

# COUNCIL UPDATE

## Council OKs ordinance allowing UTVs on

*Registration, insurance  
among requirements  
to operate special-use  
vehicles*



An ordinance permitting utility vehicles on city streets was approved by Osawatomie City Council members during their May 10 meeting.

With its passage, city staff will be developing a system in the coming weeks to oversee their operation.

The issue was brought to the council in April by Bill Hall and George Feebeck, owners of Osawatomie Bait & Tackle.

Hall and Feebeck explained how they used well water from Hall's residence, located four blocks away from the tackle shop, to maintain their bait supply.

The owners haul water twice a week, which is often done by one person, who has to load and unload a water tank. To make the job easier, the two purchased a John Deere Gator with a

pump.

Because UTVs were prohibited on city streets, Hall and Feebeck asked council members for permission to drive the special-use vehicle those four blocks.

After hearing from Hall and Feebeck, council members directed city staff to develop an ordinance allowing UTVs with the proper equipment, registration, insurance and operating requirements.

With a draft proposal developed, council members had the opportunity to discuss the issue during their May 10 meeting.

Council members made a slight adjustment to the ordinance before passing it by a 6-1 vote.

With the ordinance passed, City Manager Don Cawby said city staff

will need to do several things before it can be implemented, including:

- Creating internal procedures for the registration and licensing of vehicles
- Creating a database accessible by the city police and city hall
- Creating an original application
- Determining the length of the effective registration period before renewal
- Determining fees, and having the council update the fee resolution
- Creating a decal/license for UTVs

Since six weeks may not be enough time to get the administrative process ironed out, Cawby said the city could delay issuing owners their registration since there is no time limit in the ordinance.

The new ordinance is effective July 1.



# Giving Back

Osawatomie Middle School students spent several weeks this spring learning about city government and services as part of instructor Lori French's There's No Place Like Home class. Students learned about the library, building inspections/codes and utilities as well as heard from law enforcement and the fire department. Students also heard from Mayor Mark Govea and City Manager Don Cawby. To cap off the section, students planted flowers throughout the downtown business district in early May.



Photos by Jennifer McDaniel

## Learning By Doing

Zinnias, coleus and other summer flowers were used to fill the planters downtown. (Middle row, left) Kaiden Gravatt and Taydon Cornett assemble a container arrangement in the 500 block of Main. (Middle row, right) Sahara Bell and Hailey Pope use a tall grass as the centerpiece of their arrangement. (Bottom left) Lori Needham, of Hanes Florist, (right) explains to students how to assemble their container arrangements before they begin.

## Osawatomie PD earns AAA traffic safety award

The Osawatomie Police Department received its first AAA Kansas Community Traffic Safety Award for the 2017 year during the Osawatomie City Council's April 26 meeting.

The annual award is presented by AAA to encourage communities to address local traffic safety issues in a coordinated and cost-effective way and reward deserving departments. Only 34 police departments across the state of Kansas will receive the award this year.

Osawatomie PD was recognized for a variety of programs and initiatives including:

- Having a department-wide policy requiring the use of seat belts
- Participating in the highly successful Kansas teen seatbelt usage program, called SAFE...working with the high school and middle school
- Conducting Thanksgiving Safe Arrival seatbelt enforcement
- Delivering 'You Drink, You Drive, You Lose' impaired driving enforcement over the Labor Day weekend.

Osawatomie PD received a silver award for demonstrating strong, sustained efforts in addressing local traffic safety issues. This is the first time Osawatomie PD has applied for and received a AAA Traffic Safety Award.



Contributed Photo

Jennifer Haugh of AAA Kansas (left) presents a Silver AAA Community Traffic Safety Award to Osawatomie Police Chief Dave Ellis during the April 26 Osawatomie City Council meeting.

"First of all, great police departments don't happen without support from city government leaders, so each of you are to be congratulated and thanked for your leadership and the support you provide the Chief and his team," AAA Kansas' Haugh said. "It is with great pleasure that I present Chief Ellis and the entire Osawatomie Police Department team the 2017 AAA Kansas Community Traffic Safety

Silver Award. The Osawatomie community should be proud of your police department and the great efforts they make every day to keep the roadways safe. AAA Kansas congratulates Chief Ellis and his team for this well-deserved honor."

## Council approves language to place sales tax proposal on August ballot

A quarter-cent sales tax proposal will appear on the August primary ballot. In March, the council directed me to move forward with a ballot question to pass a quarter-

cent sales tax which would be used for public safety equipment as well as public safety and municipal court software.

However, if the ballot initiative doesn't receive voter support, the city would be required to increase its 2019 budget by approximately 4.0 mills to pay off the debt on the lease-purchase for the new aerial fire truck.

In April, the council reviewed the proposed ballot language and agreed with the draft as presented. During the May 10 meeting, council members formally approved the ballot question.

Approval was needed so it could be submitted to the Miami County Clerk's Office and placed on the August primary ballot.

## Council gets first look at new OFD aerial truck

Osawatomie City Council members had the chance to get a closer look at the city fire department's new 75-foot aerial ladder truck during their meeting on May 10. Fire Chief Brian Love and members of his crew demonstrated the truck's capabilities.

(Clockwise) Council member Kirk Wright watches as Love extends the ladder skyward. Councilman Kenny Diehm looks over the ladder, which can be extended and lowered below grade for use in events such as water rescues. Councilman Dan Macek makes his way up the ladder as OPD Firefighter Lance Kerr and Councilman Nick Hampson.



Arbor Day 2018 was celebrated April 27 with a special story time at the Osawatomie Public Library. (Top right) Activities coordinator Shay Hanyak reads to children about trees. Children also played games, danced and received lilac and pecan seedlings. Council Member Karen LaDuex was also on hand to read a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day. (Left) A tree is planted in John Brown Memorial Park in memory of the late Elnora Henness, a longtime Osawatomie resident.



Photos by Tammy Seamands



Photo by Shay Hanyak

## Put to the test

Members of the Osawatomi city staff tested the new escape room at the Osawatomi Public Library on May 16. Staff members able to solve the puzzles included: (From left) Eric Draper, Dave Stuteville, Ashley Kobe, Don Cawby, Blake Madden and Ted Bartlett.

## Upcoming Events

**24**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
 6:30 p.m  
 Memorial Hall

**26**  
**OSAWATOMIE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI WEEKEND**

**28**  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
 City offices closed

**2**  
**CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE/DOWNTOWN CAR SHOW**

**2**  
**VACCINATION CLINIC**  
 1-3 p.m. Osawatomi Pet Clinic, 308 Eastgate Drive

**9**  
**CITYWIDE CLEANUP**