



# Ottertail News

## New Billing System for Water Department

The Water Department\* introduced a new billing system. All customers received a new account number to align with the updated system format. The redesigned statements have a fresh, cleaner look! The city appreciates your patience during this transition.

Reminder, customers can opt-in to receive electronic statements to reduce paper waste and set up *AutoPay*, at no charge, to ensure timely payments! Do this by contacting City Hall at [otcity@arvig.net](mailto:otcity@arvig.net).

*\*Keep an eye out for the new **Short-Term Rental Ordinance**, which goes into effect on May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

## Tri-City Junk Hop Shop

Treasure hunters, bargain seekers, and lovers of all things vintage—mark your calendars! The 1<sup>st</sup> annual **Tri-City Junk Jaunt** is rolling into town on Saturday, June 21, 2025, and you won't want to miss this day of epic deals and hidden gems. From Ottertail to our neighboring communities of Henning & Battle Lake, garages, yards, and sidewalks will be packed with antiques, collectibles, household finds, and one-of-a-kind treasures waiting for a new home. Whether you're on the hunt for a rare vintage piece, sprucing up your space with unique décor, or just love a good deal, this is the event for you!

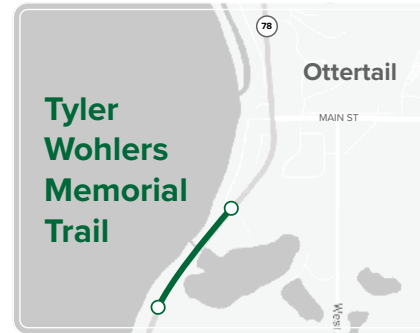
Look for more details on the city website and a reminder on Facebook closer to the date. If you would like to be listed, please contact City Hall by email at [otcity@arvig.net](mailto:otcity@arvig.net) or call (218) 367-2250.



## Tyler Wohlers Trail

The City's much-anticipated walking trail is now complete! The trail begins at the south end of Bay View Road and continues to the public lake access on Otter Tail Lake along Minnesota State Highway 78.

This project is dedicated to the memory of Tyler Wohlers, who tragically lost his life on Highway 78 in July 2019. The trail became a reality thanks to the efforts of dedicated city staff, consultants, and the unwavering support of Tyler's family, friends, and the community.



Funding for the project was made possible through a combination of state grants, local contributions, and community fundraising. The City received a \$345,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Local Partnership Program and an additional \$55,000 from the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP).

Local support was instrumental, with the Tyler Wohlers Memorial Trail Committee raising \$88,300. Additional contributions included \$35,000 from the Ottertail Lions Club, \$30,000 from the Espeland Family Foundation, \$5,000 from KLN Family Brands and Kenny & Kim Nelson, and \$1,000 from the Ottertail Rod & Gun Club.

These combined efforts fully funded the estimated \$425,000 project, bringing this meaningful community trail to life.

The official trail dedication ceremony will take place on June 21, 2025, in memory of Tyler Wohlers.

# DID YOU KNOW?



## Recycling

Ottertail accepts the following recyclable materials at the water tower on *Maple Avenue South*:

- Mixed Paper:** newspapers, magazines, junk mail, office paper, and paperboard food & beverage boxes
- Cardboard:** flattened and dry
- Aluminum and Tin Cans:** emptied & rinsed
- Plastic Containers:** #1, #2, & #5—emptied and rinsed, with lids off

For more information visit OTC's website at: [ottertailcounty.gov/recycling-waste-disposal](http://ottertailcounty.gov/recycling-waste-disposal)

## Septic Systems

When septic systems fail, both environmental and human health can be at risk. While the government regulates proper design and installation, it is your responsibility to maintain your septic system. As a homeowner, YOU must ensure your system functions effectively and safely. Regular maintenance helps it operate efficiently and cost-effectively. For more information, visit [septic.umn.edu/seasonal-care](http://septic.umn.edu/seasonal-care)

## Message from Fire Chief, Joe Ahlfs

As summer approaches, Ottertail Fire and Rescue wants to share important safety reminders to help keep our community safe.

**Safety Saturday-June 7th, 11AM to 2PM:** Join us at the fire hall for Safety Saturday! Come check out fire trucks from our department and our mutual aid partners. We'll also have a Stop the Bleed seminar and other valuable safety information for you and your family.

**Burning Permits:** If you plan to burn brush pile larger than 3 feet by 3 feet, you must have a burning permit, and it must be activated. Visit [dnr.stte.mn.us/burning-permits](http://dnr.stte.mn.us/burning-permits) for information on restrictions and to obtain a permit. Remember to burn responsibly!

**Bonfires & Campfires:** To prevent unintended fires, keep all bonfires and campfires at least 25 feet from buildings. This helps reduce the risk of embers igniting nearby structures.

**Boat Safety:** With 1,048 lakes in Otter Tail County, water safety is critical! Wear your life jacket—it could save your life! Also, never operate watercraft under the influence. It is illegal and increases the risk for everyone on the water.

We appreciate your ongoing support and hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer!

*Thank you, Ottertail Fire and Rescue*

# LET'S HAVE FUN!

## City of Ottertail License Plate Game

How many different state license plates can you spot in Ottertail this summer? From **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**, to **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, explore the city and keep an eye out for vehicles with plates from across the country.

### How to Play:

- Find a license plate from a different state (*one per state—no repeats!*).
- Snap a photo of the plate with a recognizable Ottertail landmark, business, or city sign in the background to confirm it was taken within the city. *Feel free to blur the numbers/letters for privacy!*
- Email your photos monthly to [otcity@arvig.net](mailto:otcity@arvig.net) for a chance to win prizes!
- Monthly updates will be shared on the city's website, and at the end of the game, the participant who finds plates from the most states will win a grand prize!

