

► ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Update | Brad Meier, President/CEO



Ascend Riverfront Project



Scooter's Coffee

► Meet Owatonna's New Industrial Business

KAMP Automation recently broke ground on a new, 50,000 square foot industrial building in Owatonna's industrial park. The building is located directly north of Gopher Sport.

Who is KAMP?

The business was formed in 2015 and has quickly outgrown their location in Waseca, MN. They provide custom automation systems to manufacturing companies.

What Do They Make?

They create custom machines on up to full manufacturing lines. Additionally, they'll do upgrades and retrofits to older industrial machines.

Why Owatonna?

KAMP Automation is expanding its operations, hiring more employees and creating more space. Owatonna provided the right location and amenities for that growth.

► Owatonna Mid-Year Numbers 3x Greater than 2022

Six months into 2023, Owatonna's development numbers have bulged to \$59.6M, more than 3 times last year's growth through June*. The surge in building investment is mostly from Industrial/Commercial development which marks \$45.1M of the total.

Industrial projects including KAMP Automation, Climate by Design International, and Cemstone are included in the numbers. Commercial projects include Roma's Restaurant, Jersey Mike's Sub Shop, Home2Suites, Wottreng Dental, and Thompson Sanitation facility.

The new Riverfront Project, Kuepers Apartments additional buildings, and Scooters are still on the horizon for development in 2023, putting Owatonna on track for a 4th consecutive year of major growth.

*According to the City of Owatonna building report. 2022 through June \$18.1M.



2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ▶ **Mike Herman, Chair**
Culligan ULTRAPURE, Inc.
- ▶ **Todd Trout, Past Chair**
US Bank
- ▶ **Kelly Boomgarden, At-Large**
Country Inn & Suites-Owatonna
- ▶ **Syd Briggs, Vice Chair**
Steele Waseca-Cooperative Electric
- ▶ **Deb Gillard, At-Large**
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- ▶ **Oscar Mazariago, Treasurer**
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- ▶ **Shannon Cliff**
Mayo Clinic Health System-Owatonna
- ▶ **Bonnie Cole**
Cole Electric & Torey's Restaurant & Bar
- ▶ **Brian Deml**
Deml Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC
- ▶ **Randy Doyal**
- ▶ **Megan Jenniges, Young Professionals Chair**
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- ▶ **Doug Meier**
Christian Bros. Cabinets
- ▶ **Scott Mohs**
Mohs Contracting, Inc.
- ▶ **Tom Peterson**
Climate By Design International
- ▶ **Rich Pettet**
Rich's Window Cleaning/Destiny Christian Church
- ▶ **Christy Tryhus**
Riverland Community College



NEW MEMBERS | Brad Fischer, Director of Membership

▶ Home2 Suites by Hilton

Gary Kinseth
230 Allan AVE SW, Owatonna
507-599-0100
<https://www/kinseth.com/>



▶ Hubbell House

Bob Yanish
502 North Main Street, Mantorville
507-635-2331
<https://www.hubbellhouserestaurant.com/>



▶ Inside Swing

Blake Krueger
685 W Bridge ST, STE #5, Owatonna
507-200-2003
<https://www.insideswinggolf.com/>



▶ ISD #761 Foundation

Bruce Paulson
PO Box 974, Owatonna
507-444-8610
<https://www.761foundation.com/>



▶ Olmsted Medical Center (OMC)

Stacey Vanden Heuvel
210 Ninth Street SE, Rochester
507-288-3443
<https://www.olmmed.org/>



▶ South Central Human Relations Center

Michele Merxbauer
610 Florence AVE, Owatonna
507-451-2630
<https://schrc.com/contact-us/>



EVENTS | Julia Seykora, Events Director



Tuesday, August 1, 2023 • Owatonna Country Club

9 AM CHECK-IN | 10 AM SHOT GUN START | 4 PM SOCIAL & EVENING MEAL

▶ Member Golf Event

The time has come to **Show Your School Spirit!** Just around the corner on Tuesday August 1st at the Owatonna Country Club.

Early registration closed on July 18th. Go to Owatonna.org to get your team registered today. Or contact Julia Seykora, jseykora@owatonna.org. This is an annual, sell-out event!

Show your colors off with pride!! Golf, games, and spirits! **Go team!**

▶ Monumental Anniversary Celebration

Congratulations to **Fireplace Connection** who will be holding an open house on Friday, August 4th from 11 am - 1 pm celebrating their 25th year anniversary. Join us at 140 NW 26th Street, Owatonna

Fireplace Connection offers a full range of hearth products, including fireplaces, stoves, inserts, mantels, veneer stone and accessories.

► Aligned Mission: Increase the Vitality of Steele County

As the Community Campaign leader for the 2023 United Way of Steele County fundraising initiative, the Chamber is proud to be involved in supporting the great work being done by the United Way partners. This year's goal is \$815,000 and we are hopeful that the very generous Chamber business community will support the effort.

There's been a lot of activity surrounding United Way's 70 year anniversary including a recent event at Mineral Springs Brewing.



