

Downtown Update

A F E W G O O D W O R D S

A Publication of the Shawnee Downtown Partnership

March 2015

Spring Starts Here - Downtown Open House

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 9**, because Spring Starts Here in downtown Shawnee! The annual downtown open house event, formerly known as the Beauty and the Best, has been revamped and is kicking off the season with the first official “Shawnee Strong” event that will include activities for the whole family to enjoy. The Spring Starts here event is from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will feature open houses at various downtown businesses, a farmers market, live entertainment, a sidewalk chalk artist, and a volunteer beautification project.

Local food trucks will also take part in the event, including Shawnee CoffeeCakeKC along with Crave of KC and Cajun Cabin. We are also extending a special invitation to all of our restaurants to take part. If you are a food vendor, we welcome you to cook outside on your sidewalk or parking lot and join in on the fun!

We appreciate all of the businesses that hosted an open house last year and are asking you to do it again. A number of business owners that have participated in past years reported record sales for the day and many saw a number of customers return after the event. Many of you already hold an open house at some point throughout the year, so let’s combine our efforts! Please plan to host a business open house on Saturday, May 9. You may host your open house during normal business hours. Please plan to be open during the hours of the event from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

As part of the event, visitors will be able to participate in a punch card promotion to be entered into a drawing to win one of several downtown Shawnee gift certificates. Visitors will be required to stop by a set number of businesses to receive a punch on their card. They are not required to make a purchase to earn your punch on their card, just visit your store. This has worked in the past to get new faces in the door! We heard people make comments about how they didn’t know we had so many great shops in downtown and that they planned to return.

If you know that you would like to participate in the event, you can go ahead and fill out the form located inside this mailing and return it to the Planning Department. In the coming weeks you will receive an additional mailing

or personal contact regarding the event. Please let us know if you plan to host an open house on May 9 so that we can include your information in our advertising. You don’t want to miss the opportunity!

If you have questions or input, contact Lauren Grashoff at 742-6226 or lgrashoff@cityofshawnee.org.



Good Starts Here.

SHAWNEE
D O W N T O W N P A R T N E R S H I P

OPEN HOUSE

Please return this flyer by FRIDAY, MARCH 27th

- e-mail lgrashoff@cityofshawnee.org; or
- call (913) 742-6226; or
- fax this page after completing the form below to (913) 631-7351

Check all that apply:

I will hold an open house on Saturday, May 9th and my business hours will be:

I will offer the following specials or promotions:

I will participate in the Downtown Shawnee punch card promotion on Saturday, May 9th

Business: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

11110 Johnson Drive • Shawnee, Kansas 66203

Shawnee St. Patrick's Celebration

Sunday, March 15th



A "Lucky Duck" is way better than a lucky rabbit's foot! Join us at Herman Laird Park/Shawnee Town after the Shawnee St. Patrick's Parade on **Sunday, March 15** for the 27th annual Duck Race at 4:30 p.m.

These quacking little ducks will splish, splash, and float their way down over rapids and obstacles created on a water course.

Do you feel lucky? Each duck could be packing \$1500 of green! For a \$5 donation, you can pick up a duck ticket prior to the race at Jake's, 12001 Johnson Drive, and on race day at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Shawnee. Or join us for free to watch the race and see which little ducky really is lucky!



Heroes Pull

The 2015 Heroes Pull to benefit the Kansas Special Olympics will be held on Sunday, March 15 after the St. Patrick's Parade. The Heroes Pull is an event in which teams compete pulling a Shawnee Fire truck and a Lenco Armored Tactical Vehicle. Money raised goes to help Kansas Special Olympics athletes. Last year's event raised more than \$11,000. For more information and to register to pull go to www.heroespull.org.



Forever, Be Irish!

Calling all Irish, by heritage or in spirit! Join us for the 33rd annual Shawnee St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 15. Even if your family tree doesn't include an Irish branch, the entire family will have fun cheering on all the great parade entries and enjoy a variety of activities before and after the parade.

Plan your float or marching entry early - this year's theme is Forever, Be Irish! Prizes will be awarded in several categories and winners will score some Irish green in the form of cash prizes. Entry forms will be available at City Hall and at www.irishamericanclub.org. This year's \$10 entry fee will help fund our donation to the Shawnee Police and Fire Department Heroes Pull which benefits Kansas Special Olympics.

