

## CANDIDATE FORUMS 2022

Candidate Forums-Each Monday in October in partnership with Noon Rotary, Early Edition Rotary, Owatonna People's Press and Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Cost for lunch is \$15, if no lunch needed, the forum is free.

Location: Owatonna Country Club, register for each forum at [Owatonna.org](http://Owatonna.org) to reserve your seat

### **10/3/22 School Board (11:30am – 1:30pm)**

(Lloyd Brandt, Nikki Gieseke, Jan Guse, Elizabeth Hedlund, Michael Herman, Josh Indahl, Jolayne Mohs, April St. Martin, Mark Sebring, Lori Weisenberger, Colin Whalen)

### **10/10/22 City Council (11:30am – 1pm)**

(Dan Boeke – Peng Olson, Nathan Dotson – Seth Madole, Brent Svenby – Molly Kerr)

### **10/17/2022 1st Congressional District (11:30am – 1pm)**

(Jeff Ettinger & Brad Finstad)

### **10/24/22 State Representatives (11:30am – 1pm)**

(John Jasinski – Kate Falvey & John Petersburg – Dr. Abdulahi Osman)

### **10/31/22 Steele County Sheriff (11:30am – 1pm)**

(Lon Thiele & Darrin Helget)



**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**  
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- **Oscar Mazariego, At-Large**  
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- **Doug Betti**  
Viracon
- **Shannon Cliff**  
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- **Bonnie Cole**  
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- **Randy Doyal**  
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Federated Insurance
- **Doug Meier**  
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- **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



► **What've You Been Up To? Roundup of Key Chamber Efforts over the Last 2 Months**

• Congressional Candidates Visit Owatonna in Advance of Special Election-Brad Finstad and Jeff Ettinger made stops in Owatonna prior to the August special election won by Finstad. The two face off again in November.

• SteeleCoWorks Part of Statewide Workforce Wednesday-Used as a 'Best Practice' example, the Chamber and WDI participated in MN DEED's virtual meeting presenting to over 200 people from around the state.

• GEM Days Participation and Ambassador Visits-Chamber Ambassadors made visits to 40 businesses downtown in honor of the GEM Days celebration coordinated by Owatonna Business Partnership.

• Learn to Earn Committee Starts Efforts on Higher Ed-Chamber is coordinating this committee with Riverland and Owatonna Schools to understand the higher ed needs of the area.



*DEED Commissioner Grove Visit Owatonna-The Chamber worked with state officials to have Commissioner Grove talk workforce in Owatonna, Governor and Lt Governor decided to join.*



*Hotel Cuts Ribbon and Opens Doors Downtown-A big ribbon cutting at Courtyard followed by MainStreet's Downtown Thursday created an exciting atmosphere downtown.*

• Policy Committee meets with City, County on Budgets-the Chamber committee met with both city council and county commissioners and staff about budget plans for 2023.

• Welcome to new teachers, Employees School District-Chamber participated in welcoming over 40 new teachers and 60 new employees to Owatonna noting the great partnership between school and business.

• Chamber booth at SCFF- (number) businesses utilized the Chamber booth to promote their business and support the chamber booth.

• Tourism Submits Bid for 2023 Governor Pheasant Opener-Tourism Director prepared and submitted Owatonna's interest in hosting the event. Multiple partners submitted letters of support.

• New Member Orientation Meeting-Chamber membership director not only brings business in to the chamber, but also makes sure they understand how to engage with it.



*Chamber Golf Event attracted a full course (see full list of sponsors in the insert)*

*Continued on Page 7*

## ► The EDA has allocated another \$100,00 to the Forgivable Loan Program!

Program Purpose? To facilitate the renovation and improvement of commercial buildings within a specified area of downtown Owatonna

Eligible Applicants? Owners/Renters of commercial buildings within the specified area of downtown Owatonna

Maximum Available? Exterior Projects: Up to \$10,000 per building but must not exceed 50% of project cost. Interior Projects: Up to \$10,000 per building but must not exceed 50% of project cost. The forgivable loan can be used in conjunction with other EDA loans provided the requirements for that loan are met. Please note that the borrower's contribution can be in the form of "sweat equity" but only if the value of this equity is substantiated by a bid from a disinterested third party.

