

SUMMER is OPEN



► Restrictions End by July 1st

See Page 4



WHAT IS OCLA?

Owatonna Community Leadership

Academy or **OCLA**, is a leadership program designed to enable candidates to learn about Owatonna resources, values, strengths, weaknesses, and challenges. A learning experience geared toward providing an in-depth look at eight key elements of our community; education, economic development, government, healthcare, public safety, quality of life, agriculture, and culture & diversity. This program will provide opportunities for candidates to exchange ideas, build networks and begin the process of identifying and solving important community issues.



LEAVE A LEGACY

The Chamber has a long standing commitment to developing leaders in the community for the past 19 years, the OCLA program has been a great way for employers to provide leadership development and training opportunities for their employees and our community.

19
GRADUATED
CLASSES

MORE THAN
316
ALUMNI

9
MONTHS

Who: A pool of candidates who are current or prospective leaders in the Owatonna community.

When: Monthly sessions run September – June

Where: Seminars are held at a different location each session.

How: A series of topical seminars held over a nine month period and conducted by local and regional professionals

Cost: \$775

education Healthcare agriculture
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
public safety CULTURE Strengths
Leadership Finder
Training & DIVERSITY
government Quality of Life

► APPLICATION DEADLINE: **June 11, 2021**



Streetscape See Page 4

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ▶ **Kelly Boomgarden, Chair & Tourism Rep**
Country Inn & Suites-Owatonna
- ▶ **Nathan Dotson, Past Chair**
Dotson Woodworking
- ▶ **Todd Trout, Vice Chair**
US Bank
- ▶ **Syd Briggs, Treasurer**
Steele Waseca-Cooperative Electric
- ▶ **Deb Gillard, At-Large**
RE/MAX Venture
- ▶ **Doug Betti**
Viracon
- ▶ **Brian Deml**
Deml Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC
- ▶ **Randy Doyal**
Al-Corn Clean Fuel
- ▶ **Mike Herman**
Driessen Water, Inc.
- ▶ **Jess McCoy**
Federated Insurance
- ▶ **Doug Meier**
Christian Bros. Cabinets
- ▶ **Scott Mohs**
Mohs Contracting, Inc.
- ▶ **Tom Peterson**
Climate By Design International
- ▶ **Rich Pettet**
Rich's Window Cleaning
- ▶ **Paul Smith**
Federated Insurance
- ▶ **Wayne Starman, Ex-Officio**
Cash Wise Foods



SPOTLIGHT ADVANCE MEMBER BUSINESS

Mayo Clinic Health System Expert Care. Every Day. For Life.

As part of a system of sites in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna serves the community through routine, preventive and specialized care services, wellness support and community engagement.

Our collaboration with Mayo Clinic connects you with the most trusted, specialty care in the U.S. We bring the most recognized medical expertise close to where you live. Your health care needs always come first at Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna, whether that means primary care or specialty services.



Over 75 years of community care

Starting as the Owatonna Clinic, founded by doctors Albert J. Olson and Franklin C. Anderson in 1948, Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna continues to put the needs of our patients first as we deliver safe, high-quality patient care to the Owatonna and surrounding communities.

Today, our team in Owatonna of nearly 450 staff, collaborate with a network of community-focused hospitals and clinics – nearly 16,500 staff in all – bringing you the best care possible.

"Mayo Clinic Health System has always understood that it is responsible for providing care and leading the care delivered in the community. That means that if the community needs family medicine, internal medicine, medical specialty or surgical care, there is a responsibility to provide that care the way you would want it offered to your family, friends and neighbors. The community entrusts in us their health."

– Brian Bunkers, M.D., Family Medicine

Community engagement

A healthy community requires more than access to medical services. Our commitment to the health of our patients, co-workers, families, and neighbors extends beyond the walls of our facilities. Through our community engagement initiatives, we work to ensure that our region remains a great place to live, work, learn, raise families and be healthy.

