



WORDS from the HEART

# Mayor Michelle Distler

I am excited to officially reveal the City's new brand. I want to thank all of you who took the time to let us know what you love about Shawnee. Your comments truly drove this design and I hope you are as proud of "Hometown with Heart" as I am.

You'll notice this design has a familiar feeling to our official seal, almost like an evolution of our seal while staying true to our roots. "Hometown with Heart" speaks to the number one thing our residents and businesses say they love about Shawnee, which is the friendly, hometown feeling. The brand speaks to the heart of our community that we see daily with how our neighbors, volunteers, businesses, and staff look out for one another. No other community has what we have in Shawnee.

You will notice the word Shawnee and how the font makes you feel the friendly smile in our town. You'll notice the sun is the same as our seal and the warm colors can feel like fun in the sun or like a blanket wrapped around you on a cold day. You'll notice the hills and views that so many cherish about our green spaces, parks, and trails. Looking

at it historically, the hills also represent the land that once made Shawnee a successful truck farming town. Or, as one of our firefighters says, it reminds him of the view you'll see from the Lind Bridge looking west, representing our City's continued growth and expansion. Each element is intentional and speaks to Shawnee.

We have more on the City's new brand on page 3. You will start seeing it soon around Shawnee as we transition from the former "Good Starts Here" brand to our newly approved "Hometown with Heart". To be clear, "Hometown with Heart" will not replace the City's seal. You may have already noticed the new brand on our social media pages and a few other places. We are excited to embrace "Hometown with Heart" as it represents our pride and love of Shawnee.

Sincerely,

1 / lechelle

Mayor Michelle Distler



## - HOMETOWN WITH HEART ~

We are excited to reveal the City's new brand! The Governing Body approved the design at the February 27, 2023, Council meeting. The City partnered with Crux KC and spent nearly one year getting community feedback in person, in writing, at community events, at branding pop-ups, through surveys, and more. Staff and Crux teamed up to make sure all that community feedback drove this new design concept.

The brand reflects many things that kept popping up when we talked to our community. The sun is a nod to our history as it reflects a similar sun you see in our historic City seal. The rolling green hills are included because so many of you talked about loving our parks and green spaces in Shawnee. You'll notice they roll up towards the sun and to the right, showing our City's movement and growth forward. We included when Shawnee was established, in 1856, because people told us we need to know where we came from so we

can move the City forward in a smart, responsible way. We even spent hours and hours on the font. The upwards flair of the letters in "Shawnee" again indicates our community's growth and path forward. If you look closely, the outside lines of the brand even form an "S" that showcases the entire design.

The tagline, "Hometown with Heart," comes directly from our community. Time after time, the words "Hometown" and "Heart" come up when talking to residents, business folks, staff, and others about what Shawnee means to them. We feel "Hometown with Heart" truly captures what Shawnee feels like to so many of us. Whether you were born and raised here or have made it your hometown by choice, people care in this community. They do things with purpose, with heart, every single day. "Hometown With Heart" is a direct reflection of our community ...

#### ... It is dedicated to you.

# Welcome New City Manager

# **Doug Gerber**

Mayor Michelle Distler and the City Council announced Doug Gerber as Shawnee's new City Manager. Doug was sworn into office at the March 27, City Council meeting, during his first day with Shawnee.

The Governing Body approved a contract with Gerber at the City Council meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023. Gerber was one of five finalists who met with the Governing Body and City staff in an extensive interview process.

"As with any change in this community that I love, I am confident our staff will embrace it and support the new City Manager." said Mayor Michelle Distler.

When asked about his new position, Doug said, "I am humbled that I was selected as the next City Manager for the City of Shawnee. I am passionate about good local government and I am excited to begin working with the City Council and staff to continue to move Shawnee forward."

Doug comes to Shawnee after working for JEO Consulting Group where he helped develop the Kansas market. Before his work at JEO, Doug had a 22-year career in the public sector. Doug served in numerous positions for the City of Topeka, including Deputy City Manager, Director of Administrative and Financial Services, Interim Director of Utilities, Interim Director of Public Works, and Interim City Manager. Prior to working in Topeka, Doug served as City Manager of both Goodland, and Beloit, Kansas.