Congressman Finstad's office had a flag flown over the US Capitol to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the United Way. Pictured: Aaron Eberhart, Ryan Gillespie, Neil Lyons, Kellen Henriksen, Tess Brown, and Annette Duncan.



► Making a Difference With Furniture Sale Donation

Thanks to everyone who donated to receive furniture from the 320 Hoffman Drive building! Not only was usable furniture kept from the landfill, but all the proceeds benefit the United Way of Steele County.

► United Way Summer Picnic Event

Thank you so much to everybody that came out to the United Way Summer Picnic event! A special THANK YOU as well to all of our volunteers; including the Young Professionals and our 2023 Community Campaign Leader, Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.



Pictured L – R: Mary Jo Robbins, Brad Fischer, Rhonda Guthrie, Megan Jenniges, Federated Insurance, Julia Seykora, Taylor Herman, Profinium, Lisa Cochran and Rylee Muhr, Commerce Bank of Geneva.



Almost 70 people from the Jefferson Highway Association made their way to Owatonna as a part of their annual meeting trip. They made a quick stop at Gus' Station at the Steele County History Center before heading to Central Park for lunch, and spending a few hours downtown.

Summer Event Highlights



Extravaganza, at the Village of Yesteryear, offered ways to interact with history through stories and experiences.



Juneteenth held at Manthey Park, recognized and celebrated equality and Black culture with music, family activities and vendors.



Smokin' in Steele returned to Owatonna with BBQ & Blues at the Steele County Fairgrounds.

Harry Wenger Marching Band Festival brought 12 bands from throughout the state to perform at the parade held in Owatonna.



Downtown Thursday in July brought a variety of new kids' activities, including this train ride.

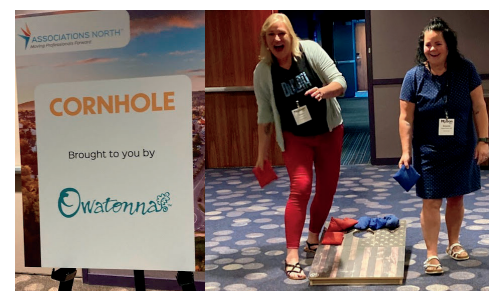


At July's Downtown Thursday, committee members of the Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener spent the evening sharing information and answering questions about the upcoming event being hosted in Owatonna and Steele County in October.

Spring conferences offered networking and educational opportunities

Visit Owatonna sponsored the Cornhole Activity at Associations North "NFusion 2023" in Minneapolis on June 6, offering a great way to network with regional associations.

Whitney Harvey of Minnesota Chamber Foundation, presented on the topic of Workforce Diversity and Inclusion, at the MACVB (Minnesota Association of Conventions & Visitors Bureaus) Conference held in Detroit Lakes June 1 & 2.



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



A bird's eye view of the Holiday Lighted Parade along North Cedar Avenue in December 2022.
Picture credit – Aaron Guzman

► Over 25 Buildings Improved since 2019 with Forgivable Loans - And more in progress!

MainStreet works with the EDA (Economic Development Authority) and the OABDC (Owatonna Area Business Development Center) to assist entrepreneurs with loan programs, business plan development, and much more. Since 2019, the EDA has offered forgivable loans up to \$10,000 to facilitate the renovation and improvement of commercial buildings downtown Owatonna.

Some of the recent projects have included: restoring or replacing windows and doors, upgrading outdoor lighting, repairing or replacing signage and awnings, and repairing the brick and mortar (tuck pointing). The money can be used on the inside of the building as well – adding sprinkler systems, ADA accessible restrooms, and elevators.

The application is reviewed to make sure the proposed renovation/remodeling plans are in keeping with the original architectural lines/styles of the building – which is the ultimate goal of the MainStreet Program as we work to preserve our downtown communities.

The process is simple and if you have been thinking about doing any type of upgrading to your building, this forgivable loan is a great way to get started. There are still funds available! It should be noted that both building owners and business owners can apply. Application for forgivable loan: <https://www.owatonna.biz/loans>. (This loan is available until the funds are depleted or is renewed by the EDA, so apply now!).

► Christmas in July!

Put Friday, December 1st on your calendars for the Annual Holiday Lighted Parade! For 2023, we are holding the parade on a Friday evening – same time (6:00pm), same place (North Cedar Ave.), same great atmosphere! Look for more information and the registration forms in October! (But start planning now!)

And speaking of parades:

Homecoming Parade will be back on Cedar Avenue for 2023!

On September 29th, our Downtown MainStreet District will be coated in a sea of blue, white, and silver. A new look for our downtown buildings? Nope – just the OHS Homecoming Parade marching through town! And back by popular demand, the Homecoming Window Decorating Contest, once again being put on by Aubrey and Mark Meier at Guaranteed Rate. This was such a hit last year and many businesses really got into the school spirit. Look for some more information at the Information Table in Central Park at the next Downtown Thursday on August 3rd!



