

Photo by L. Berning



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2024 LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

MAYOR

- Jessica Stockamp - 6,107
- Jacob Olson - 3,319
- Vincent J. Peterson - 918
- David Shaptala - 803

COUNCILMEMBER (Two Elected)

- Michelle Lund - 3,519
- Corey Tanner - 3,362
- Jeffrey Dahl - 3,028
- Gabe Davis - 2,716
- Isabel Grimm - 2,188
- Tim Oswald - 1,976

THE CITY WISHES TO THANK ALL THE ELECTION JUDGES FOR THEIR SERVICE.

2024 Otsego General Election Facts

- 15,197 voters were registered at 7:00 a.m. on Election Day
- 13,727 registered voters (90 percent) voted
- 6,290 registered voters (45 percent) voted early
- 1,089 voters registered on Election Day
- 4,500 residents voted at City Hall between October 18 and November 5
- Over 90 election judges assisted with early voting and Election Day
- Otsego had its first student election judge (pictured at right)



Thank you to Nora for serving as a Student Election Judge in the 2024 elections.



CITY HALL

Address: 13400 90th Street NE

Phone: 763.441.4414

Website: www.otsegomn.gov

Email: cityhall@otsegomn.gov

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
& Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

PRAIRIE CENTER

(Community Center and Council Chambers)
8899 Nashua Avenue NE

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Department of Building Safety: 763.441.2593

Utility Billing: 763.441.2310

After Hours Emergency Service: 1.877.274.6492

Parks and Recreation: 763.235.3148

Wright County Sheriff's Non-emergency: 763.682.1162

CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR

Jessica Stockamp: jstockamp@ci.otsego.mn.us

COUNCILMEMBERS

Ryan Dunlap: rdunlap@ci.otsego.mn.us

Tina Goede: tgoede@ci.otsego.mn.us

Brittany Moores: bmoores@ci.otsego.mn.us

Jeff Dahl: jdahl@ci.otsego.mn.us

CITY STAFF

City Administrator/Finance Director: **Adam Flaherty**

City Clerk: **Audra Etzel**

Human Resources/Assistant City Administrator: **Sabrina Hille**

City Planner: **Daniel Licht**

City Engineer: **Ron Wagner**

Parks and Recreation Director: **Nick Jacobs**

Communications Specialist: **Heidi Carey**

Street Operations Manager: **Kevin Lamson**

Utility Manager: **Kurt Neidermeier**

Emergency Services Director: **Daryl Rausch**

Building Official: **Mike Rosenau**

MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council: 2nd and 4th Monday of the month

Planning Commission: 1st and 3rd Monday of the month

Parks & Recreation Commission: 3rd Tuesday of the month

Heritage Preservation Commission: Meets quarterly (March, June, September, and December) the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Public Safety Commission: 2nd Tuesday of the month

**Meeting dates are subject to change;*

call City Hall to confirm dates and times.

FOR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES



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HOLIDAY HOURS

City Hall Closed:

Christmas Eve	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25
New Year's Eve	December 31 (closing at noon)
New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 20
President's Day	February 17



.GOV TRANSITION

The city will be transitioning to a .gov domain. The State of Minnesota passed a law requiring all cities that administer absentee voting to use a .gov domain by June 1, 2026. To comply with this law, the city's website transitioned

from ci.otsego.mn.us to otsegomn.gov. As part of this transition, all City Council and staff email addresses will be migrated from @ci.otsego.mn.us to @otsegomn.gov. Staff email migration will be completed before the end of 2024, and the new email addresses will be updated on the city website.

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GREETINGS NEIGHBORS!

As we begin to wrap up 2024, I would like to take this time to personally thank our outgoing City Council members, Brittany Moores and Jeff Dahl. Brittany and Jeff were both elected in 2020. Serving on City Council is a significant commitment of time and energy that extends well beyond the two regular

City Council meetings each month. We appreciate the service both provided to the City of Otsego. We are in a better place because of your dedication to our community and contributions during your terms on City Council.

Michelle Lund and Corey Tanner will join the City Council in 2025 to serve as our newest members while I will continue to serve as Mayor following the election in November. Otsego continues to be a growing community with many ongoing plans, current or future projects, and challenges that will require their input and decisions. I and the other Council Members welcome Michelle and Corey and I look forward to learning their ideas and working together with them to keep Otsego moving forward.

A special thanks to all of the members of the Heritage Preservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and Public Safety Commission that step up to volunteer and serve our community. Each advisory commission serves an important role in the decision-making process on matters that come before the City Council and their input is invaluable. If you are interested in becoming involved and serving, please consider applying for appointment. Commissioners are appointed by the City Council in February with the application process starting in December. To apply, please reach out to City Clerk Audra Etzel for further details at AEtzel@ci.otsego.mn.us or by calling City Hall. See more details on Advisory Commission openings on page 11.

I wish you and your family a safe holiday season and Happy New Year!

MAYOR *Jessica Stockamp*

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We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

OTSEGO SNOWMOBILING

Snowmobiling continues to be a popular activity with 26 miles of trails in Otsego. Otsego River Riders works with the City and local land owners to establish trails, as well as answer questions or address concerns related to snowmobiling. Trails are maintained between December 1 and March 31 each season depending on snow conditions. People are reminded that while riding in Otsego:

- Snowmobiles may only be operated between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- Persons under 14 years of age may ride on City streets accompanied by an adult and those 14-17 years of age may ride with a valid snowmobile certificate in their possession.
- On City streets with curb, snowmobiles must be ridden single file in the direction of traffic as close as practical to the curb; where no curb exists, snowmobiles may ride not more than 6 feet off the paved surface.
- Snowmobiling on City streets in residential areas is prohibited except to go to/from your property to a designated trail at not more than 10 MPH.
- Use of motorized vehicles on City trails and sidewalks is prohibited.