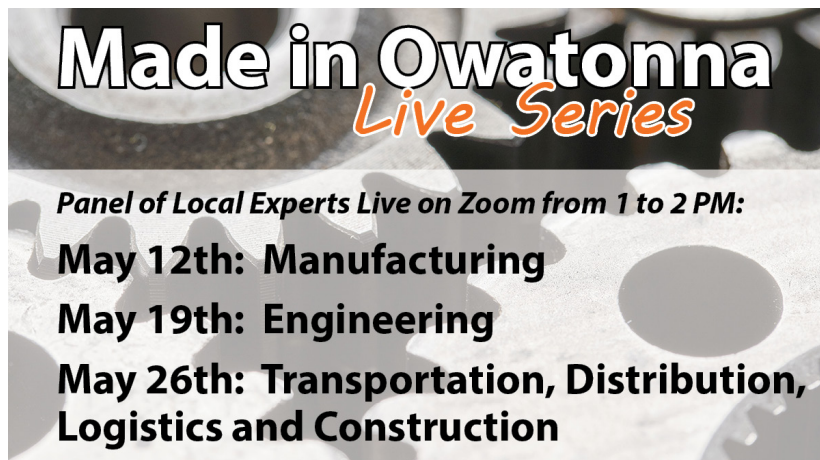
Specific components of our community engagement programs include:

- **Community Health Improvement** – address health needs identified in our community.
- **Community Partnerships** – work with other non-profits and government agencies to maximize resources and achieve better outcomes for the benefit of the community.
- **Leadership and Staff Engagement** – serve on community boards and volunteer in our community.
- **Funding and In-Kind Support** – engage with organizations, programs and events with funding to promote health and well-being.
- **Community Education** – share the expertise of Mayo Clinic addressing a variety of health topics.

Through the years, Mayo Clinic Health System defined its commitment to improving community health and wellness by collaborating with local organizations to support community growth and development. Learn more at mayoclinichealthsystem.org/owatonna.

► SPOTLIGHT ON WORKFORCE

- **Made In Owatonna Days will host Live Series of local panel experts in Engineering, Manufacturing, and Technology career fields.**



Made in Owatonna *Live Series*

Panel of Local Experts Live on Zoom from 1 to 2 PM:

- May 12th: Manufacturing**
- May 19th: Engineering**
- May 26th: Transportation, Distribution, Logistics and Construction**

Connecting students with professionals in the Engineering, Manufacturing, and Technology career fields for a 1 hour live Zoom presentation with a panel of experts and Q&A.

Stay tuned for Live Presentation Times and Presenter Details.

A SteeleCoWorks Program sponsored by Bosch Community Fund



A Partnership with



► Signing Day Highlights Student/Business Connection

The SteeleCoWorks program is connecting students with job and career opportunities in the area. The 2021 Signing Day is scheduled for: May 26th from 5:30 – 6:30 for the Signing Day at Torey's Restaurant and Bar - upper conference room, featuring many local businesses that are partnering with students for their future workforce experience.

Business Partners



VIRACON®



A Partnership With

OWATONNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INSPIRING EXCELLENCE • EVERY LEARNER • EVERY DAY

Owatonna
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

United Way
United Way of Steele County

Junior Achievement®
Inspiring Tomorrows™

Inaugural Signing Day in 2019.



Ambassadors took part in the new high school groundbreaking ceremony.

► New High School Groundbreaking Ceremony

Owatonna Public Schools hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new high school on May 6 at the new site located at 1945 18th Street SE, Owatonna.



► PPP Lifeline for Business; NOT Fundraiser for State

Hundreds of businesses in Steele County utilized the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) as a lifeline during government covid shutdowns. That program saved businesses from going away and there was no intent to tax those dollars. We know that because the federal government determined they would not tax them. The state of Minnesota on the other hand has not passed legislation to conform to the federal taxes on PPP. So as of now, those dollars are being taxed as income to businesses. We URGE the governor and House to get on board. Thanks to the MN Senate for already passing this conformity.

► Chamber Pushes for Reopen Plan; July 1st

For several months the Owatonna Chamber in partnership with Chambers across the state of Minnesota have been urging Governor Walz to provide an opening plan. A plan is so important for summer events, fairs, weddings and so much of what takes place in our lives. The recent announcement that eliminates restrictions no later than July 1st is welcome news.

Safely ending COVID-19 restrictions

May 7	May 28	July 1
Outdoor events <ul style="list-style-type: none">No capacity limit or distancing requirements.No mask requirement for outdoor venues of fewer than 500 people.	Remaining capacity and distancing restrictions end. Certain requirements remain: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Masks indoors and for the largest outdoor events.Businesses must continue to have plans in place to keep their employees safe.Key consumer protections.	The statewide masking requirement will end when 70% of Minnesotans ages 16 and older are vaccinated – or by July 1.
Indoor events <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased occupancy for large venues.Increased group size to 10.		
Social Gatherings <ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdoors: No gathering limit.Indoors: Gathering limit increased to 50.		
Restaurants <ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdoors: No occupancy limits.Indoors: Table size increased to 10.No mandatory closing time.		