Parade line-up begins at 11:30 a.m. at Johnson Drive and Monrovia. The parade begins at 1:00 p.m. down Johnson Drive from Monrovia east to Nieman Road. The awards ceremony is held immediately after the parade at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 11221 Johnson Drive. Winners must be present to pick up their plaques and cash prizes.

Be sure to plan to spend extra time in downtown Shawnee to enjoy a hearty breakfast at one of the restaurants along the parade route, an Irish corned beef and cabbage lunch at the Knights Hall, or some shopping at one of Shawnee's unique downtown merchants. Don't forget to pick up one of our parade shirts along the parade route. The Heroes Pull, immediately following the parade in the Splash Cove parking lot, is the perfect post parade activity! You can end the day rooting for your winning duck in the Sister Cities Duck Race.

The parade is sponsored by the Irish American Club of Johnson County and the Shawnee St. Patrick's Parade Committee.



SAVE THE DATE

04.18.15

RECYCLING EVENT

When: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Where: Splash Cove Parking Lot (58th and King)

What: Four recycling events, one convenient location

The City of Shawnee is once again partnering with the City of Merriam to bring you a fantastic recycling opportunity just in time for spring cleaning!

Electronics Recycling

Looking for a place to take your outdated electronics? We have the answer! We are working with Vintage Tech again to host a consumer electronics recycling event. Consumer electronics can be conveniently dropped off for recycling - the only items that have a cost for collection are televisions (\$10). A full list of items accepted can be found on the City's websites.

Community Shredding

Going to have some old documents after tax season? PRO-SHRED will be on hand for this spring community shredding event. Shredding is free to the public; however, there is a suggested donation of \$5 per regular file box and \$10 per large file box. Donations will help off-set costs of the event and the remaining donations will go to the Shawnee Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund and the Merriam Parks, Recreation, and Community Center Foundation.

Bike Collection

Have your kids outgrown their bikes? Do you have a bike that you never ride? Bring them to the event. The City of Shawnee will work to refurbish and redistribute the bikes through various community service organizations.

Latex Paint Collection

Back by popular demand is the latex paint collection event. We are working with Johnson County Household Hazardous to collect unneeded latex paint. Latex paint will only be taken from households. No commercial institutions paint will be accepted. Oil-based paint, aerosols, paint thinners, stains, and other household hazardous items will not be collected. To dispose of those items, please contact Johnson County Health and Environment at 715-6900. For more information on how to identify latex paint, please visit the City's website.

Let the Good Times Roll!

Join the Friends of Shawnee Town on **Wednesday, June 3** from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. for our 8th Annual Tomato Roll Fundraiser. Enjoy an evening of drinks, hors d'oeuvres and surprises at the Shawnee Town Gazebo (11501 W. 57th Street). To purchase tickets or sponsor this event, call Royal Krueger at 913-248-2360. The Tomato Roll will take place on **Saturday, June 6** on the corner of Johnson Drive and Nieman just before the start of the Old Shawnee Days Parade. Purchase your "tomatoes" today, 2 balls for \$5 or 10 balls for \$20. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place! Proceeds from these events benefit the Shawnee Town Museum.



Healthy Yards Expo

The Healthy Yards Expo is back by popular demand! This year's event will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Shawnee Civic Centre (13817 Johnson Drive). Admission to this event is FREE! Come see what's new in environmentally friendly lawn and garden practices. There will be free soil testing and we will also give away some native plants! For more information on Johnson County's Healthy Yards Expo, visit www.johnson.ksu.edu or call 715-7000.



Sign Code changes for Businesses in Downtown Shawnee

The Nieman Road Community Connections study completed in 2013 recommended several actions to provide enhancements to encourage businesses to remain or to locate in downtown Shawnee. One of the suggestions provided was to amend the sign code regulations for businesses in the corridor. Over two meetings, the Shawnee Downtown Partnership reviewed the current sign code requirements as they related to the Townsquare Zoning District (TSQ). On December 18 the Partnership voted unanimously to recommend to the Governing Body approval of the sign code enhancements. On January 12 the Governing Body adopted several sign code amendments for businesses located in the TSQ. The amendments made to Chapter 5.64 include:

- Blade or projecting signs can extend the entire width of the sidewalk.
- Blade signs can be permitted for use under a canopy if there is no wall sign.
- Blade signs can extend above the roofline and angled to the building when placed on a corner.
- The maximum sign area of blade and wall signs was increased from seven percent to ten percent of the wall area when the wall of the building is within two feet of the property, or when a restaurant provides outdoor seating that extends to within at least two feet of the property line.
- “Artful” signs may now be permitted to identify a business with a graphic instead of verbiage, such as a hammer to identify a hardware store.