For more information, including maps, or if you have any concerns about snowmobiling, please contact City Hall or Otsego River Riders at otsegoriverriders@gmail.com.



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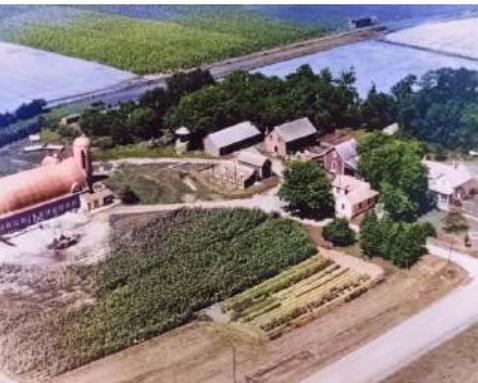
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Saturdays: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

THE HISTORY OF FRIEDRICH FARMS: FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

The history of the site to be developed with the first Otsego Fire Station is like the story of many family farms that were the foundation of Otsego's development and history.



1963 Skyview of the Friedrich farm

west of Odean Avenue (which was CSAH 37 at the time) at the present-day intersection with 75th Street.

Vernon, a son of Wilfred's, remembers being 11 years old and helping drive their dairy herd from that farm to the new farm about three miles away. Vernon remembers a team of horses pulling a wagon as part of this move over roads that were just gravel then. They went west along 90th Street (CSAH 39) to Odean Avenue to their new farm. The farmstead was just southwest of the current 75th Street intersection, which is now to be the location of Otsego's first fire station.

The farm was primarily a dairy farm with 34 head of cattle, which were Guernseys at first, then later Holsteins. They also raised assorted other animals including pigs, chickens, and ducks, and there were dogs and cats, too. In 1977, Wilfred and

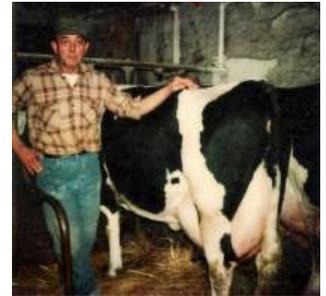
Wilfred and Rose Friedrich were farming in Otsego near the southwest corner of Page Avenue and 90th Street (CSAH 39).

Wilfred was born to farming in St. Michael and spent some of his childhood in Frankfort. In 1953, Wilfred and Rose bought 140 acres of land from Joseph and Ann Heuring located



Vernon in 1956 by pump house with his dog

Vernon quit dairy farming and auctioned off their dairy cattle and equipment. They continued to raise crops and keep pigs. Because the development was not eminent, Vernon continued to farm the land, raising corn and pigs, until 2006. Then the final farm auction was held.



Wilfred with Holstein

Vernon and his wife Leona met while working in Minneapolis, were married in 1965, and moved to the farm in 1968. They brought their three children with them to the farm and later had one more child, born after the move.

In 1984, Wilfred passed away. Rose passed away in 1993.

Vernon and Leona moved off the farm in 2001.



Vernon and Leona Friedrich

Wilfred and Rose sold two twenty-acre parcels of the 140 acre farm to Mark and Eugene Kolles south of the Otsego Fire Station property. In 1998, Vernon and Leona sold the remaining 100 acres to Scherr Brothers. Scherr Brothers sold 80 acres of the property to D.R. Horton and Benzinger Homes for development of the Ashwood

neighborhood, which includes a park named in honor the Friedrich family.

In 2019, the City of Otsego purchased the 20 acre parcel south of 75th Street for the purpose of developing the Fire Station. The Otsego Fire Station will be constructed on approximately five acres near the intersection of Odean Avenue and 75th Street. The City Council will determine a use for the remaining property in the future.



A STATEMENT FROM YOUR SHERIFF

Sean Deringer, Wright County Sheriff

On October 8th, members of the Otsego Public Safety Commission toured the Wright County Sheriff's Office and Jail. Led by Sheriff Sean Deringer, the tour provided an inside look at the operations

and facilities that serve our community, offering valuable insights into the Sheriff's Office's role in maintaining safety in Otsego.



WHAT WOULD OUR CITIES LOOK LIKE IF KIDS WERE IN CHARGE?

The League of Minnesota Cities is holding its annual essay contest to find out!

This essay contest is open to students in grades 4-6 this school year. Entries for the 2024 Mayor for a Day Essay Contest can be emailed, submitted online, or postmarked by Dec. 13, 2024. Three winners will be chosen to receive \$100 prizes and will have their essays published in the League's Minnesota Cities magazine. Winners only will be notified in early January.

This year's essay question is:

Cities provide a variety of services and programs that make our lives better, including Parks & Recreation, Street Maintenance, Water and Sewer, Libraries, Police, Fire, and more! If you were Mayor for a day, what would you do to make one of the services that your city provides even better?

How to submit your essays:

There are three ways to send us your students' essays.

- **Submit online** – students can enter their essays into this online form and submit them directly. Mayor for a Day Entry Form - League of Minnesota Cities: lmc.org/about/mayor-for-a-day-essay-contest/mayor-for-a-day-entry-form
- **Print and Mail** – you can print this document for students to handwrite their essays and then mail them in to 145 University Ave. W, Saint Paul, MN 55103.
- **Email as an attachment** – students can type their essays into the fillable PDF, save the document, and then email the finalized PDF to mayorforaday@lmc.org.

The submission form and a primer on what Minnesota Mayors do are available at lmc.org/mayorforaday.



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DRINKING WATER IMPROVEMENTS ON TAP FOR OTSEGO

Big things are happening in the City of Otsego, which means greater efficiencies for the community and enhanced conveniences for residents.

In the fall of 2024, the City began an improvement project to add water treatment to existing Wellhouse #4.

