



# CITY OF OSAWATOMIE

"Rural matters because people choose to live and love here. Rural matters because even if it's the middle of nowhere, it actually might be the middle of it all."

MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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## DEAR OSAWATOMIE,

BY NICK HAMPSON  
MAYOR, CITY OF OSAWATOMIE

Welcome to 2022! This is going to be a big year for all of us. Long awaited street repair and replacement will begin and some streets will be completed, we're laying the cornerstones for a revitalized downtown district, welcoming new community events, and experimenting with all the ways a small rural city can still be innovative and bold.

A solar array is slated for development in the Northland properties. A new water plant will begin design and preliminary development, and the water distribution system is preparing for major replacements. Our wastewater treatment plant is getting a much-needed overhaul. The electric crew continues its transformer upgrading project and stabilizing of our municipal energy grid.

This spring, a large-scale mural will be finished downtown and hopefully two more will follow this summer. A locally-made interactive art piece will also be headed to the downtown district in honor of our national distinction as "Mile Zero" of the Flint Hills Trail, which is now a Kansas State Park.

We've restarted the Tourism Committee and have plans to jumpstart other City boards and commissions so more people in the community can get involved and help shape our hometown from the inside out. A new website is in the works too, with a fresh, user-friendly design that keeps the latest news and development information right at your fingertips.

We're ready to make 2022 one of the best years in Osawatomie's history. Are you ready to join us?



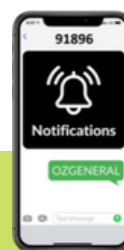
At the annual City of Osawatomie company holiday party, Trevor Ballou and David Ellis were awarded as the 2021 Employees of the Year for their dedicated service.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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FIND US ONLINE AT [WWW.OSAWATOMIEKS.ORG](http://WWW.OSAWATOMIEKS.ORG)

@OSAWATOMIEKS ON FACEBOOK

# ROAD WORK AHEAD

The City of Osawatomi's "Paving the Way" program is kicking into high gear this year with the first ground breaking in the highly-anticipated street repair and replacement project.

The following table of tasks is the work plan for the first street slated for 2022 repair: Brown Avenue from 16th to 18th. City staff is working hard to make the standard timeline shorter, and is simultaneously beginning the survey and design work for the other streets slated for 2022 work (Main Street Terrace from 18th Street to 16th Street, Walnut Avenue from 6th Street to 4th Street, 18th Street from Main Street to Brown Avenue). Staff continues to work on the designs for the streets in line for 2023 replacement, including the entire stretch of 6th Street from city limits to city limits and Brown Avenue from 7th to 12th.

Plan your alternate routes now! It's going to be a crazy summer of cones, barricades, and incredible progress. For more information on Paving the Way, visit us online.

| Project Task List                   | Estimated Completion Date |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Notice to Proceed                   | January 2022 (Done)       |
| Bid Document Preparation            | February 2022             |
| Bid Letting                         | March 2022                |
| Construction Contract Award         | April 2022                |
| Notice to Proceed for Construction* | June 2022                 |
| Construction Completion             | August 2022               |

Questions about street repair? Call Deputy City Manager Bret Glendening at 755-2146, Ext. 101!

# DID YOU KNOW?

**City Newsletter** The City of Osawatomi distributes a digital newsletter every Friday. Subscribe at [osawatomi.ks.org/newsletter](http://osawatomi.ks.org/newsletter).

**Chamber of Commerce** The Osawatomi Chamber is the ultimate resource for both aspiring entrepreneurs and established business owners. Director Kari Bradley issues a weekly newsletter featuring job openings, member specials, and special economic development news and funding opportunities for local businesses. Call the Chamber at 755-4114 to learn more.

# UTILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of the "List of 55" projects slated for 2022, several big-ticket items are utility and hard infrastructure goals. In addition to the street repair projects we're beginning this spring and summer, City staff is also working on:

- Wastewater Plant Repairs/Replacement of Equipment
- Water Plant Replacement and Funding (Design)
- Sewer Line Rehabilitation (Design)
- Sidewalk Repair and Replacement
- Completing GIS for Utilities, Streets, and Sidewalks
- Electrical/Cable Utility Relocations (Multi-Year Plan)
- Memorial Hall Structural Repairs
- Solar Array Development and Construction
- Ongoing Electric Conversion

Believe it or not, but this list isn't everything. There are several other utility and infrastructure projects, of varying sizes, on the horizon for our community but these are considered the most critical and have top priority.

Many of these projects require multiple phases and a lot of connecting support and resources. We're lucky to have so many committed community partners, long-standing professional relationships, and dedicated staff members all working to make Osawatomi a greater place to live, work, and play.

See the complete "List of 55" on our website or give us a call anytime.

## NEW CONTRACTS - GREATER SERVICE

The City of Osawatome, in an effort to increase efficiency and sustainability, has entered into two large service and management contracts with local professionals. These contracts are both a cost-saving measure for residents of Osawatome, and a time-saving initiative for City staffers who are looking to engage in larger-scale projects and activities in the short- and long-term.

Osawatome-based landscaping franchise The Grounds Guys, lead by local businessman Chris Troxel, was awarded a roughly \$160,000 annual mowing contract in mid-January and immediately assumed control of lawn and turf maintenance for all City-owned properties, excluding the Osawatome Golf Course, the levees, and nuisance mowing. This five year contract has a first-year savings of roughly \$130,000 when compared to previous budget allotments for City mowing and maintenance crews. The Grounds Guys will also be responsible for the turf maintenance at all municipal cemeteries, including mowing and weed-eating.

In addition to a new mowing contract, the City has entered into contract with local couple Emily and Loren McCrea, of Eddy-Birchard Funeral Home, to act as managers for all three municipally owned cemeteries (Oakwood, Elmdale, and Osawatome Cemetery). Emily is a licensed funeral director and her husband, Loren, is both a funeral attendant at Eddy-Birchard and a member of the Osawatome Volunteer Fire Department. As managers of Osawatome cemeteries, the McCreas will handle permits, sale of burial spaces, stone settings, and other daily operations. The City maintains ownership over the cemeteries and will continue to process all payments and billing, and will continue to issue deeds as required by Kansas State Statute.

The cemetery management contract ensures greater efficiency in the daily operation of our municipal cemeteries and provides a route to sustainable record keeping and digitization of historical records.

These changes in operation are useful tools to increase our staff's ability to manage and engage in other, more critical projects such as street repair and economic development activities. For these reasons and more, we are thrilled to partner with such dedicated, local professionals.

## OSAWATOMIE AND EVERGY ANNOUNCE SOLAR PROJECT

The City of Osawatome is excited to announce a partnership with Evergy to explore building up to three (3) megawatts of solar to power our community. The location of the proposed solar array is in the Northland property, just north of the Osawatome State Hospital campus. The Northland properties were given to the City by the State of Kansas as part of an economic development agreement and the City has been eagerly searching for the perfect industrial or manufacturing development.



From Evergy's release: "Osawatome's strong leadership shows their investment to continued growth in renewable energy and commitment to our partnership," said Lloyd Jackson, managing director, Evergy Energy Partners. "Our Evergy team is proud to partner with Osawatome as they expand their energy sources that will continue to serve the community."

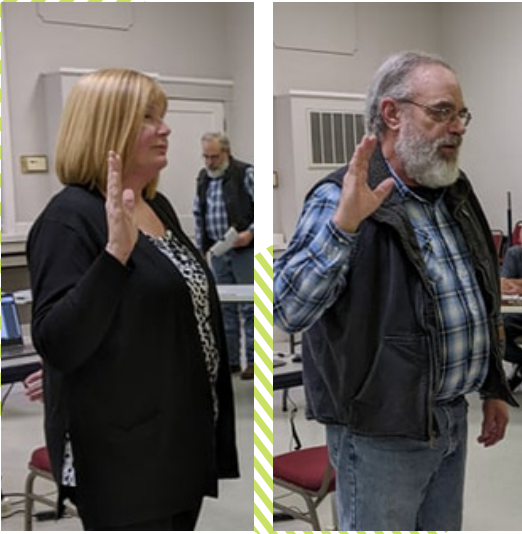
Deputy City Manager Bret Glendening said, "We are very excited to work with Evergy and KMEA on this solar project, and they have been great partners to work with in the development process. This project is a great opportunity to diversify our municipal electric utilities' generation portfolio even further, and one of the best parts is that it's within the city limits of Osawatome."

