

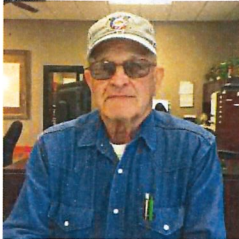
NODA *news*

Newsletter of the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority

(Winter/2022) Volume (4)

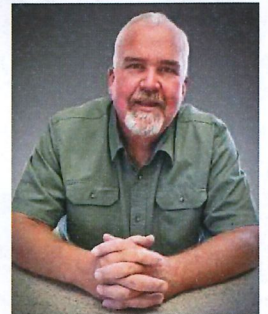


CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Jay Hague was the Alfalfa County Commissioner of District 1 since 2016, and served on the NODA board since that time. His duties as the commissioner varied from maintaining and construction of county roads and bridges, approval and oversight of county budgets through the board of county commissioners, as well as functioning as the business manager of the county. This year Alfalfa County elected a new commissioner for District 1, Garrett Johnson. Bringing Jay's time on the board to an end at our December board meeting, Jay has been an invaluable member and asset to our board; his insight and wisdom in our meetings will be greatly missed.

Alfalfa County has now appointed Mike Roach, County Commissioner of District 2. Mike has been in office since Jan 01, 2021. Mike has been a member of the Burn Association since the beginning, becoming the Secretary maintaining the meeting records and drafting the bylaws. He attended every meeting and assisted with every burn. With his experience as the leader of a hard-working roofing crew and active co-manager of a growing farm business that included corn farming, organizing schedules, maintaining records, and adapting to best practices in an ever changing market, he will be an extremely useful presence on our board. As a farmer rancher of the county he understands the needs of roadways and water drainage issues. We are looking forward to his new vision and the prospective he can bring with him to the board this coming year.



January 2023 Season Opener for CDBG Applications

The FY23 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application season is fast approaching. As a benefit to being a member of NODA, our staff will assist you to help your community apply for CDBG funding at no cost. CDBG makes it possible for communities to finance a variety of public infrastructure and economic improvements, thus improving the lives of your residents. The FY23 CDBG application cycle will open in mid to late January.

Anticipated application due dates are:

- *Community Revitalization: late March
- *Water/Wastewater Engineering and Construction: early May
- *Capital Improvements Plan (CIP): early July

Are you prepared for CDBG Grants?

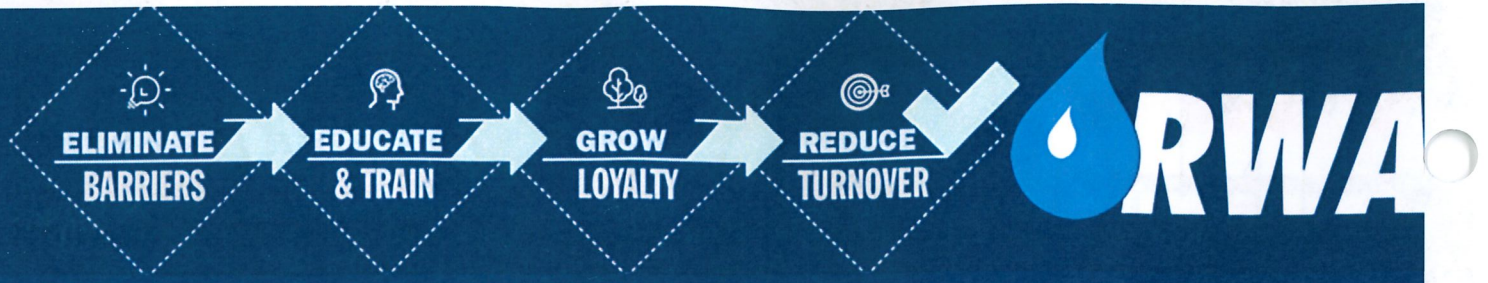
If you are planning to apply in 2023 here are a few items to consider completing now that we feel can speed up the application process when the season starts:

- * Have you registered your city/town/county with SAM.gov? Make sure you are registered and have the annual update completed in order to receive federal funds
- * Is your income survey current? Must have a survey completed in 2018-2019-2020-2021-2022 or a new one

in 2023.



If you have a project that you would like to submit an application for CDBG funds, please contact Jennifer Firgard at 580.599.0358 or jennifer@noda-oeda.org.