Please contact Lisa Cochran, MainStreet Director for more information! [lcochran@owatonna.org](mailto:lcochran@owatonna.org) 507-475-3451

### What do YOU want for Downtown Owatonna!

Please participate in the engage owatonna survey to let us know what you would like to see for your Downtown Owatonna. Hours? Businesses? Events? We are listening to you for ideas to make MainStreet Owatonna stronger!

<https://engageowatonna.com/downtown-owatonna>



*Renovation taking place at 214 N. Cedar, Owatonna.*



### ► Thank you, Hillary

Thank you for the help this summer with events, marketing, website updates, writing blogs. The entire staff wish you the best with college at UW-LaCrosse and hope that your work experience at the Chamber will be useful in your career path in marketing.

### ► Congratulations to the Horton Family

Congratulations to Workforce Coordinator Megan Horton and her husband on their new addition to their family. They welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Annie Lynn Horton on August 2nd weighing 8 lbs, 7 oz and 19.5" long.





## ► Growth Breakfast: Thank you to Sponsors

The Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism would like to invite you, or someone from your team, to join us, monthly, starting September 15th, 2022, for the 2nd Season of The Chamber Growth Breakfast Series in Owatonna! This breakfast series will take place on the third Thursday of each month through June.

7:30 am to 9:00 am at Torey's Event space, enjoy a hot breakfast along with the presentation of the month.

Please RSVP to reserve your space.

Season Tickets are available for only \$180.00! That is 10 events in the series, with one free! OR you may attend any meeting of your choice for \$20. Reservations required.

October Topic: Community Branding

Series Sponsored By:



Hosted By:



## ► Introducing the 2022-2023 Owatonna Community Leadership Academy Participants



Front Row: CJ Maricle, HomeTown Credit Union; Amber Caswell, Riverland Community College; Jennifer Teichroew, Owatonna Business Women; Chris Wright, Owatonna Hospital-Allina; Cheryl Deason, Federated Insurance; Kim Schaufenbuel, Riverland Community College; Chelsea Harwood, Mayo Clinic Health System-Owatonna; Emily Thamert, City of Owatonna; Deanna Sheely, City of Owatonna

Back Row: AJ Ramirez, Fastenal; John Stoltz, Viraon; Jason Jacobs, Owatonna Hospital-Allina; Zach Roberts, Community Pathways of Steele County; Brad Fischer, Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism; Geoff Stamp, Principal Financial-Geoff Stamp

\*Not Pictured: Stephanie Dietz-Gill, Re/Max Venture; Angela Wagner, Owatonna Foundation; Matthew Hughes, KOWZ/Linder Farm Network





# MINERAL SPRINGS BREWERY'S OKTOBERFEST

09.23.22 - 09.25.22

visitowatonna.com

**m** EXPLORE MINNESOTA

## LOOKING AHEAD... TO FALL FUN

While summer comes to a close, there is no lack of activity ramping up into the fall. With fall sports back into the swing of things again, we all have the opportunity to welcome visiting teams' families to Owatonna. Along with our regular school activities back on the calendar, there's many additional ways to enjoy connecting with others in the community! From history celebrations to craft and art shows, exploring the trails and Oktoberfest, you'll find plenty of ways to enjoy the fall with friends and family.

## Out & About in **OCTOBER**

### 4 TUESDAY

#### Oktoberfest

Owatonna Foundation Week  
Mineral Springs Brewery

### 8 SATURDAY

#### ArtoberFest

Food, Drink & Music at the  
Owatonna Arts Center

### 13 THURSDAY

#### Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder

LTO Production opens  
2 weekends  
(Oct 13-16; Oct 20-23)

### 22 SATURDAY

#### Fairway BeerFest

Tavern Nine, 1pm - 4pm  
20+ only event

### 29 SATURDAY

#### Trick Or Treat- Downtown Owatonna

11am - 1pm Bring your  
trick-r-treat bags ready  
to fill!