Thrivent Financial - Nick Lewis is using the forgivable loan program to assist in the remodeling of their building on Main Street.

► Owatonna Community Leadership Academy (OCLA) Graduates 15 Participants

Congratulations to the class of 2022-2023 Owatonna Community Leadership Academy (OCLA)!



Front row, left to right: Chelsey Harwood (Mayo Clinic Health System), Amber Caswell (Riverland Community College), Cheryl Deason (Federated Insurance), Chris Wright (Owatonna Hospital-Allina Health), Jennifer Teichroew (Owatonna Business Women), Stephanie Dietz-Gill (Re/Max Venture), CJ Maricle (HomeTown Credit Union), Kim Schaufenbuel (Riverland Community College). Back row, left to right: Jason Jacobs (Owatonna Hospital-Allina Health), Geoff Stamp (Principal Financial-Geoff Stamp), John Stoltz (Viracon), Brad Fischer (OACCT), Zack Roberts (Community Pathways & Unique Finds), Julia Seykora (OACCT Facilitator). Not pictured: AJ Ramirez (Fastenal) and Emily Thamert (City of Owatonna)

► OCLA Graduates Complete Community Project for the Steele County Free Fair

When you are out and about at the SCFF, check out the newly painted restrooms by the Owatonna Foundation Building and Village of Yesteryear. The OCLA graduating class prepped and painted the building and the fair office updated the roof and signage. Thank you graduates for giving back to the community!



FASTENAL®
OWATONNA



▶ **Fastenal in Owatonna**

Four Decades of Helping Local Businesses

Fastenal wasn't always a global organization. We started as a 1,000 square-foot store in Winona with one employee and a few dozen boxes of fasteners.

To go from small-town store to Fortune 500 company, we focused on you, the customer. Many think our job was to sell bolts, but our real job was to listen and evolve. Those two simple steps paved the way for everything Fastenal did next.

All the products and better ways of managing them, all the control over the supply chain and technology that simplifies processes, everything stemmed from the idea of Growth Through Customer Service.

Owatonna has a special place in Fastenal's history. In 1979, the city became home to the 11th Fastenal ever. And even more importantly, Will Oberton worked in Owatonna in the early '80s. He would go on to become CEO and chairman of Fastenal.

Today, Owatonna's Fastenal is led by Kody Ebner. Between the main branch at 2929 Park Drive and four Onsites throughout the community, 25 Fastenal employees work to keep area businesses running. Fastenal may not be a local hardware store, but it is a local team dedicated to helping local businesses.

In the end, the story is pretty simple: Fastenal is a

Minnesota company with deep roots in Owatonna that has gone on to become a global industry leader.

Let's Talk! If your organization could use supply chain help or a productivity boost from industrial vending, contact Kody and his team at MNOWA@stores.fastenal.com or 507-455-0731.



► BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

July 25 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Sponsor(s): LPL Financial, Mages Group, Owatonna Motor Company and Owatonna V.F.W Post #3723

Location: Owatonna V.F.W, 135 Oakdale ST, Owatonna

LPL Financial



Mages Group Insurance & Financial



young professionals of Owatonna
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

BUSINESS after HOURS

► DOWNTOWN THURSDAYS

August 3 and September 7 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Central Park & North Cedar Avenue

► Y-PRO LEADING WITH MOMENTUM WITH JASON HUNT

August 8 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Location: Owatonna Public Utilities, 208 Walnut AVE South, Owatonna (Upstairs)

Free to passholders, \$10/guests

► BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

August 11 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Sponsor(s): Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Advantage Real Estate, Block Plumbing & Heating, Cash Wise Foods

and Steele County Free Fair

Location: SCFF Beer Garden, 1525 South Cedar AVE, Owatonna

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES ADVANTAGE REAL ESTATE



BLOCK PLUMBING & HEATING OWATONNA, MN 507-451-9545



► Y-PRO FAIR SOCIAL

August 17 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Location: Steele County Free Fair (Beer Garden)

Free to passholders, \$10/guests

► BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

August 22 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Sponsor(s): Profinium ***Newly Remodeled***

Location: 1080 W Frontage Road, Owatonna



► Y-PRO PICKLEBALL

August 23 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Location: Morehouse Park – Pickleball courts

CHAMBER GROWTH BREAKFAST SERIES

New Series starts in September, watch for details in the Tuesday Talk and on Facebook!

► OACCT Young Professionals

The **OACCT Young Professionals** held their inaugural 0.5K run on June 24th, 2023. With over 170 people in attendance, despite the rain, so much fun was had and \$2000.00 was raised! The Y-Pro's chose the Steele County Humane Society as the recipient. Congratulation to the Steele County Human Society and thank you to everyone who supported the event!

Event Sponsors:

Apex Painting

PharmD Financial Planning

Profinium, Inc.

Tail and Trails

Wenger Corporation

Event Host:

Mineral Springs Brewery



young professionals of Owatonna
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

Chamber Pack Deadline

Supply 550 copies of your promotional insert by for September/October mailing; \$150 by **August 31th**.



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

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