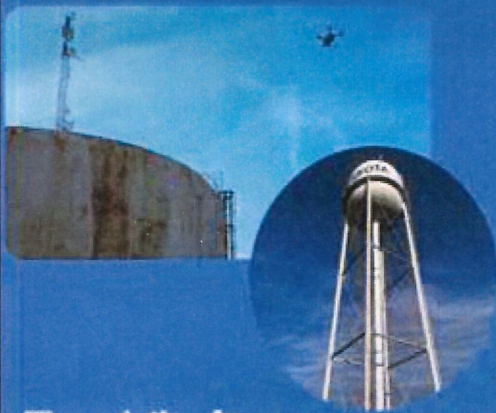
Water & Wastewater Systems Operation Specialists

APPRENTICESHIP

Training For A Sustainable Workforce



Industry leaders in water and wastewater for over 50 years



The solution for a sustainable workforce

Before you hire, try apprenticeship! For every \$1.00 spent on apprenticeship, employers gain \$1.50 through increased productivity, reduced waste, and greater front-line innovation!

www.orwa.org
 (405) 672-8925
office@orwa.org

The Oklahoma Rural Water Association (ORWA) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to assist water and wastewater systems with day-to-day operational and management problems. Formed in 1970 the ORWA gave voices to rural and small utilities in legislative and regulatory issues, where previously they were largely ignored or silenced.

Realizing the potential for strain on the workforce in the next couple of years, the ORWA started their Apprentice Program. With little to no-cost those interested in becoming an apprentice will attend a 2 year program and given the tools necessary to be a successful operation specialist through instruction and on-the-job training. Participants can earn while they learn.

Anyone interested should contact the ORWA today, and get your new career flowing!

WHY APPRENTICESHIP?

Industry Leaders

The first and only program designed specifically for our industry by professionals who have dedicated their careers to water and wastewater.

Training Future Generations Today

Within the next 10 years, our industry stands to lose 30-50% of the workforce to retirement. Employers can prepare for this loss by training the next generation of employees today!

Capturing Years of Operational Knowledge

Apprentices are able to learn from knowledgeable certified trainers, experts, and mentors at the specific utility where they are employed. They will gain 4,000 on the job training hours and 288 hours of related technical instruction.

Using the Newest Technology

Apprentices will be exposed to emerging technologies used within the water and wastewater industry.

When an apprentice receives their certificate of completion from the U.S. Department of Labor, the apprentice will have a wide range of career prospects across Oklahoma with the benefit of no student loan debt. There will always be a need for water and wastewater professionals, and this apprenticeship program will ensure that highly skilled professionals will always be prepared and ready to fill these needed roles.

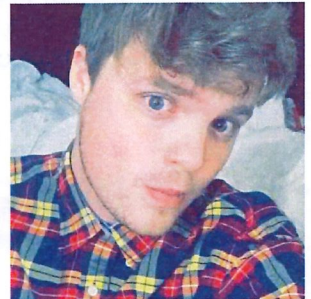
You can contact Sandra Stevenson
 Apprenticeship Manager
sandra@orwa.org.

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP = PAID JOB + EDUCATION ⇒ CERTIFICATION

Welcome To The Team

NODA is excited to welcome Brock Spencer as the newest member of our team. Brock is the new Transportation Planner working with NORTPO at the NODA office and with his start date in December 2022, we felt this new addition was a great way to ring in the new year. Brock graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2018 with a B.A. Political Science. Brock has always had a devout interest in policy research and through his years of being a debater as well as a debate coach, being able to research and present each side of any given topic allowed him to be able to dive in to and distinguish the pros and cons of many different ideas and issues. He chose to come work for NODA in order to maintain and broaden his interest in policy research through working in and applying his skills in a professional work environment. Brock has a passion for philosophy and history books, history teaches us where we have been and through philosophy we are able to determine the ethics, and develop critical thinking to help us be able to not repeat our mistakes through wisdom and a desire for the pursuit of the truth.

Brock grew up in the Eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas regions, he has 6 total siblings a full brother, half-sister, 2 step sisters and 2 step brothers. He loves spending time with his loved ones, and playing with his Rhodesian Ridgeback/Cur Mix dog Titan. He enjoys watching the Oklahoma Sooners as well as professional wrestling to relax, with his guilty pleasure of listening to Taylor Swift music. While Brock says that he has mastered playing chess competitively, he is tripped up by wrapping presents stating that he is much better at gift bags and tissue paper. Growing up Brock wanted to be a broadcaster/journalist, but found that having another person to interact with his policy theories was better suited towards his pursuit of philosophical understanding. He says he is working toward a better grasp on active listening to not just hear the words but understand the meaning and intent. Brock also stated that his biggest pet peeve is disorganization, he likes things neat and tidy with a place for everything and everything in its place. We anticipate all the great things that Brock will be able to accomplish by putting his own personal stamp on transportation planning and serving the needs of our communities.



