



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 MIKE SCANLON
CITY MANAGER

Do you remember the Five Goals of our community? Hundreds of you helped shape these goals when I first started here in Osawatomie, and we've come a long way in tackling these critical community-centered issues:

1. Clean Up the Community
 - a. The first big change was putting the solid waste fee onto property tax bills to ensure that every built and occupied residential property received trash service. And, thanks to the tireless work of our Building and Codes staff, properties across the community have been repaired, updated, maintained, and made safer.
2. Repair and Maintain the Streets
 - a. We launched an aggressive street campaign called Paving the Way, which aims to condense 10 years and over \$10 million in street work into just 3-5 years. We're already making great progress on this goal and you'll read more about the next projects later in this issue.
3. Economic Development, Including Housing
 - a. Along with private business development, we're also seeing large-scale investment interest in our Northland, including a solar array in partnership with Evergy. Housing grants and needs assessments have piqued the interest of regional developers and we've welcomed more new residential construction in the last two years than we did in the last 15 years combined.
4. Hard Infrastructure
 - a. This is the hardest one to "see," but it's often the one that makes the biggest impact in public health and safety. We're building a new water plant to replace the original plant built in 1929 (that had many original parts and fixtures still in place!), and we've made \$3 million in improvements to the wastewater treatment facility. We're doing our best to keep your family healthy.
5. Soft Infrastructure
 - a. These are the places that bring people and communities together. Libraries, museums, parks, etc. are public spaces where people can talk, think, and grow as neighbors. This year we're investing in our soft infrastructure and creating more opportunities for our community to take pride in its history and in its future. We're excited to talk with residents in the coming months about what that future could look like -- stay tuned for your chance to help steer us in a new direction!



Hundreds of cyclists and trail supporters descended on Osawatomie in October 2022 to celebrate the 2022 RAISE Grant award received by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Of the \$24.8 million award, roughly \$7 million will be spent between Osawatomie and Rantoul to complete the trail.

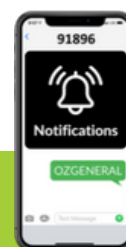
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DOWNTOWN PLANNING - PHASE II

Following the success of last year's original Planning Sustainable Places planning effort, the City applied for a second phase "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 began earlier this year. Members of the OzCOMP steering committee met downtown to interview the architecture and design teams that had applied to work with the City on this Phase II project. OzCOMP is comprised of City staff members, members of the City Council, and representatives from a number of community organizations including the Board of Education, Tourism Committee, Trail Commission, Rotary Club, Planning and Zoning Commission, Osawatome PRIDE, and the Ministerial Association, among other groups.



Some members of the OzCOMP steering group posed for a photo after the interviews held in downtown Osawatome.

Community engagement activities will begin soon, and the public is encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible. These activities will narrow the focus of downtown planning efforts and identify specific projects or corridors for implementation, such as completing sidewalk networks, a community hub installation, or facilities to encourage active transportation (such as a bike share program).

While the planning activities and engagement sessions are happening across the community, a transitional plaza will be developing in the vacant lots downtown thanks to assistance from a grant award from the Allen W. and Gladys Hawkins Foundation. We're excited to introduce a temporary "pop-up" park in the currently vacant lots as a way to transition the space from vacant to the future full-service Community Hub after the planning project is complete.

SOLAR ARRAY COMING SOON

The City of Osawatome and Evergy are excited to be breaking ground soon on a 5MW solar array in the City's Northland! Located north of Osawatome State Hospital, at the intersection of 335th and Osawatome Road, this new facility will be a welcome addition to the City's electric generation portfolio. The array will cover roughly 40% of the 76-acre parcel owned by the City of Osawatome and is anticipated to break ground sometime



Two signs, produced by local print shop Pat's Signs, are in place at the intersection of 335th and Osawatome Road at the future site of the solar array.

this September or October with energization of the array planned for the Spring of 2024. To celebrate this regionally impactful development, the City and Evergy are teaming up to host a great groundbreaking ceremony and can't wait to welcome community members, project partners, and state representatives this fall.

City Council approved through Resolution a Power Purchase Agreement with Evergy, which will allow the City of Osawatome to purchase electricity generated by the array. This sustainable, cost-efficient option will increase the City's energy portfolio and reduce our reliance on diesel and natural gas generators during emergencies, peak seasons, and other irregular events.

While the City is under no obligation to purchase the array at any point in time, changes in the Inflation Reduction Act mean the City now has the option to buy the array after three years, down from the original seven-year threshold.



