

Taking Shelter

Osawatomie Public Library is designated as city storm shelter during severe weather.

UPDATE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF OSAWATOMIE

Council Cleanup

Countdown to demolition begins as city council condemns nine unsafe structures.



Osawatomie City Council members are considering proposed changes to current cereal malt beverage ordinance to include new enhanced CMB provisions.



Council considers changes to cereal malt beverage ordinance

A new state law allowing stronger beer to be sold by licensed cereal malt beverage retailers, including grocery and convenience stores, is under review by the Osawatomie City Council. City officials had their first glimpse of the new ordinance during a Feb. 28 work session.

The proposed ordinance would allow businesses within the city limits, which are licensed by the state and city as CMB retailers, to sell enhanced or stronger beer.

Ordinance Changes

K.S.A. 41-2701 et. seq. defines a cereal malt beverage ("CMB") as a malt beverage which contains no more than 3.2 percent alcohol by volume, and permits CMB to be sold by CMB-licensed retailers, such as grocery or convenience stores. In 2018, the state legislature amended K.S.A. 41-2701 to allow licensed CMB retailers to also sell beer containing no more than 6 percent alcohol by volume, referred to as "enhanced CMB."

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On April 1, all CMB licensed businesses will be able to sell beer containing not more than 6 percent alcohol by volume. Most city ordinances only reference the ability to sell CMB so, the new model authorizes the sale of "Enhanced Cereal Malt Beverage," which is defined as the combination of CMB and beer containing not more than 6 percent alcohol by volume.



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On February 28, council members reviewed the proposed changes, which amend Section 2 of the city's Cereal Malt Beverage Ordinance, and allow such sales within the city limits beginning April 1.

With the ordinance becoming effective in less than a month, several Kansas cities have already approved similar ordinances in the past few weeks.

The council could approve the proposal at its March 14 regular meeting.



Osawatomie City Council members have condemned nine residences deemed structurally unsafe by city building officials. Council members reviewed each address and conducted public hearings in January. During the Feb. 14 meeting, the council approved the condemnation of each structure.

Properties included:

- **736 Parker Ave.**
- **1134 Third St.**
- **409 Fifth St.**
- **500 Chestnut Ave.**
- **417 Ninth St.**
- **409 Fourth St.**
- **337 Walnut Ave.**
- **327 Lincoln Ave.**
- **711 Main St.**

With the council's decision, property owners were required to begin the demolition process no later than March 6, and to have the removal completed within 30 days of starting the project. However, the council does have the discretion to grant the owner additional time to complete the removal of the property.

But, if the owner fails to begin the removal of the property by the deadline, the city can arrange for the structure to be demolished and its remnants disposed of. To recover the costs, the city could either bill the owner or have a special assessment charged against the property.

Properties were condemned for various reasons, but most had significant structural issues, including sagging roofs, crumbling foundations, and being dilapidated beyond repair.



(Top) This home has a collapsed roof and seven layers of shingles. **(Above)** Broken windows and a damaged roof were among the problems associated with this structure.



More information on city codes and ordinances can be found at www.osawatomioks.org. Simply click on the Codes & Regulations button at the top of the page.

The Effects of **BLIGHTED PROPERTY**

Abandoned and blighted property is not just a big-city issue. It is a statewide issue. This issue impacts public safety, the values of adjoining properties, and discourages improvements to adjoining property.

89%

*of member cities identify abandoned or blighted property as a significant or very significant concern in their communities.**



4+

The median length of time a property was reported as abandoned was **four years**. One-third of responding cities noted some of the properties had been **abandoned for 10 or more years.***

Abandoned property affects the health, safety, and welfare of the entire community - taxpayers, property owners, and residents. Other concerns associated with abandoned property include **increased police calls** for theft, prowlers, drug issues, and squatting. Additionally, cities reported an **increase in fire calls** responding to accidental fires and arson.*



John Brown Museum joins the Kansas African-American History Trail

The Kansas African American Museum invites history buffs and other interested trailblazers to journey through history and Kansas with the Kansas African-American History Trail and website, which launched on Feb. 21. History trekkers and Kansas travelers will hear about the African American History Trail's purpose and the eight designated sites across the state. The trail's official sites include: The John Brown Museum in Osawatomie, Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum in Leavenworth, Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area in Lawrence, The John and Mary Ritchie House and Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, The Nicodemus National Historic Site in Nicodemus, The Gordon Parks Museum in Fort Scott and The Kansas African American Museum in Wichita.

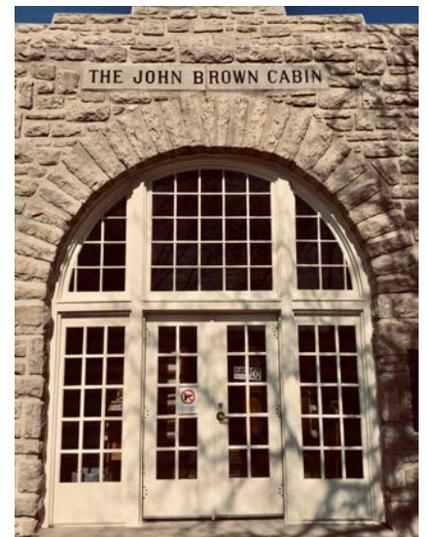
"I have been working with the Wichita African-American History Museum for two years since the inception of the idea for the Kansas African American History Trail, which is now coming to fruition," Atwater said.

For more information, contact the museum at 316-262-7651.



"The John Brown Museum State Historic Site is a partner in the Kansas African American History Network, and this will help to bring more visitors to Osawatomie and the John Brown Museum State Historic Site."

Grady Atwater
John Brown Museum State Historic Site



Library designated as city storm shelter

With the spring storm season just around the corner, city officials want residents to know where they can go when severe weather strikes.

The City of Osawatometie has a storm shelter available in the Osawatometie Public Library. The city's designated shelter was previously located in City Hall. In case of severe weather, such as a tornado warning, the city will post an announcement on Facebook, notifying residents the library is open.



Free Friday Fun Flicks

Osawatometie Public Library
Movies begin at 3:30 p.m.

March 22 - Christopher Robin*

March 29 - Operation Dumbo Drop*

*All movies are rated PG



Council Members

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Ward IV

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