

BUSINESS BRIEF

MAY/JUNE 2025



OWATONNA
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Update

Brad Meier, President/CEO

Sputtering Components Expands



Sputtering Components is planning a 12,460 square foot addition this spring to their current facility on Alexander Drive in the Owatonna industrial park. The addition will consist of 7,000 square feet of office space and 5,460 square feet of manufacturing space. The addition allows Sputtering Components to add 5 engineers and 10 additional production workers.

This will be the second expansion at this location. Sputtering added 10,000 square feet of space in 2012.

Daikin Applied Expands Owatonna Footprint

When Daikin Applied started running out of room to grow in its 200,000-square-foot Owatonna manufacturing plant, a recently vacated building across the street became a opportunity.

When Climate by Design International moved into their new building on Festal Drive, that left their former 66,432-square-foot building on 7.41 acres right next door, vacant. Daikin purchased the building and has been renovating it for their needs. They plan to open the new site this summer.

Daikin is a global producer of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment.



Where are Visitors Coming from? Where are they Spending Money?



In partnership with Owatonna Partners for Economic Development, the Chamber is utilizing **Placer.ai** a location analytics platform that uses mobile data to reveal foot traffic trends, customer demographics, and visit patterns. In Owatonna we're using it to make smarter decisions on site selection, tourism marketing, and property development.

Gaining real-time and historical insights allow us to track performance, spot market opportunities, and stay competitive. It turns complex mobility data into clear, actionable intelligence that drives faster, better business decisions.

MAY/JUNE 2025

Will Changes to Paid Family Medical Leave Be Part of Final Bill at Legislature?

As lawmakers enter the final month of the legislative session a balance budget is needed to complete their biggest task for the year. However other items like adjustments to Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) are still possible and remain important to businesses.

One bill (HF11) would delay implementation of PMFL one year so that the transition would be smooth. Another key bill, HF 1976 would make adjustments to PMFL that businesses like including: Reducing the total number of weeks of the benefits, lowering the premium rate for smaller employers, extending seasonal employment exemptions, and narrowing the definition of family member.



Recognizing Business & Students at Signing Day MN



Students and employers gather for Signing Day to celebrate students entering the workforce.

The Chamber along with partners from the United Way, Workforce Development, area schools and employers will host the annual Signing Day on Wednesday, May 28th, at Torey's at 5pm, celebrating local students who have committed to careers with area businesses.

The event highlights partnerships between schools and employers, showcasing opportunities in skilled trades, manufacturing, healthcare, and more.

Students sign letters of intent with local companies, marking the start of their professional journeys.



21 Businesses Provide Work Experience Through Grant

Providing students with valuable skills while also gaining help in the business is the goal of the work experience grant program. Twenty-one businesses provided students with up to 160 hours paid by the Chamber through a grant from the Greater Twin Cities United Way.

A new grant for 2025 is available and jobs that are considered 'high demand' by the state of MN are eligible.

Carson Grems checks car pressure on a tire at his work experience at Honest 1 Auto Care.

EVENTS Update

By Julia Seykora, Events Director

Owatonna's Hottest Ticket: Business After Hours!

If you're connected to the Owatonna business community, chances are you've experienced the excitement of a Chamber Business After Hours. These events offer opportunities for professionals to connect, socialize, and strengthen relationships — all in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

With average attendance topping 100 guests, Business After Hours continues to be one of the most well-attended and talked-about networking opportunities in the area. It's the perfect setting to grow your network, share ideas, and stay informed about the latest business trends in our community.

Owatonna has set the bar high — and other communities are starting to take notice! During a recent visit from Florida, a professional with North Star, the agency behind Owatonna's branding initiative, shared their surprise at the sheer turnout and strong community support for the event. Thanks to its growing popularity, the hosting calendar often fills up a full year in advance. To accommodate the high level of interest, many businesses have teamed up with co-hosts to ensure everyone gets a chance to be part of this signature event.

Whether you're new to the area or a long-standing member of the business community, Business After Hours is where Owatonna connects — and thrives.

The 2026 Calendar is filling up fast! Please reach out to secure your event & inquire about co-hosting!



