

▶ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Update | Brad Meier, President/CEO

▶ Owatonna Nets \$28M from Session BUT Costs Went Up

Owatonna's projects fared well in a legislative session that spent and raised revenue at an astonishing rate.

- The city of Owatonna's wastewater treatment expansion project was a winner this session, with \$26M (\$22M for Owatonna and \$4M to connect Medford to Owatonna's system) coming through the bonding bill to that \$60M+ project.
- The Owatonna Learn to Earn initiative, coordinated between the Chamber, Riverland, and Owatonna Schools received the \$1.05M asked to fund mechatronics equipment and seed money for Owatonna Opportunities-a program that helps students pay for community college at Riverland.
- Workforce Development Inc. will continue to provide worker training and resources at their Owatonna location thanks to a 2-year appropriation of funds to pay for it.

Special Thank You to Senator Jasinski and Representative Petersburg for their efforts to get these funds approved.

In all, the legislative majorities are set to raise taxes by **\$10 billion** in the next four years, and that's after draining the record **\$17.5 billion** surplus. Major changes in policy were also enacted, ranging from transportation and health care to energy and environment and workplace mandates. Every employer in the state – and every Minnesota resident – will be impacted.



▶ Chamber Office Moves As Riverfront Project Gets Underway

As the Chamber office moves to 120 S. Oak, preparations are underway to clear buildings along the Riverfront.

The Riverfront project (Ascend) moves forward in June with the demolition of the Chamber building and all the buildings to Vine Street. The building will house Mineral Springs Brewing, Olmsted Medical Center, and 69 luxury apartments. West Bank will also be building a new facility at this site. Total construction timeline is around 18 months.

The Chamber's new location will undergo renovations to the north portion of the building, creating a new conference room. The exterior of the building will also receive renovations. New signage will be attached to the building after the branding process is complete in late summer.

▶ Day at the Capitol

Chamber Members and staff from Owatonna, Faribault & Waseca Chambers of Commerce spoke with Senator John Jasinski on legislative issues during the Minnesota Business Day at the Capitol in April.



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- ▶ **Christy Tryhus**
Riverland Community College



▶ A Family First Insurance Agency

Sarah Schmidt
325 N Cedar Ave, Owatonna
507-451-0539
www.helpingyouinsure.com



▶ Energy Peace Shop

Irene Simonson
800 Partridge Ave, Owatonna
507-213-6610
www.energypeaceshop.com



▶ Bulldog Coatings

Brianna Maland
2208 Hulett Ave, Faribault
507-837-9773
www.bulldogcoatingsmn.com



▶ FBS Mortgage

Kara Williamson
202 W Bridge Street, STE 1, Owatonna
507-456-1499
www.fbsmortgage.com



▶ Cambria Mortgage

Corey Samora
319 North Cedar, STE B, Owatonna
507-363-1307
www.cambriamortgage.com



▶ Love to Lift

Stephanie Kollasch
120 Oakdale ST, Owatonna
507-413-5295
www.lovetoliftmn.com



▶ Candullo's Coffee

Chris Candullo
670 Lee Street NE, Owatonna
507-481-4223
www.candullos.com



▶ Luminate Bank

Lynn Krause
208 West Front Street, Claremont
507-528-2133
www.luminate.bank



▶ Central Park Coffee

Richie Pettet
113 North Cedar Ave, Owatonna
507-451-4242
www.centralparkcoffeeco.com



▶ Northstar Recreation

Johnny Frank
3419 N County Road 45, Owatonna
507-323-4730
www.northstar-recreation.com



▶ Dwell Realty Group

Justin Ohnstad
127 Oakdale ST, Owatonna
507-451-4315
www.dwellowatonna.com



▶ The Wellness Collaborative

Dr. Ly Klatt & Dawn Ritter
203 North Elm, Owatonna
507-676-7308
Facebook: The Wellness Collaborative



EVENTS | Julia Seykora, Events Director

▶ Owatonna's Shortest race – 0.5K!

Young Professionals of Owatonna & Mineral Springs Brewery
Saturday, June 24; 11 am – 2 pm



This 0.5k is a unique event that offers a fun and laid-back atmosphere for participants. Whether you are a seasoned runner or simply want to have a good time, this event is perfect for you. The best part? All proceeds from the event will go towards supporting the Steele County Humane Society.



We encourage you to bring your friends and family along to enjoy the festivities. There will be food trucks and drinks available for purchase, and plenty of opportunities to socialize and have fun.

Be sure to register by May 31st to be guaranteed a T-Shirt See Insert in this month's Chamber Pack for more details



The barriers to building affordably priced homes is at the center of the state's housing supply deficit, which experts say is as much as 95,000 housing units short of demand.

*Taken with approval from March 2023 issue of Minnesota Housing Industry News a publication of HousingFirstMN.org.