A native of Newton, KS, Doug received his bachelor's and master's in public administration from Kansas State University and completed a post-graduate internship in Kent County, Michigan.

Doug enjoys gardening, Kansas State athletics, and being involved in his children's activities.

Doug Gerber replaces Doug Whitacre, who has been serving as interim City Manager since November 2022, when former City Manager Nolan Sunderman resigned. Whitacre has returned to his role as Public Works Director.





THANK YOU, Shawnee residents, for your commitment to investing in our City! Revenue from the Parks, Pipes and Pavement sales tax have helped build parks, increase safety by addressing flood issues, and improve our streets.

In 2014, the voters of Shawnee approved the renewal of the City's ½ cent special sales tax for Parks and Pipes, and approved the new ¾ cent special sales tax for Pavement.

Since 2015, we have completed...

ADA Compliant Restrooms

ADA Compliant Restrooms

Invested in Parks
and Recreation

New Safety Surfacing for Grounds

NEW TRAIL CONNECTIONS TO

Gamblin Park

Gum Springs Park

DEVELOPED AND BUILT

THE FIRST PARKS WEST OF K-7

- ◆ Erfurt Park Trail Scout
- **♦ Wilder Bluff Park statue**

Structures removed from floodplain

Invested in Stormwater Management Projects

**NIEMAN CORRIDOR PROJECTS:** 

- **♦ Nieman South**
- ♦ 6200 Nieman
- ♦ Nieman Middle
- ♦ Nieman North

476.7 Total Nill and Overlay

I/O, I/I linear feet
Total Sidewalk Replacement

#### **JOHNSON & QUIVIRA PROJECTS**

- ♦ 59th & Caenen
- REBUILT STREETS
- Storm Drainage Improvements

**52ND CIR & 53RD ST DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS** 

525,233

linear feet
Total Curb
Replacement

# FLAGS 4 FREEDOM

Each year, Downtown Shawnee transforms into perfect rows of patriotic pride as Flags 4 Freedom volunteers place United States flags along Johnson Drive. Everyone is invited to stop by during the week around the Fourth of July to view an astonishing display that honors our nation.

We need volunteers to create this wonderful event. Visit cityofshawnee.org/shawneevolunteer to sign up!

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Assisting in marking the flag fields
- Installing flags
- Removing the flags after the event.



# **FARMERS** MARKET

Fresh and Locally Grown

**EVERY SATURDAY** MAY - OCTOBER 19

City Hall Parking Lot



# **Hometown Hero**

Our Hometown Hero project is back for the third year in a row! We love celebrating our Veterans and active service members in our community and are excited to begin registration for our 2023 banners.

Banners will hang on street light poles along Nieman Road from Shawnee Mission Parkway to 55th Street and Johnson Drive in our downtown area. They will be displayed from August through November and all families who purchase a banner will have an opportunity to pick up their banner at the end of the season to keep.

To be the first to hear when applications open in May, please subscribe to our e-mail notifications at cityofshawnee.org/links. You can also keep an eye on cityofshawnee.org/hometownhero to snag your spot before they fill up!



# Downtown Shawnee

Local Vendors - Crafts Fresh Produce - Live Music!

Third Thursday May - October - 5pm-9pm

Downtown Shawnee - City Hall Parking Lot

## **Neighbor with Heart Award**

Mayor Distler and the City are proud to give recognition through the Neighbor with Heart Award, a community-nominated award for residents, employees, and business owners who go above and beyond making Shawnee a better place. Please send your nomination to cityofshawnee@cityofshawnee.org, and be sure to include the full name of nominee with a brief description of why they are a Neighbor with Heart!



