works. A residential well failed on Parks Lane causing undrinkable water for neighboring homes. After annexation agreements were finalized a 400 foot water main extension for these south side residents was installed.



Parks Lane
Water main extension

The intersection of Old Chicago Road and Canal Road was the starting point of the new water main to supply water to Heritage Harbor Ottawa. To avoid interruption of residential and commercial traffic on these two County roads, boring under the roads was done to install the water main. This one mile water main extension along Canal Road is now connected to 5,000 feet of water main within the Heritage Harbor Ottawa marina complex.



Water main
extension to
Heritage Harbor



Water main extended
to Heritage Harbor
(corner of Old Chicago
Road and Canal Road)

The largest commercial projects were north of Dayton Road .



Water main extension to
Kohl's Distribution



Water main extension on
MBL Drive

New water main was extended from MBL Drive east 3,685 feet to connect three dead-end water mains. During this project the water main from MBL Drive was extended 1,960 feet to the newly constructed Kohl's Drive.

In addition to these projects were the installation of a water main to provide fire protection to Kohl's and the new Clover Technology, which will allow for future water main extensions to serve properties at the north corporate limits.

Total water main lines connected in the past year: over 3 miles.

For the upcoming year the City will focus on replacing older, smaller water mains on the east and south sides of the City with larger pipe to increase fire flows. A new west side water tower is also planned.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

For the past several years the Historic Preservation Commission has concentrated its efforts on major projects such as the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial Plaza in Washington Square, and more recently, the restoration of the LaSalle County Civil War Soldiers Monument and creation of the monument plaza, also in Washington Square.



This past summer the Commission applied wax to the Lincoln-Douglas statues to darken the bronze patina.




The Commission is now directing its efforts more toward education about Ottawa's architectural heritage and to begin designating local historic landmarks and historic districts. Through the efforts of the Commission the City of Ottawa was designated a Certified Local Government by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency a few years ago. That certification allowed the City's Historic Preservation Commission to obtain a grant through the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency to fund educational materials to promote local landmarks and local historic districts. Ottawa has several places that are currently on the National Register of Historic Places, one being the Washington Square Historic District.


The process of designating local landmarks and districts is a voluntary process. Local landmark designation can allow for certain tax credits and other benefits for those doing restorations on historic homes and buildings.

To get that process started the Preservation Commission is conducting a public meeting tomorrow, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to provide more information on local landmarks and local historic districts. Mike Ward from the State Historic Preservation Agency will be at that meeting to answer questions.

Examples of National Register Landmarks in Ottawa



Andrew J. O'Connor III Home
736 Chapel Street



Jeremiah Strawn Home
532 Congress Street

Where Can I Get More Information?

The Historic Preservation Commission meetings are open to the public and are held at Noon on the second Thursday of every month at City Hall, 301 West Madison Street, Ottawa, IL.

For more information, visit our website at:
www.cityofottawa.org
 or contact us via e-mail:
historicpreservation@cityofottawa.org
 or at 815-433-0161, ext. 10 or 40.



City of Ottawa
 Historic Preservation Commission
 301 W. Madison Street
 Ottawa, IL 61350
www.cityofottawa.org

Recognition to the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission for their assistance in the development of this brochure. 8/2008


Ottawa Historic Preservation Commission




John L. Hossack Home
210 W. Prospect Street
Ottawa, Illinois

What is Historic Preservation?


These local properties might be eligible for status as a local landmark:



Residence of A.C. Bradish



Residence of Milton Pope



"The Oaks" The Home of General Wallace

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For more information, visit our website at:
www.cityofottawa.org
 or contact us via e-mail:
historicpreservation@cityofottawa.org
 or at 815-433-0161, ext. 10 or 40.



City of Ottawa
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Ottawa Historic Preservation Commission



What is a Local Landmark?

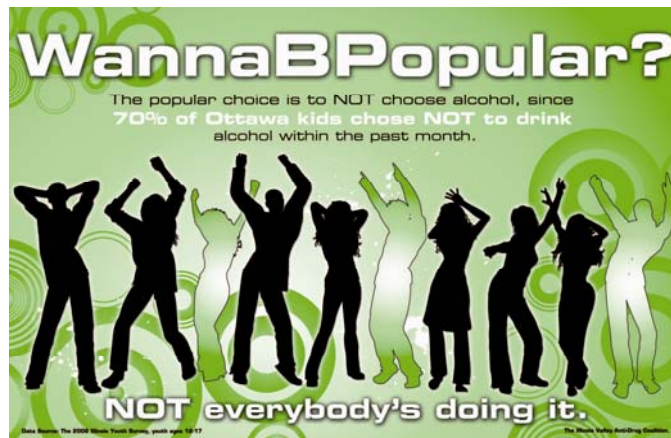
ILLINOIS VALLEY AREA DRUG COALITION

The Illinois Valley Area Drug Coalition (IVADC), an Ottawa-based prevention effort comprised of community members, had been active with a variety of projects.