### 29 SATURDAY

#### A Haunting We Will Go

Trick or Treat at the  
Village of Yesteryear!  
11:30am - 1:30pm

## A LOOK BACK TO LAST MONTH...



Approximately 150 people came to Owatonna in August with 5 different Group Tours



400 tour coordinators attended the MN Field Trip Library Expo



The VIP Tour Group saw a full day of Owatonna highlights



## STATE SCHOOL CELEBRATION WAS A HIT!

Almost 200 people attended the State School Orphanage's Fall Celebration this past Saturday. This first event in partnership with the Steele County Historical Society, helped bring great energy and ideas to the day. People from the community shared the incredible stories of the State School Orphanage, and brought them to life by acting as historical characters who worked at, and lived in the orphanage. The day began with a Memorial Service honoring 37 state schoolers that have passed away in the last three years. Mayor Pete Connor led the Memorial Service, and reflected on the history of the State School and all the people who came together to help create the Orphanage Museum and all it represents.

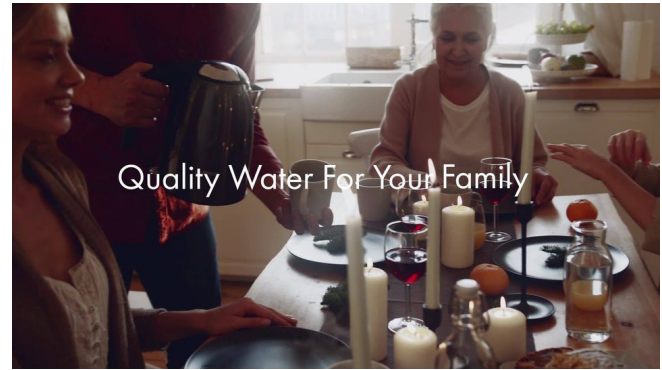
◀ Visit [visitowatonna.org/calendar-of-events/](http://visitowatonna.org/calendar-of-events/) for the most up to date information about events. ▶

## ► Your Local Water Quality Experts

With over 60 years within the water treatment industry, **Culligan Ultrapure** is dedicated to helping families and businesses find the right water treatment solutions for their homes, offices, and businesses. They offer a range of products and services to address your water problems such as hard water, bad taste, and odor.

At Culligan Ultrapure there is no sales pitch. It's about finding the right equipment for your specific water needs and they do that by offering a free water test and consultation so that all your concerns about your water are addressed. Several of their employees sit on the Minnesota Water Quality Association Board and are committed to making a significant impact regarding the awareness and education around water quality.

The company strives to fulfill its everyday purpose, "to enhance the quality of life for all that we serve." What does that mean, you may ask? Mike Herman the CEO states, "Every day each of us has the opportunity to impact someone else's life, it can be a simple thing from a greeting, a smile, or lending a helping hand to just supporting one another. Our "simple" purpose statement means just that – how can I enhance someone else's life in a positive way today!" One way the company focuses on that purpose is by constantly expanding their product line to help benefit customers and open new opportunities for employment for the local community.



Culligan Ultrapure of Owatonna is one of 24 branches in 9 states. With the headquarters located in Owatonna, the family-owned business understands the importance of community outreach and small business development. Recently Culligan Ultrapure was the title sponsor for the Annual Chamber Golf Event. Culligan Ultrapure provides an unequalled service to residential and commercial industrial clients. They provide effective water treatment solutions to solve any water problems from smallest to largest scale with the goal of minimal environmental impact.

Water quality can sometimes be taken for granted and falls behind on the priority list. Afterall, if it's not something easily visible it doesn't quite grab your attention. But water is something our families use and drink daily and its importance shouldn't be overlooked. Water contaminants can also change with the

seasons, which is why Culligan Ultrapure provides free water test year-round. We encourage frequent testing to ensure you and your family know exactly what's in your water.

Schedule a free water test on their website [www.culliganwaterminnesota.com](http://www.culliganwaterminnesota.com), by phone (507) 451-1010 or in person at 125 W. Front St. Owatonna, MN 55060.





