

BUSINESS BRIEF

JULY/AUGUST 2020

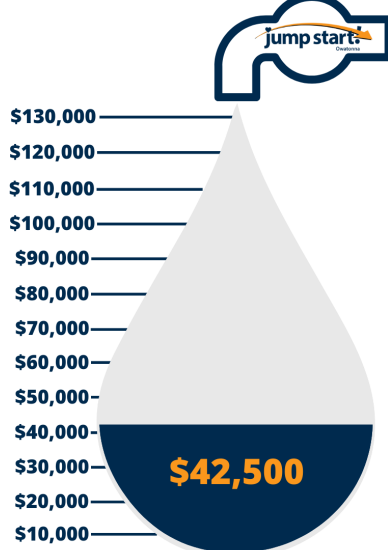
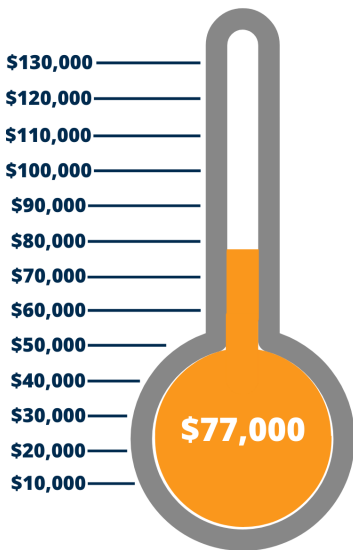
jump start!

Owatonna

Stronger Together for Our Small Businesses

DONATED

AWARDED



Business Contributors



Youth Association Contributors



Owatonna Cheerleading Club • Girls Track & Field • Owatonna Youth Volleyball Association

In just the first three weeks, JumpStart Owatonna has granted \$42,500+ to local small businesses PLUS sneeze guards, PPE kits, and more!

You can support our local businesses by donating at <https://owatonna.org/jump-start-owatonna-2/>

24 Owatonna small businesses have received support as of 6/25/20.

Owatonna Sports & Physical Therapy, Klecker's Creations and Learning Rx are just a few of the businesses that have been awarded grants since June 25th.



ANNUAL GOLF EVENT
see page 4

Title Sponsor **SVAE**

**2020
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- ▶ **Nathan Dotson, Chair**
Dotson Woodworking
- ▶ **Kelly Boomgarden, Incoming Chair/ Tourism Rep**
Country Inn & Suites-Owatonna
- ▶ **Andy Cowell, Past Chair**
Profinium, Inc.
- ▶ **Todd Trout, Treasurer**
US Bank
- ▶ **Paul Smith, At-Large**
Federated Insurance
- ▶ **Wayne Starman, Ex-Officio**
Cash Wise Foods
- ▶ **Deb Gillard, At-Large**
RE/MAX Venture
- ▶ **Doug Betti**
Viracon
- ▶ **Syd Briggs**
Steele Waseca-Cooperative Electric
- ▶ **John Champa**
Cybex
- ▶ **Randy Doyal**
Al-Corn Clean Fuel
- ▶ **Mike Herman**
Driessen Water, Inc.
- ▶ **Scott Mohs**
Mohs Contracting, Inc.
- ▶ **Rich Pettet**
Rich's Window Cleaning
- ▶ **Luke Schmidt**
CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP)
- ▶ **Brandon Wayne**
Ameriprise Financial -Dufresne, Wayne & Associates
- ▶ **Stacy Wilson**
Old Town Bagels



Covid Crisis Brings Out Owatonna's Best

Even as all businesses are at some % of open, the future seems unclear. How will the economy hold up? Will Covid shut me down again? It's in these times where Owatonna really shines.



Shop Safe Zones:

using these signs your business shows to customers you are following safety protocols and are ready to serve them safely.

(Thanks to Partners: Tri M Graphics, Owatonna Business Partnership and Owatonna People's Press)



Jumpstart Owatonna:

businesses and individuals coming together to support small business through grants

(up to \$2,500), in kind products and a commitment to local spending.

Thanks to Partners: 40 businesses/organizations,
9 youth athletic organizations,
23 individuals;

full list at: Owatonna.org-click Jumpstart



SHIELDS OF STEELE

- Shields of Steele has delivered 700 shields and other supplies to 17 assisted living facilities in Steele County.
- We have recently partnered with JumpStart Owatonna to deliver " Covid Kits" to businesses that have received grants.
- The Covid Kits contain rubber and disposable gloves, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, shields, masks (fabric & N95), ear savers and spray bottles.