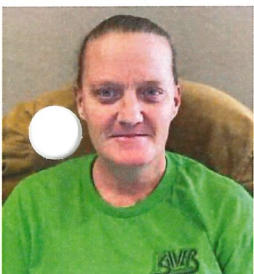
happy retirement

Deborah (Debbie) Powell retired this year from our CST office, she had been with CST since July 07, 2010 and retired on Nov 01, 2022. The office at Garber held a farewell party for the long standing office assistant who did so much for the company. Debbie took care of the scheduling day-sheets for the drivers, dispatching rides, and keeping track of the drivers' annual and sick leaves. While we are all sad to see Debbie go, we are grateful for her dedication and hard work that she did for all the drivers and the CST office, and wish her the happiest retirement with a fulfilling life.



you say goodbye, and I say hello.

Alicia Macias started with CST as a driver in August 2021, and with Debbie retiring she graciously offered to step up and fill the big shoes that would be left by Debbie. She was able to train directly under Debbie in order to learn the ins and outs of the new job. Alicia is excited to be able to advance her career within NODA/CST and is will still drive customers occasionally if needed. Alicia will be a great addition to the office staff and CST with her enthusiasm for her new position. We welcome her and look forward to all the things that we can do together for all of our clients.



NODA'S



ANNUAL

Chili Cookoff



In 1952 the first modern day cook-off was held at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas, and was the advertising gambit Joe E. Cooper to push his new book "With or Without Beans", considered a major success with 55 contestants vying for the grand prize. This year NODA was excited to be able to revive our bedlam series chili cook-off. The last several years the cook-off had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting in 2025 the OU Sooners will become a part of the SEC, and OSU will stay in the NCAA 'Big 12 Conference', which leaves the fate of the storied rivalry in question. This year's revival was kicked off in a big way, five employee participants submitted their own chili for judging. Held on the same day as our November board meeting, we had more judges than we'd had in the past and a special guest judge, Andrew Van Leuven Ph.D., the Assistant Professor of Community and Rural Development at Oklahoma State University. After much tasting, debating, testing, and even more tasting the votes were turned in and counted. This year's overall winner was Payton Herron, with Michelle Emmerson winning the "Best Traditional Chili". We thank all the judges for their time and consideration, knowing that every entry was delicious, we realize how hard they had to work to determine a winner.



'tis the season.....



TO ROCK



UGLY

Sweaters

For our December monthly board meeting, board members were encouraged to show their Christmas spirit by wearing their best 'ugly Christmas sweaters', and they did not disappoint.

(Left to Right) Philip Schrahl, Marci Hyde, Dixie Johnson, Dea Mandevill, Tiffany Tillman, and Jennifer Firkard.

THE
Spotlight
 Get to Know Our Board



Ashley Humphrey, the Stormwater and Roadway Maintenance Supervisor for the City of Enid, joined our board in April of 2022. She has worked with the City of Enid since December of 2017, and is on track to graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern New Hampshire University in 2024. She has a certification in Applied Marketing Strategy that she earned in April of 2022.

Ashley served in the United States Navy from 2005 to 2010, stationed out of San Diego and was deployed three times during the Global War on Terrorism for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation of Enduring Freedom. One of her favorite memories was when she was stationed in Japan and volunteered at a boarding school to repaint and rehab the building and she was able to play and work with the kids.

Her favorite quote is by Melinda Gates "A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman." She lists her role model as her grandmother Philomena, a first generation immigrant from Italy that had to work hard and overcome prejudice and adversity to build the 'American Dream' for her and for future generations.

Ashley has been married to her husband Jeff since May of 2018, and has one biological son named Anthony who is 14. Ashley and Jeff have fostered kids before officially adopting the final two that they fostered, Ace, who is now 6, and Philomena (who the named after Ashley grandmother) who is now 6. Ashley says that between the drive home to Ames and cooking dinner she seems to be fairly wound down after work. She says she is a morning person with the "early to bed, early to rise mentality". She believes that if she wasn't working for the City of Enid she would be in the line of either a parole/probation officer or possibly a child advocate with DHS.

We are excited to welcome Ashley to the NODA Board of Trustees, and look forward to the great things we will be able to accomplish together.

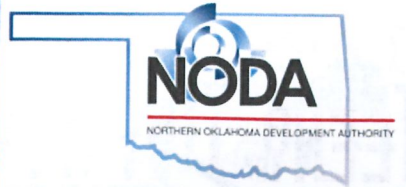


NEEDA RIDE?



