

from the desk of the Mayor

Greetings!

On behalf of the Ottawa City Commission, I am proud to present this 2010 Annual Report to the citizens of the City of Ottawa.



We want to recognize and applaud our City employees for their faithfulness in carrying out their duties with integrity, given both the economic downturn and ever-increasing public scrutiny. Last year we asked them to continue to deliver high-quality, cost-effective City services even while freezing their wages. We have asked them to do more with less – and they delivered. There was no less demand for their work.....no less need for police protection, for street and sidewalk repair, for water and sewer, for parks and for fighting fires. And through it all, they remained dedicated to the City of Ottawa.

We also continue to have dedicated citizens involved at every level, from the elected officials serving on your commission to the many boards, task forces, citizen committees and volunteer opportunities. We worked together to stay focused on those things that really matter to us as a City.

You have chosen to make Ottawa your home and/or place of business. Your City government and staff do our best to preserve the small, hometown atmosphere while fostering an environment for growth, opportunity and economic development. We strive to wisely invest the tax dollars you provide. This annual report highlights examples of accomplishments and achievements summarized in this document demonstrate promise of an even brighter, better future for Ottawa. Ottawa is and continues to be a great place to live, work and play.

Linda C. Reed

Linda Reed, Mayor

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ANNUAL REPORT
CITY OF OTTAWA 2010

City Manager's Office Richard U. Nienstedt, City Manager



I am pleased and honored to be your City Manager.

2010 was a year of economic uncertainty and declining revenues at the local, state and federal levels. The primary goals of 2010 centered around addressing decreases in funding while not adversely affecting the delivery of City services, and avoiding personnel furloughs and layoffs.

As a result of careful planning and conservative financial management, the City of Ottawa stayed the course. Every employee of the City came together and practiced good, economic stewardship of available funds. I believe 2010 was a tough – but successful – year because the City Commission and employees of this City pursued grant funding, realigned processes, and developed new, collaborative approaches to

old problems. Now, more than ever, I am grateful for the contributions of the City Commission and the employees of the City of Ottawa, each of which adds significantly to the continued stability of our great community.

But it is you, the citizens and business owners of our community, that also add greatly to the strength and vitality of the City of Ottawa. You are aware of local and regional issues; many of you participate in community forums such as Legislative Coffees and regular City Commission meetings. You graciously welcome guests and visitors, including those who attend some of the great Ottawa events, such as the Over the Road Gang's Ol' Marias River Run and the Power of Past's Antique Engine and Tractor Show. The combined efforts and attitudes of all components of the City of Ottawa (citizens, business owners, City employees and our elected officials) come together to create an atmosphere of sharing, participation and fellowship – a true sense of community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard U. Nienstedt".

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Human Resources Melissa Fairbanks, Director



The City of Ottawa believes our employees are our most valuable resource in providing services to citizens, property owners and visitors. The Human Resources Department provides the following services: recruitment; compensation and classification; personnel policy development and administration; employee evaluation procedures; regulatory compliance; employee benefits and activities; employee training; administrative projects; and provides various support services. The department also handles Risk Management functions including loss control, tort claims, safety and workers' compensation.

In 2010, 12 vacancies occurred. 8 positions were filled, 4 remain unfilled, and 5 positions remained vacant throughout 2010 due to the hiring freeze. Four employees retired from the City of Ottawa in 2010. Police Officer Timothy Cronin retired after nearly 19 years of service; Power Plant Operator Larry Fisher retired after 34 years of service; Power Plant Maintenance Worker Stephen King retired after 16 years of service; and Water Plant Operator Ed Hughes retired after 31 years of service.

The Wellness Program for employees continued in 2010. We recognize that healthy employees not only help reduce health

care costs in our self-insured health plan, but can also help reduce workers' compensation claims and costs. A total of 86 employees and spouses participated in the health screenings, which included a blood pressure check, body fat analysis, cholesterol and glucose screening, PSA tests for males over 40, and (optional) fitness testing. Several employees and spouses went on to participate throughout the year in the wellness program which gave them points for exercise, annual preventive exams, attending educational seminars, completing a tobacco cessation program, and other healthy lifestyle choices. At the end of the last six-month measuring period, over 55 employees had met the required points to earn them a health insurance premium reduction.

