

► How Policy and Economic Development Impacts the Business Community

► Learn to Earn Initiative Moves Forward

How can Owatonna equip high schoolers, then move students on to post-secondary to tackle the talent needs of local employers? It's a challenging question. The Owatonna Partners for Economic Development (OPED) is leveraging relationships with Senator Jasinski, Rep. Petersburg, the MNSCU system and Riverland to create a new plan. In a special appropriation we're requesting \$1M in funding to put mechatronics equipment in the new Owatonna High School and in Riverland's Owatonna campus. Additionally, dollars will go to an environmental scan, basically a needs assessment for future higher education needs.

► Business Legislative Push

As the legislature pushes on with a \$9+B surplus here are the business community priorities:

- Replenish the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund
- Offer tax relief
- Enact employer friendly workforce strategies
- Facilitate innovation and productivity
- Oppose additional mandates and workplace restrictions
- Streamline inefficient regulation.

► Filling Hagedorn's Congressional Seat

Following the recent death of Congressman Jim Hagedorn to cancer, there will now be a special election to fill out the rest of the year. That election is followed by the general election in November. Technically we could have 3 different people representing CD1 in less than a year timeframe. So be ready for a flurry of PR and advertisements x2 and watch for Chamber/Rotary/People's Press candidate forum dates.



*Candidate Filing Period for Special Election of Congressional District 1 will be March 1 – March 15, 2022 until 5 pm.
Special Primary is May 24, 2022 and Special Election on August 9, 2022*

► ECONOMIC Update | Brad Meier, President/CEO



► New Developments Progress Report

**All dates subject to change.*

- The Pearl Apartment Downtown Owatonna: plans to open in April.
- Marriott Courtyard Hotel plans to open in August.
- New apartment project on 26th and Cedar Ave is permitted and ready to start as weather allows.
- Climate by Design International has all city approvals to move forward on new 200,000 sq ft building.
- Kuepers Inc., of Brainerd (pictured), still working through city approvals for 276 apartments in five three-story buildings on a 17-acre property. The site is east of 24th Avenue Northwest and northwest of a commercial area that includes Lowe's and Kohls stores.
- Monson Eye Clinic new development on Hoffman Drive will start this Spring/Summer.

**2022
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Todd Trout, Chair**
US Bank
- **Kelly Boomgarden, Past Chair & Tourism Rep**
Country Inn & Suites-Owatonna
- **Mike Herman, Vice Chair**
Driessen Water, Inc.
- **Syd Briggs, Treasurer**
Steele Waseca-Cooperative Electric
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RE/MAX Venture
- **Oscar Mazariago, At-Large**
American Family Insurance – Oscar Mazariago Agency & Lava Burgers & Wings
- **Doug Betti**
Viracon
- **Shannon Cliff**
Mayo Clinic Health System-Owatonna
- **Bonnie Cole**
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- **Taylor Herman, Young Professional Chair**
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Christian Bros. Cabinets
- **Scott Mohs**
Mohs Contracting, Inc.
- **Tom Peterson**
Climate By Design International
- **Rich Pettet**
Rich's Window Cleaning/Destiny Christian Church
- **Wayne Starman, Ex-Officio**
Cash Wise Foods



► **Chamber Receives National Recognition**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has awarded the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism with its designation of Accredited with 5 Stars for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community.

Owatonna is one of two chambers in Minnesota with this status (St. Cloud is the other). An Accredited chamber has reached an elite status as one of the top 3% of chambers in the United States.



The original 1972 Ambassadors included: (l to r) Joe Smith, Tommy Thompson, Jerry Boos, Ted Ringhofer, Wayne Klinkhammer, Gov. Wendell Anderson, Duffy Hamren, Jerry Herman, Daryl Wollin, John Alexander and Ernie Hammer.

► **Ambassadors Celebrate 50 Year Anniversary**

The OACCT Ambassadors have been welcoming new businesses to the community and the chamber for 50 years! These volunteers put in time each week to visit businesses, celebrate ribbon cuttings, and participate in groundbreakings. They recently hosted the Golden Opportunity Dinner to raise funds to support the chamber and Ted G. Ringhofer scholarship.



