

Winter 2023

CityLine

A Few GOOD Words



SHAWNEE
K A N S A S



A FEW GOOD WORDS FROM
Mayor Michelle Distler

The holiday season is right around the corner. As you spend time with your family and friends, we hope you take time to reflect on the positive things that have happened this year.

We are definitely doing that at the City. We are honored to be celebrating our Community of Excellence distinction. All of our City Departments eligible to achieve accreditation have done just that, including Public Works, Police, Fire and Parks and Recreation. You can read more details about this celebration on page 6 and 7.

Your City Council also unanimously approved the 2023 budget, which included a mill levy rate reduction of about two mills. Nearly 70% of the budget is dedicated to the areas of the City that have the most impact on your day to day life, including Public Safety, Public Works and projects. The budget includes improvements to Fire Stations 71 and 73, Gum Springs Park, a Shawnee Town 1929 Chapel and Gleason Road Bridge upgrades. You can read more about the budget process at cityofshawnee.org/budget.

While we are thankful our City is moving forward, we also make a point to focus on those in our community who need help along the way. I have chosen both Shawnee Community Services and Mercy and Truth Medical Missions to benefit from the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund this year. We all know the people of Shawnee truly care about our community and this is our time to truly show it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Mayor Michelle Distler

Spread holiday cheer this season by giving to the



Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund



cityofshawnee.org/mctf

**all proceeds benefit two
local organizations**



Shawnee Community Services



Mercy and Truth Medical Missions

- Make a donation at cityofshawnee.org/mctf
- Buy a special edition Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund shirt, candle, ornament or holiday card at the Shawnee Town 1929 Gift Shop
- Honor a friend or loved one by purchasing a bluebird box plaque
- **NEW!** Music Bingo Night at Servaes Brewery on Wednesday, November 16 starting at 7pm
- **NEW!** Wandering Vine at the Castle will be hosting a Dine at the Vine event on December 5

cityofshawnee.org/mctf

Christkindl at MOONLIGHT MARKT



Downtown Shawnee ■ City Hall Parking Lot

November 17 ■ 4pm - 8pm

WHAT MAKES SHAWNEE SHINE?

WHO WE TALKED TO

701	Total Individuals
659	Kansas Residents and 18 Missouri Residents
586	Shawnee Residents
47	Shawnee Business Owners

WHAT THEY SAID

What are your favorite parts of being a member of the Shawnee community?

539	Location
432	Safety
411	Parks and Recreation Activities

What five words best describe the City of Shawnee?

193	Friendly
145	Safe
81	Fun
79	Community
77	Clean



See the full survey results here!

We spent the summer talking to residents, business owners and leaders from across the community to help us create our new brand!



Fire Station 71
6501 Quivira



Fire Station 73
6805 Hedge Lane Terrace



Renovations will soon be underway at both Fire Station 71 at 6501 Quivira and Fire Station 73 at 6805 Hedge Lane Terrace. Final designs and pricing will go to the City Council in December. If approved, construction will then kick off. We are excited to show you all the new features when the upgrades are finished up in mid-2024. You can read more about this project and others at cityofshawnee.org/projects.

What Your Tax Dollars Will Go Towards in 2023

The City of Shawnee is proud to present the 2023 budget. Staff members have been presenting the proposed budget to Council through a series of meetings that started in May. The Governing Body voted unanimously to formally adopt the budget at the City Council meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022.

For the first time, City staff held a series of Budget Open Houses, in a new attempt to reach our residents, answer their questions and address any concerns. Several Councilmembers commended staff for working diligently with the Council to ensure we delivered a responsible budget that benefits our community.

"We listened to our community and took great consideration into what they told us is important to them," says Mayor Michelle Distler. "The Governing Body will continue to work closely with staff to make sure we are directing taxpayer dollars to things our residents tell us to focus on including our safety, the streets we drive on, sidewalks we walk on and the parks we play in. Our community is everything to us and we will support Shawnee in every way possible."

Here are some of the highlights of the 2023 budget.