Under Canopy Blade Sign



Artful sign with no verbiage



Mix of wall signs and canopy signs



Blade signs can now extend above the roofline and can be angled to the building when placed on a corner.

Downtown Improvement Grants Still Available

Don't forget that the City offers grants for eligible improvement projects. There are still two \$5,000 grants available. Eligible participants must complete a minimum of \$10,000 of exterior improvements in order to receive the \$5,000 grant. There are also an unlimited number of \$2,000 grants available for work totaling at least \$5,000. The grants are awarded as a reimbursement for actual costs for architectural services, constructions costs, materials costs, and new construction. This is a great way to help make some upgrades to your property. The City also offers \$2,500 grants to business owners who complete at least \$5,000 in permanent tenant finish improvements to the interior of their building. Plan ahead for the busy spring construction season by completing your application today. Applications for the grants are available on the Downtown Partnership's webpage on the City's website. You can also pick an application up at the Planning Department at City Hall. For more information contact Lauren Grashoff at 742-6226 or lgrashoff@cityofshawnee.org.



DOWNTOWN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

introducing...

State Farm Insurance - Mitzi Ryburn

Owner: Mitzi Ryburn

Phone: (913) 631-0201 or (913) 492-4006

Address: 10818 Johnson Drive

Website: www.mitziinsures.com

About: Mitzi Ryburn's State Farm agency recently remodeled and moved into the old KC Trends here in downtown Shawnee. Mitzi has been in insurance and financial services for over 15 years and has five licensed representatives and an intern in her agency. They offer auto, home, life, health, and business insurance. They also have their own State Farm Bank for accounts, vehicle loans, and mortgages.

Downtown Shawnee appealed to Mitzi because of the focus on community and families. She decided to invest in the area to support the community and build her business. She is married with two children and enjoys participating in various downtown activities, including the farmers market.



Sponsors Needed for Summer Concert

The Shawnee Parks and Recreation Department is working to secure bands and sponsors for the 2015 Summer Concert season. We would like to invite downtown businesses to be presenting sponsors of the **Friday, August 7** concert at West Flanders Park. The minimum sponsorship commitment is \$100 per business. Each business that makes this monetary donation will be included in the following promotional items: Business name listed on a banner on-site at the concert; business name listed in the CityLine/Shawnee Parks and Recreation fall brochure mailed out to over 30,000 homes; press releases about the concert; and recognized on flyers and posters as a sponsor of the event. If you are interested in being part of the 2015 Downtown Sponsorship Team, contact Tonya Lecuru at the Shawnee Parks and Recreation Department, 742-6402.

City Receives Grants to Improve Connectivity Downtown

Shawnee was recently awarded over \$240,000 in grant funding that will be used to enhance connectivity along Nieman Road. This funding will help the City make strides in enhancing the downtown area and move forward on achieving the goals that have been set forth in various planning initiatives over the past decade.

A \$150,000 grant through the Kansas Transportation Alternatives Program (TAPS) will be used to complete preliminary corridor design plans for Nieman Road from 55th Street to Shawnee Mission Parkway. This will enable Shawnee to begin exploring the right-of-way reallocation recommendations from the 2013 and 2014 Nieman Road corridor studies. Those recommendations called for creating a more walkable, multi-modal corridor that enhances the area and attracts new types of development.

Shawnee also received a \$91,471 Planning Sustainable Places grant from the Mid-America Regional Council. Funds from this grant will be used to study ways to connect downtown Shawnee and neighborhoods to the east of Nieman Road to the Turkey Creek Trail in Merriam. This would give residents who live around the central business district better access to services, restaurants, community assets, and transit stops that currently exist (or will exist) in the Nieman corridor. The study will look at various means of alternative methods of travel like sidewalks, trails, and on-street pedestrian and bike travel. The project will identify and prioritize pedestrian linkage in those neighborhoods and provide the best routes and alternatives for pedestrian connectivity along with preliminary engineering design for the preferred linkages.