Current Ambassadors visited Kottke Jewelers who are still going strong after 103 years, tradition continues with new ownership Lauren & Kyle Kozelka

► **Chamber Hiring MainStreet, Tourism Directors**

As of newsletter print, the chamber has closed the application time for both positions and has started interviews. Small hiring committees have been formed to assist with the interview process. We'll provide updates in Tuesday Talk (e-newsletter).

► **Viracon**

Great Buildings Deserve Great Glass™

After five decades, over 100,000 buildings, and more than 500,000,000 square feet of glazing installed in some of the most remarkable buildings throughout the world, Viracon has established itself as a recognized leader in architectural glass for commercial buildings. With a network of over 3,000 architects and designers, Viracon is a premier single-source resource for not only fabrication capabilities but for consulting and technical help as well. Every day, customers rely on Viracon's employees for design assistance, budget costing, return on investment costing, quoting, specification writing, project coordination, job site inspections, product performance information and detailed technical assistance for their projects.



In 1970 construction of Viracon's first building, a 45,000 square foot glass fabrication plant was completed. Employing twenty people, Viracon fabricated insulating and laminated glass for commercial buildings. Throughout its 50 years, Viracon continued to invest in additional equipment, facility space and employees expanding its capabilities to provide high-performance glass products, including tempered, heat soaked, laminated, insulating, silk-screened, digital printed, hurricane-resistant, acoustical, blast-mitigating, electronic eavesdropping mitigating, smart glass and a broad selection of proprietary solar coatings for North American and international markets.

Today Viracon is the nation's only single-source architectural glass fabricator with 1.2 million square feet of manufacturing space and employing over 1,000 people serving



not only the architectural glass community but also its home community of Owatonna. Throughout the years, Viracon employees have engaged with and supported the local branches of the United Way **contributing over \$1,000,000 over the past 10 years**, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Strings of Hope, volunteering in local schools and more. These employees indicate that the time and talent they share through these programs is rewarding in ways that cannot be measured.

Fundamental to the company's culture is investment in all its employees, fostering an environment where they may grow in their careers and recognizing their achievements along the way. Viracon is a dynamic company with a wealth of career opportunities. We believe Great People Deserve Great Opportunities. You can find out more about Viracon by visiting www.viracon.com.



Groundbreaking and 800 Bldg Construction Owatonna, MN

The company is a subsidiary of Apogee Enterprises, Inc. (NASDAQ: APOG). Apogee, headquartered in Minneapolis, is a leader in technologies involving the design and development of value-added glass products and services.



► Tourism Events On This Spring!

Trade Expos proudly hosts four major trade expos throughout the year, Tradexpos welcomes farmers and ranchers from all corners of the globe to FREE shows in Mulvane and Topeka, Kansas, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and right here in Owatonna, Minnesota.

Take part of the expo from March 17-19 at the Four Seasons Centre, Thursday & Friday 9 am – 5 pm and Saturday 9 am – 4 pm. Free Admission & parking with free seminars by the University of Minnesota Extension Service and Linder Farm Network.


The KOWZ & KRUE Home and Recreation Show presented by Owatonna Heating & Cooling is coming to the Four Seasons Centre March 25 – 27. Show hours are Friday 3-7 pm, Saturday 9am – 5 pm and Sunday 11 am – 3 pm. Admission and parking is free!

Additional Upcoming Events include Corky's Earlybird Softball Tournament May 6 -8, Farmer's Market starting on May 7 – October 29 in Central Park and Rustic Mama's Spring Craft Show on May 7 at the Four Seasons Centre. Keep up on what's happening in Owatonna at visitowatonna.org/events




► Livability.com Promotes the Owatonna Story

Owatonna's digital visibility program is off to a strong start with 4,005 page views and an average engaged time of nearly two and a half minutes, which is a good indicator that we're reaching the right audience. Social ads in Q1 have garnered 183,668 impressions, thousands of clicks and hundreds of shares. Momentum is sure to build when the next round of content promotion begins in March.