Cherokee Strip Transit (CST) offers transportation in Garfield, Alfalfa, Grant, Kay, Noble, Kingfisher and Blaine counties. CST has been in operation since 1991, and is still going strong today. You can get information on fare prices and routes by going to <https://noda-ok.org/routes-and-fee-schedule/>.

To speak with someone for information; or scheduling a ride, contact their main office in Garber, OK at (580) 863-2279.



**NORTHERN OKLAHOMA
 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
 (580) 237-4810
 2901 N Van Buren • Enid, OK 73703
 Making a Difference in
 Northern Oklahoma

We provide opportunities to improve the quality of life in our eight-county region-Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major, and Noble.

For more information about NODA services, contact us at (580) 237-4810 or visit us on the web at www.noda-ok.org

**NODA BOARD OF
 TRUSTEES
 OFFICERS**

President-Marc Bolz,
Garfield Co.

Financial Officer-Noel Clonts,
Kay Co.

Secretary-Marci Hyde,
Alfalfa Co.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Jay Hague, *Alfalfa Co.*
- Kelly Fanning, *Alfalfa Co.*
- Brandon Schultz, *Blaine Co.*
- Mary Dungan, *Blaine Co.*
- Ashley Humphrey, *City of Enid*
- Chris Henderson, *City of Ponca City*
- Howard Powell, *Garfield Co.*
- Max Hess, *Grant Co.*
- Dea Mandevill, *Grant Co.*
- Jason Shanks, *Kay Co.*
- Jeff Moss, *Kingfisher Co.*
- Tiffany Tillman, *Kingfisher Co.*
- Travis Darr, *Major Co.*
- Philip Schrahl, *Major Co.*
- Gary May, *Noble Co.*
- Dixie Johnson, *Noble Co.*
- Cathy Lantz, *Member At-Large*
- Ray "Toby" Walker, *Member At-Large*

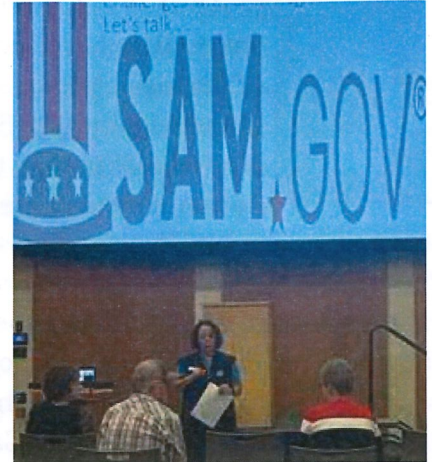


TEENY TINY TOWN Summit

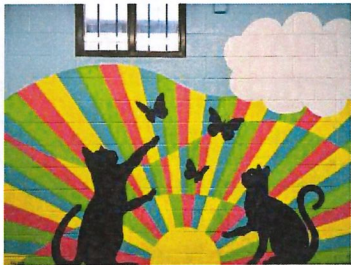
NwOA

The Northwest Oklahoma Alliance (NwOA) hosted a Teeny Tiny Town Summit on Tuesday, Oct. 26 at the Woodward Conference Center. The opening session of the summit was entitled "It's OK to be Teeny Tiny: Economic Development in Small Town USA". Jeffrey Seymour, Executive Vice President of Economic Development for the Great Oklahoma City Chamber opened the discussion on best practices and ideas to create competitive advantages for economic development in the small towns and rural areas. Other speakers and

topics included 'Oklahoma Broadband Expansion' presented by Mike Fina from the Oklahoma Municipal League (for more information please see 'Putting Oklahoma on the Correct Map article in this newsletter'); 'Validating your SAM Registration' with Dawn Brakey with the Oklahoma Procurement Technical Assistance Center through the Pioneer Technology Center, 'Funding for Growing Businesses' hosted by Clay Pope, 'Promoting Your Teeny Tiny Town' instructional presentation given by Kelly Thompkins with Hive Appeal. The small husband and wife company focuses on bringing attention to the beauty of your town through unique murals, and creative 'placemaking'. They are responsible for many of the mural art work on businesses in Enid including the art on the side walls of Big Country Meat Market, 'Grillin' Together' on the east wall, and 'New Day on the Old Trail' on the west wall, the stunning 'You Can' flower mural on the west wall of the AE Howard Flooring building, and the stunningly bright 'Sunshine Felines' Mural in the cat room of the Enid Animal Shelter. (Pictured to the left)

