**Ogden News**

**Summer 2019 Edition Issued by the Village of Ogden**

***Street Fest Slated to Return August 24, 2019! A Village Goal: Enhanced Communication***

After a successful 2018 event, the Ogden Street Fest is back for 2019 and better than ever! This year’s events and activities will promise fun and excitement for all ages. Once again it is scheduled to be in downtown Ogden from 10AM-8PM. To start out the day, the Ogden Masonic Lodge will host a pancake breakfast from 7AM-11AM for freewill donations. This year’s events will include a Car & Bike Show with registration from 9AM-11AM and awards at 3PM; it is open to cars, trucks, and motorcycles of all years. Other events include: Helicopter Rides, Laser Tag, Face Painting, Kiddie Tractor Pull (registration at 12PM in the front of the village hall, free entry for kids age 3-10, pull starts at 1PM, prizes for 4 different age groups), Bounce House, Gun Raffle (Remington 1911 R1), Adult Co-Ed Softball Tournament (games will begin the evening before at 6PM, $100 fee, to register email OgdenStreetFest@comcast.net), Bean Bag Tournament, 5k & 1k Run, 25ft. Rock Wall, Flea Market, Food Vendors, a DJ, and an American Legion Barn Quilt Raffle. The evening will conclude with the 80’s Hair Metal Tribute Band BIG GUNS with a beer tent open from 7PM-11PM in front of Billy Bob’s Under the Water Tower at 105 E. Broadway. For more information call 217-390-5826, email OgdenStreetFest@comcast.net, and follow events at facebook.com/OgdenStreetFest. The village would like to thank its amazing volunteers and sponsors!

All those interested in what’s happening in Ogden are always invited to attend monthly board meetings at the village hall at 7PM on the first Thursday of every month. Additionally, OgdenIL.com posts information about the village, including approved board minutes, ordinances, a village calendar, a contact page, and other useful items. The Facebook page “Ogden News and Information” posts information regularly including last minute updates. Recognizing that Facebook and websites are not for everyone, the board hopes that this newsletter will enhance communication and transparency in our village.

***Professional Vendor Changes***

In the last couple of years the village has changed vendors that provide professional services to Ogden. Miller & Hendren from Savoy provides legal services to the village. Royal Bookkeeping in St. Joseph now provides monthly accounting services. And starting in 2018 the CPA firm Martin Hood from Savoy has been performing the annual financial audit.

***Safety in the Village***

Residents and visitors to Ogden should note that the speed limit within the village is capped at 25 miles per hour. Also, please remember to obey stop signs by coming to a complete stop at each one. The summer weather brings out more residents including children. Please keep sidewalks cleared of any parked vehicles. Thank you for making Ogden a safe town!

***Brush Pickup and Burning***

Brush pick-up is on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month which began in March and will end at the beginning of December. Weather conditions and village maintenance duties may affect this schedule. The size of the brush to be picked up should be no larger than 4 inches in diameter and 5 feet long. Please bundle any 5 foot pieces and place brush in paper bags or it will not be picked up. Leaves, grass clippings, or roots with dirt will not be picked up.

Per ordinance, burning shall be restricted to private property and not on any village public parkway, terrace, street, alley, curb, gutter, sidewalk, park, or easement, with the exception of leaf burning only allowed on rocked parkways or private properties beginning October 1st and ending December 15th.

***Water and Sewer Billing Increases***

June’s water and sewer billing will represent the first full month of rate increases in 2019. In 2018 the village board voted to moderately increase the water and sewer rates every year starting May 1st, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. For sewer there is a 50 cent increase in the minimum from $3.00 to $3.50 and an approximate 37 cent increase for each 100 cubic feet of sewer usage that appears on a bill. For water there is an approximately 19 cent increase for each 100 cubic feet of water usage that appears on a bill. These increases were designed to focus on usage and to minimally affect lower end users. The increases are necessary to keep up with the cost of repairs, maintenance, inflation, and the replacement of future infrastructure assets. Surrounding communities have seen their rates double or triple in the last few years due to these costs. With yearly moderate increases the village wishes to keep up with current costs and responsibly save funds for future costs.

***Storm Water Drainage***

Drainage remains one of Ogden’s most important, complicated, and costly issues. Village staff performs regular processes which include cleaning clogged or broken drain pipes around town and flushing out catch basins on an annual basis. There are currently two long term projects in the works. The first involves the northeast of Ogden, where IDOT is redoing the drainage underneath the I-74 exit. The Village of Ogden, with the cooperation of local landowners, will be connecting to this new tile both north and south of the I-74 exit, with the goal of alleviating drainage issues in this area of town. IDOT will also be rebuilding the drainage tile at the intersection of Market St. (Rt. 49) and Lincoln St. (Rt. 150). The Village of Ogden’s role in the project is to facilitate the engineering needs and acquire any easements necessary to complete the ditch.

***Ordinance Violation Complaint Forms Available***

Forms for complaints regarding suspected ordinance violations are now available both at the village hall at 101 W. Main Street from 8AM-12PM on Monday through Thursday, and also at OgdenIL.com under the “Government” Tab and then the “Ordinance” link. Completed forms can be turned in at the village office.

***Add your Business to the Ogden village website***

If you own or operate a business within the village of Ogden, you are encouraged to list your business on the village website OgdenIL.com. Currently only a small number of businesses in Ogden have registered and the village wishes to represent and promote all willing businesses in Ogden. You can submit information at OgdenIL.com under the “Contact” tab. To view listed businesses visit the “Business” tab.

*If you have any comments or recommendations for this newsletter please contact the village or submit a comment under the Contact tab at OgdenIL.com*