At signing day on May 31st, graduating high school seniors will be recognized for their plan to go directly into the workforce.



► Borchert Awarded Ringhofer Scholarship

OWATONNA AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& TOURISM

Pay to the Order of: Layla Bouchet \$ 1,000.00

One Thousand and no/00 Dollars

For: 2023 Ted & L. Ringhofer Scholarship OBCT Ambassadors

Date: May 18, 2022



"Tour our Town" kicked off during national travel & tourism week. This is a great way to encourage both community members, and visitors to check out all Owatonna has to offer!
Go to visitowatonna.org/tourourtown for more information

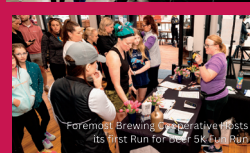


Spring Events Highlights



More than 130 Vendors had a chance to connect with regional consumers at the KOTZ/KUB Home & Recreation Show at the Four Seasons Center in March.

Check out visitowatonna.org for upcoming events and activities. Contact the Chamber's office to get your event added to the calendar.



Celebrating & Recognizing Owatonna's Tourism Industry During National Travel & Tourism Week



May 7-13 was National Travel & Tourism Week. We took the opportunity to thank all those working in the travel and tourism industry, as well as recognize an individual who goes above and beyond to make a positive impact in making Owatonna a great place to visit.

This year's Owatonna Travel & Tourism Award recipient is Scott Kozelka, Steele County Free Fair Manager. Thanks Scott, for all you do for Owatonna's tourism!



During National Travel & Tourism Week, we stopped by our local hotels to thank them for their dedication in welcoming visitors to Owatonna.

Thier work and dedication to serving our community in this important capacity is recognized and appreciated.



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

► Why do people donate to the Flower Basket Fund?

Most would agree that the flower baskets add color and vibrancy to our MainStreet District. Without the donations of generous donors, the program would not exist. Here is why Rhonda B. chooses to support this promotion:

"I love to see the Community Flower Baskets hanging throughout the town as they hold a very special memory for me. My brother Chuck worked for Cedar Valley Services for over 43 years. His favorite job during those years was watering the downtown Albert Lea flower baskets. He was very proud of that job and passed away in 2019. I support the Community Flower Basket program to remember and honor the many years he watered the flowers."

If you or your business is interested in supporting the Flower Basket program, please send your tax-deductible donation to: OACCT-Flower Baskets 120 S. Oak Ave Owatonna, MN 55060. (Each basket costs \$125.00. That covers planting, growing, watering, fertilizing and overall maintenance for the season. We will have 130 baskets in 2023!)



2023 Baskets growing at
Souba Greenhouse



Accredited MainStreet Directors that were at MN MainStreet Conference

► Owatonna MainStreet receives 2 awards for Downtown's Revitalization!

Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of Accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™. Owatonna MainStreet has met the rigorous performance standards and has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America™ program for 2023!

Owatonna MainStreet was presented with an award that recognized the economic vitality efforts sustained by public/private partnerships in Downtown Owatonna for the Cedar Avenue Hotel and Streetscape Project! Emily Kurash Casey, Director of Community Programs at Rethos, had this to say when presenting the award:

"Design efforts support a community's transformation by enhancing the physical and visual assets that set the commercial district apart. This award highlights the public and private partnership that must happen

in order to create spaces for all in a downtown district, and recognizes investment in physical spaces in Main Street districts, from façade updates and interior renovations, to streetscapes, accessibility, or fund assistance for local building owners."

"This community spent years in preparation for downtown development and streetscape work. The community's commitment to hearing from residents what they needed and wanted, and Main Street's role in bringing people and information together transformed a downtown district."

Owatonna MainStreet was also commended on the efforts made during construction to continue to drive customers downtown to businesses. Communicating with the business owners and the public about timelines, upcoming road/sidewalk closures, and how to navigate around the MainStreet District was very integral to the outcome along with keeping a positive attitude throughout the process. Thank you to everyone who had a part in the amazing growth of Downtown Owatonna!



Courtyard by Marriott Owatonna Downtown location

► Chamber Announced as United Way Campaign Leader 2023

The vitality of the region can only happen through the work of many partnerships. This one in particular makes perfect sense to the Chamber Board of Directors-the United Way of Steele County and the Chamber working together to keep the prosperity moving forward.

The Chamber is proud to be the Community Campaign leader for the United Way campaign and will work to raise awareness and giving among our members.

The goal for this campaign is \$815,000. We also have a goal to have 50% of Chamber members give to the campaign this year. Historically we've had 19% participation.

Look for more from us at events and activities across the community.



Todd Trout
Chamber Board of Directors

► **WORKFORCE** Update



► Welcome New Workforce Coordinator

SteeleCoWorks welcomes Missy Koch as the new Workforce Coordinator. Missy most recently worked at Edward Jones as Branch Office Administrator. Before that, she served as the 4H programs Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota for 15 years.