For official rules and more details, visit our website.

**Ready, Set, Go!**



## CITY REMINDERS

### Spring is here—time to get those golf carts rolling:

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, but the six extra weeks of winter have finally come to an end! With warmer days ahead, and the driving ranges opening, it's time to dust off those golf carts and hit the road.

Before you cruise around town, don't forget to renew your annual golf cart permit. City Hall will be sending out reminders to those who have had permits in prior years, if new, you can find the permit application on our website or stop by in person.

To obtain your permit, drivers must hold a valid driver's license, provide proof of insurance, and pay a \$25 permit fee.

Enjoy the sunshine and safe riding!

**RV Permits Required:** Planning to park your RV in Ottertail for more than 22 days in a calendar year? Don't forget to apply for an RV Permit! City Hall will send out reminders for permit renewals to keep you up to date.

To apply, you will need RV details, proof of insurance, and \$100 registration fee.

If you are new to RV life in Ottertail, visit our website at [cityofottertail.com](http://cityofottertail.com) or stop by City Hall to review our RV policy.

One permit per unit is required and is renewable yearly. This permit requires installation of a city approved, permanent sewage treatment system. \*The City's full ordinance on Recreational Vehicles can be found on the City website or upon request.



### YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

Reminder to residents: leaves and other yard waste are banned from landfill disposal.

**DO NOT PUT IN YOUR GARBAGE BIN.**

You can drop yard waste off at the following locations (including brush up to 3" in diameter):

**Pelican Rapids:** 1101 9th St NW

**Northeast NYM:** 50356 Landfill Rd

**Henning:** 51122 Rocky Ridge Rd

**Battle Lake:** 36005 MN Hwy 210

## 2025 Music in the Park

6:30-8:30 p.m.

June 10<sup>th</sup> // Red Letter Band

June 24<sup>th</sup> // Elvis Presley

July 8<sup>th</sup> // Blue English

July 22<sup>nd</sup> // Rick Adams

August 12<sup>th</sup> // Tainted Vibes

August 26<sup>th</sup> // Katie Baker  
and Sam Babler



NO-EGG RECIPE

## Eggless Chocolate Cake *(tastes best the next day)*

### Ingredients

1½ cups all-purpose flour

1 cup water

¼ cup cocoa powder

1 cup sugar

1/3 cup oil

1 tsp baking soda

1 TBS white vinegar

1/3 tsp salt

1 TBS vanilla extract

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease 8- or 9-inch round cake pan & sprinkle with flour or line with parchment paper. Set aside.

Mix together and sift TWICE the flour, cocoa powder, salt and baking soda. Add sugar. Make a well in the center of dry ingredients. Pour in water, oil, vanilla and vinegar. Gently begin to mix well from the liquid ingredients in the center using a Wisk. Mix until the flour is combined with the well ingredients. Do not over mix. Batter will be runny. Pour into cake pan. Knock against the kitchen counter to release air bubbles. Bake for 27-30 minutes or until the toothpick comes out clean. Invert on wire rack and allow it to cool.

Sprinkle with powdered sugar or frost with your favorite frosting. Enjoy!



# CALENDAR

## City Council Meetings

2025	May 15	August 21
	June 18	September 17
	July 17	October 16

City Council Meetings generally take place at 5:30 p.m. on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at City Office unless otherwise posted. If you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact City Hall the Monday before the meeting and provide your topic. All others concerns are placed under *Public Forum*.

Email: [info@cityofottertail.com](mailto:info@cityofottertail.com)

## OTBCA & City Events

- Easter Egg Hunt // April 19<sup>th</sup>*
- Membership Banquet // April 21<sup>st</sup>*
- City Wide Clean Up // June 7<sup>th</sup>*
- OTC Open House in Ottertail – June 7<sup>th</sup>*
- Household Hazard // June 12<sup>th</sup>*
- Tri-City Rummage-Sale // June 21<sup>st</sup>*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Memorial Cheryl Romann Tractor Pull // June 28<sup>th</sup>*
- OTBCA Community Auction // July 19<sup>th</sup>*
- Demo Derby // August 8<sup>th</sup>*
- OTBCA Otter Fest “Sidliners” // August 9<sup>th</sup>*

## Holidays Observed

- Memorial Day  
May 26<sup>th</sup>*
- Juneteenth  
June 19<sup>th</sup>*
- Independence Day  
July 4<sup>th</sup>*
- Labor Day  
September 1<sup>st</sup>*
- Indigenous People’s Day  
October 13<sup>th</sup>*

THE CITY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

Check the City’s website, [www.cityofottertail.com](http://www.cityofottertail.com), for forms, ordinance changes, agendas, council minutes, public notices, and other city information. A copy of the approved minutes from city council meetings can also be requested by emailing [otcity@arvig.net](mailto:otcity@arvig.net)

## 2024 CCR Will Be Available Soon

You may request a copy or review of the CCR (*consumer confidence report*) on the city website. The CCR is a report on the quality of the water you purchase from the city, which the city buys from Henning. The report comes from the regular testing that is done and sent to the MN Department of Health.

## Bookmobile Schedule

The bookmobile comes every other Tuesday at *Marge’s Diner*. Visit [viking.lib.mn.us/bookmobile](http://viking.lib.mn.us/bookmobile) for more information.



April 27<sup>th</sup>  
May 14<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
June 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

## Bridge Mobile Pantry

Comes from 1-2 p.m. on the following dates at Ottertail Community Center (103 Lake Ave, Ottertail).

May 15<sup>th</sup>  
June 12<sup>th</sup>  
July 10<sup>th</sup>  
August 14<sup>th</sup>  
September 11<sup>th</sup>