Ottawa is a member of the Kansas Eastern Regional Insurance Trust (KERIT), a workers' compensation insurance pool. Each year, the City participates in the Preventing Loss Utilizing Safety (PLUS) program, which was developed for members of KERIT. This program sets goals and objectives for the organization to help maintain a safe working environment for employees. The City will receive a 5% reduction in premiums for 2011 due to the success of this program. Due to the insurance pool's continued good performance, the City also received a payment in 2010 of \$38,068.95, representing dividends earned in years 1996-1999 and 2002-2008.



Finance/City Clerk

Scott Bird, Director of Finance • Carolyn Snethen, City Clerk



The mission of the Finance Department/City Clerk is to promote the effective and efficient use of financial resources; to protect City assets and to provide administrative, clerical and record keeping support for the City.

This department provides information and recommendations on matters relating to taxation and licensing, implements adopted legislative measures and provides administrative support to carry out priorities as established by the Governing Body. This department acts as a collection point for all City revenues and distributes payment for all City expenditures. Within the Finance Department, the City Clerk Division records official proceedings for all meetings of the Governing Body; maintains custody of minutes, resolutions, ordinances, and other official records; prepares reports for and communicates with the City Manager and the Governing Body; coordinates the development of economic development tax exemption applications; and tracks special assessments and impact fees.



The Finance Department helped meet the economic challenges of 2010. Because of the City-wide hiring freeze, the Finance Department continues to operate with two employees fewer than it had in 2008. The Finance Department was involved in administering fifteen grants, which is more than the City has ever administered in the past. In spite of the international economic conditions, Ottawa's General Fund finished in a stronger position in 2009 than it did in 2008, and finished well in 2010.

The Finance Department was also able to take advantage of the downturn in interest rates by refinancing several existing bond issues and reducing them to just two reissues. In the process the City saved approximately \$250,000 in interest costs and will eliminate a \$300,000 final payment. These bond refinancing (refunding) will pay dividends to the City and its citizens into the future, some of the savings will be

allocated to an unfunded federal mandate related to the certification of City's river levee system in 2011. The City updated its A1 bond rating with Moody's Financial Services. The City also sold \$1,000,000 in temporary notes to help facilitate the replacement of the main hangar at the Ottawa Municipal Airport.

Other activities during 2010 included the solicitation of proposals and conducting interviews for the City's annual audit. A local firm was chosen to fulfill those duties for the next three years. The department was also involved with the selection of an insurance broker for the City's general liability insurance and continues to be involved in the development of a new stormwater utility.

**For additional information please call 785-229-3600
or visit www.ottawaks.gov**



Municipal Auditorium

Shonda Stitt, Administrative Manager

Construction began in 1919 on the Ottawa Municipal Auditorium to honor those who lost their lives in World War I. Its continuing mission is to serve the community as a cultural, entertainment and educational facility. Ongoing activities include country music artist Earl Thomas Conley, the Ottawa Police Department's McGruff Club events, local job training activities, private parties and receptions, school programs and more. Revenues to cover operational and maintenance expenses are predominantly derived from City property tax, supplemented by ticket sales and rental fees.

In 2010 the Auditorium was full of activity, hosting productions that included Ottawa High School's presentation of Little Shop of Horrors, as well as the OHS band and vocal concerts. Along with dance classes four nights a week, the Auditorium hosted the the Living Last Supper, Ottawa Suzuki Strings Christmas concert, and Grace Gospel Church services twice a week all year long. In 2010 the auditorium hosted 44 rentals, down from a total of 56 in 2009. The Auditorium had a vigorous 222 days of usage in 2010, a slight decrease of 24 days from 2009.

The Auditorium is available for many types of private events as well as public performances.