OWATONNA

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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RE/MAX Venture

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Shannon Cliff, At-Large
Mayo Clinic Health System-
Owatonna

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Cole's Electric & Torey's
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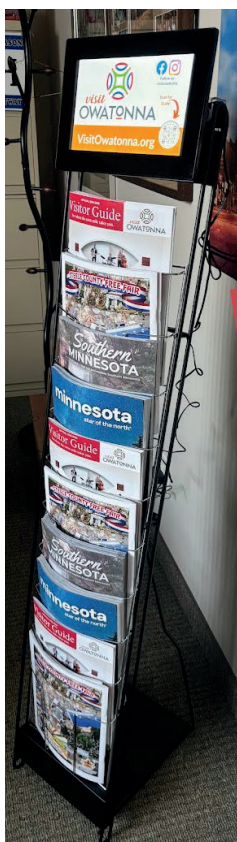
Christy Tryhus
Riverland Community College



This week-long event emphasizes the industry's economic impact, job creation, and the vital role it plays in enriching communities across the nation. It's a time to recognize the contributions of travel professionals and promote the variety of destinations and experiences available to travelers in our community.

Owatonna celebrates the week by:

- “Tour our Town”, one of Owatonna’s Extra Mile Experiences kicks-off May 2. This program pass encourages both residents and visitors to experience Owatonna’s unique attractions and activities by earning prizes when visiting our locations.
- A social on May 7 at Mineral Springs Brewery celebrates our tourism workers vital to making visitor experiences pleasing and memorable.
- Owatonna’s Chamber Ambassadors recognize our member businesses making a visit to their location on May 8, and thanking them for their contribution to tourism in our community.



Hosting an event this summer? Call the Chamber office to reserve a Visit Owatonna Display for your event!

Who are you inviting to Visit Owatonna this summer?

Prepare a customized welcome bag for your guests!

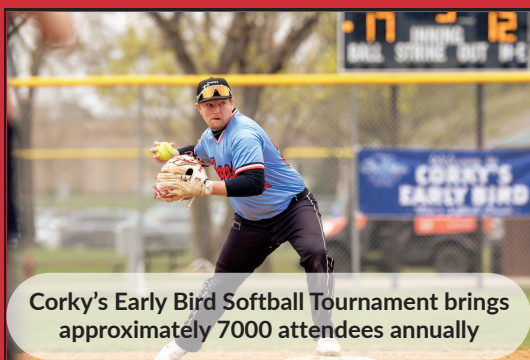


Whether it's a class reunion or a few friends coming for the weekend, ensure your out-of-town guests have a memorable and seamless experience in Owatonna! Prepare a special welcome bag filled with local essentials and information.

Your customized bag could include the 2025 Owatonna Visitor Guide, a detailed list of events and activities happening during their stay, a handy pen, and a fun Owatonna sticker to commemorate their visit.

You might also add items like a local map, coupons and passes for attractions or restaurants, and other materials to help them navigate and fully enjoy their time in Owatonna!

May 2-4 is Owatonna's official summer kick off!



****Attendance data from Placer.ai



Add an extra special touch by including an item from our new fun merchandise available for purchase at the chamber during our regular business hours. Items available include keychains, ornaments, wooden spoons and coasters, bottle opener, t-shirt, sling bag, ceramic mug or stemless tumbler.

Go the extra mile to make your guests feel welcome when they visit Owatonna!!

SPOTLIGHT MEMBER | COURTYARD OWATONNA DOWNTOWN

ABOUT

Located in the heart of downtown Owatonna, The Courtyard Owatonna Downtown provides a seamless, convenient transition between work, play and rest. Experience the state-of-the-art lobby and guestrooms or enjoy breakfast or drinks at The Bistro. Your stay at the Courtyard Owatonna Downtown is more than just a trip - it's travel that propels you.

ROOMS

After a busy day in Owatonna, relax with plush linens and homelike furnishings. With plush bedding, flexible workspaces, and fast & free Wi-Fi, our thoughtfully designed guestrooms give you the space and comfort you need.

AMENITIES

- Business Center: Need a computer, printer or just another space to do some work? Our Business Center has exactly what you need to be productive.
- Fitness & Pool: Start your day with a workout in the 24-hour fitness center or take a quick dip in the indoor pool.
- Connect: With fast & Free Wi-Fi and casual spaces to meet or work, you can connect virtually or personally. The choice is yours.