- Reduction of the mill levy rate of approximately 2 mills to 24.004.
- 69% of budget dedicated to Public Safety, Public Works and projects
- Fire facility improvements at Fire Station 71 at 6501 Quivira and Fire Station 73 at 6805 Hedge Lane Terrace
- Gum Springs Park improvements
- New Parks Maintenance Facility
- Shawnee Town 1929 Chapel
- Gleason Road Bridge improvements

You can find detailed budget information, as well as all past budget presentations, at cityofshawnee.org/agendas and on our Annual Budget Process page. If you have any questions about the budget process, please feel free to reach out to us at 742-6230 or send an e-mail to cityofshawnee@cityofshawnee.org.

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 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 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

SHAWNEE, KANSAS

COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

The City of Shawnee is proud to share it is a Community of Excellence! This makes Shawnee one of the few cities in the nation to share this high honor. This title comes after many hours of hard work and high accolades awarded to the Public Works, Police, Fire and Parks and Recreation Departments. The United States Chamber of Commerce also awarded the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce a five-star accreditation. The City is also proud to hold a AAA bond rating and ISO 1 rating, which can help lower some insurance rates.

These high honors are difficult to receive and have required City staff to perform at their best while providing high-quality services to the community. From the snow plow drivers to the K9 police officers to our dedicated firefighters to the aquatic center lifeguards, everyone has done their part to make Shawnee the vibrant community it is today.

City Manager Nolan Sunderman heavily inspired this undertaking and understands how important it is for the community to see the work staff does. “We want our residents to know we are here to serve them and are dedicated to putting in the work, day in and day out, to ensure our community receives the highest levels of public service possible.” Sunderman adds that “These accreditations also showcase our employees’ hard work, dedication, and collaboration across all departments. It shows we care, we have pride in our community and are constantly striving to provide excellent services.”





- The American Public Works Association awarded the Shawnee Public Works Department accreditation in 2015. Since then, Public Works staff have worked hard to complete reaccreditation.
- The Shawnee Fire Department earned their accreditation from the Commission of Fire Accreditation International in 2017, has received an ISO-1 rating in 2019, and has since completed reaccreditation. This commitment to service is one of the many reasons we are proud of our Fire Department!
- The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies awarded the Shawnee Police Department accreditation in 2019. After earning accreditation, the Department has continued to work hard to provide the highest quality of service, continuing their accreditation status into 2022!
- In 2019, the City of Shawnee received a AAA bond rating. AAA bond ratings are only given to cities that meet the highest fiscal responsibility requirements. Managing our taxpayers’ dollars with intention is something we take great pride in.
- Additionally, the United States Chamber of Commerce named the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce an accredited five-star Chamber.
- The Shawnee Parks and Recreation Department received the highest marks possible from the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies and earned their accreditation in September 2022.

Mayor Michelle Distler says she is proud of the community, Governing Body, and City staff that worked together for these high honors. “We now have four accredited Departments because of the combined efforts of the community, Governing Body and hundreds of employees from all across the City that came together to make all this happen. These accreditations are more than titles. They are sources of pride for our community and a reassurance that residents know we are all working to make Shawnee the best place to be.”

Though the City has enthusiastically received these accolades, they are most concerned with providing quality services to residents day in and day out. Staff recognizes the trust residents place in them when they decide to live in Shawnee. They trust staff to plow their streets when it snows, keep the community safe, provide safe spaces to run and play, bring in businesses that encourage community and fun, to communicate important matters effectively and to keep us connected to the rest of the area with well-maintained roads. Our staff’s public servant mindset is to credit for the City receiving these high honors.

All departments will continue to seek reaccreditation to prove to residents our commitment to providing quality services and making Shawnee a great place to live is nothing but steadfast. This strong foundation inspires hard work, celebration and attracts high-quality candidates to work for the City.

Join us in congratulating our hard-working employees who put in the time and work every day to serve Shawnee. We are proud to be a Community of Excellence, but we are even more proud of the staff who made it happen.



Help Us Keep Our Parks Happy!

Looking to rack up some volunteer hours? We have plenty of opportunities to help out! We are looking for people to clear honeysuckle from Gamblin Park near 64th and Monticello. Honeysuckle is an invasive plant that can overtake native plants that are good for our wildlife, parks and trails. If you would like to join us on Saturday, November 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., you can head to cityofshawnee.org/shawneevolunteer to sign up!



Good Employees Start Here.