# Mayor's Top Dog

It's a ruff life, but some dog has to do it! Mayor Michelle Distler is looking for this year's perfect pooch to represent Shawnee. So get Fido fancy for his close-up, snap a pic, and send it in. Entry fees will go directly to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund. This year's beneficiaries are Shawnee Community Services and Sunflower House. Your \$10 entry fee will also enter you into a raffle for a Shawnee swag bag! Visit cityofshawnee.org/mctf for more information.



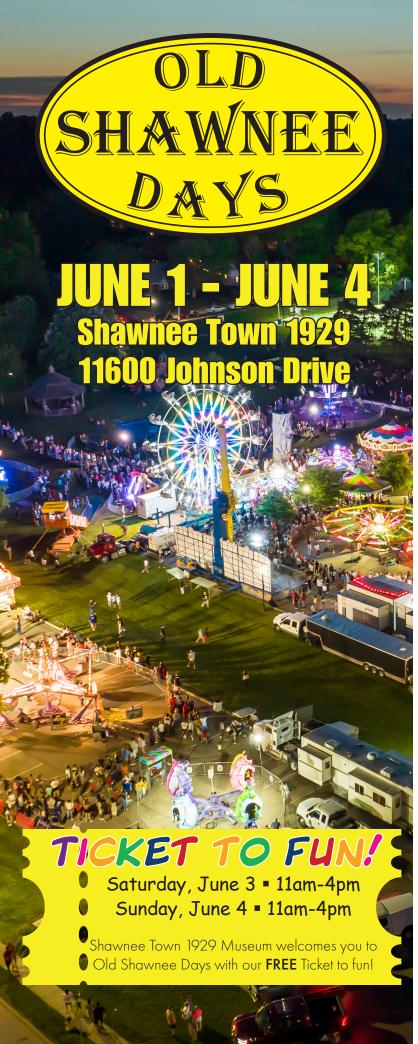


# **Shawnee Rotary Bike Rodeo** Saturday, May 6 - 9AM - 12PM

SMNW High School Parking Lot • 12701 W 67th Street



Free T-shirt - Free Bike Helmet - Bike Check Safety Course - Music - Family FUN!



# Bloody Mary Roll-Cit Party.

Wednesday, May 31 • 5:30pm - 7:30pm Shawnee Town 1929 • 11501 W. 57th Stroot



\$25 ticket includes:

Appetizers, Beer, Wine & Bloody Marys Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction RSVP at 913.248.2360

# JAMMIN' ON THE GREEI

Join us for Shawnee's hottest FREE concert series! Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs. Enter by the Visitor Center at 11501 W 57th Street. Shows begin at 7:00pm.

May 24: Vince Street Rumble Jazz Orchestra June 28:NEW! Beste & Clarke String Band

**July 26: The Grand Marquis** 

August 23: AnnaLee and the Lucky So & Sos **September 20: Hot Club KC** 

Sponsored by the Friends of Shawnee Town



# **Employees with Heart**



#### 1. What do you like most about your job?

What a conundrum! Is it the warm, stress-free work environment? Is it the flexible hours and compensation? Is it the job satisfaction I feel when performing my everyday duties? All are running a close 2nd, 3rd, and 4th on my list. What I like most about my job is working with some of the finest, thoughtful, caring individuals I have worked with. It has truly been a pleasure!

#### 2. How does your work impact the community?

I work as a Codes Enforcement Officer in the Community Development Department. Among other duties, we have a Codes Inspection Program where we inspect all rentals and foreclosed properties of repeat offenders. We are investigating these properties for codes violations including trash and refuse, abandoned vehicles, and exterior maintenance issues, among others. These efforts not only make Shawnee cleaner and safer but they also help maintain property values.

#### 3. What is your favorite spot in Shawnee?

One of Shawnee's little gems! There is a small little church on the corner of 57th and Reeder Street named Primitive Baptist Church. It was constructed in 1889. The history of this church is amazing! I would love a tour inside if anyone knows who owns and maintains this property. Shawnee Town comes in second!