THE BISTRO

- Breakfast: From Avocado Toast to Eggs Your Way, fresh fruit to steaming Starbucks coffee, wake up and enjoy a selection of delicious breakfast items without having to step outside.
 - Bistro Bites: Meeting up for appetizers? Choose from a variety of shareable plates like our Margherita Flatbread. For the perfect pairing, try one of our crafted cocktails or premium wines.
 - Dinner: Whether you're in the mood for a crisp Caesar salad, a satisfying Mediterranean Grain Bowl, or a hearty Bistro Burger – end your day right with exactly what you're craving.
- Burger & Bourbon Thursdays: Every Thursday, we serve mouth-watering burgers paired with smooth bourbon specials you won't want to miss. Bring your friends, bring your appetite-and come see what the hype is all about.
 - Every Thursday at Courtyard Owatonna: Come hungry. Leave happy.

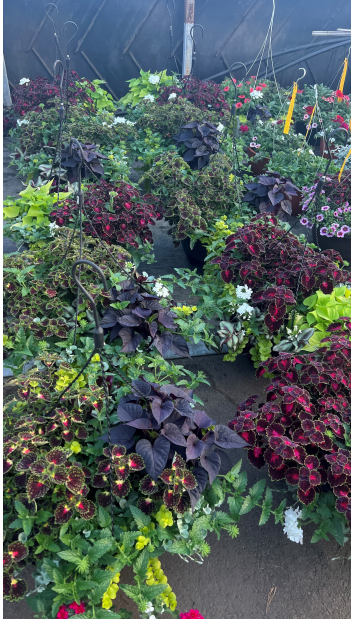
MEETINGS & EVENTS

Looking for a place to hold your meeting or block of guestrooms? The Courtyard Owatonna Downtown has two meeting spaces and 106 guestrooms. For more information, contact sales@courtyardowatonnadowntown.com or reemal.patel@courtyardowatonnadowntown.com.

SUMMER PROMOTION

Make The Courtyard Owatonna Downtown your summer destination for family and friends. Soak Up the Savings! Save When You Book Now! Use booking code ARN. To make a reservation, visit www.marriott.com/rstoc or call 507.431.4130.

Downtown Owatonna is Buzzing with Energy this Spring, Summer, and Fall



Downtown Owatonna kicked off spring with some serious energy — from the Cinco de Mayo celebration to the launch of the Farmers Market and even patio furniture popping up in alleyways.

Flower Power is Growing!

The beautiful hanging flower baskets will soon return, adding color and charm to downtown. Thanks to generous donors, we were able to add 17 more baskets for 2025 — bringing 147 baskets downtown. If you'd like to support the Main Street Flower Basket Program, bring your tax-deductible donation to the Owatonna Chamber office.

Downtown Clean-Up Day – May 15

Each spring, the Area Learning Center partners with Main Street, the City of Owatonna, and RE/MAX Venture to give downtown a little TLC. On the morning of May 15, you'll see volunteers out and about sprucing things up for the season.



Downtown Thursdays Return – First Two are June 5 & July 3

Our first Downtown Thursday of the season kicks off on June 5 at 5 PM! Catch LR Music (Lilianna Rindahl) on the Cedar Avenue Stage at 5:30 PM — a past Owatonna Sings winner — followed by the high-energy Holy Rocka Rollaz on the Central Park Stage at 7 PM.

In July, Downtown Thursday will be held on July 3, the perfect pre-party for Independence Day! The night features Jeff Reinartz at 5:30 PM, followed by the totally rad ATARI-an 80's Band on the Central Park Stage.

Don't forget all the free family fun: bounce houses, face painting, balloon art, train rides, and more! Last year, each Downtown Thursday event brought in an average of 3,500 attendees — supporting local vendors, discovering downtown businesses, and building community pride. And don't forget to put July 24, August 7, and September 4 on your calendar as the other Downtown Thursday dates.



Farmers Market – Saturdays & NEW Thursday Nights

The beloved Saturday morning Farmers Market continues in Central Park — but this year, we're adding something new! Thursday evening Farmers Markets will take place on the third Thursday of each month, June through October, lining up perfectly with the 11@7 concert series, which starts on Thursday, May 29.