2023 PAVING THE WAY PROGRAM UPDATE

Spring has officially landed in Osawatome and, with it, the sounds, sights, and smells of major road construction! The City of Osawatome is thrilled to see contractors diving into projects across the community and making the most of these sunny (and windy!) days.

Construction is well underway on 18th Street and Main Street Terrace in west Osawatome, where Killough Construction is preparing for another stretch of full-depth reconstruction. The road surface in those neighborhoods has been removed and storm sewer is being installed, along with necessary utility relocations. Area residents may experience interruptions in utility services while those relocations are being performed. The work is estimated at 16 weeks, or 80 working days, dependent on weather. Simultaneously, Killough is preparing to break ground on Walnut Avenue between 4th and 6th Streets and is currently conducting preliminary activities and survey work in the area. Construction will move to Walnut Avenue after the completion of 18th Street and Main Street Terrace. The total bid for this project was \$1,734,521.07, and was awarded in August of 2022.

Another big project on the horizon is the full-depth reconstruction of Brown Avenue from 7th to 12th Streets. This construction project is currently out for bid, with bids due April 25th, 2023. Staff expects to make a recommendation to the City Council on April 27th, and anticipates construction to be completed in late 2023.

The much-anticipated full-depth reconstruction of 6th Street from Lincoln Avenue to Kelly Avenue is still in design phase, and City staff is excited to continue the planning work with the community. Public meetings and outreach opportunities to impacted businesses will be announced soon. To kick off the community engagement, a preference survey was conducted in February 2023 and received over 120 respondents! Staff is hopeful that the design phase will be completed in Summer 2023 and the project will be ready for bid in late 2023. It's anticipated that construction will break ground as soon as spring weather hits next year. In the interim, utility relocations and other necessary prep work will begin this summer and continue into the fall - so watch out for road closures, road workers, and detours as the weather heats up!

SIGNATURE EVENT SERIES TAKES SHAPE

The 2023 Signature Event Series kicks off this summer with a bigger-and-better-than-ever attitude!

Starting the season off strong is the return of the John Brown Jamboree on June 15th - 17th. This year's Jamboree includes the traditional Thursday evening parade, a kids' carnival, car show, and more! A small-town classic, the Jamboree is the perfect opportunity for friends and family to celebrate the little things in life and enjoy the comforts of community.

The annual Lights on the Lake summer spectacular fires up just a couple weeks later on Saturday, July 1st. This year's entertainment is CREEDENCE REVIVED, the world's premier Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute band. Drew Six and Damien Gunn are supporting acts in 2023. A perfect Saturday afternoon lakeside is finished with our infamous fireworks celebration. Tickets for Lights on the Lake are available online and in local businesses. Children 12 and under are free!

In September, fireworks are exchanged for artillery fire at Freedom Festival, which celebrates our community's historic foundations as an abolitionist town in pre-Civil War Kansas Territory. Enjoy a weekend of frontier craftsmen and artisans, artillery demonstrations, historical reenactments, and other amazing performances from the era. This FREE event is scheduled for September 15th - 17th.

Our Signature Event Series culminates with the Border War BBQ showdown October 20th - 21st in John Brown Memorial Park. Amateurs, enthusiasts, and professional pitmasters will smoke out the competition at this Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned event. Winning teams have gone on to secure titles at the state and national levels!

If you're interested in supporting our Signature Event Series or our other Tourism events, like the newly introduced Third Saturdays, please visit us online to learn more or to donate. If your business or organization would like to be a sponsor for any of these endeavors, we'd be glad to talk with you and answer any questions!



SPOTLIGHT | Osawatomi Tourism Committee and THIRD SATURDAYS

The Osawatomi Tourism Committee is dedicated to bringing together friends, families, and visitors for one-of-a-kind experiences in Osawatomi. Alongside our classic community events, this year also introduces Third Saturdays in downtown Osawatomi!

OSAWATOMIE'S
THIRD SATURDAY
 DOWNTOWN
APRIL 15 + MAY 20, 2023
4:00 PM - 10:00 PM
500 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET
 FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN
 PRIZE DRAWINGS EVERY HOUR INCLUDING:
 T-SHIRTS, CASEY'S GIFT CARD AND TICKETS TO 2023 LIGHTS ON THE LAKE (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)
PROFESSIONAL DJ
PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
 LOCAL FOOD VENDORS INCLUDING
 LA HACIENDA AND BULL CREEK BBQ
AND MORE



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

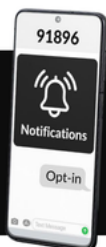
Osawatomi Alerts (Additional Service Option)

Receive city text message notifications!

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

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

to: **91896**



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:

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