“We’re excited to initiate these drinking water improvements,” said Kurt Neidermeier, Utility Manager. Currently, the city’s municipal water is sourced from deep wells and contains minerals such as iron and manganese.

“The installation of a pressure filter technology will remove those geology-based minerals and support treated water production of up to 2,000 gallons per minute,” Neidermeier added. “This is a fantastic step in water quality improvements, one of several progressing us to a full conversion to filter-treated water.”



“ This is a fantastic step in water quality improvements, one of several progressing us to a full conversion to filter-treated water. ”

In addition to providing better water quality for residents, this project also supports enhancements to the facility to refine operations and improve overall efficiencies.

“The existing building will be expanded to allow room for a reclaim system for water reuse, large filters, various civil improvements, and pipework flexibility that supports water distribution flows,” Neidermeier said.

The facility will also receive an upgrade to incorporate emergency power transfer—from its primary source to a backup source—to ensure uninterrupted service in the event of a power outage.

Otsego was awarded a \$3.4 million EPA Community Grant to help fund the Drinking Water Project. Funding is also provided through the Minnesota Public Facilities’ State Revolving Fund, Minnesota Emerging Contaminants Grants, and water rates.

Though construction is just underway, Neidermeier noted that everything included with this project will be operational by the summer of 2026.

And this is just the start of an altogether larger water treatment project for Otsego that will be in the works over the next several years.

The City’s other three well houses will also be improved to include filtration technologies and the City will construct a centralized water filtration facility to support future water needs. Neidermeier said, “We’ve envisioned that by 2028, Otsego will have the ability to filter 6,500 gallons of water per minute, with this and upcoming projects.”



Get Involved, Give Back.

CAER Food Shelf provides free food assistance and other services for people facing economic uncertainty.

You can help our neighbors in need by donating:

- ☑ Financially - \$1 = 3 meals
- ☑ Food (nonperishable)
- ☑ Personal hygiene items
- ☑ Through your workplace giving program

Volunteer opportunities available

Mission: Provide support and relieve hunger, together

Vision: Hunger is no longer a barrier to the health and well-being of people in our community



HOW TO HELP

More Information: caerfoodshelf.org or 763-441-1020
12621 Elk Lake Road NW, Elk River

CAER Food Shelf is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.



POLLINATOR GARDEN

The new pollinator garden at Prairie Park was initiated by Kyle Dahlheimer, a Master Gardener intern from the University of Minnesota, and presented to the Parks and Recreation committee early in the year. Following committee approval and the acquisition of necessary supplies, the garden was installed in August.

Pollinator gardens are designed to support beneficial insects and birds, such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, that play a crucial role in pollination. These gardens contribute to a healthy ecosystem and are essential for our food crops.

Approximately three-fourths of our food crops, including most fruits and nuts, many vegetables, cocoa, and coffee, rely on pollination and cannot produce without it.

All the plants in the Prairie Park pollinator garden are perennial natives of the Midwest. Perennials are plants that return year after year and live for three or more growing seasons. Five perennial species were used to create the garden design: Joe-Pye Weed, Prairie Blazing Star, Butterfly Milkweed, Blanket Flowers, and Prairie Smoke. These plants were generously donated by MN Native Landscapes: Heal the Earth.



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SNOWPLOW SAFETY

Otsego plows approximately 142 linear miles of city streets, which equates to 311 actual miles. Crews also plow 170 cul-de-sacs, 43 miles of bituminous trail, and 1.9 miles of sidewalk. Plowing activities begin whenever road conditions make driving difficult and are also dependent upon the time of day, current snow depth, and forecast.

Larger roadways and collector streets are plowed on a priority basis followed by residential streets. Cul-de-sacs are plowed curb-to-curb after residential streets are cleared. Sidewalks or trails near schools are cleared after roadways are cleared.

Motorists are also urged to use caution during winter weather conditions and be aware of possible snowplowing operations. Fully equipped trucks weigh as much as 66,000 pounds. Slow down and stay behind the snowplows. Drivers should allow a minimum of five car lengths between their vehicles and snowplows. Stay back, stay alive.

Wright County clears the snow and ice from the county roads within Otsego. For issues related to snow removal or maintenance on a county road, please call 763.682.7384.

SHOVEL FIRE HYDRANTS

The City is requesting your help in keeping fire hydrants accessible. Snow piled or shoveled close to hydrants restricts operation during a fire emergency.

Please clear a three-foot circle around the hydrant near your home to assure easy access for the fire department.



SIDEWALK SHOVELING

Property owners are responsible for removal of snow, ice, and other debris from concrete sidewalks adjacent to their property within 36 hours after the snowfall has stopped. Per Minnesota State Statute 160.2715, it is unlawful to plow snow onto the road. **Recommendation:** To minimize plows filling an already-cleared driveway with snow, residents should pile shoveled snow downstream of plowing operations – on the right side of the driveway when facing the street – to avoid having the snowplow push it back onto the driveway.

WINTER PARKING

- There is no parking on any public street between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. starting annually on November 1 and running through 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 two 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.

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CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Looking for somewhere to bring your Christmas tree after the holidays? The compost site located off of Maciver Avenue NE approximately one-half mile north of CSAH 137/ 60th Street NE (between 63rd & 65th Streets NE), takes Christmas trees. You can bring the full tree for disposal to the site. This site is for residential use only.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Satellite Shelters, Inc.



Satellite Shelters, Inc. officially celebrated the grand opening of their Otsego Branch at 9949 79th Court NE on October 10, 2024. The Otsego location will serve customers across Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, western Wisconsin, northern Iowa, and eastern South Dakota. As a family-owned business, Satellite Shelters is a local provider in the mobile and modular building sector, offering high quality products to diverse industries including construction, commercial, oil and gas, energy, health care, education, and government sectors. The company prides itself on tailoring both their buildings and services to meet each customer's specific needs, ensuring optimal solutions for every project.