**For additional information, please call
Shonda Stitt, Administrative Manager, at 785-242-8810.**



Public Works

Andy Haney, Director



The Public Works Department has 24 employees and includes the Streets Division, the Parks and Cemeteries Division, and the Fleet Management Division. The Ottawa Municipal Airport and Flood Control are facilitated by the Public Works Department, but are not staffed by City divisions.

Street rehabilitation efforts were limited during 2010 due to budget constraints. Killough Construction, assisted by Street Division crews, completed asphalt overlay of Willow Street (15th – 17th) and 15th Street (Rock Creek – City limits). Another contractor completed a chip and seal project on K-68 (west of the bridge) in order to preserve the pavement until a more complete improvement is made in 2011 using KDOT funding assistance.

The cost of the US 59 resurfacing project was reimbursed to the City of Ottawa by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Included in the project was replacement of three box culverts (21st Street, Skunk Run, and immediately south of K-68). Traffic markings north of Logan Street were applied in the “road diet” manner approved by the City Commission. Only one through lane is marked in each direction, with a turning lane in the center and bike lanes on either side.

The parks of Ottawa continue to be a source of pride and recreation for our citizens and visitors to our City. Nearly 115 acres of green space contribute significantly to the quality of life in Ottawa. These facilities were enhanced in 2010 with the addition of lighting along the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail, funded in large part by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus). Crews prepared a site in Kanza Park for the Youth in Government (YIG) rain garden. This installation was funded by a Marais des Cygnes Basin Targeted Watershed Grant and is intended to be a demonstration project.

Other Public Works projects of note: a tree was planted at Lincoln School in honor of the City-wide Arbor Day poster contest winner, Dawson Blanco. Dawson’s poster was submitted to the statewide contest, where it was declared the Kansas State WINNER! Street crews constructed significant portions of the Sunflower Trail near Eisenhower School.

During 2009 the City Commission approved construction of a new hangar at the Airport. The new building was occupied in October 2010, approximately 7 weeks ahead of the projected schedule. A grant application for the credit card fueling system was sent to KDOT in December. If awarded, the KDOT grant will fund 50% of the project cost, up to \$27,500. The City selected Bucher, Willis & Ratliff as the design firm for rehabilitation of the airport’s main runway, construction to

begin 2011. Both design and construction are to be funded (95%) by the FAA.

Flood control continues to be a priority. Crews committed time to routine levee maintenance in preparation for an inspection by the USACE in July. The inspection went well, with no deficiencies noted. Crews monitored/operated the

**For additional information, call 785-229-3630,
or visit www.ottawaks.gov.**





Utilities

Jim Bradley, Director



The Utilities Department provides wastewater collection and treatment, electric generation and distribution, and water treatment and distribution services to the City of Ottawa. The Department also operates a warehouse that supports these services. Benefits of the City-owned utilities include better and local control over rates, responsiveness to the public, quality control, coordinated planning efforts with other City functions, and subsidization of some public services and activities using utility revenues. Combined, the utilities have 48 employees.

Wastewater Collection and Treatment

The wastewater plant, which began operating in 2004, continues to meet and exceed all State and Federal regulations. With a 2010 combined budget of \$1.56 million, the 2.6 Million Gallon per Day (MGD) plant averaged treating 1.1MGD. The WWTP added a fifth raw sewage pump and the Rock Creek lift station. The Collection Division continues to make improvements to the collection system by replacing over 1,000 feet of gravity sanitary sewer lines and making emergency repairs, as well as assisting in the Cured-in-Place Piping repairs of 1.25 miles of sewer lines. The crews have cleaned and performed video inspections of over 9 miles of sewer lines during 2010.

Water Treatment and Distribution

The City of Ottawa provided over 549 million gallons of treated water in 2010 to residences, businesses, three Rural Water Districts and the City of Princeton. Staff takes pride in the fact that there have been no violations of State or Federal regulations since the plant opened in 1980. Plant staff continues to make upgrades to the plant in an effort to extend the life of the facilities. The Distribution Division continued to make improvements to the system by replacing and upgrading water lines and preparing for growth by providing inspection services to new subdivisions to ensure proper installation of the water infrastructure. During 2010, the Distribution crews replaced 4,250 feet of waterline throughout the City.