Josie Hermreck
Accounting Manager

1. What do you like most about your job?

I simply love the people that I work with. The Finance Department is a small department that has a couple of hardworking people that put a lot of effort into making the City shine. I have the pleasure of paying the City employees and City Council. That makes many people happy.

2. How does your work impact the community?

I am the support system that allows front line workers with Police, Fire, Codes, Public Works and more to go about doing their interactions within the community while keeping the bills and employees paid. I also assist in managing the City's money to keep the City in good fiscal standings.

What is your favorite spot in Shawnee?

I love all of our trails that we have. I feel safe and enjoy walking while enjoying the beautiful scenery. The newest park that I love to take my grandkids to play at is Wilder Bluff Park. It is not crowded and is just such a beautiful place. The kids have fun running around on the play equipment and, when they are finished playing, we go for walk on the trail. We look for rocks, leaves and anything else that looks interesting. Big win!

Lantern Walking Tour

Saturday, November 12
6pm-9pm - \$10 per person
Timed Entry: Preregistration is required

Shawnee Town 1929 Museum • 11501 West 57th St
EVENT HELD RAIN OR SHINE!

Senior Services and Community Assistance

Did you know our website has quite a bit of information about how senior citizens and other folks in our community can get help? Here are just a few examples of programs that can help eligible residents save money.

- City rebates on franchise fees and telephone land lines
- CityRide
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors program that provides some home maintenance and repair
- Property Tax Relief
- Johnson County Services
- Prescription Assistance Program
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program

These are just a few of the local resources that can help you. Visit cityofshawnee.org and search “Senior Services” or give us a call at 631-2500. We will be happy to talk to you about the different requirements for each program.

Team Shawnee

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
- Civic Centre Customer Service Representative
- Maintenance Worker
- Seasonal Laborer openings for both Public Works and Parks and Recreation

You can find detailed job descriptions, current openings and more at cityofshawnee.org/jobs.

Join
Our Team



cityofshawnee.org/jobs

VOLUNTEER



cityofshawnee.org/shawneevolunteer



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

Need a RIDE?

CityRide is a transportation program that gives eligible Shawnee residents an affordable lift. Residents age 65 or older, OR residents who provide a doctor's letter stating their disability, can take advantage of this unique partnership between the City and 10/10 Taxi. For more information please call 742-6014. CityRide members can:

- Purchase 10 one-way trips per month for \$2 per trip;
- Riders can go anywhere in the City limits, as well as the AdventHealth Shawnee Mission Hospital Complex, Merriam Community Center, and the Mission Transit Center;
- Riders can bring up to three additional riders with no extra cost.



6 QUICK TIPS



PUT THE CHILL ON COLD WEATHER CRIMES

1 Don't warm up your unlocked car in the driveway.



2 Don't leave your car unlocked while getting gas or running inside a store.

3 Never leave children alone in the car.



4 Allow extra drive time during winter weather conditions.

5 Keep your cell phones charged.



6 Have an emergency kit in your car.

Stormwater Snapshot

Flooding can affect us when we least expect it. Check with your insurance agent to ensure your homeowners policy covers floodwaters as many policies do not.

Do you know if your property is in or near the FEMA floodplain? Our Public Works Department can answer floodplain questions and provide you a link to the FEMA floodplain map service. Call us at 742-6009 with your floodplain questions.

Crews Gearing Up for Snow Season

We all know SNOW is going to happen sooner or later. Our Public Works Department has been preparing for months to make sure your streets are cleared as quickly as possible when the snow, sleet and ice begins. Here are some tips to keep handy as winter approaches.

- **Snow Tracker:** During a storm, you can see where our drivers have been and how recently online at cityofshawnee.org/snow.
- **Snow Hotline:** Allow our drivers plenty of time to complete their routes before calling 742-6097 about a street that may have been missed.
- **Citizen Service Request:** If you think your street was missed, you can enter a Citizen Service Request online at cityofshawnee.org/csr or through the Shawnee Connect app on your smartphone.
- **Monitor social media:** We frequently update before, during and after winter storms on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor.

Our crews work very hard to safely and quickly get our streets treated and cleared. They take a lot of pride in their work, so don't hesitate to give them a wave and a little patience as they work through their routes.