Wyndham Garden Hotel



Wyndham Garden Hotel Otsego (9200 Quaday Ave. NE) has completed renovation of their hotel property, and they are excited for guests to see the new improvements. Included in the renovation is: all 125 guest rooms, a “flip” of 18 guest rooms into extended stay suites, the hallways, three banquet spaces, and the main lobby. Mississippi Valley Bar and Grill has been expanded with a new on-site bar. This newly designed open-concept space conveniently connects the lobby to the bar. The waterpark had its flooring refinished, giving it a fresh ocean blue look! They look forward to serving the community in various ways, birthday parties at the waterpark, weddings, and corporate meetings.

Boondox Bar and Grille Otsego

Curling – Starting early December, Sunday through Thursday, 6:00-10:00 p.m. A refrigeration system will be cooling the ice so games will play through March!

Bags/Cornhole – Offered Tuesday evenings in the Back Forty.

Winter Dart Leagues – Starting in January. Registrations are in the game room area.

Music Bingo – Offered Thursdays through April. Free to play and prizes will be given away!

There are still a few open dates in January to host your Holiday events. For details on game registration or holiday party reservations, call 763.367.6790.



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CHIEF'S CORNER

CHIEF *Daryl A. Rausch*

Looking Ahead: A Safer, Stronger Otsego

The establishment of the Otsego Fire and Emergency Services Department represents a transformative moment for public safety in Otsego. Expected to be fully operational by 2027, this department promises to bring enhanced fire and medical services, faster response times, and a focus on Community Risk Reduction, all built on years of thoughtful planning and investment.

Strategic property acquisitions and detailed community studies have laid the foundation for a department designed specifically to meet Otsego's unique needs. Unlike traditional models that primarily react to emergencies, this new department is structured to be proactive, working to engage the community, reduce risk, and foster a culture of safety. The decision to create a dedicated, locally managed department underscores Otsego's commitment to safeguarding the lives, property, and well-being of its residents, businesses, and visitors.

Once operational, the department will significantly improve emergency outcomes, especially in situations where every second counts. The faster response times afforded by a centrally located station, as well as the use of both career

and paid-on-call firefighters, mean that life-threatening emergencies can be met with speed and efficiency. This capability is especially important in a growing city like Otsego, where demand for emergency services is expected to rise. In addition to emergency response, the department will emphasize Community Risk Reduction, providing programs and resources to empower residents to prevent incidents and know how to respond if they do occur. These initiatives aim to engage every segment of the population, fostering a resilient and well-prepared community.

This forward-thinking department is also an investment in Otsego's future. By anticipating and planning for the challenges of tomorrow, the fire and emergency services team will play an essential role in Otsego's continued growth and prosperity. With a combination of well-trained personnel, modern equipment, and a comprehensive approach to community safety, Otsego is prepared to enter a new era of enhanced protection.

The Otsego Fire and Emergency Services Department symbolizes more than improved service delivery. It represents a commitment to the long-term safety and resilience of the Otsego community. With the foundation laid, Otsego is poised to thrive as a safe and vibrant place, prepared to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.



Enrollment Lottery for 2025-2026 School Year is February 1, 2025!

ENROLLING NOW!

Lottery applications are available Dec. 1, 2024-Jan. 31, 2025. Tours and enrollment meetings are being held during this time.

Interested Family Open Houses

December 9, 5:30pm | January 6, 5:30pm

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ADVISORY COMMISSION OPENINGS

Get involved in the decision-making process and make an impact in the community – the City of Otsego is seeking applications from residents interested in serving on various committees and commissions that advise the City Council on topics such as the public safety, historic preservation, parks and recreation, and development.

There are current openings on the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Public Safety Commission, and Heritage Preservation Commission. Applications will be open in December of 2024 for these four Commissions. **The deadline to apply is January 21, 2025 by 5:00 p.m.**

The **Otsego Parks and Recreation Commission** is made up of seven members appointed by the City Council. The commission develops and recommends to the City Council a Comprehensive Plan for development of the future parks and trails system. They provide recommendations and act in an advisory capacity to the City Council regarding parks, trails, facilities, park maintenance and related capital improvement plan (CIP) project and the study of current recreation programs, and desires of citizens for such services. **Meets: 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday.**

The **Otsego Planning Commission** advises and assists the City Council in matters relating to land use and development of the City. The Planning Commission participates in the establishment of the City's Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance and other development related policies and controls. The Planning Commission also reviews residential, commercial and industrial development proposals and makes recommendations to the City Council as to consistency with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and compliance with Zoning Ordinance and/or Subdivision Ordinance requirements. **Meets: 7:00 p.m. the first and third Mondays.**

The **Public Safety Commission** is appointed by the City Council and is charged with developing a citizen complaint procedure, promoting public interest in and an understanding of police work. They serve as a forum for the citizens of Otsego

to voice their opinions regarding community safety and police services. **Meets: 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday.**

The **Otsego Heritage Preservation Commission (OHPC)** is made up of five members appointed by the City Council. The heritage of the City is among its most important assets and the OHPC works to safeguard this heritage by preserving sites and structures and documenting the history of people and events in the community to foster civic pride in notable accomplishments of the past. **Meets: 7:00 p.m. the second Tuesday.**

The City Council appreciates the efforts of those that step forward to become involved in the community by having served on an advisory commission and welcomes you to submit an application for appointment or reappointment. If you have any questions regarding the appointment process or the application information, please contact the City Council, City staff liaison to your respective advisory commission, or the City Clerk at aetzel@ci.otsego.mn.us or 763.235.3143.



