



WEEKLY UPDATE

DATES TO REMEMBER

City Offices | January 1
Closed for New Year's Day

City Council | January 14

City Council | January 28



Downtown Osawatome illuminated at Christmastime in the 1940s. Photo provided by Greg Branson, from his work on "As Constant As The Rivers," a novel by local historian Margaret Hays

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

The new year is always a time for new intentions, resolutions, and the promise of new opportunity. That's no different for a municipality! We are looking forward to new projects in 2021, but it's important to remember where we've come from so we have a better idea of where we're going. Here's a breakdown of our 2020:

- Hosted 29 City Council meetings, including seven special sessions
- Passed 63 Resolutions and 12 Ordinances
- Hired 11 Full-Time Employees including a new City Manager
- Honored one retiree
- Received \$167,000 in grant funds from the CDBG-CV federal grant program to be distributed to qualified local businesses and food programs
- Received \$42,500 in grant funds from MARC's "Planning Sustainable Places" grant program to be used to plan new multi-modal pathways and public connections within our community
- Hosted Governor Laura Kelly, Secretary of Commerce David Toland, and Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Brad Loveless for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Walker Station trailhead for the Flint Hills Trail
- Began planning and contracting improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Renewed relationship with the Osawatome State Hospital, including supporting their plan for an emergency water line connection
- Continued relationship with Always & Forever Midwest Animal Sanctuary to help us manage the Osawatome Animal Pound



A special highlight of 2020, Eagle Scout Chris Daggett rehabilitated and rededicated Anna January Park (located at 10th and South St.) as his Eagle Scout Service Project. Hundreds of labor hours went into the project and Chris obtained several donations from community members and surrounding businesses to turn the park back into a family-friendly playground and gathering space.

Chase Homrighausen is still working on his Eagle Scout project and other Scouts are planning to present their ideas to Council in 2021.

— COMING SOON: NEWSLETTER PRINT EDITION —

In an effort to reach as many of our community members as possible, the City of Osawatomie will begin releasing a printed insert in the Miami County Republic that covers a variety of municipal information. Printed monthly, the insert will be an expanded version of this current digital newsletter. Our goal is to be as transparent as possible with all municipal news and offer our residents the opportunity to be as informed and up-to-date as possible. We hope that by printing a newsletter inside the Miami County Republic, we can reach a much wider demographic and not inadvertently leave anyone out of the conversation. If you know someone who isn't online, let them know to be on the lookout for our insert! We're hoping to print on the first full week of the month, but that might occasionally change depending on holidays and print deadlines. And we'd like to thank Donna Koontz for suggesting we undertake an initiative like this to better reach our community.

THE MOUNTAINS ARE COMING: A NYE ANALOGY



"Have you ever driven west through Kansas to get to somewhere in Colorado? You hit the Colorado state line and think "YES, MOUNTAINS!" But then you remember that the first half of Colorado is pretty much just more of Kansas. Slowly, you see the blue grey peaks and the joy of the mountains blooms into reality.

That's 2021. The first half is going to be more prairie. We won't hit the mountains until the summer at the earliest. But not even western Kansas lasts forever, no matter what it feels like on the drive. Let's be safe and make sure as many of us finish this journey as possible." - *Charlie Worroll, Facebook*

— — — — — • NEW YEAR, NEW WEBSITE • — — — — —

City Staff has been hard at work developing a new website for the new year. We're moving up into bigger and better user interfaces and a much easier to navigate menu. Please be patient with us as we continue to transfer content from the old website to the new. Some navigation selections will not be immediately available, and some search functions are temporarily disabled as we fill in content from previous years. As always, copies of all City documents can be obtained from City Hall by calling 913-755-2146. We're happy to provide paper or digital copies to interested individuals while our website is being fine-tuned (and any time after that). The web address hasn't changed, so keep www.osawatomieks.org bookmarked! We're hoping the switch won't cause any interruption in subscription services, like for our City Council packet or Weekly Update newsletters, but we'll be sure to reach out to those subscribers should we need.

Have a safe and happy New Year!