



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

APRIL/MAY 2022 • ISSUE 2 • VOLUME 2

DEAR OSAWATOMIE,

BY MIKE SCANLON
CITY MANAGER

As we go through life, we often hear voices from our past. One I will always remember, and have thought about tremendously in the last several weeks, is the voice of my mom, Rose. She often said to me, "You can go as far as you want if you are willing to try." Her message was simple: don't let the fear of failure overcome your willingness to try something new. Life is about the willingness to try and the willingness to risk.

Over the last month we, as a community and organization, have been talking about making Lights on the Lake an even bigger and more impactful event for our community. Through these discussions and City Council votes, we've navigated risk vs. reward, opportunity vs. cost, and whether or not we as a community were ready. What came out of these discussions is that the City of Osawatomie and the Lights on the Lake Committee are going to make the "Great Try." We are going to try something that is beyond what we normally do and something that has been a dream for many members of the Lights on the Lake committee and the community. We are going to test our ability to see beyond today.

On June 25th, 2022, we will be the proud presenters of country superstar Sara Evans at Lights on the Lake. As described on her website, "Over the last two decades, Sara Evans has carved a successful career anchored by her insightful songwriting and warm, evocative voice. With such enduring hits as 'Suds in the Bucket,' 'A Real Fine Place to Start,' 'Perfect' and 'A Little Bit Stronger,' she's earned recognition as the **fifth most played female artist at country radio** and continues to be a force on the road with tour dates crisscrossing the country," with **1.8 million monthly listeners on Spotify** alone. On June 25th, Sara Evans will be live at our very own Osawatomie Lake.

We're ready to shoot for the stars and do what Rose always encouraged - "You can go as far as you want if you are willing to try."

Now's our time to try.



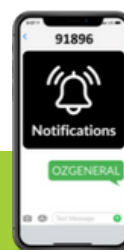
(L-R) Scout Master Meryl Wear, Mayor Nick Hampson, Boy Scout Parker Chalupnik, and Councilmembers Dale Bratton and Karen LaDuex cut the ribbon on Parker's Eagle Scout project at Mile Zero.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Road Work Beginning Soon - Brown Avenue Replacement

Bike Racks, Murals, and More

Community Spotlight: Water Production and Treatment



TextMyGov

Osawatomie Alerts
Receive city text message notifications!

Opt-in today,
Text "OZGENERAL" to 91896

Learn More
ON THE BACK PAGE!

CITY HALL | 439 MAIN STREET | 913-755-2146

FIND US ONLINE AT WWW.OSAWATOMIEKS.ORG

@OSAWATOMIEKS ON FACEBOOK

REMINDER: ROAD WORK AHEAD

The City of Osawatome'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.

At the April 14th, 2022, regular meeting of City Council, the Governing Body awarded the construction contract for Brown Avenue from 16th Street to 18th Street to low-bidder Killough Construction for \$730,396.00. Killough Construction is based out of Ottawa, Kansas and roadwork starts this summer on the full removal and asphalt replacement.

The following table of tasks is the work plan for the remainder of tasks related to Brown Avenue's repair plan. City staff is simultaneously continuing design work for the other streets slated for 2022 repair or replacement (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 also continues to work on the designs for the streets in line for 2023 replacement, including the entire stretch of 6th Street from Lincoln to Kelly 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
Construction Contract Award	April 2022 (Done)
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, or visit us online at www.osawatomeks.org/paving-the-way.

DID YOU KNOW?

City Newsletter The City of Osawatome distributes a digital newsletter every Friday. Subscribe at osawatomeks.org/newsletter.

Public Library The Osawatome Public Library has a trove of resources for the public, from free public access computers to a mini MakerSpace filled with fun equipment for projects of any size. The Library also has partnerships with many local and regional organizations like ECKAN, Catholic Charities and more. Learn more about the Library and check out a calendar of activities at www.osawatomialibrary.org!

SUMMER OF FUN COMING SOON

Looking for something to do this summer? We've got you covered! The City of Osawatome sponsors four signature events each year through the Tourism Committee and dedicated Tourism Fund: John Brown Jamboree (2.0), Lights on the Lake, Freedom Festival, and Border War BBQ. These events are planned, coordinated, and ran by volunteers from the individual event committees under the umbrella of the Tourism Committee. Alongside the five voting members on the Tourism Committee, a City Council liaison and two members of City staff serve as non-voting members to help answer questions, coordinate resources, and assist with budgets.

John Brown Jamboree and Lights on the Lake are the first big events for 2022 and we're looking forward to a wild couple of weekends under the Kansas summer sun!

JB is headed back to Osawatome with a children's carnival, car show, vendor fair, parade, and more from June 16th - June 18th, 2022! For more information on the homegrown festival, visit John Brown Jamboree 2.0 on Facebook.