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FRIEDRICH PARK

Otsego is proud to announce its newest park in its system named Friedrich Park. Located at 7675 O'Brian Ave. this park has offerings for all ages. Nestled in the trees, the park is nature themed, from the color selections to play offerings, it is one of a kind! Things that make this park awesome are:



Playground – At the heart of the park is an expansive playground, featuring state-of-the-art equipment that caters to children of various ages and abilities. With swings, climbing structures, and slides, the playground invites children to



explore, climb, and play while developing their physical skills. Parents can relax on nearby benches, keeping a watchful eye as their children enjoy hours of outdoor fun. The play container also contains a nature play area. This space encourages imaginative play, with logs, rocks, and natural materials that invite exploration and creativity. The nature play area aims to foster a connection with the outdoors, helping children learn about nature while having fun.

Basketball Court with Multi-Goal – For sports lovers, the park includes a half-size basketball court, providing a space for friendly games and pick-up matches. The basketball hoop is mounted on a structure called a Multi-Goal. This allows for various sports on the basketball court such as soccer, handball/wallball, basketball, or whichever game you can imagine as the court is lined with other fun games for endless entertainment!

Bocce Court – Adding to the park's diverse offerings is a bocce court, which introduces a unique recreational option for all ages. Bocce Ball encourages friendly competition and social interaction, making it a perfect addition for families and community members looking to engage in a relaxing yet competitive activity.



With its diverse amenities and beautiful natural surroundings, Friedrich Park is poised to become a cherished destination for residents. As the community embraces this new recreational space, it is sure to inspire joy, connection, and an active lifestyle for years to come. Whether you're playing a game of basketball, enjoying a leisurely walk, or watching your kids play, this park is designed to be a haven for relaxation and fun. Don't miss the opportunity to explore everything this new park has to offer!



WHO WE ARE: | **Open and Affirming Earthwise Immigrant Welcoming**

Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. in-person and live-streamed via Facebook.



Union Congregational Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1118 4th St NW, Elk River, MN 55330
 763-441-1203 | elkriverucc.org

All are welcome!

WINTER PROGRAM GUIDE 2025



CITY OF OTSEGO
PARKS &
Recreation





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SCAN ME!



Go online to register for events and programs at otsegoparksrec.com!

The Otsego Parks and Recreation Department will be allowing participants to register for winter and spring programs. Preregistration is required for every event and program. No on-site registration will be allowed.



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION:

- Kurt Baldry
- Kitty Baltos
- Matt Danzl
- Angie Dehn
- Stephanie McCool
- Jessica Schaffer
- Norm Witteborg

OTSEGO PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTORY

Parks & Rec Director: Nick Jacobs 763.334.3170

Recreation Coordinator: Connie Schwecke 763.235.3148

Parks Foreperson: Pat Lauderville 763.226.9857

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SANTA DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

FREE - PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED

The North Pole is coming to Otsego! The elves are busy transforming the City Shop into a winter wonderland for you and your friends/family to walk through. The kids will get to listen to holiday music, meet some of Santa's friends and say hi to Santa himself with an opportunity to take a selfie with him. Kids are allowed to hand a letter to Santa. Register early as space at the North Pole fills fast (space is limited).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

This is a free event but you must pre-register for a time slot for your group to attend. No on-site registrations will be allowed and quantities are limited.

IF EVENT IS FULL, PLEASE ADD YOURSELF TO THE WAITLIST, WE WILL CONTACT YOU IF THERE IS AN OPENING.

**LOCATION: OTSEGO CITY HALL,
13400 90TH ST. NE**



TREE LIGHTING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 6:00 p.m. at Prairie Center

Kick off the holiday season with the Otsego Tree Lighting! Join Mayor Stockamp as she lights the tree, accompanied by the joyful sounds of holiday carols from SOAR Regional Arts. Afterward, Sprinkles the Elf will lead everyone inside Prairie Center to warm up with hot chocolate and enjoy a delightful storytime. The Rogers Otsego Dayton Women of Today will be serving fresh popcorn as a tasty treat during the festivities. Kids will also have the special opportunity to write and mail their letters to Santa.

SANTA SHARK IN THE PARK HUNT

DECEMBER 2-DECEMBER 16

The Santa Shark in the Park Hunt is a fun and adventurous way to explore Otsego's parks this winter! From December 2 to December 16, weekly clues will guide participants in finding the hidden Santa Shark. Once found, post a picture on the Otsego Parks and Rec Facebook page (without revealing the location) to be entered into a grand prize drawing. The deadline for photo submissions is 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 16. For more details, check out the Otsego Parks and Rec website or their Facebook page!

LETTERS TO SANTA

NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 14

Drop off your child's letter, including a return address, by December 14 to receive a personal letter back from Santa! After the deadline, the elves will deliver all letters to Santa at the North Pole. Don't miss this magical opportunity!

*Send child's letter to
recreation@ci.otsego.mn.us
or drop off letters at
North Pole Mail Box located
outside Prairie Center.*





FEBRUARY 1, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Brought to you by:



2025 WINTER FEST (FREE)

Bundle up for frosty fun at the newest event, Winter Fest! Enjoy snowshoeing through the snowy landscape, search for a hidden medallion, or experience the excitement of dogsledding. Warm up with hot cocoa by the fire when the cold hits. Thanks to the Bank of Elk River, there's a \$250 cash prize for the person who finds the hidden medallion!



Brought to you by Wright County and Otsego Parks and Recreation. For more details and to register, please visit our website.

WEEKDAY MORNING PRESCHOOL CAMPS AND PLAYTIME



OPEN PLAYTIME

AGES BIRTH-5

Open Playtime provides kids and their caregivers a chance to play, meet new friends and spend time together. There are toys, activities, crafts, and room to move. An adult must watch their participant; program staff are there to help facilitate the activities. This program runs during the school year. New

this year, check the website for the activity calendar to find out what special things are happening each time. Under one year of age is free and welcome to join! Check Facebook for weather related updates.