Snow Squad



Following winter storms, there are many residents in our community who are unable to clear snow and ice off of their driveways and sidewalks. That's when the Shawnee Snow Squad jumps into action!

If you own a snow shovel, snow blower, or snow plow and have a passion for serving in the community, volunteer to join our Snow Squad. Volunteers assist Shawnee residents that are physically unable to remove snow from their driveways and sidewalks.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Elizabeth Griffith, at 742-6244 or egriffith@cityofshawnee.org to sign up!

For Updates Please Visit
cityofshawnee.org/calendar

December

- 1 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board - 5:30 p.m.
- 5 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 12 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6pm
- 15 Shawnee Downtown Partnership - 6pm
Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Christmas Holiday Observed - City Offices Closed

January

- 2 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board - 5:30 p.m.
- 9 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6pm
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr Day - City Offices Closed
- 18 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30 p.m.
- 23 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6pm

February

- 2 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board - 5:30 p.m.
- 6 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 13 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6pm
- 16 Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Presidents' Day - City Offices Closed
- 22 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Shawnee Downtown Partnership - 6pm
- 27 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6pm



Cover Picture: Join us for Christkindl at Moonlight Markt on Thursday, November 17 from 4pm to 8 pm at City Hall, 11110 Johnson Drive.

WANT TO SERVE ON A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION?

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 wide variety of projects, developments and decisions that help shape Shawnee.

DIFFERENT 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

WANT TO 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

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Olathe, KS
Permit # 609

GOOD SERVICE STARTS HERE.

Agendas - Meetings	742-6243
Animal Control	631-2150
Appraiser (County)	715-9000
Athletic Field Reservations	631-5200
Building Inspections	742-6010
Burning Permits	631-1080
Business Licenses	742-6011
Car Tags	826-1800
Chamber of Commerce	631-6545
City Clerk	742-6014
City Council	742-6238
City Hall	631-2500
City Manager	742-6200
CityRide	742-6014
Civic Centre	631-5200
Code Enforcement/Building Permits	742-6010
Deck Permits	742-6010
Driver's License (State)	432-2266
Engineering	742-6012
Fire Department	631-1080
Garage Sale Regulations	742-6014
Health Department (County)	826-1200
Job Hotline	742-6013
Johnson County Election Office	715-6800
Johnson County Library	826-4600
Junk Vehicles	631-2150
Odor Complaints	894-3777
Mayor	742-6238
Paint Disposal (County)	715-6907
Pavement & Sidewalk Maintenance	742-6008
Police (Non-Emergency)	631-2150
Police Emergency	9-1-1
Parks and Recreation	631-5200
Rainout Line	815-2122
Planning & Zoning	742-6011
Public Works Maintenance	742-6008
Purchasing/Finance	742-6015
Recycling & Solid Waste Questions	742-6204
Right of Way Hotline	742-6023
Road Construction	742-6009
Shawnee Town 1929	248-2360
Shelter House Reservations	631-5200
Sign Permits	742-6011
Solicitors - Suspicious	9-1-1
Street Lights	742-6008
Tall Grass - Weeds	742-6010
Town Hall Rental	248-2360
Traffic Tickets	742-6003
Volunteer Opportunities	742-6244
Voter Registration	715-6800

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor

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

Ward I

Tammy Thomas (913) 221-3606 tthomas@cityofshawnee.org

Tony Gillette (913) 230-1608 tgillette@cityofshawnee.org

Ward II

Eric Jenkins (913) 669-1076 ejenkins@cityofshawnee.org

Mike Kemmling (913) 667-9888 mkemmling@cityofshawnee.org

Ward III

Kurt Knappen (913) 608-2724 kknappen@cityofshawnee.org

Angela Stiens (913) 909-9903 astiens@cityofshawnee.org

Ward IV

Jill Chalfie (913) 259-4679 jchalfie@cityofshawnee.org

Jacklynn Walters (913) 302-3053 jwalters@cityofshawnee.org

The **CityLine**, 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 Communications Manager. Readers' comments are encouraged and may be directed to:

Communications Manager
11110 Johnson Drive
Shawnee, Kansas 66203
By phone 742-6202 or
e-mail jbreithaupt@cityofshawnee.org

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