# Ridin' into Our Hometown



Wild Bill Hickok found his home in Shawnee earlier this year when he was installed in Trail Scout Park, located near the northeast corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Nieman Road. Local artist Maretta Kennedy worked with the late artist Charles Goslin to complete this 13-foot tall, 2300-pound sculpture. Wild Bill plays an important role in Shawnee's history and his legacy is now a permanent part of our community.

Wild Bill is ready to "wave" the community westward for many years to come!

## Safe Senior Program Fire and Fall Prevention Workshop

Adult caretakers, are you concerned about your parents falling or accidentally leaving the stove top on? If so, please join us for a fun, educational workshop featuring information to help prevent accidental falls and fires. Members of the Safe Senior Program will offer tips for you and your loved ones.

We will also cover how you can schedule a FREE safe senior home visit, and look forward to answering any questions you may have. Visit tinyurl.com/safesenior to register.

Shawnee Library - Large Meeting Room Monday, May 8 • 6:00pm - 7:00pm 13811 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS 66216

# **ORANGE** Cone Zones Ahead

The 2023 Street Maintenance Program is officially underway! Crews will be out replacing damaged curbs and sidewalks along with repairing streets and providing some with a smooth new finish. Please submit a service request online at cityofshawnee. org/csr or use the Shawnee Connect Mobile App to report a street or sidewalk that is in need of repair.

Curious if your street or sidewalk is scheduled to get fixed this year? Visit cityofshawnee.org and click on Streets and Traffic Maintenance under the Public Works page. We want to thank you for your patience as we work to make your drives, rides and walks a little smoother throughout Shawnee!

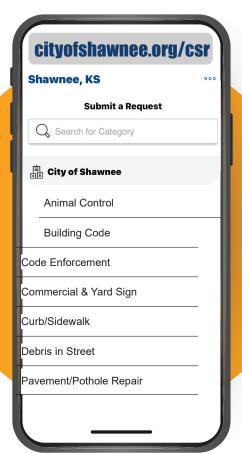
# Download















Solicitors will soon be out knocking on doors as the warm weather approaches. Here are a few tips to keep in mind if you are contacted by one.

- Permits are not required to solicit but solicitors must have a valid business license from our Community Development Department.
- Solicitors may not contact homes or businesses that have a "No Solicitors" sign or sticker. You can get a free one by calling 742-6014 or pick one up at City Hall.
- Soliciting can only happen between 10:00 a.m. and
- They may not solicit the same home more than once within a 30 day period.

For more regulations, head to cityofshawnee.org. If you ever feel in danger or are having trouble with a solicitor, call 911 immediately.

# **CODES CORNER**



How long can you have your trash bins out?

24 hours before your trash day



24 hours after your trash day

## Where should I store my trash bins?



Trash bins can also be stored behind the front line of your house

### What else do I need to know?



Check with your HOA to see if you have any other rules and policies.

> Want to learn more about being a Neat Neighbor? It's simple, just go to cityofshawnee.org!

Our Codes Enforcement Officers are here to help! CodeEnforcement@cityofshawnee.org or 913.742.6230

# **YOU ARE INVITED!**

# **CITY OPEN HOUSE**

**June 17, 2023 • 9am to 12pm** Justice Center • 5850 Renner Road





## neighbors helping neighbors

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a program connecting volunteers with eligible residents. A couple hours of your time makes a lasting impact on our community. Visit cityofshawnee.org/nhn to find out ways our volunteers help their neighbors in need.

cityofshawnee.org/nhn

cityofshawnee.org/shawneevolunteer

# **Firework Safety**

The City Council voted in May of 2022 to allow fireworks during a specific time frame, and to allow the sale of fireworks in the City starting this year. Here is what you need to know for a fun and safe Fourth of July.

#### When Can You Set-Off Fireworks?

Fireworks may be legally set off within city limits between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on July 3 and July 4.

