



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

DECEMBER 2022 • ISSUE 4 • VOLUME 2

DEAR OSAWATOMIE,

BY MIKE SCANLON
CITY MANAGER

It surprises me every year how quickly time passes. Somehow we're already through with 2022 and getting ready to embark into 2023. We accomplished so much this year, some of which you'll read about in the articles inside this newsletter and some of which you experienced alongside us out in the community.

We saw improvements in our downtown, which will only continue to grow as we move into 2023. We hosted state and federal dignitaries who were interested in the work we're doing and the progress we're making. We celebrated festivals, concerts, block parties and more with our friends and neighbors throughout the year. We saw our first pieces of public art get installed and established the City's first Art Commission. We made much needed improvements to Memorial Hall thanks to our partners at First Option Bank and the Hawkins Foundation.

Across the City, critical improvements are underway in our utilities and hard infrastructure departments. From a total rebuild of our water plant and improvements to the distribution system to a multi-million dollar improvement to the wastewater facility to our Paving the Way street repair and rehabilitation program. We're investing in our soft infrastructure as well, including the John Brown Museum State Historic Site, the Osawatomie Public Library, and our partnerships with the school district, Osawatomie State Hospital, and our many civic groups.

To accomplish these goals, City staff worked on grants of every size, from multi-million dollar federal infrastructure programs to small local gifts from local organizations. We're happy to report that our efforts have gained the City over \$10 million in grant funding over the last year dedicated to a wide variety of critical projects.

There is so much more to come for this community, and we're excited to share it with you all.



Mayor Nick Hampson looks on as Santa and Mrs. Claus use their Christmas magic to light up the Mayor's Christmas Tree. Not Pictured is the Chamber of Commerce's 2022 Citizen of the Year, Derek Henness, who also helped light up downtown.

WHAT'S INSIDE

2022 Grant Award Round-Up

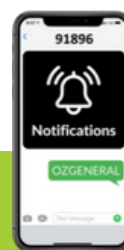
Introducing a Ghost Cabin

Community Spotlight: Chamber of Commerce Annual Award Winners

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

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INTRODUCING A GHOST CABIN

In the dreary days of early December, a mysterious metal structure seemed to bloom from the frosty, muddy ground at 1926 Parker Avenue on the west end of Osawatomi. It's small, angular, and a long look at it evokes a strange feeling in the chest and belly.

What is it? The answer is just as perplexing as its arrival. *It's a ghost cabin.*



Built to the exact dimensions of the original Adair cabin, which is currently housed inside the stone pavilion at John Brown Memorial Park, the ghost cabin is a steel memory of what the original Adair homestead would have looked like during its lifetime in the mid- to late 1800s. It includes doorways, windows, and the fireplace, and sits nearly on top of the original cabin footprint. Future site developments include educational signage, landscaping, parking and driveway improvements, and more. Most recently, the ghost cabin was illuminated by candlelight and draped in evergreen in honor of the 2nd annual Osawatomi Public Library Holiday Homes Tour. A Christmas card from the John Brown Foundation was erected on the lawn to tell visitors about the ghost cabin and teased plans for the homestead's future.

The ghost cabin is the latest addition to Osawatomi's historic portfolio and was developed by the John Brown Foundation and the City of Osawatomi, with the structure fabricated and installed by Doherty Steel, Inc., who also produced the now iconic Flint Hills Trail arched gateway.

2022 GRANT AWARD ROUND-UP

The City of Osawatomi has been making waves in Kansas news over the last 12 months with our success in grant writing and award acquisition. Through hard work and collaborative applications, we've managed to gain our community almost \$20 million in grant funding for a variety of projects:

- Planning Sustainable Places (Regional)
 - Following the success of last year's original Planning Sustainable Places plan, the City applied for an "Implementation" grant through Mid-America Regional Council to continue developing plans for downtown revitalization and encouraging active transportation. The City was awarded \$80,000 for Phase II planning, which formally begins in early 2023.
- Cost-Share (State)
 - We were awarded another \$1.5 million through KDOT's Cost-Share program, which focuses on providing financial assistance to local entities for construction projects that improve safety, leverage state funds to increase total transportation investment and help both rural and urban areas of the state improve the transportation system. This money is dedicated toward the full replacement of 6th Street, which is scheduled to begin this coming spring.



Mayor Nick Hampson, Councilmembers Karen LaDuex and Lawrence Dickinson, and members of City staff pose with Kansas Governor Laura Kelly after she announced the winners of the 2022 Transportation Alternatives program in Manhattan, Kansas.

- Transportation Alternatives (State)
 - The City was awarded \$1.5 million in KDOT's Transportation Alternatives program for our proposed John Brown Loop and South Levee Loop pedestrian pathways that intersect 6th Street, the levee system, and other high-traffic corridors within the community.