In 2010, the Water Treatment Plant personnel and Water Distribution Division were involved in the completion of a new booster pump station, 16" water main, and new water tower on the northeast side of Ottawa. These improvements provide additional reliable service to this area along with improved fire service. A new 16" line from the Water Treatment Plant to the north tower was also completed. This improvement provides additional reliability for the north side of the community, as well as provides for growth.

Electric Generation and Distribution

The Electric Distribution Division has provided for growth by extending services and undertaking an aggressive overhead line clearing program to help eliminate outages during storms; the addition of a backyard easement bucket will help facilitate this program. Nearly 149 million kilowatt hours were provided to our consumers, with over 99.9% reliability during 2010. The Power Plant operated units over 815 hours during 2010. Major projects completed by Power Plant personnel have been the replacement of the 12.47-4.16kv tie breaker, replacement of the generating section of the STAG boiler, and the replacement of the natural gas lines serving the generation units. The power plant completed preliminary emissions testing for the new EPA Hazardous Air Pollutants regulations. The Electric Utility continues to investigate joint generation with other municipal electric utilities.

Utilities Warehouse

The Utilities Warehouse maintains an inventory of spare and replacement parts to support the electrical, water distribution and wastewater collection systems. The warehouse personnel in 2010 completed the updating of their inventory control system to a new barcode-based system to ensure accuracy and timely restocking of critical parts.

**For additional information, please call 785-229-3710,
or visit www.ottawaks.gov.**





New addition to the Ottawa Municipal Airport



New walking trails



D.A.R.E. Camp - 25 years and still going strong



Road improvements



Fire Department training



Christmas in Ottawa



2010 HIGHLIGHTS

- The award-winning D.A.R.E. Camp celebrated its 25th anniversary.
- Partnered with Neosho County Community College to help secure \$5,270,000 in Educational Facility Revenue Bonds to support the construction of the new NCCC campus.
- Completion of the new Ottawa Municipal Airport Hangar and Terminal Building.
- Completion of the \$1,411,629 KDOT resurfacing project of US 59 within the City limits prior to returning the maintenance of Main Street to the responsibility of the City of Ottawa.
- The first City Play Day was held; because of its success, plans have been made to make it an annual event.
- Received a \$49,000 federal grant to repair the air conditioning system at Ottawa Municipal Auditorium.
- 34 employees were recognized for their combined total of 480 years of municipal service.
- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and reserve police officers volunteered 1,679 hours of unpaid service in 2010, valued at \$29,869.
- Completed the federally-funded Prairie Spirit Rail Trail lighting project.
- Received \$730,000 in grant funds for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; in partnership with ECKAN, purchased and rehabilitated 2 single-family homes and 3 duplexes to be used for low-income housing.
- Completed \$112,142 of street rehabilitation projects.
- Received funding approval for the 15th Street Transportation Enhancement project (sidewalks and bike lanes); KDOT will cover 80% of the cost, or \$274,080.
- Completion of the 15th Street Walking Trail Project in partnership with USD 290, ECKAN, Ottawa Recreation Commission, and the Sunflower Foundation.



2010 Ol'Marais River Run in Forest Park



City and State of Kansas Arbor Day poster winner Dawson Blanco with his parents, Josh and Laurie Blanco and his sister Kendall.



Police Department considers using Segways to serve the public.



Police Department

Dennis Butler, Chief



During 2010, the Ottawa Police Department operated with 31 sworn and civilian employees, and a budget of \$2.09 million. Primary services include 24-hour police patrol, criminal investigations, a school resource officer, D.A.R.E. program, animal control and crime prevention. During 2009, an effort to develop alternate sources of funding resulted in receipt of \$561,000 in multi-year grants. Since 2005, the Police Department has applied for \$2.2 million in grant funding and received awards totaling more than \$1.2 million.