What people love about Open Playtime:

- Drop-in. Come one day or come all days.
- Meet new friends.
- A great space to play and get energy out during the cold months.
- Coffee for the adults, kids leave tired.

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS

November - December 12
& January 6 - May 2025 10:00-11:30 a.m. \$3/child

Please check website for days not meeting
(No program Dec. 16-Jan. 2, Jan. 20, Feb. 17).

LOCATION: PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE



MINI ART CAMP – LOVE & THE COLOR RED THEME

We will use a variety of art materials to create masterpieces to take home. Come prepared to get messy (but leave the mess with us). Adult must accompany their participant(s). No prior art experience is necessary.

THURSDAYS: 3 SESSIONS

February 6-20 9:00-9:40 a.m. \$27

LOCATION: PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE

To register, please visit otsegoparksrec.com.

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CHASE VASQUEZ
SPORTS PERFORMANCE TRAINER

LOCATION
ADRENALINE SPORTS CENTER
8310 147TH LANE NW
RAMSEY, MN 55303

YOUTH PROGRAMS

TUMBLING CLASSES WITH ADULT

AGE 2

This adult/child class offers an intro to tumbling basics. Class will be full of tumbling, balance, and movement-based activities working to build strength, coordination, and fun. Dress for movement and bring water. Please note adult participation is required for the entire class. We recommend only taking this class one time.

SATURDAYS

SESSION 1: February 8-22	9:00-9:25 a.m.	\$27
SESSION 2: March 1-15	9:00-9:25 a.m.	\$27

LOCATION: INSIDE PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE

ACTIVE ALL-STARS

This class will focus on gross motor skills through a variety of games, activities, and socialization. This class will include things like Duck, Duck, Gray Duck/Goose, parachute games, relay races, and so much more. Whether it's running, jumping, or meeting new friends, every session promises fun and physical development. Come dressed to move and bring a water bottle.

SATURDAYS

SESSION 1: February 8-22	9:45-10:15 a.m.	\$27
SESSION 2: March 1-15	9:45-10:15 a.m.	\$27

LOCATION: INSIDE PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE

ULTIMATE NINJA CLASS

This program is all about building ninja skills. There will be obstacle courses, training exercises, and other ninja fitness activities. While an active program, there is an emphasis on fun and safety. Future ninjas should come dressed to move and bring a water bottle.

SATURDAYS

SESSION 1: February 8-22	10:30-11:00 a.m.	\$27
SESSION 2: March 1-15	10:30-11:00 a.m.	\$27

LOCATION: INSIDE PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE

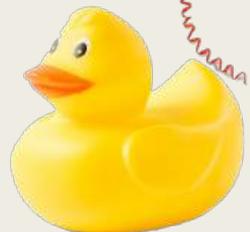
WINTER CARNIVAL

AGES 3-8

Step right up to Prairie Center's first winter carnival. Play your favorite classic carnival games like cake walk, duck pond, lollipop pull, and others! There will also be a craft station.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 6:00-7:00 p.m.
\$5/participant for each kid.
Adult must be present but does not pay.

LOCATION: INSIDE PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE





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info@opendoorsforyouth.org

www.OpenDoorsForYouth.org

Thank You!

deborajacksondesign.com

MULTI-SPORT CAMP WITH ADULT

These intro-to-sports camps introduce kids to the fundamentals of sports. There will be warm ups, drills, and skills. No prior experience is necessary. Sportsmanship will also be emphasized. Bring water and come dressed to move. Please bring a change of shoes to wear during class.

THURSDAYS

SESSION 1: February 6-30 \$25

SESSION 2: February 27-March 13 \$25

Age 2 year WITH ADULT 5:30-5:55 p.m.

An adult must participate with their participant. Sports include soccer, basketball, and t-ball.

Ages 3-4 6:05-6:35 p.m.

Sports include soccer, basketball, and t-ball.

Ages 5-6 6:45-7:15 p.m.

Sports include soccer and basketball.

**LOCATION: INSIDE PRAIRIE CENTER,
8899 NASHUA AVE. NE**



NEW! SPORTS INDOORS

We are taking our popular sports class to the gym! These intro-to-sports camps introduce kids to the fundamentals of sports. There will be warm-ups, drills and skills. No prior experience is necessary. Sportsmanship will also be emphasized. Bring water and come dressed to move. During inclement weather, please bring a change of shoes to wear for class. Sports include soccer, t-ball, and football (see one class that is t-ball only). Please note, to accommodate the most participants, classes are back-to-back. Please be patient as the class before wraps up. Since these classes take place on school district property, classes will follow school cancellations for inclement weather. The price has been calculated to reflect the assumption one might get cancelled.

WEDNESDAYS: 4 SESSIONS

January 29-February 19 \$32

Ages 3-4 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Ages 5-6 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Ages 5-6 (T-BALL ONLY) 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Ages 6-7 7:00-7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: PRAIRIE VIEW ELEMENTARY

WINTER PARTIES

DOLL PARTY

AGES 3-7

Bring your doll friend for an evening of fun! We will have a mini tea party, create a few crafts and have a dance party. Doll crafts are based on 18-inch dolls. Please eat dinner before you arrive – a small snack will be served during the tea party. Must be potty trained.

FRIDAY MARCH 7

6:00-7:15 p.m. \$18/kid

LOCATION:

**INSIDE PRAIRIE CENTER,
8899 NASHUA AVE. NE**



VROOM, VROOM, BEEP, BEEP

AGES 3-7

Calling all automobile enthusiasts. This party is for you! We will help clean the fleet with our own mini carwash, decorate our own vehicle, and race on tracks galore. A light snack will be provided (please eat dinner before you arrive). Must be potty trained.