Federated Insurance employee and Shield of Steele member Melanie Gross delivering shields and ear savers to Prairie Manor Nursing Home.

Property Tax Relief:

Steele County and local units of government agreed to allow property tax payments until July 15th without penalty.

(Thanks to Partners: Steele County (Voted the change), City of Owatonna, Owatonna School District, County Townships)



Social Distancing?

Practice it on a Minne-Roadtrip this summer

Share your #minneroadtrip with us!

TURNING UP THE DIAL ON TOURISM

With gas prices low and families looking to get out of the bigger cities, it was a no brainer that we would work with our Minne-RoadTrip partners from Northfield and Faribault to market a good old-fashioned road trip. Road tripping enables Americans not only to spend their money on necessities but on fun activities. Stopping by local restaurants or businesses to have a new experience raises tourism and will help money flow to our three towns and businesses.

On June 5th we hit the switch and ran a FaceBook and enewletter campaign that targeted people within 100-500 miles looking for fun and safe things to do in a social distancing family trip.

TRAVELERS NEXT LEISURE TRIP



Key Finding survey taken June 15th
Example of e-newsletter send out to 53,000 email addresses on June 5

Summer FUN in Downtown Owatonna! Cars, Music, Eats and shop local!

Have you seen the cars cruising the downtown strip on Friday nights? Participated yet? **Concerts in the Central Park** are beginning **Thursday July 9**. Since restaurants and eateries are opening inside and most are ready for takeout- why not make an evening of it and get a bite to eat before, during or after the cruise or concert? Order a take-out to eat while sitting on your blanket or chair with social distancing in mind in the park and support some of our hardest hit businesses? There is plenty of picnic tables downtown in the park and greenspace next to **Old Town Bagels**.

Stopping down to the **Farmers Market** on Saturday mornings? A great chance to pick up a coffee or lunch and get a few errands taken care of while shopping locally at the market and in our unique boutiques. Check out the chamber website or your favorite joint's website for hours and offerings! A special THANKS to the cruisers, *John Meixner* at the **Little Professor Bookstore** and *Jerry Besser* at **Tone Music**! Enjoy some social gathering in these events until we see you at these and Downtown Thursdays – in 2021! *Welcome back Owatonna!*

Signs of Spring on



• HISTORIC DOWNTOWN •

OWATONNA

MAINSTREET



► **CHAMBER ANNUAL GOLF EVENT Update** | Rhonda Guthrie, Director of Operations

Join the for the Chamber Annual Golf Event on Thursday, August 6th starting with registration and box lunch hand out at 10:00 am, National Anthem and VFW Color Guard at 10:50 am with a Shot Gun Start at 11:00 am at the Owatonna Country Club.

Dinner, program and awards will be handled differently again due to the restrictions at this point in time.

The Committee has met with the staff at the Owatonna Country Club and reviewed the current guidelines directed by the State of MN. We are confident that all players and sponsors will experience a safe and fun day to kick back and enjoy 18 holes of golf.

Title Sponsor



The theme is:



The 80's had big hair, movies like *The Breakfast Club*, *Flash Dance*, *Back to the Future*, *Top Gun*, *Ghost Busters*, *The Goonies* and more...

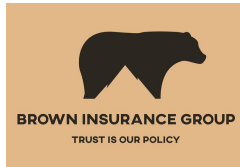
Top Music included *Guns N Roses*, *Tom Petty*, *Prince*, *Michael Jackson*, *Whitney Houston*, and *Bon Jovi*!

The 1980s were a decade of bold style, colors, and silhouettes— and heaping amounts of permed hair. With trends spanning from ripped tights and biker jackets to polished oversized blazers and poof skirts, and style icons ranging from *Joan Jett* to *Joan Collins*, it was one of the most eclectic decades in fashion.

The era of *Cabbage Patch Kids*, *Sony Walkman*, *Powerhouse IBM Computers* and cell phones the size of a brick!