*Veteran Memorial Groundbreaking-Chamber Ambassadors celebrated with the Moonlighters Exchange Club and VFW as the ground was broken on this important veterans recognition.*

*Groundbreaking on new 200,000 sq ft CDI Building -locally founded and owned Climate by Design International started the next phase of their growth.*



*New Restaurant Announced for Jerry's Space-A surprise announcement at the Chamber Business After Hours in August brought the new owner of Roma's Italian Restaurant coming to the former Jerry's building.*

- Community-wide Branding Initiative Moves Forward-Many meetings over the last two months have pushed this project forward an announcement on next steps coming soon.
- New MainStreet Advisory Board Meets-bringing the right people together to continue the MainStreet program this advisory board will guide strategy for the future of the program.



*Planning for New Homecoming Parade Route-Chamber played the role of convener to work with OHS and the City leaders on a new route for homecoming parade bringing it back through downtown.*

► **SCFF IMPACT** | Glenda Smith, Director of Conventions and Tourism

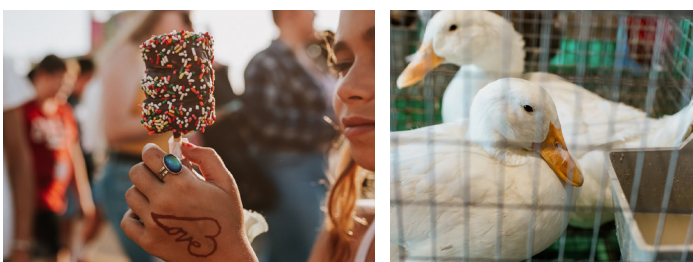


► **Steele County Free Fair, kicked off in-mid August!**

What a great way to celebrate the (almost) end of summer! With a record year of Mega-Ride bracelets totaling 5826, Facebook visits during the 7 days of the fair at 283,377, over 50 new attractions/vendors, and the longevity (40 years!) of some of our favorite food vendors, it was a week-long event to remember!

Scott Kozelka and his directors and crew at the SCFF put in unlimited hours of work prepping the grounds, organizing entertainment and vendors, keeping the event safe, and just making sure all who attended were able to enjoy the week of fun welcoming everyone who attended to our community!

The countdown begins, and we can't wait for next year!



## ► NEW Members Update | Brad Fischer, Director of Membership

### ► All Generations Home Care, Inc.

Lori Mortensen  
135 W Main ST, STE G, Owatonna  
507-214-8007  
allgenerations@hotmail.com



### ► Morton Buildings, Inc.

Bramdo Bakken  
3300 W Bridge ST, Owatonna  
507-285-9988  
Brandi.Bakken@mortonbuildings.com



### ► Bow WOW Grooming

Connie Verhey  
222 E Rice ST, Owatonna  
952-393-8792  
connie.verhey@aol.com



### ► Mr. Appliance of Owatonna

Brian Sumner  
1455 Robinhood Lane SE, Owatonna  
507-414-8998  
Brian.sumner@mrappliance.com



### ► Curt's Seamless Gutters

Curt Spatenka  
1539 7th Ave, Owatonna  
507-456-1361  
Spatenka22@gmail.com



### ► Southern Sota Wellness

Lance Perkins  
216 W Bridge ST, Owatonna  
507-461-0890  
dreaminfarmsllc@yahoo.com



### ► Family Heritage a division of Globe Life

Jessica Bjore  
60 Margaret Place, Owatonna  
612-616-8053  
jessicabjore@gmail.com



### ► Wier Clean

Stacy Wier  
1800 Keller Pl NE, Owatonna  
507-571-1272  
wierclean@gmail.com



### ► Growing Hope Foundation

Julie Fiske  
PO Box 433, Owatonna  
507-402-5316  
julie.growinghope@gmail.com



## ► MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

## BUSINESS after HOURS



**September 27**  
**5:30 – 7:00 PM**

Sponsor(s): United Prairie Bank -  
Owatonna  
Location: 110 W Rose ST, Owatonna

**Local, Committed, Strong**



**October 25**  
**5:30 – 7:00 PM**

Sponsor(s): Community Bank Owatonna  
Location: 640 Bridge ST, Owatonna

**Serving Owatonna and our neighbors since 2003.**

## Chamber Pack Deadline

Supply 550 copies of your promotional insert by for November/December mailing; \$150 by **October 27th.**

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



AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

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**8 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022 BUSINESS BRIEF** Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Starts Here.**

**www.riverland.edu**