FRIDAY MARCH 28

6:00-7:15 p.m. \$18/kid

LOCATION:

INSIDE PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE



ADULT PROGRAMMING

ADULT FITNESS

WEEKLY CLASSES AT PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE
ALL LEVELS AGES 12+

CLASS FEES:

Electronic Group Fitness Punch Cards –
Each class, unless otherwise specified, is one punch.

- 10 class punch card = \$55
- 5 class punch card = \$40

Come experience the community group fitness classes. We will be offering the following for our Winter Season: drumming, cardio dance, yoga, barre fusion, boot camp, and watch for Turbo Kick pop-ups!

You can always find the latest monthly schedule on our Facebook page as well as otsegoparksrec.com.

ADULT YOGA CLASS

This class incorporates a series of yoga poses designed to warm up your body and enhance your awareness of connecting breath to movement. Through basic yoga poses, we aim to improve both strength and flexibility. Modifications will be provided to accommodate all levels. Please bring your yoga mat and wear appropriate clothing.

SUNDAYS (4 SESSIONS):

January 5 - January 26 6:45-7:45 p.m.
February 2 - March 2 (not meeting Feb. 9) 6:45-7:45 p.m.

You need to register for this class at otsegoparksrec.com.

FEE: \$20

LOCATION: PRAIRIE CENTER,
8899 NASHUA AVE. NE

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINTER LEAGUE JANUARY 2025

Offered by the City of Otsego Parks & Recreation in partnership with Community Education. We are back and ready for some fun! Adult Women's Volleyball League consists of an 8-game regular season schedule with a single elimination tournament to follow. Matches are on Sunday evenings at 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 p.m. at Prairie View Elementary.

There will be a captain's meeting at 6:00 p.m. on December 15 via Zoom.

WINTER LEAGUE: SUNDAYS, JANUARY 12-MARCH 9

Not meeting February 9 and March 16. Inclement weather makeup day is March 13 (if needed).

Single elimination tournaments: March 23, March 30, and April 6

COST/TEAM: \$250

Deadline to Register: December 9

MOONLIGHT SNOWSHOEING CLASS

AGES 10-ADULT

It's time to discover winter's wonders off the beaten path as we venture to and through areas accessible only by snowshoe in winter. Under the full moon this winter, explore the wonders of Otsego Prairie Park! Snowshoes are included in the program.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Ages 10-17	7:00-8:30 p.m.	\$18
Ages 18 and up	7:00-8:30 p.m.	\$20

LOCATION: MEET AT PRAIRIE CENTER
8899 NASHUA AVE. NE
SNOWSHOEING WILL BE AT
PRAIRIE PARK



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OTHER UPCOMING FREE FAMILY COMMUNITY EVENTS IN 2025:

WINTER FEST – Saturday, February 1, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Prairie Park)

EGG HUNT – Saturday, April 12, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Prairie Park)

HOPPIN' HOUNDS EGG HUNT – Saturday, April 12, 2025
12:30-1:00 p.m. (Prairie Park Dog Park)

TOUCH A TRUCK EVENT – Tuesday, May 13, 2025
6:00-7:30 p.m. (Prairie Park)

OTSEGO PRAIRIE FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW – Saturday,
September 13, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. (Prairie Park)

PUMPKIN PATCH – Saturday, October 11, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Prairie Park)

HOWLIN' HOUNDS – Saturday, October 11, 2025
12:30-1:00 p.m. (Prairie Park Dog Park)

TREE LIGHTING – Monday, December 2, 2025
6:00 p.m. (Prairie Center)

SANTA DAY – Saturday, December 13, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. (City Hall)

SANTA PAWS – Saturday, December 13, 2025
1:15-2:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Pumpkin Patch Highlights:

Despite a chilly start and light rain, this year's Pumpkin Patch was a huge success!

Around 600 kids enjoyed trick-or-treating at 18 stations along the trail, with exciting games, treats, and prizes provided by Otsego Coborn's, Abra Autobody and Glass, Pack 90 Scouts, and Otsego Parks and Recreation.

Special highlights this year included DJ Mike, who added extra fun with music and games for families, and Farmer Lewerenz, who brought tractors for kids to explore – with plenty of honking!

A big thank you to all the commissioners, council members, friends, and family who volunteered. Your support made this event possible!



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55+ ACTIVITY CENTER

ALL EVENTS ARE HELD AT PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

ACTIVITY CENTER

The Prairie Center (8899 Nashua Ave. NE) is home to the Otsego 55+ Activity Center. Programs and classes are free unless listed. Questions about any programs? Call the Rec Line at 763.235.3148.

Mondays-Thursdays 10:00-3:00 p.m.
(Closed on City Holidays)

LOCATION: PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE

55+ DRIVER DISCOUNT

JANUARY 8 & MAY 14 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | PRAIRIE CENTER

Complete this course to get a 10% discount on your auto insurance premiums! Taught as a presentation from a certified instructor, you'll discuss challenges we face as drivers, new road designs, vehicle technology, and updates on current laws. Best of all, there are no written or behind the wheel tests! Certificate will be provided at the end of class.

***8-hour initial class requirement has been removed as of July 1, 2024. Participants must take 4-hour course to initially earn the discount and then repeat the 4-hour class every three years to maintain the discount.*

Cost is \$24 per participant. Pre-registration is required. Call 320.308.1400 or 1.888.234.1294 to register. You can also register at driverdiscountprogram.com.

MONDAYS:

HAND AND FOOT CARD GAME

Join us for an enjoyable game of Hand and Foot, a fun and strategic card game that's perfect for socializing and exercising your mind. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the game, this group is welcoming to all skill levels. Meet new friends, sharpen your card-playing skills, and have a great time. Light refreshments will be provided.