There's no shortage of ways to soak up the sunshine, support local, and experience the heart of Owatonna. We can't wait to see you downtown!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FARMER'S MARKET

May 3 (Every Saturday May – Last Saturday in October)
7:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Central Park, Downtown Owatonna

CHAMBER GROWTH BREAKFAST SERIES

May 15 at 7:30 – 9:00 AM
Location: Torey's Restaurant & Bar, 208 N. Cedar AVE (*Event center*)
Topic: Shaping Mainstreet's Future

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

May 26 at 9:30 AM
Location: Parade starts at corner of Elm & School Street – heading south to Four Season's Centre
Program to be held at Four Season's Centre @ 10:30 am approximately

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

May 27 at 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Sponsor(s): Prime Garage Door
Location: 4500 N County Rd 45, Owatonna



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS LUNCH & LEARN

June 4 at 12:00 – 1:00 PM
Location: Owatonna Public Utilities, 208 S Walnut AVE, Owatonna
Topic: Employee Burnout

DOWNTOWN THURSDAY

June 5 at 5:00–9:00 PM
Location: 100 – 300 Blocks of Cedar AVE & Central Park

CHAMBER GROWTH BREAKFAST SERIES

June 19 at 7:30 – 9:00 AM
Location: Torey's Restaurant & Bar, 108 N. Cedar AVE (*Upper event space*)
Topic: Legislative Wrap up (*Senator Jasinski & Representative Sexton*)

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (Owatonna's Shortest Race – 0.5K) 3rd Annual

June 21 at 11:00 AM
Location: Mineral Springs Brewery, 210 North Oak AVE



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

June 24 at 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Sponsor(s): Mineral Springs Brewery, 210 North Oak AVE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



ATLANTIS HOBBY

Garrett Jewison
117 N Cedar, Owatonna
507-214-1431
Sales@atlantishobby.com



DBS GROUP

Sharon Licht
3425 40th AVE NW, STE 100, Rochester
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slicht@dbsgroup.com



KERRY OWATONNA

Courtney Robinson
220 NW 24th AVE, Owatonna
507-444-3957
Courtney.dobberstein@kerry.com



LIVERY TABLEWARE RENTAL

Lorraine Muilenburg
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TSP, INC.

Von Petersen
1500 Hwy 52 North, Rochester
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petersenvj@teamtsp.com



WEATHER SHIELD HOME EXPERTS

Madeline Anderson
823 Lancer DR NE, Owatonna
507-718-1802
madeline@wshomeexperts.com

EVENTS Update

By Julia Seykora, Events Director

Leadership Academy Gives Insider Look at How Owatonna Operates



The Owatonna Community Leadership Academy is in its 24th year. This program is designed 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. Get exclusive access to your community, build your network, be part of solving community issues and learn ways to give back to build a stronger community. Questions? Contact Julia Seykora, jseykora@owatonna.org before application deadline on July 11.

EVENTS Update

By Julia Seykora, Events Director

YPro Presents: The Ultimate Sprint – 0.5K Fun Run



Get ready for the most laid-back "race" of the year! The Ultimate Sprint is a 0.5K event designed for maximum fun and minimum effort. Whether you're a seasoned runner or just in it for a good laugh, this is the perfect event for you.

And the best part? Every dollar raised supports the **Steele County Humane Society**, helping animals in need.

Bring your crew! Friends, family, and fur—everyone's welcome to join the fun. Enjoy food trucks, drinks for purchase, and plenty of chances to mingle and relax.

Registration is just \$33 and includes an exclusive event T-shirt! Supplies are limited, so sign up early to guarantee your shirt and preferred size.

Event will be on Saturday, June 21 starting at 11 am at Mineral Spring Brewery. Check out the flyer in this month's Chamber Pack for more details!

Save the Date for 2025 Annual Golf Event

The Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism is spreading some Christmas cheer — in the middle of summer!



We're excited to announce the theme for the 2025 Annual Chamber Golf Event: The Chamber Christmas Cup!

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 5th and get ready for a "Big Cup" event packed with festive fun, prizes, and plenty of holiday spirit.

Registration is now open, and sponsorships are selling fast — don't miss out!

CHAMBER PACK DEADLINE

Supply 550 copies of your promotional insert by for July/August mailing; \$150 by **June 25th**.

The Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism will be **closed Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day**.



OWATONNA
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

120 South Oak Ave | Owatonna, MN | owatonna.org

P: 507.451.7970 | E: oacct@owatonna.org

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 AM–5 PM



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