STAY SAFE MN

MINNESOTA

► Investment Will Transform Downtown

#BuildingOwatonna

With close to \$30M being invested in downtown this summer, a major transformation is underway. Private investment, coupled with public improvements, will equal an incredible change.



Architect rendering of new streetscape.

Hamilton Real Estate group will completely redevelop the 200 block of N. Cedar with the Marriott Courtyard, New upscale restaurant, and expanded Old Town Bagels. Across the street on Pearl, they are building a new apartment complex. These projects will both begin in June and plan to open June 2022.

At the same time the City of Owatonna plans a \$4.5M streetscape investment. This will replace 100 year old pipes below ground and above will facelift the sidewalks and street to be pedestrian friendly. The expanded sidewalks allow for more outdoor seating and shopping. It will match the vision for the front of the hotel and positions downtown as a community gathering spot once again.

You'll start to see this logo and messaging around town as the chamber works with the Owatonna Business Partnership and downtown businesses to communicate to the public about the project. It will include parking locations, access, explain the project and provide promotional information.



Vaccines Help Create Hope for Upcoming Events in Owatonna

The Events and Festival industry looks promising for this upcoming summer! According to the COVIDcast survey data, interest in vaccine remains strong here in Minnesota. MN remains slightly above the national average and Minnesotans have indicated that 87.2% of people have either received their vaccine or would accept it if they were offered.

With summer just around this corner, events will return but, what that looks like is still a little foggy. What is clear, is that the people are looking forward to attending larger in person events and being around others. Not only are most of our summer events returning in 2021, including the Steele County Free Fair, but we also have a few new events. Rustic Mama's added a summer market at the end of June & July and the Linder Farm Network will host a Rural Life Show Sept 8 & 9th. These are all great signs of a rebound on what the tourism industry lost due in 2020 due to the pandemic.



► MAINSTREET Update | Shirley Schultz, MainStreet Director

Want something to do? How about...

Fresh air on Saturday mornings at the **Farmer's Market** in Central Park? Makers and growers vending their wares, May – October. Opens at 7 AM.

Friends, Music, Makers, Food, Shopping & First Thursdays Downtown back on June 3rd! THANK YOU **MetroNet!**

The 2021
Presenting
sponsor, for
the opportunity
to bring the



community together again. Accepting vendors for June, July & August. Tell your maker friends! Want to put your business in front of thousands this summer by sponsoring First Thursdays Downtown? Contact sschultz@owatonna.org for more info or go to owatonna.org/DowntownThursdays.



A summer evening of music in the park, 11 @ 7pm Concert Series every Thursday in Central Park, June until the fair. **Wenger**, celebrating 75 Years, is sponsoring 8 of the concerts beginning in June! Tell Wenger's Thank-you!



What's under the street? See the action up close from the businesses downtown and on the temporary sidewalks in front of each block as they go through reconstruction. Daily changes for around 45 days, starting on the 300 block of N. Cedar in mid-June. 200 block around August and 100 block in the fall. Explore downtown this summer while frequenting local businesses, where you are family. We need you.

► **BakerTech Services**

Nolan Baker
209 West Bridge ST, Owatonna
507-414-7800
nolanb@bakerts.com



► **BridgeWater of Owatonna**

Amy Liffbrig
125 E Park ST, Owatonna
507-451-0808
aliffbrig@bridgewatermn.net



► **Bushel Boy Farms**

Chuck Tryon
215 32nd AVE SW, Owatonna
507-451-5692
ctryon@bushelboy.com



► **McCarthy Plumbing & Heating Co.**

Craig Helgeson
321 N Cedar AVE, Owatonna
507-451-1430
craig@mccarthyplumbing.com



► **(CHAMBER EVENTS)** Update



May 25
5:30 – 7:00 PM



Sponsor: SpareTime Entertainment
Location: 333 SE 18th ST, Owatonna

June 22
5:30 – 7:00 PM



Sponsor: Culligan UltraPURE
Location: Foremost Brewing Company
131 West Bridge St, Owatonna

Chamber Pack Insert Deadline

Supply 550 copies of your promotional insert by
June 30th for July/August mailing: **\$150**

Young Professionals - Mixology Class

May 27
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: Owatonna Country Club,
1991 Lemond Rd, Owatonna

Downtown Thursday

June 3
5:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: North Cedar & Central Park

The OACCT office will be closed on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.

◀◀ **Watch for Updates on Social Media & Owatonna.org** ▶▶



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