PAVING THE WAY IN 2023

Our multi-year street rehabilitation program, Paving the Way, continues to make big impacts as we move into 2023, and City staff is excited for the projects slated to begin in the new year. Following the successful reconstruction of Brown Ave from 16th - 18th this fall, adjoining neighborhoods at Main Street Terrace and 18th Street will be getting their own much-needed improvements in 2023. On the other end of town, Walnut Avenue from 4th to 6th is also on deck for a full-depth replacement this summer. In addition, a number of mill and overlay or sealcoat treatments are planned for across the community.

Cutting right through it all will be the full reconstruction of 6th Street stretching from the northern city limits to the southern city limits. Improvements made during the design process will also include accommodations and safeguards for bike and pedestrian traffic and establish safer crossings for visitors to the newly announced John Brown Loop and South Levee Loop trails. The City's 6th Street improvements also connect to the County's overlay projects, creating a smooth north/south journey for our residents and visitors. This critical (and enormous) project has an estimated construction timeline of May - November 2023.

As we get closer to construction breaking ground, be on the lookout for detour and construction alert subscription options within our existing TextMyGov citizen alert program, as well as a community-wide campaign that will keep you informed and prepared for how the roadwork may impact your neighborhood. With so many projects happening simultaneously, there will be considerable detours or delays for daily traffic especially those that use 6th Street regularly.

To accomplish these goals and prepare for future projects in years 2024-2026, City staff continues to submit multiple grant applications for streets, sidewalks and trails that build on our current network.

For more information on Paving the Way, visit us online or contact:

Michele Silsbee
 Director of Public Works
msilsbee@osawatomiex.org
 (913) 755 - 4525.

GRANTS (continued)

- RAISE (Federal)
 - Thanks to the hard work of our partners at Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and numerous other, the Flint Hills Trail was awarded a federal grant totaling \$24.8 million. Of that award, roughly \$7.2 million has been allocated for the portion of trail stretching between Osawatomie and Rantoul, which is currently considered "unfinished."
- Sunflower Foundation (Regional)
 - Our work with the Sunflower Foundation has included two grants totaling nearly \$90,000. The Sunflower Foundation supports our mission of creating a more vibrant, sustainable, and walkable community and the creation of community trails and healthy recreational opportunities.
- Allen W. and Gladys Hawkins Charitable Foundation (Local)
 - We are deeply grateful to the Hawkins Foundation for its contributions to our community this year, including the three City of Osawatomie projects it awarded:
 - Memorial Hall Roof Renovation - \$75,000
 - Public Art - \$15,000
 - Holiday Decorations - \$16,500



- United States Department of Agriculture (Federal)
 - As we continue to work on the design and overall plan for the water plant's replacement, the City was awarded a grant through the USDA totaling 45% of the overall project cost, or \$17,246,052. In addition, the City is currently eligible for \$1 million in loan forgiveness through the program.

We are extraordinarily grateful for the support of these organizations and programs, and their willingness to invest in a small, rural community in Kansas. Because of these awards, we are able to go further and do more for our community.

SPOTLIGHT | Osawatomie Chamber of Commerce Citizen and Business of the Year

Each October, the Chamber of Commerce requests nominations from the community for the Annual Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year Awards. These individuals are recognized for their impact, involvement, and passion for the Osawatomie community.



The 2022 Citizen of the Year is Derek Henness, a 2002 Graduate of Osawatomie High School. Derek is involved in a number of community civic groups, including Osawatomie PRIDE, the John Brown Foundation, the Osawatomie Tourism Committee, and more. He is a frequent volunteer for community projects and events, and is a very proud supporter of Osawatomie's continued growth. Derek lives in Osawatomie with his wife, Nicole.

What the Nominations Had to Say...

"When I think about recognizing someone as Citizen of the Year, I try to think of people that are making the largest impact on our community."

"He goes above and beyond in any committee he is involved [with] and is always thinking about the growth of Osawatomie."

The 2022 Business of the Year is Freedom's FrontTire, operated by Drs. Jeff and Sarah Dorsett, longtime residents of Osawatomie.

Jeff and Sarah Dorsett are some of Osawatomie's biggest cheerleaders and we're so thankful for their continued dedication to our community after their retirement. Along with their bike repair and resale business with Freedom's FrontTire, Jeff currently serves on the Osawatomie School Board, Osawatomie Tourism Committee, Trail Commission, and Osawatomie PRIDE. Sarah is an active and passionate member of the Osawatomie Public Library Board of Trustees, Osawatomie Art Commission, and Osawatomie PRIDE. Both are avid volunteers for community events and activities, including John Brown's Birthday Party, our signature event series, and even helped host Santa Claus downtown during our Miracle on Main Street festival. The Dorsetts have, to date, created and planted 26 flower basket bikes throughout the community and have a goal to install Osawatomie as the "Flower Basket Bike Capital of the World."



City of Osawatomie

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

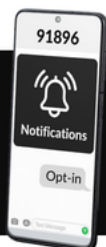
Osawatomie Alerts *(Additional Service Option)*

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.

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