Public input will be an important component of these grants as we move forward. Future updates will be posted on the City's website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- St. Patrick's Parade/Heroes Pull/ Duck Race, Sunday, March 15
**Parade Begins down Johnson Drive from Monrovia east to Nieman Road - 1:00 p.m. •
 Heroes Pull - 2:30 p.m. • Duck Race - 4:30 p.m.**
- Johnson County Healthy Yards Expo, Saturday, March 28 @ 9:00 a.m., @ Shawnee Civic Centre

APRIL

- Shawnee Downtown Business Association Meeting, Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 p.m., @ Old Shawnee Pizza
- E-waste, Shredding, Bicycle Collection and Latex Paint Event, April 19 @ 8:00 a.m. @ Splash Cove Parking Lot
- SDP Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., Thursday, April 23 - City Hall

MAY

- Farmers Market Opens, Saturday, May 2, 7:00 a.m. @ City Hall Parking Lot
- Spring Starts Here - Downtown Open House @ 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 9 - City Hall Parking Lot
- Shawnee Downtown Business Association Meeting, Wednesday, May 6, 6:00 p.m., @ Old Shawnee Pizza
- Pools Open, Saturday, May 23

JUNE

- Shawnee Downtown Business Association Meeting, Wednesday, June 3, 6:00 p.m., @ Old Shawnee Pizza
- Old Shawnee Days, Thursday, June 4 - Sunday June 7 - Shawnee Town
- Old Shawnee Days Parade, Saturday, June 6 - Shawnee Town
- SDP Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., Thursday, June 25 - City Hall

SHAWNEE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

Chairperson

Mike Unterreiner, Hartman Hardware

Vice Chairperson

Chris Calkins, Calkins Electric Supply

Tom Robinson
 Elaine Copp
 Scott Harvey, DC
 Andrew Nave
 Linda Leeper
 Becky Bieker
 Jeff Vaught
 Steven Wise
 Jeff Meyers
 Neal Sawyer
 Carol Gonzales
 Paul Chaffee
 Lauren Grashoff

KCP&L
 Mattes Appraisal
 Back in Motion
 Shawnee Economic Development Council
 Chamber of Commerce
 She's a Pistol
 The Vaught Group
 Planning Commission
 Mayor
 Ward II Councilmember
 City Manager
 Planning Director
 Neighborhood Planner



Pavement Sales Tax Update

In November 2014, Shawnee voters approved a new 10-year sales tax specifically designated for maintenance and improvements to City streets, curbs, and sidewalks. The pavement sales tax will take effect on April 1, 2015.

The first full month revenue distribution to the City will occur in late June. However, revenues from this tax will not be used as a part of the 2015 street maintenance program that was approved by the Governing Body on January 26. A total of \$4,805,000 was approved for street maintenance in 2015.

City staff and the Governing Body are working to determine how funds from the new pavement sales tax will be allocated for projects in the future. Public input will be a part of this process.

KNRA Tax Rebate

As a downtown business owner, you are eligible for the Neighborhood Revitalization Area tax rebate. This program is available to property owners that make improvements to their property that result in a least a \$5,000 increase in the appraised value. Owners are then eligible for a rebate of 90% of the eligible taxes paid on the improved value for 10 years. The remaining 10% of the taxes paid on the improved value are placed in a special fund to make improvements in the downtown area.

This program has seen great success in the past 11 years. If you are thinking about making any improvements to your property, this incentive may be right for you. To find out more, contact Lauren Grashoff at 742-6226.

NotifyJoCo

**What I need to know.
When I need to know it.**

If you live or work in Shawnee, you can now sign up to receive important information. NotifyJoCo is a free public notification system which will communicate emergency information to you through text, phone, and e-mail messages.

To use the system, go to www.NotifyJoCo.org to register your personal contact preferences. You will be asked to provide your contact information. You will then be prompted to identify multiple locations you care about (home, work, or your child's school), and choose which community notifications you would like to receive, in addition to emergency notifications. If you do not have internet access, please call (913) 826-5555 to register. All information provided will be kept confidential and only be used to contact you about emergencies and topics in which you have expressed interest.

When there is an emergency requiring notification, authorized Shawnee officials will identify affected areas

and send out the message through NotifyJoCo via text, phone, and e-mail messages allowing citizens to be immediately reached in emergency situations.

NotifyJoCo is a mass notification system made possible by a partnership between Johnson County, Water One, the cities of Lenexa, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village and Shawnee. For more information, visit www.NotifyJoCo.org.