NEW Members

▶ **Brown Insurance Group, LLC**
 Nick Brown
 310 South Oak AVE., Owatonna
 507-413-5708
 nick@browninsgroup.com



▶ **Finholdt Repair, LLC**
 Nate & Ariana Finholdt
 435 26th ST NE, Owatonna
 507-413-8005
 arianaf@gppaustin.com



▶ **Lava Burgers and Wings**
 Oscar Mazariego
 369 SE 18th ST, Owatonna
 507-413-8445
 odmazar@live.com



▶ **Lee Holding Goup, LLC**
 Anna Lee
 2300 Park DR, STE. 200B, Owatonna
 507-213-4592
 ms.annal@gmail.com

▶ **Lilly & Rose Boutique**
 Jodi Jendryisk
 120 South Oak AVE, Owatonna
 218-282-0666
 jodi@lillyandroseboutique.com



▶ **Midwest LED Sign Company**
 Daryl Kubicek
 1125 S Oak AVE, Owatonna
 507-213-1990
 daryl@midwestledsigns.com



▶ **Thryv**
 Beth Jochum
 2200 West Airfield DR, Dallas/FortWorth Airport
 (Rochester, MN satellite office)
 972-453-7790
 Bernie.mcgonagle@thyve.com



Owatonna
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM
We Are Here To Help Owatonna!
Owatonna.org/Covid-19-Resources

**TOUGH TIMES DON'T LAST
 A TOUGH COMMUNITY
 DOES**
 Owatonna
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM
 Stronger Together

CHAMBER EVENTS Update | Rhonda Guthier, Director of Operations

Business After Hours

July 28
5:30 – 7:00 PM
 Sponsor: Mineral Springs Brewery
 Location:
 111 N. Walnut St, Owatonna



Business After Hours

August 21
5:30 – 7:00 PM
 Sponsor: Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Advantage Real Estate, Block Plumbing & Heating, Cash Wise Foods & Steele County Free Fair
 Location:
 Beer Garden at SCFF



Watch for Updates on Social Media & Website



OCLA Graduating Class ready to Engage in the Community!

Jessica Abrahams, Owatonna Park & Recreation
 Travis Daniels, Pearson
 Sheena Gasner, Fernbrook Family Center
 Annie Grimmium, Federated Insurance
 Anna Wagoner, Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.

Tess Heyer, Amesbury Truth
 Kerri Lynch, Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest
 Eric Miller, U.S. Bank

Bruce Moore, HomeTown Credit Union
 Charissa Oeltjenbruns, Mayo Clinic Health System, of Owatonna

Wende Oylo, Apex Painting
 Janita Paulson, RE/MAX Venture
 Robin Spande, Owatonna Public Library
 Aaron Thompson, Viracon
 Kate Verlautz, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
 Emily Volkmer, OACCT



The OCLA Steering Committee discussed and decided to forgo the 2020/2021 OCLA program year due to the possibility in businesses reducing staff, tightening of budgets, difficulty in allowance into facilities and gathering places, comfort level of both the participant and employer and uncertainty with the potential of a surge or spike this fall.
Look for applications in 2021/2022!

► OWATONNA SAFE ZONE SHOP



Code of Conduct for the "Safe Shop Zone" includes, but not limited to:

Limit number of individuals in our business based on square footage.

- Installation of hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the store.
- Sanitize fitting rooms between customers.
- Follow social distancing recommendations including check-out areas.
- Follow guidance regarding cleaning and sanitization for both routine cleaning and frequently touched surfaces.
- Make face masks available to employees
- Post a reminder that high-risk populations should stay home

*Please note we encourage all business owners to review **CDC guidelines** and other best practices for operating safely with in their business.



young professionals of **Owatonna**
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

Follow the **OACCT Young Professionals** on Facebook!

Upcoming events...

watch for further details on social media platforms

Need a reason to join the Young Professionals of Owatonna?

There are many reasons to join but here is an important one... Building Relationships! Whether you are from the area or just moved to town; joining Y-Pro can connect you with a whole new group of friends from outside your normal circle.

► Need Notary Services?

Even though our country is in uncertain times, business is still being conducted and legal paperwork sometimes needs to be notarized. If your financial institution or insurance agent cannot help, let the Chamber fill the need by utilizing our registered Notary at no charge to members by emailing, oaact@owatonna.org or 451-7970 to set up an appointment.

CHAMBER PACK INSERT DEADLINE

Supply 550 copies of your promotional insert by August 26th for Sept./Oct. mailing; \$150

The OACCT Office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, 2020 in observance of Independence Day



AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

320 Hoffman Dr | Owatonna, MN | owatonna.org
 P: 507.451.7970 | E: oaact@owatonna.org | F: 507.451.7972
 Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM

Business Brief is published by the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism



www.riverland.edu