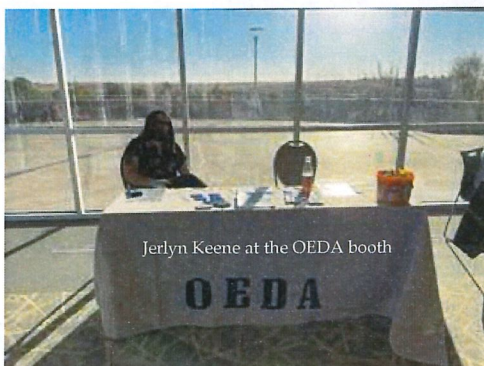


Dawn Brakey, OKPTAC



The Teeny Tiny Town Summit launched in 2021 as a way to bring the smaller communities in northwest Oklahoma together to learn and collaborate in order to help strengthen the region as a whole. Most programs classify "small towns" and "cities" at populations of 50,000 or less according to NwOA President James Leonard. The NwOA currently encompasses 20 counties and approximately 129 towns and cities, of those close to 117 have a population of less than 3,000 people according to Leonard.

Of those 20 counties, NODA serves 8 of the encompassed counties while OEDA serves additional 8. NODA, NORTPO and OEDA have held presences at every Teeny Tiny Town Summit that has been held so far, attending both seminars and workshops that can help us to better serve our communities, as well as educating the visitors about any funding or grants available to their specific areas through our organizations. NODA, OEDA and NORTPO had booths set up to network between the two regions and help guide them where needed. Payton Herron managed the NORTPO booth, Jerlyn Keene and Lacey DeWindt-Morris were both at the OEDA booth. Jennifer Firgard and Vicki Eggers hosted the NODA booth as well as held a drawing for those who visited and dropped off their business card or information. Michelle Vogt from the Fairview Chamber of Commerce won the drawing and was presented with her beautiful prize basket from NODA by Jennifer Firgard. All three organization are excited to continue to attend these summits for both the learning and networking opportunities they present.



Jerlyn Keene at the OEDA booth

Michelle Vogt receiving the basket from Jennifer Firgard.



Jennifer Firgard and Vicki Eggers at the NODA booth

Putting Oklahoma on the Correct Map



Oklahoma State Broadband Office needs your help! The federal government has allocated billions of dollars in order to provide high speed internet to every American after the COVID-19 pandemic showed us how important access to reliable internet is in today's world. The Federal Communications Commission has recently released a map that shows that Oklahoma has 100% internet coverage. In some cases, the map is listing service where none is available especially in the more rural areas. The map that is available at <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home> allows visitors to look up their address and see if the information the FCC is reporting is correct. If, while looking at your address, you notice any errors regarding the availability of high-speed internet, or the providers that the FCC has listed for your address or in your area you are strongly encouraged to click the 'Availability Challenge' link on the map and dispute the company and/or speeds that are available to you. You can even upload evidence for your challenge such as any correspondence with the provider, screenshots of their website or marketing material listing false speeds, or denial of service. This is an urgent request as the FCC has set a deadline of January 13, 2023 for the public to provide correct information. Kirk Martin, interim director of the Oklahoma Broadband Office, stated that "After the challenge process is completed the FCC will use the final data of the map to determine how much grant money Oklahoma will get to improve internet services throughout the state, and if the final map contains inaccurate information thousands of Oklahomans could be left out." The broadband office is regularly updating its website at broadband.ok.gov with the most recent information.

BOO CREW



Halloween is a mystical time of tricks and treats, haunted houses and hayrides, carving pumpkins, and mischievous fun. The act of dressing up in costume didn't come into popularity in the US until the early 20th century. Today it's hard to imagine celebrating Halloween without dressing up in costumes whether simple or extravagant. This year the employees of NODA decided to participate in the holidays' spirit.

Pictured left to right:

Vicki Eggers-Snowman (Olaf)
Tiffany Plunkett- Executive Director of NODA
(Jonathon Cross)
Tonya Land-Cosmic Witch
Jennifer Firgard-Spelling Bee

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

↓ TAKE A LOOK AT THIS ↓

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 25, 2023

ROSE STATE COLLEGE

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

Hear from experts on Workforce Development, ISO Ratings, and Water Shortage. With updates from ODEQ, OWRB, and OML.



OMUP



OKLAHOMA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

FEBRUARY 23, 2023 9:00 AM-4:00PM
MOORE NORMAN TECHNOLOGY
CENTER SOUTH PENN CAMPUS
13301 S. Pennsylvania Ave,
Oklahoma City, OK 73170



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

HR Professionals City Manager
Town Administrators City Clerks
City Attorneys Supervisors
Department Directors

FREE FOR ALL MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

NODA

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Northern Oklahoma
Development Authority
2901 N. Van Buren St.
Enid, OK 73703

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023



NODANews (Winter, 2022)