#### What Fireworks are NOT allowed?

Bottle rockets, sky lanterns, and M80's

#### Where are Fireworks Prohibited?

- Within 150 feet from fireworks stands or gas pumps
- Within 1,000 feet from medical buildings, elder care facilities, public buildings, and schools
- Under, on, or from a vehicle
- Into a gathering of people
- Public property including parks, sidewalks, and streets
- Cemeteries
- Inside any building or structure

#### Where Can You Purchase Fireworks?

Fireworks will be sold in five locations throughout the City. One location in Wards 1, 2, and 3 and two locations in Ward 4. Visit cityofshawnee.org/fireworks for a list of locations.

#### When Can You Purchase Fireworks?

City ordinance allows sales during the following dates and times.

- June 27 through July 5
- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (hours may vary by location)

#### Safety Tips

- Always read and follow label instructions.
- Keep fireworks away from small children.
- Separate alcohol and fireworks and designate a "Sober Shooter".
- Keep an eye on your pets, especially if loud noises startle them.
- Be considerate of veterans or anyone who may struggle with PTSD.

Contact Deputy Fire Chief Corey Sands at 742-6102 if you have questions about the use of fireworks. Contact the Police Department at 631-2150 if you have a concern about fireworks being set off outside of the designated days and times allowed.

## Thank a Co-Responder Today!

The City is fortunate to have two mental health co-responders in our Police Department. The coresponder program consists of licensed clinicians employed by Johnson County Mental Health but embedded in the Police Department. Citizens are not charged for their services, which include: behavioral health assessments, crisis intervention, community outreach, family support, and more.

Mental health co-responders help keep Shawnee safe by assisting law enforcement with crisis situations, and reducing repeat calls for service by efficiently guiding those in need to appropriate resources.

Mental Health Co-Responders: "Providing the right intervention, at the right time, by the right person."

If you are looking for a career with great benefits, even better co-workers and competitive pay, it is time to check us out! Working for the community is an awesome way to know you are making a real difference every day you go to work. Here are some of our current openings.

- Police Officer
- Firefighter
- Customer Service Representative
- Seasonal Laborer Public Works and Parks & Rec

Seasonal Pool Positions

# Dur Teg

cityofshawnee.org/jobs



# Stormwater Snapshot

Streams and creeks are important parts of the watershed and many are federally regulated. Any physical change can impact the watershed upstream and can lead to flooding. Work is not allowed in streams or creeks without a permit. Contact our Public Works Department at 742-6009 for more information.

# **Get Paid to Go GREEN!**

Contain the Rain, Stormwater Cost Share Program For more information visit cityofshawnee.org/stormwater and click on "Contain the Rain, Stormwater Cost Share Program"!

## **Keeping YOU Connected!**

We are taking a new approach to keep our residents informed. Check out the new solar-powered information signs located throughout Shawnee!



#### **Sign Locations**

Woodland Drive and Clear Creek Trail Ox Bow Park- 6020 Nieman Road Civic Centre - 13817 Johnson Drive

# **TIDY TOWN Reminder**

As a reminder, you need to schedule your customized curbside pickup date directly with your trash company. You can also use the Tidy Town voucher that was mailed to every home in January and take one car or pickup truck load to the landfill for a free drop-off. Please note, you must take your Tidy Town voucher with you. Questions about the landfill drop off, call (913) 631-8181 and hit prompt #2 or email jcl@wm.com.

### Questions? about Curbside Bulky-Item Pick Up Contact Your Hauler.

Waste Management 913.631.3300

Republic (A-1/Superior) 913.279.6033

GFL Environmental 816.380.5595

KC Disposal 816.388.9739 Constable Sanitation 816.204.1192

cityofshawnee.org/tidytown

## For Updates Please Visit cityofshawnee.org/calendar

#### Iune

- 1-4 Old Shawnee Days
- Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 12 City Council & Council Committee Meetings 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Moonlight Market 5:00 p.m. Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30 p.m.
- 17 City Open House 9:00 a.m.
- 19 Juneteenth City Offices Closed
- 21 Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Shawnee Downtown Partnership 6:00 p.m.
- **26** City Council & Council Committee Meetings 6:00 p.m.
- **30** PARKED 5:30 p.m.