Serious crime rates (Part I crime as reported to the KBI) in Ottawa rose 5.8% compared with 2009; adult arrests for these reported crimes increased by 54%. Even though there was an increase, it is noteworthy to report that since 2004 Ottawa is much safer, with overall serious crime declining by 49%. Compared with 2009, other less serious crime increased 3%; and all categories of reported crime (includes serious crime) increased by 3.9%. Calls for service, which include investigating crimes, traffic accidents and serving warrants increased by 40% compared with 2009. This trend of increased calls for service began to slow in the second half of 2010 from an increase of 50-60% during the first half of the year. Police investigated a murder for the second year in a row. Fortunately, police made arrests in both cases, and the case from 2010 is still navigating the judicial system. In addition, recent seatbelt and anti-texting laws have allowed increased enforcement designed to improve motorist safety.

The Domestic Violence Unit continues its aggressive efforts to reducing family and intimate partner violence. We are in the second year of a two-year federal grant from the Department of Justice to fund a police detective and a part-time administrative assistant, as well as to create a Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP) at the Elizabeth Layton Center. We are pleased to report that the new BIP is now serving clients, and has submitted an application to the Attorney General's Office for state certification. This \$319,440 grant provides training for law enforcement and community education to citizens and students in our schools. Former Kansas Attorney General Stephen Six appointed Chief Butler to his BIP advisory board where he continues to serve. This board is tasked with implementing standards for service providers in Kansas who wish to operate BIPs. This important work is scheduled for completion in September 2011.

When the School Resource Officer position at Ottawa High School and Middle School was jeopardized by state revenue cuts to USD 290 and the City, the Police Department applied for a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and was awarded a two-year grant for \$163,622 to retain this valuable service. This grant is scheduled to expire in July 2011. Other mini-grants allowed the department to purchase new equipment such as ballistic vests and traffic enforcement equipment without using City funds. The Ottawa Police Department, Franklin County Sheriff's office and the Wellsville Police Department continued their collaboration with the multi-jurisdictional Records Management System (RMS). Final stages of implementation are scheduled during 2011.

The Police Department's volunteer unit, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) continued to provide outstanding service to our community. VIPS and reserve police officers volunteered 1,679 hours of unpaid service in 2010, valued at \$29,869. VIPS members volunteer in the municipal court, police administrative office, parades and special events like the Ransom Memorial Hospital 5K Run, uniformed patrol, crime prevention, traffic control and distribution of crime prevention and community education materials.

Focus on community outreach remains strong. This year, 109 incoming 6th graders from USD 290 attended the 25th Annual D.A.R.E. Camp, our largest attendance ever. The 29th Annual McGruff Club focused on safety programs through live entertainment and is well attended by both children and parents. Finally, the Police Department continued its participation in fundraisers for Special Olympics. This marks the 25th straight year that the department has participated in a Special Olympics fundraiser.

The Ottawa Police Foundation (OPF) continues to fund D.A.R.E. Camp. The OPF is a private non-profit corporation 501(c)(3) created to support the mission of the Police Department. In addition, the OPF donated a document management software program to the police department. This will allow the department to manage all written policies and procedures more effectively. This is an important step in ongoing improvements regarding administrative and operational effectiveness. Go to www.ottawapolicefoundation.org to learn more about OPF plans to assist in the continued enhancement to police services for our City.

**For additional information, please call 785-242-2561,
or visit www.ottawaks.gov.**





Fire Department

Jeff Carner, Chief



During 2010, the Ottawa Fire Department (OFD) responded to 1,383 calls for service. Although calls for service were up slightly over the previous year, we experienced a reduction in the overall fire loss. During the year the department called for and received a reevaluation rating from the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO). This evaluation objectively reviews the fire suppression capabilities of a community and assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) number from 1 to 10. Most insurance companies utilize this classification for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial, and industrial properties.

The lower the PPC, the better the overall rating. During this review, Ottawa moved from a previous PPC classification of 4 to a classification of 3, which is a significant accomplishment for the community. The PPC rating recognizes the efforts of communities to provide fire protection services. With this rating, Ottawa is now within the top 3% of all departments rated in the United States.