The City of Osawatome and Evergy will conduct a viability study before proceeding to building the solar array and entering into a power purchase agreement (PPA) for the energy. Evergy Energy Partners would construct, own and maintain the solar facility, but the City would retain the right to purchase it after seven years and add the facility to our portfolio of generation assets.

More information on the proposed solar array will be made available as the project develops.

# SPOTLIGHT | Osawatomi City Council

Two new members of City Council were sworn in at the January 13th, 2022 meeting alongside other returning representatives. Join us in welcoming Dale Bratton and Tammy Filipin as the new representatives of Wards III and IV respectively.



## Why did you choose to run for Osawatomi City Council?

**Tammy Filipin:** I chose to run because I see so much potential for our town and want to take part in making decisions that will lay a solid foundation for others to build on.

**Dale Bratton:** Last summer, a couple of my neighbors and I were talking about our city. My neighbors encouraged me to run for office.

## What are you most looking forward to working on during your term?

**Bratton:** Looking forward to having the opportunity to serve, and representing the citizens of Osawatomi. I'm excited to be a part of the new growth and preservation of Osawatomi's assets. Great days are in the future of Osawatomi.

**Filipin:** I'm very focused on the cleaning-up of our community and the building of new homes, but mostly on the remodel of our existing houses.

## When does City Council meet?

City Council meets regularly on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at Memorial Hall. Meetings start at 6:30pm and the public is invited to speak during the Public Comment period at the start of every meeting. Copies of the agenda and packet materials can be found on the City website, or residents are welcome to stop by City Hall or the Public Library and ask for a paper copy. Sometimes City Council will request a Special Meeting date for unusual or irregular business. In those instances, the meeting notice is posted on the City website detailing the nature and location of the meeting.

## How can residents get in contact with you about their questions or concerns?

The City of Osawatomi has contact information for all Councilmembers listed on the City website, including phone numbers and direct email addresses. If residents don't have access to the internet, City Hall staff is happy to help connect them to their councilmember.



## City of Osawatomi

**Report** Issues & Find Answers

### Connect Via Text

Introducing a new way to skip a phone call and use your mobile phone's text messaging service to quickly report issues and/or find information on the go.

### 24/7 Assistance

Smart texting technology evaluates your input and searches keywords in order to provide you with assistance anytime, day or night.

### Get Started

Text **Hi** or any of the featured keywords to: **913.557.8777**

# ANOTHER WAY TO COMMUNICATE

Search information, ask questions, or report issues in the community directly from your phone's regular SMS text-messaging app. **No internet connection required!** This program also offers subscriptions to text notifications for general alerts or emergency alerts.

**Text the words "Hi," "Hello," or "Hey" to 913-557-8777 to get started on an issue report or to ask a question!**

**To Signup for General Alerts: Text OZGENERAL to #91896**  
**To Signup for Emergency Alerts: Text OZALERTS to #91896**

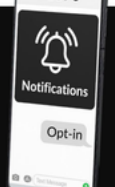
**Osawatomi Alerts** (Additional Service Option)

**Receive city text message notifications!**

To opt-in to receive **General Alerts**, text **OZGENERAL**

For **Emergency Alerts**, text **OZALERTS**

to: **91896**



The City of Osawatomi will be contracting with PubWorks, a project management software service, as we move into large-scale utility and infrastructure projects this year. PubWorks offers a resident issue tracker service and we're excited to add it to our communication toolbelt later this summer.

### What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to verify opt-in.
- You will receive up to 4 text messages a month with a notification for each alert category selection.
- Message and data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for more details.

### How to Opt-Out:

Text STOP at any time to remove yourself from the notification list.