Mondays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

BOOK CLUB

Join us for engaging discussions and literary adventures in our Senior Book Club! Each month, we delve into a new book, exploring different genres and authors. It's a fantastic opportunity to share your thoughts, discover new favorites, and connect with fellow book enthusiasts. Light refreshments are provided. For the current book list or any questions, please call the Rec Line at 763.235.3148.

The second Monday of the month 12:00-1:00 p.m.

CHAIR YOGA

Chair yoga increases flexibility, strength, and body awareness. It can be practiced either sitting or using chairs for support in various postures, designed to mindfully increase range of motion. This class is ideal for everyone.

Mondays 12:15-12:45 p.m.

SENIOR BINGO (FREE)

Come and enjoy a lively game of Bingo with fellow seniors! This fun and social event is a great way to keep your mind active and make new friends. Prizes will be awarded, and light refreshments will be served. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to Bingo, everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Mondays 1:00-3:00 p.m.

THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH IS THEME BINGO:

December 16 Celebrating the Holidays Bingo 1:00-3:00 p.m.

January 27 Warm and Cozy Bingo 1:00-3:00 p.m.

February 10 Cupid's Celebration 1:00-3:00 p.m.

TUESDAYS:

MAHJONGG

Discover the fascinating game of Mahjongg, a tile-based game that combines skill, strategy, and a bit of luck. Whether you're an experienced player or new to Mahjongg, this group offers a supportive and friendly environment to learn and enjoy the game. Join us for a fun and engaging session that's perfect for socializing and mental stimulation.

Tuesdays and/or Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

SCRABBLE

Come join us for an enjoyable game of Scrabble, where word lovers unite! Whether you're a Scrabble enthusiast or new to the game, this is a great opportunity to challenge your vocabulary, make new friends, and have fun. Light refreshments will be provided. Beginners are always welcome!

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m.

INDOOR PICKLEBALL

Come try the exciting game of pickleball! This fun and engaging sport combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner, you'll enjoy a great workout and the chance to meet new friends. We provide the paddles and balls, and players rotate in and out. Beginners are always welcome!

Tuesdays 5:30-8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: GUARDIAN ANGELS, 9200 QUANTRELLE AVE. (GYM)

WEDNESDAYS:

500 CARDS

Join us for a fun and engaging session of 500, a popular card game that combines elements of euchre and bridge. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the game, you'll find a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Meet new friends, challenge your skills, and enjoy some light refreshments. Beginners are always welcome!

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

55+ ACTIVITY CENTER

ALL EVENTS ARE HELD AT PRAIRIE CENTER, 8899 NASHUA AVE. NE (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

SENIOR LINE DANCING

Get moving and have fun with Senior Line Dancing! This class offers a fantastic way to stay active while learning various dance routines in a supportive and friendly environment. Perfect for all skill levels, the class will help improve your coordination and provide a great social outlet. No prior dance experience is required—just bring your energy and enthusiasm!

Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 p.m.

CREATIVE ART CLASS

Unleash your creativity and join us for our Senior Art Class! Throughout the year, we'll be creating beautiful, holiday-themed art masterpieces in a relaxed and friendly environment. Whether you're an experienced artist or a beginner, this class is a wonderful opportunity to explore your artistic talents, meet new friends, and have fun. Most materials are provided and please call the Rec Line at 763.238.5421 to register.

The third Wednesday of the month, 2:30-4:00 p.m.
preregistration is required.



SENIOR SOCIAL CRAFT HOUR

Bring your favorite craft project and join us for Social Craft Hour! Whether you knit, crochet, scrapbook, or enjoy any other craft, this is a wonderful opportunity to work on your projects in a relaxed and social environment. Meet new friends, share tips and ideas, and enjoy light refreshments as you craft and chat. All skill levels are welcome!

The first Wednesday of the month 2:30-4:00 p.m.

ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM

Strummers and pickers, bring your acoustic guitar, ukulele, or other stringed instrument to our acoustic music jams at Prairie Center. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Join the fun of making music with other musicians in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. For more information, contact the Parks and Rec Line at 763.235.3148.

The second and fourth Wednesday of the month 6:00-7:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS:

MAHJONGG

Discover the fascinating game of Mahjongg, a tile-based game that combines skill, strategy, and a bit of luck. Whether you're an experienced player or new to Mahjongg, this group offers a supportive and friendly environment to learn and enjoy the game. Join us for a fun and engaging session that's perfect for socializing and mental stimulation.

Tuesdays and/or Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

MEXICAN TRAIN

Join us for a lively game of Mexican Train, a popular and easy-to-learn dominoes game perfect for socializing and having fun. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the game, you'll find a welcoming and friendly group ready to share in the excitement. Enjoy a fun time filled with camaraderie, laughter, and friendly competition.

Thursdays 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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 POSTAL CUSTOMER

WINNING IMAGES FROM THE OTSEGO ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

The photo contest is a perfect opportunity for residents to showcase their creativity and highlight the beauty and unique aspects of the City. Photos were submitted June 3 through September 4, 2024. Community members had the opportunity to vote online once a day, every day, September 13 through September 30, 2024. In-person voting was available at the Otsego Prairie Festival on Saturday, September 21.

THE 2024 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS WERE AWARDED AT THE OCTOBER 28 CITY COUNCIL MEETING.



Pictured (left to right): Council Member Brittany Moores, Council Member Ryan Dunlap, Icicles On Tractor Winner Lauren Berning, Farm At Sunset Winner Katy Berning, Mayor Jessica Stockamp, and Council Member Jeff Dahl.

THE VIEWER'S CHOICE ONLINE WINNER IS LAUREN BERNING WHO SUBMITTED "ICICLES ON TRACTOR."



Watch for the next opportunity to take part in the Otsego Annual Photo Contest coming the summer of 2025!



THE VIEWER'S CHOICE AT PRAIRIE FESTIVAL IS KATY BERNING WHO SUBMITTED "FARM AT SUNSET."

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