Among the many measures that can be taken to reduce fire losses, perhaps none is more important than educating people about fire. Public fire education refers to activities related to the dissemination of information on fire hazards and causes, and precautions against fire, as well as how to act if a fire occurs. During the year, 154 educational programs were presented throughout the community. Another method used to reduce the frequency and impact of fire is through the inspection process. The goal of the code enforcement inspection program is to ensure that properties comply with appropriate fire safety codes. However, our experience has shown public education

during the inspection process has far more long-term influence. During the year, OFD members conducted 796 fire safety inspections.

Training is one of the most important functions in fire department operations because it is central to operational outcomes. OFD members participated in 3,428 hours of training, covering a wide variety of topics that may be encountered by our fire fighters. Many of our fire fighters also continue to pursue additional educational opportunities as well. Ongoing training and education ensures we are prepared to provide a high level of service to our community today and into the future.

**For additional information, please call 785-229-3700
or visit www.ottawaks.gov.**

OTTAWA FIRE RESPONSES	2010	2009	2008
Building fires	21	14	19
Vehicle fires	12	13	14
Other fires	31	34	26
Over pressure rupture/overheat	3	2	3
Rescue & emergency medical	919	886	912
Hazardous conditions	74	69	84
Service calls	50	63	39
Good intent calls	166	170	161
False alarms	106	99	130
Severe weather/natural disaster	0	3	4
Special type incident	1	0	2
TOTAL CALLS	1,383	1,353	1,396

	2010	2009	2008
Estimated fire loss	\$269,250	\$370,305	\$248,400



Municipal Court

James Campbell, Judge • Joyce Hendrix, Prosecutor



The City of Ottawa operates a court system using a Municipal Judge, City Prosecutor, Court Clerk, and Assistant Court Clerk, and is aided by volunteers from the VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service). The municipal court adjudicates misdemeanor crimes, and traffic cases, is located in the Law Enforcement Center. The court operated with a 2010 annual budget of \$150,136.

At the beginning of 2010, the municipal court implemented a new court management software system that replaced an outdated system that lacked customer service support. The new software is used by the majority of municipal courts in suburban Kansas City, and can print dockets, forms, receipts and efficiently tracks court cases. The software provides electronic

submission of case convictions, and is planned to eventually link with the local multi-jurisdictional law enforcement Records Management System (RMS) to eliminate manual entry of traffic citations.

To reduce expenditures, during 2010, the court operated with one less full-time employee than 2009. To do this, the police department provides administrative and operational support from the police employees, and the new court records software system has streamlined record keeping.

**For additional information, please call 785-242-5333,
or visit www.ottawaks.gov.**



Information Technology

Chuck Bigham, Director



The Information Technology (IT) Department consists of the Director, an IT Specialist, and a Multimedia Specialist. With this staff, the department was able to fully support all City departments. IT supports well over 175 network-attached devices, including PC workstations, notebooks, servers and printers. IT also supports City databases such as storm/event trouble tickets and dispatch, cemetery records, storm water management, pavement management, fire calls and administrative records, building permits, and more. The department continued to work with the Franklin County IT department, including support for the relatively new Records Management System (RMS), including Mobile Computing, used by the Ottawa Police Department and the Franklin County Sheriff's department.

Because data is valuable and losing it can be costly, we continue to add disaster recovery processes and backup capabilities. We completed our fiber network, vastly improving reliability for the Power Plant, Water Plant, Utilities and Streets buildings. This improved our nightly off-site backup; all major PCs and servers are backed up weekly using our fiber network. Additionally, IT built a new ICOP video server replacing the old, obsolete equipment. This increased storage capacity allows much more police patrol car video to be archived.

The City's multimedia Government Access Channel (GAC) continued to expand programming throughout the year. Film footage of community events continued to be a big part of the GAC, and the DVD collection of area events continued to grow. Events such as the 2010 Ol' Marais River Run and the Antique Engine and Power of the Past Shows are captured with in-house production services, producing professional quality DVDs for event sponsors and public purchase.

