

City of Osawatomie

Weekly Update

December 18, 2023



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



City crews and contractors are busy working on necessary water line replacements and relocations on the south end of 6th Street (near the Kelly Avenue intersection) in preparation for the total reconstruction of the corridor slated to begin Spring 2024. More information on this project can be found on our website:

osawatomieks.org/6th-street

The Osawatomie Public Library's Children and Youth Department is now reopen! The lower level of the Library has been closed since late November for a much-needed renovation of the flooring. Old carpet and tile was removed and the exposed concrete was sanded and sealed against stains and moisture. Cozy rugs will soon be in place to really make the space feel like home! Welcome back, kids!



EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

City of Osawatomie employees and officials gathered at the Osawatomie Elks Lodge on Saturday, December 16th to celebrate another incredible year at our annual holiday party. We recapped some of the year's highlights and hardships, and enjoyed an evening full of food, fun, and friendship. During the festivities, City Manager Bret Glendening announced the recipients for the 2023 Employees of the Year. Nominations for Employee(s) of the Year are submitted by department directors and a selection committee reviews the nominations before making the final recommendations.

The 2023 Employee of the Year recipients are Brian Mersman (left) and Nick Gazzano.

Mersman is the Electric Superintendent, a journeyman lineman, and the former Deputy Chief for the Osawatomie Fire Department. He retired from the Fire Department this spring after serving for 23 years.

Gazzano is a Lieutenant within the Osawatomie Police Department and joined the organization in 2021. He is a Ret. U.S. Army combat veteran with 15 years of law enforcement experience.

CONGRATULATIONS, Brian and Nick!

NEWS AND REMINDERS

"THE HUB" FINAL REPORT

Representatives from Architect One were joined by representatives from Vireo and Shockey Consulting to present a selection of final recommendations from "Oz Commons: The Hub" at the December 14th meeting of City Council. This project was the City's second time winning a Planning Sustainable Places grant from Mid-America Regional Council and was a continuation of the first planning grant that took place in 2020-2021. Focus areas included the downtown space currently known as "Main Street Plaza," pedestrian connections, and the Asylum Bridge. Several community engagement opportunities were available throughout 2023, including two consultant-led public meetings and two informal staff-led listening sessions, as well as an online survey. Feedback from these events helped shape the recommendations developed by the consultant team. The nearly 100-page final report will be available to the public before the end of the year.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

December Calendar

6:30PM | MEMORIAL HALL
411 11TH ST, OSAWATOMIE

DECEMBER 14TH, 2023
DECEMBER 28TH, 2023



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DID YOU KNOW?

The Osawatombie Police Department issues Calls for Service reports that track the type and number of services performed by officers. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the archive.

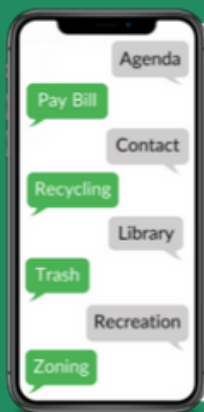
SWENSON SEES REZONING APPROVAL

The City of Osawatombie's Planning and Zoning Commission held a meeting on December 12th that included a public hearing regarding the proposed rezoning of 1009 Pacific Avenue (commonly known as Swenson School) from R-1 to R-3, which would allow for the property to be redeveloped into housing units. Following a presentation from City staff and the applicant (a developer), the Commission voted to approve the application and send it to the City Council for final review. City Council, councilmembers voted to uphold that decision and confirmed the approval of the application on December 14th. The Planning and Zoning Commission will continue to work with the interested developer on a proposed senior housing project over the next several months.

FOOD TRUCKS TO MOVE IN 2024

As our new downtown space (currently known as "Main Street Plaza") continues to develop, more activities will be centered in the plaza including the weekly visits by food trucks that are coordinated by City staff. Beginning in January, any trucks visiting for the "Food Truck Wednesday" program will be inside the plaza at 530 Main Street. Electric pedestals were installed for food trucks earlier this year and picnic table seating is available every day. More amenities will be installed throughout 2024.





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