Livability
 November 5, 2021 · 🌐

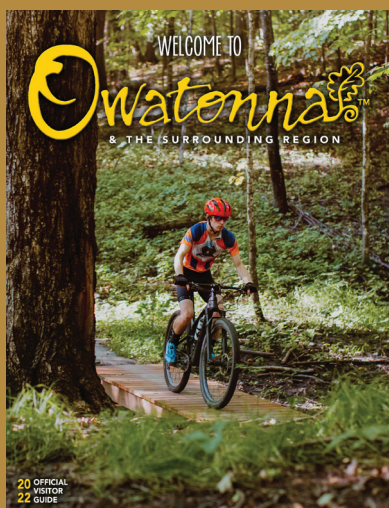
Owatonna, MN, is consistently ranked among the most livable small towns in the country. Here are 12 reasons why.



LIVABILITY.COM
12 Reasons Owatonna, Minnesota, Is a Great Place To Live - Livability

► 2022 Owatonna Visitor Guide is Ready

The new tourism promotion magazine is being distributed now ! Thanks to partner Owatonna People's Press, we print 12,000 copies distributed to visitor information centers, Mall of America and other centers around the area.





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.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 10, 2022

► EVENTS

Julia Seykora, Events Director

► Young Professionals Serving the Community!

YPro is partnering with Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity for their Hops for Habitat event coming up on Saturday April 9, 2022.

Steele County Four Seasons Centre
1525 S Cedar Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060

Free Admission for Volunteers



FREE BEER &
GREAT MUSIC

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

TWO RIVERS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - HOPS FOR HABITAT

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH 2022
2PM TO 5PM

STEELE COUNTY FOUR SEASONS CENTER

► **A Taste of the Big Apple**

Marilyn McParland
104 W Broadway ST, Owatonna
507-455-3633
Hanson.cameron06@gmail.com



► **Mary Kay Cosmetics – Sales Director Sandy Fritz**

Sandy Fritz
1138 Hawthorne Ave, Owatonna
303-466-8605
sandyfritz@earthlink.net



► **Gregg Draeger – Associate Member**

600 Oakwood Lane, Owatonna
507-390-3038
gdraeger@charter.net

► **Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation – Kris Heichel Team**

Eric Habberstad
1403 15th Ave NW, STE A, Austin
507-460-4501
Eric.habberstad@fairwaymc.com



► **Linder Digital**

Matthew Hughes
255 Cedardale DR, Owatonna
507-444-9224
matthewh@lindernetwork.com



► **Linder Farm Network**

Matthew Hughes
255 Cedardale DR, Owatonna
507-444-9224
matthewh@lindernetwork.com



► **Pure Detailing**

Justin Wier
826 Lincoln Ave, Owatonna
763-760-4940
pureowatonna@gmail.com



► **Rescued Room**

Tracy Bjerke
1855 3rd Ave NW, Owatonna
507-360-8954
Bjerke526@outlook.com



► **Service Solutions Center**

Eric Saterdalen
1300 2nd Ave NW, Stewartville
507-292-8862
eric@ssc.services



► **CHAMBER EVENTS** Update

► **CHAMBER GROWTH BREAKFAST SERIES**
March 17

7:30 -9:00 AM
Location: Torey's (Upstairs Event Space)
208 N. Cedar, Owatonna
Sponsors: Fastenal & HomeTown Credit Union
Topic: State Demographer, Susan Brower



► **CHAMBER GROWTH BREAKFAST SERIES**
April 21

7:30 – 9:00 AM
Location: Torey's (Upstairs Event Space)
208 N. Cedar, Owatonna
Sponsors: Fastenal & HomeTown Credit Union
Topic: Minnesota Business Recovery & How Will State Policy Affect You?



► **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**
March 22

5:30 – 7:00 PM
Sponsor(s): SpareTime Restaurant Bar Entertainment
Location: 333 SE 18th ST, Owatonna



► **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS**
April 26

5:30 – 7:00 PM
Sponsor: Steele County Historical Society
Location: 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna



Chamber Pack Deadline

Supply 550 copies of your promotional insert by for May/June mailing; \$150 by **April 28th.**



AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

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

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