The City added its own Facebook page: City of Ottawa, Kansas. This has improved our contact with citizens and has facilitated communicating City services. In particular, it allows citizens to ask questions and report concerns to the City in real time. Website development further expanded the reach of the GAC to the Web. Using streaming video, anyone with an Internet connection can view Commission Meetings, Legislative Coffees and area events.

The GAC got a complete facelift with new equipment. Current time, temperature, weather forecast, radar, TV schedule and important phone numbers are listed while programming is playing.

2011 will bring further, cost-effective enhancements for the City and its productive use of technology. Consolidating City servers through virtualization will reduce power needs, cost and space requirements. Existing IT employees can provide more efficient service utilizing remote troubleshooting and management of workstations. City employees will be able to work remotely and access office files from home or alternate locations – an ability especially important during emergencies. Web enhancements expected in 2011 are additional video production capabilities, enhanced streaming video capacity and an expanded Citizen Support Center to assist the public to quickly get services and answers to questions.



Government Access Channel 20
229-3634 ext. 50

1:34 PM

GAC²⁰ tv schedule

Today's Weather and current radar at :27 and :57 past the hour

Current Temperature

35°

CITY OF OTTAWA KANSAS

While Driving Statute is fully enforceable v

For additional information, please call 785-229-3641 or visit: www.ottawaks.gov.



Planning & Codes Administration

Wynndee S. Lee, Director



The staff of the Planning, Zoning and Codes Department administers the City's Comprehensive Plan; Zoning and Subdivision Regulations; provides support to the Planning Commission and Appeals Boards; enforces building codes and local laws dealing with nuisances (such as weeds, junk and debris, and inoperable vehicles); and participates in other community development issues as they arise.

The department regularly oversees the process of development, including platting, site plan development, building construction and public infrastructure related to development. Economic conditions were still sluggish in 2010, resulting in fewer projects than normal, but there were still a few significant developments. Total permits issued for new construction or remodeling were valued at \$9,139,593, nearly \$2,000,000 more than in 2009. Neosho County Community College, Ransom Memorial Hospital (began in late 2009), and Ottawa Recreation Commission began and made substantial progress on their projects. Grace Community Church in the former Hawthorne Elementary School Building and the Keim Bakery experienced major remodels. New residential building permits were still low this year, with eight units of single-family and three multi-family units. Plans for projects in 2011 include Love's Travel Center, Mac Fasteners and Franklin County Juvenile Justice Center. In 2012, we look forward to construction of the Schuff project that had its site plan approved

late in 2010. The total number of building inspections increased to 1,822, higher than last year because of the larger projects.

Within the department we have been working to offer a new web page with even more files available for online review and downloading for homeowners, designers, and builders. The absence of large numbers of projects also created an opportunity to change building permit software to make our office more mobile with computers in the field as well as more integrated with nuisances and planning actions.

Rezoning property in the Urban Growth Area (UGA) resulted in the largest number of rezonings by the City Planning Commission in any single year. These rezones are of properties that are regulated by the City through an interlocal agreement with Franklin County, and include several hundred parcels. In 2010, 122 properties were rezoned, with more to come in 2011.

A continuing department project was a photo contest celebrating National Community Planning Month in October. This year 11 contributors submitted 33 photos. This has become a continuing annual event, so start taking photos now of favorite places, seasons and locations in Ottawa!

**For additional information, please call 785-229-3620,
or visit www.ottawaks.gov.**



Robin Flory, Director



The Ottawa Library strives to inform and enrich the community by providing access to information and opportunities to the public through use of our materials and our programs. NExpress, the online shared circulation system, has increased the speed of receipt of requested material from the other libraries, as well as allowed patrons to check account status and renew books online. The NExpress Shared Catalog currently includes a network of 32 Kansas libraries which share material between one another. Total number of circulation of materials was 132,659 items in 2010.