#### July

- Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Independence Day City Offices Closed
- Parks and Rec. Advisory Board 5:30 p.m.
- 10 City Council & Council Committee Meetings 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Moonlight Market 5:00 p.m. Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30 p.m.
- 24 City Council & Council Committee Meetings 6:00 p.m.

#### August

- Parks and Rec. Advisory Board 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 14 City Council & Council Committee Meetings 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Moonlight Market 5:00 p.m. Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Shawnee Downtown Partnership 6:00 p.m.
- 28 City Council & Council Committee Meetings 6:00 p.m.

# Need a RI

CityRide is available to Shawnee residents who are 65 years of age or older or who have a disability. Want to find out if you qualify? Give us a call at 742-6014 or visit cityofshawnee.org and search "CityRide".





#### **SERVE YOUR** COMMUNITY

We are looking for volunteers who are engaged in Shawnee and feel a strong drive to serve our community.

#### **SHAPE THE FUTURE OF** SHAWNEE

**Each Board and Commission makes** recommendations to our City Council on a variety of projects, developments and decisions that help shape Shawnee.

#### **WAYS TO SERVE**

- Planning Commission
- Parks and Recreation **Advisory Board**
- Board of Zoning **Appeals**
- Code Board of Appeals
- Civil Service Commission
- Community Police **Advisory Board**

#### LEARN MORE

**Each Board and** Commission requires different time commitments. Visit cityofshawnee. org/calendar to see when meetings are scheduled.

# **READY TO APPLY**

Visit cityofshawnee.org

You will find descriptions of each Board and Commission, along with information on how to apply. We accept applications any time.

City of Shawnee 11110 Johnson Drive Shawnee, KS 66203

PRSRT STD **US Postage PAID** Olathe, KS **Permit # 609** 

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Mayor

Michelle Distler (913) 634-5883 mdistler@cityofshawnee.org

Ward I

tthomas@cityofshawnee.org Tammy Thomas (913) 221-3606 (913) 230-1608 Tony Gillette tgillette@cityofshawnee.org

Ward II

Eric Jenkins (913) 669-1076 ejenkins@cityofshawnee.org mkemmling@cityofshawnee.org Mike Kemmling (913) 667-9888

Ward III

Kurt Knappen kknappen@cityofshawnee.org (913) 608-2724 Angela Stiens astiens@cityofshawnee.org (913) 909-9903

**Ward IV** 

Jill Chalfie (913) 259-4679 jchalfie@cityofshawnee.org jwalters@cityofshawnee.org Jacklynn Walters (913) 302-3053

All Things Hometown, an official publication of the City of Shawnee, Kansas, is published four times a year and mailed to residents in Shawnee under the direction of the Deputy City Manager. Readers' comments may be directed to:

> Deputy City Manager 11110 Johnson Drive Shawnee, Kansas 66203 By phone 742-6230 or e-mail cgard@cityofshawnee.org

This document, meeting agendas and packets, and other information about Shawnee, are available at cityofshawnee.org.

## **CONTACT US**

Building Inspections/Permits	742-6010
City Hall	631-2500
CityRide – Request Ride	647-0010
CityRide – Sign-Up	742-6014
Civic Centre	631-5200
Code Enforcement	742-6010
Fire Department/Burning Permits	631-1080
Johnson County Election Office	715-6800
Odor Complaints	894-3777
Police (Non-Emergency)	631-2150
Police/Fire Emergency	9-1-1
Parks and Recreation	631-5200
Planning & Zoning	742-6011
Public Works	742-6008
Recycling & Trash	742-6258
Shawnee Town 1929	248-2360
Snow Hotline	742-6097
Splash Cove	631-7177
Street Lights/Traffic Signals/Signs	742-6008
Thomas A. Soetaert Aquatic Center	631-0054
Traffic Tickets	742-6003
Volunteer Opportunities	742-6244
1.1	



**Cover Picture:** Dogs leave paw prints forever on our hearts!