The youth sector of the organization, 3P, partnered with area liquor stores doing Project Sticker Shock by placing stickers on liquor products to remind purchasers not to buy for underage youth.



In March of 2008, the coalition launched an awareness campaign - WannaBPopular—reinforcing to youth and community that Ottawa youth are making good choices about NOT using drugs.



Currently the coalition is preparing for a Teen Trivia Challenge on Friday, November 14.

Teen Trivia **CHALLENGE**

Sponsored by the Illinois Valley Anti-Drug Coalition

1st Place - \$250

2nd Place - \$150 • 3rd Place - \$100

PLUS, \$1000 IN PRIZE GIVEAWAYS

Friday, November 14th, 2008

7 pm - 9 pm

807 Building

(above Jeremiah Joe, Ottawa)

**Students, Grades 7th - 12th,
Teams of 4 to 8**

Registration By November 7th : \$10 per team

Registration After November 7th: \$15 per team

Entry forms available at all area schools, Ottawa YMCA and Jeremiah Joe, Ottawa.
The entry forms may be downloaded from: <http://ilvalleydeals.com/files/triviaform.pdf>

Complete the entry form and return with fee to:

Mr. Mike Tresnak, Asst. Principal
Ottawa High School - Room 201
211 East Main Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

FOOD!

FUN!

PRIZES!

PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION BOARD

The City of Ottawa Playground and Recreation Board oversaw a typically active program of quality recreation offerings and park development. Winter recreation offerings included the Senior Tea Dance, adult men's basketball league, and winter recreation activities at Marquette High School. This last summer, Recreation again offered over 40 programs for children and adults. Over 3,000 children and adults participated in the popular and affordable Recreation Board sponsored summer programs and Ottawa's unique park programs. Recreation summer and fall adult softball gave almost 2,000 players the opportunity to compete in the largest recreational softball league in the area.

The Playground and Recreation Board also continued its active cooperation with Commissioner Eichelkraut and the City of Ottawa to develop parks. The board continued to work to implement improvements to Fox River Park. Additionally, the board is providing crucial input regarding recreational areas in new subdivisions as the City of Ottawa works with developers. Finally, the Playground and Recreation board continued its partnerships with the city's youth leagues to insure that Ottawa's young athletes played on safe, attractive ball fields.

Because the City of Ottawa and its recreational needs are growing, the Playgrounds and Recreation Board intends to insure that quality recreational programs and facilities remain a part of our community.



Crafts

T-Ball



Pool Party at
Riordan Pool

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Special Events Committee continues to support some of our community's favorite annual events, including; Cruise Night, the Music in the Park series, The Scarecrow Festival, the Pet Expo and the Festival of Lights parade.



Cruise Night

The Committee hosted a **new** event this year by offering a free movie at the Roxy Cinemas this past spring during the schools' spring break. The newly released animated film "Horton Hears A Who" was enjoyed by a capacity audience of 500 children and parents. The Committee hopes to offer another movie next spring and committee members are working on ideas of how to distribute the free popcorn and soda more quickly.



Youth and parents wait in line to see "Horton Hears A Who"

With the shortening of the length of the 2008 Riverfest, the Committee took on the sponsorship of the annual Gospelfest and Patriotic Night events. Organizers of both were agreeable to move their shows to Saturday nights which incorporated them more into the Music In The Park series that has been offered in Washington Square for the past number of years. By making this change, the summer of 2008 offered residents and visitors a total of 7 Saturday nights in a row of free, live outdoor concerts in downtown Ottawa. The August bands drew the largest audiences we've ever had with hundreds of listeners enjoying each performance. A survey taken at the last performance of the summer confirmed that everyone likes the time and location of the concerts but clearly wished that we offered even more of them. The Special Events Committee will be looking into that as a possibility for next year and, in the meantime, urges members of the community to contact the City with any suggestions and ideas regarding other events and programs that could be offered and enjoyed.



Music in the Park
Johnnie Kaye Orchestra