The Ottawa Library has undergone a transformation in the last year. A major renovation project was tackled and mostly completed in 2010. We updated our furniture, added public computers, replaced outdated periodical shelving and built a separate teen area. The Cave, named by area teens, was funded by grants in 2010 and provides an area for study, computer work and materials geared toward young adults.

The Library continually upgrades and improves our technology to provide the best service possible. The library

continues to provide access to the Ancestry database, an online genealogy resource, as well as several other online research tools. Our website was streamlined in 2010 and patrons have easy access to their own accounts as well as the ability to search multiple materials available for checkout. Homework Kansas is available from a link on our website as well as Kansas Audio Books and More which is becoming more and more popular with ever-changing technology.

The Summer Reading Programs for children and adults continued to have impressive numbers in participation and program attendance in 2010. The Friends of the Ottawa Library netted over \$7,178 in used book sales and memberships added over \$7,117 in benefits to the Library. Please visit the library to check out our new books, movie DVDs, music CDs, books on tape or to participate in a Adult or Children's program.

**For additional information, please call the Library
at 785-242-3080 or visit: www.ottawalibrary.org.**



Governing Body Linda Reed, Mayor



2010-2011 Ottawa City Commission: Commissioner Gene Ramsey, Commissioner Rocky Fleer, Mayor Linda Reed, Commissioner Blake Jorgensen, Commissioner Sara Humm.

The City Commission is the legislative and policy-making body of the City of Ottawa. All meetings are held at City Hall, 101 S. Hickory. Regular City Commission meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm, and on

the third Wednesday at 9:30 am. The City Commission also meets on Monday afternoons at 4:00 pm for a work/study session. All meetings are open to the public.

Five commissioners are elected at-large by the citizens of Ottawa. The Mayor, chosen by the Commissioners each year, serves as “the first, among equals.” The Mayor presides at Commission meetings, serves as the spokesperson for the community, as an ambassador and defender of the community, and as a representative in intergovernmental relations.

The City Manager is hired by the City Commission to oversee the day-to-day operations of the City and serves as the CEO of the City. The Manager supervises all daily activities of the City and reviews and oversees the department operations.

Richard U. Nienstedt, City Manager, and City staff work to ensure the City’s needs are met in an efficient and effective manner. In partnership with the department directors, the City Manager prepares a budget for the City Commission’s consideration; recruits, hires, supervises and disciplines all of the organization’s employees; serves as the Commission’s chief advisor and carries out the Commission’s policies. Together, the Mayor, Commissioners and City Manager form a policy development and management team.

Youth In Government Lisa Rivers, ECKAN Sponsor

The 2009-2010 Youth in Government year was very productive and filled with new members and new ideas. YIG included a total of 7 energetic Ottawa students: Zach George, Mayor; Molly Rugg, Mayor-Pro-Tem; Abby Guenther, Secretary; Darrah Jorgensen, Project Manager, Jordan Gray, Dalton Blankinship, and Kaitlin Shultz.

YIG went through some exciting changes in the 2009-2010 year. In an effort to increase the level of influence the youth make in their community, members were assigned to a board or commission to provide the youth perspective in many areas of leadership including City Commission, School Board, Ottawa Main Street Association, Library Board, and Ottawa Recreation Commission. YIG members were given “a seat at the table” and asked to supply input from their peers on various topics impacting Ottawa. This turned out to be useful for not only YIG members, but also to the adult boards who were able to obtain

the youth’s perspective. According to one YIG member, “This helped me grow as a person and made me more responsible. Another YIG student said he “learned the inner workings of one of [his] favorite places in town.”

YIG quickly began working on their annual service project; two YIG members came back from the National League of Cities conference in San Antonio with outstanding ideas. The group was fortunate to also have the assistance of Casey Sharp, KU MPA intern for the City of Ottawa, who introduced the concept of stormwater runoff awareness that would allow YIG members to work closely with the City to address an urgent need and benefit the environment. Thanks to Casey, YIG received a \$3,000 grant from the Marais Des Cygnes Targeted Watershed program. The group hosted three rain barrel workshops, gave away 100 free rain barrels and planted a rain garden in Kanza Park.

For information, please call

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