Lifelong resident of Steele County currently residing on a small acreage south of Owatonna with her husband and two kids. She is excited to be back working with the youth of Steele County. Missy is looking forward to building partnerships with area businesses to connect youth to all the great career opportunities in Steele County.

► Thank you SteeleCoWorks Supporters:

Federated Insurance, Wenger Corporation, Viracon, Mayo Clinic Health System-Owatonna, Daikin Applied, and Bosch.



Missy Koch
Workforce Coordinator





► **Mayo Clinic Health System. Care Close to Home.**

Mayo Clinic Health System. Care Close to Home. Your health care needs always come first at Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna, whether that means primary care or specialty care services.

Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna is part of an extensive network of community-based providers collaborating with Mayo Clinic to deliver the highest quality care daily to people in communities across Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

While physicians at Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna meet most patients' health care needs, a team of visiting Mayo Clinic consultants see patients locally or virtually, providing convenient consultation and care.

We provide care close to where you live. Every moment of every day, our team of providers are focused on doing one thing: what's in the best interest of our patients.

History

Doctors Albert J. Olson and Franklin C. Anderson founded Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna in 1948. They based their practice on the principle that the physician serves the community both in preserving and restoring good health. The original office was located at 113 West Main Street in downtown Owatonna.

Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna joined Mayo Clinic Health System in March 1997. Today, Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna is a comprehensive medical clinic offering outpatient services. The clinic emphasizes general and specialized health care services for the entire family.

Community Engagement in Owatonna

Mayo Clinic Health System is a nonprofit organization that strives to improve its communities' quality of life, health and well-being. We build and sustain relationships in the communities where we serve patients and where staff lives and work.

Key components of our commitment to the community are:

- Contribute to an enhanced quality of life and vibrancy
- Demonstrate and showcase our dedication to community health and well-being
- Engage employees in community outreach

We collaborate with community stakeholders, develop and implement programs, and participate in activities that improve community health and address the social determinants of health. This is demonstrated by giving to the community through financial and in-kind donations; providing volunteers at community events and medical experts for educational presentations; collaborating with community partners through coalitions, board service and special projects; and connecting the community with resources for general health and wellness.

New Models of Care

- Nurse Line and Express Care Online – Symptom triage and treatment in the comfort of one's home
- Patient Online Services/Mayo Clinic App – Message your care team, view test results, refill prescriptions and more
- Video Visits – Make an appointment with your primary care provider, or consult with a Mayo Clinic specialist – all without leaving home
- Mayo Mobile Health Clinic – A mobile unit offering virtual or in-person care to communities with two exam rooms and an on-site laboratory

Mayo Clinic Health System is grateful for your trust and for allowing us to care for your health and well-being.

► DOWNTOWN THURSDAYS

June 1, July 6, August 3 and September 7

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Central Park & North Cedar Avenue

► CHAMBER GROWTH BREAKFAST SERIES

June 15

7:30 – 9:00 AM

Location: Torey's Restaurant & Bar,
208 N. Cedar, Owatonna

Topic: Legislative Session Wrap Up



► BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

June 27

5:30 – 7:00 PM

Sponsor(s): Steele County
Times, Mineral Springs
Marketing, LLC and
Limberg Productions

Location: Parking Lot behind Steele County Times location,
109 W Rose ST, Owatonna



► YOUNG PROFESSIONALS 0.5K BEER RUN

June 24

11 am – 2 pm

Location: Mineral Springs Brewery, 111 N Walnut, Owatonna

Fee: \$25

► Chamber Golf Outing Set For August 1st

The Chamber's annual golf event is the CANNOT MISS event of the summer! Each year, teams compete for prizes, and both golfers and sponsors play along with special themes. The 2023 Annual Chamber Golf Event will be held on Tuesday, August 1st, 2023, starting at 10 am at the Owatonna Country Club. Shot Gun Start! Big Cup format!! Registration & check in will start at 9 am with lunch pickup at the turn around 11 am.

The 2023 Theme is 'Show your School Spirit' so dress to the theme! Hole sponsors competed for the coveted traveling trophy for the best display at a hole. Congratulations to Fareway Meat & Grocery on the 2022 Hole Sponsor of the year award!

This annual golf event is the perfect playing field for networking, marketing, and a break from the daily grind. There are many ways your business can be a part of this event, whether it is by becoming a sponsor or getting a team together to hit the course! Thank you to Title Sponsor, Steele Waseca-Cooperative Electric.

For event sponsorship and registration information.

Email: jseykora@owatonna.org



Headline Sponsor

Chamber Pack Deadline

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

Holiday Hours

The Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism office at 120 South Oak Avenue, Owatonna will be closed Tuesday, July 4th to celebrate Independence Day with family and friends.



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Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM

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Commerce & Tourism