Lights on the Lake is gearing up for its BIGGEST YEAR EVER with headliner Sara Evans and we're so excited to hear more about the incredible fireworks display and family-friendly entertainment they have planned. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, June 25th, 2022, at Osawatome City Lake! Keep up-to-date with the latest LotL announcements online and on social media.

PUBLIC ART LANDS DOWNTOWN

The City of Osawatome is bringing public art to the downtown corridor just in time for a beautiful summer season!

As part of a Sunflower Foundation grant aimed at marketing recreational trails, a large-scale interactive display was installed at the corner of 5th and Main. This powder-coated steel tube display, fabricated by Doherty Steel, is both a piece of art and a functional bike rack that welcomes people to our community and gives cyclists a landing pad when they visit the downtown corridor. A decal-covered steel plate will stand in place of the "i" and encourage people to "Stand, Snap, and Share" that "#IAmAtMileZero" for the Flint Hills Trail! The full length of the Flint Hills Trail is now a Kansas State Park and Osawatome is the proud eastern gateway.

Next up? Connecting to the Katy Trail in Missouri!



Another piece of unique art in our downtown corridor is the amazing (and HUGE) custom mural on the eastern face of the Masonic Temple at 500 Main Street. The mural was funded by an all-inclusive grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce's Office of Rural Prosperity. A Mural Committee made up of community stakeholders selected a muralist out of the over 20 applicants and the winning team worked with the committee on design tweaks and other details before implementation begins this spring. The artists, Brickmob Art Collective, are based out of Wichita and were the perfect fit for our first mural. If the weather holds out, color should hit the bricks sometime around May 13th, 2022.

More murals are scheduled to pop-up in the community this summer thanks to a grant from the Hawkins Foundation.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORP

Over the last six months, a group of committed individuals including Blake Heid (First Option Bank), Janet McRae (Miami County Economic Development), Kari Bradley (Osawatome Chamber of Commerce / City of Osawatome), Teri Auten (Rockwall Properties, LLC), Gordon Schrader (Greater Osawatome, Inc), Dr. Sarah Dorsett, and Mike Scanlon (City of Osawatome) have been working on establishing the Osawatome Downtown Community Development Corporation (ODCDC).

The purpose of ODCDC is to provide an entity that could apply for large-scale grants and work with private individuals who want to invest in and grow downtown businesses. The original work of ODCDC is aimed at the downtown core but, in time, could be widened to include all business districts across the City.

According to Scanlon, "We are at the very beginning of organizing and putting a framework in place for helping to create successful and enduring businesses in our community. We as a City can't do this work on our own and will be leveraging the investments of private individuals to help both secure grants *and* attract even more businesses into our community." As the ODCDC forms, the City will be supporting a set of websites that will keep the public informed about the group's projects, goals, and progress.



This draft design by Hunter Sinclair Myers of Wichita's Brickmob was selected out of over 20 applicants and two rounds of interview/review by the Mural Committee. A modified final version of this design will be on display soon!

SPOTLIGHT | City of Osawatome Water Production and Treatment Team

The City of Osawatome Water Plant is full of dedicated, educated, and energetic crewmembers. The Water Production and Treatment Team is led by Water Production Superintendent Andrew Burkhart



What are the most significant improvements or changes your team has implemented in the last year?

Burkhart: In the last year, we brought the plant into compliance with KDHE rules and regulations. We self identified eight (8) deficiencies, sent letters to the state, and corrected them. We then passed KDHE inspection with no major deficiencies.

How many team members do you have currently? What sort of certifications or education is recommended for new employees to the plant?

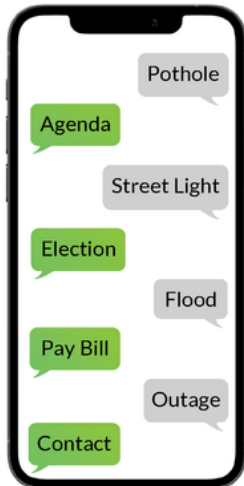
We currently have three full-time operators, one part-time operator, and a maintenance professional. All four operators hold Small Systems Water Operator licenses. Three of them earned these accreditations in April of this year. One operator also has a Small Systems Wastewater license. A Class III license is required for the operator directly responsible for the plant operation, and both the Director of Utilities and I hold Class IVs licenses.

What little-known-fact about water production and treatment do you wish was more widely known by the public?

The age and condition of the City Water Plant (which is old and in terrible shape) and how hard we work to make clean, drinkable water with it. I'm very, very proud of our team and the work we do. We're all looking forward to continuing to work with the Deputy City Manager and Director of Utilities on the City Council's decision to design and construct a new water plant.

How can residents contact you with questions or concerns regarding our water supply?

Anytime someone has a question about water, they can call up to the plant (913-755-4138) or email me (aburkhart@osawatomieks.org). I'm always happy to talk to residents about our water system.



City of Osawatome

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**

Osawatome 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**

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.



The City of Osawatome 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.