



Odessa

City Guide 2020-2021



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Welcome to Odessa!

Welcome to the wonderful community of Odessa! As a longtime resident, I can say that Odessa is a great place to call home. Odessa maintains its small-town atmosphere yet still has quick and easy access to the Kansas City metropolitan area. Odessa has rich history we are proud of but we also are excited to see our community grow and develop into the future. Part of that growth is and has been a revitalization of our downtown business district. Our downtown has become a destination for folks of all ages who want to shop, grab a cup of coffee, have a bite to eat, or just take a walk and listen to the music playing.

We have an outstanding school district which is known statewide for its excellence in education, accompanied by staff and a leadership team second to none. Our Parks and Recreation Department is another bright spot for Odessa, and it provides residents with numerous options to live happy, healthy and active lives. Keep an eye out throughout the year for events and activities which will bring fun and fulfillment to the entire family!

There is a lot going on in our city. As the largest city in Lafayette County, it is important we constantly respect where we've been, appreciate where we are at, and look forward to where we are going. Your city government is currently doing just that through its strategic plan, and will work hard to keep Odessa out front. Whatever your reason for being in Odessa, it is my hope that you'll feel welcome and enjoy your time here.



Steve Wright,
Mayor



Greetings

& Welcome to Odessa *City of Odessa Missouri*

Odessa is a vibrant community, building the next generation on a strong foundation of its history with affordable living, a growing economy, active lifestyle opportunities and a superior education system.

For more information about:
**City utilities, community events
and your local government**

Odessa City Hall

125 South Second St. Phone (816) 230-5577

www.cityofodessamo.com

City Government



Steve Wright
Mayor
816-918-6634



Mickey Starr
Ward One
816-260-8448



Tom McElwee
Ward Two
816-305-8784



Mike Stevens
Ward Three
816-674-6222

City Hall
125 S. Second
Odessa, Mo. 64076
816-230-5577

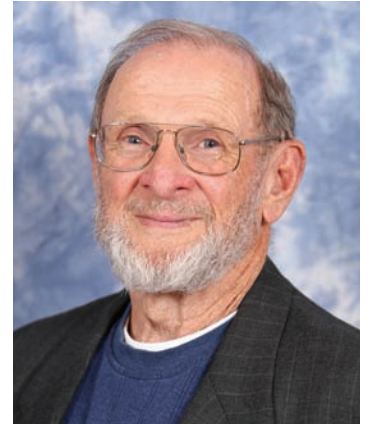
Steve Wright, mayor
Nici Wilson, city administrator
Peggy Eoff, city clerk
Sid Rustman, finance officer
Sybille Wilson, codes enforcement
Lauber Municipal Law, city attorneys
Jeff Deane, city prosecutor
William Piedimonte III, municipal judge



Steve Lockhart
Ward One
816-263-3939



Ronald Finn
Ward Two
816-564-9709



Ray Harves
Ward Three
816-524-6311

Board meets
Second and Fourth Monday
7 p.m.
Community Center, Dyer Park

Governing Structure

Odessa is governed by a mayor and board of aldermen. Aldermen are elected in April to two-year terms. Odessa's three wards each have two aldermen. The mayor also is elected to a two-year term.

Decisions in the city are made by a simple-majority vote on behalf of the aldermen. In event of a tie, the mayor is able to cast a vote.

City Staff

The City of Odessa staff is available to serve the residents of the community. Whether you are new to town or a longtime resident, the city looks to provide customer care.

Staff can be contacted to assist with utility payments and answer questions about city services and community activities.

Each month the City Newsletter is included with the utility bill, providing information about city services and community events. There is also information available on the city website, www.cityofodessamissouri.com.



Nici Wilson
City Administrator

Nici Wilson, city administrator, began working for the city in January 2017. Previously the Pleasant Hill City Clerk, Wilson was named Missouri's Outstanding City Clerk in 2015. She and her family live on a family farm in rural Pleasant Hill.

Wilson has a focus on economic development in Odessa, particularly while maintaining Odessa's small-town character.



City Hall staff, from left, Melissa Hundley, collector, Sid Rustman, finance director, Peggy Eoff, city clerk, Nici Wilson, city administrator, Jennifer LeBlanc, municipal court clerk, and Christi Dickey, utility clerk.

City boards

Planning & Zoning Commission

7 p.m. Third Thursday, community building

Marty McDermid, chair
Ruth Beamer, secretary

George Fowler

Mary Bertram

Aaron Martin

Josh Riley

Matthew Modlin

Vicki Pavlovsky

Board of Adjustment

Wayne McNeel, chair

Sean Croucher

Jason Hawkins

Charles Harvey

William BJ Begeman

Board of Appeals

Brandon Murry

Ernie Cockrum

Rick Barker

Dennis Summers

Park Board

7 p.m. Fourth Tuesday, community building

Gerald Gittinger

Mike Duncan

Emily Oldham

Logan Seals

Jannan Bradley

John Elliott

Thad Madsen

John Carmody

Alan Barner

City Statistics

Odessa is a growing and active rural community in western Lafayette County. According to 2010 census figures, Odessa is the largest city in Lafayette County, with 5,300 residents. The town has a highly accredited school district, 200 businesses and professionals, a small-town atmosphere, a location 30 minutes from ansas City and more than 50 community organizations.

	Odessa Missouri	Missouri
Population		
Population estimates, July 1, 2018	5202	6,126,452
Population estimates base April 1, 2020 (V2018)	5300	5,988, 952
Population change - April 1, 2010-July 1, 2017	-1.8%	2.3%
Census population April 1, 2010	5300	5,988,927
Age and Sex		
Persons under 5 years	9.6%	6.1%
Persons under 18 years	27.0%	22.5%
Persons 65 years and over	14.5%	16.9%
Female persons	56.4%	50.9%
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White alone	97.1%	83.0%
Black or African-American alone	0.6%	11.8%
Asian alone	1.3%	2.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.2%	0.6%
Two or More Races	0.8%	2.3%
Hispanic or Latino	0.2%	4.3%
Population Characteristics (2013-17)		
Veterans	307	424,605
Housing (2013-17)		
Owner-occupied housing unit rate	70.6%	66.9%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$122,400	\$145,400
Median selected monthly owner costs-with a mortgage	\$1188	\$1225
Median selected monthly owner costs-without a mortgage	\$458	\$420
Median gross rent	\$617	\$784
Families & Living Arrangements (2013-17)		
Households	2041	2,386,203
Persons per household	2.51	2.47
Living in same house 1 year ago	82.6%	84.3%
Computer and Internet Use (2013-17)		
Households with a computer	77.4%	85.6%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription	70.7%	75.0%
Education (2013-17)		
High school graduate or higher, age 25 years+	90.3%	89.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher, age 25 years+	16.6%	28.2%
Health		
With a disability, under age 65 years, 2013-17	11.8%	10.5%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years	6.9%	10.8%

Economy

In civilian labor force, total, age 16 years+ (2013-17)	57.6%	62.8%
In civilian labor force, female, age 16 years+ (2013-17)	51.0%	58.9%
Total accommodation & food serv. sales, 2012 (\$1000)	5845	12,430,310
Total merchant wholesaler sales, 2012 (\$1000)	8971	91,916,351
Total retail sales, 2012 (\$1000)	63,086	90,546,581
Total retail sales per capita, 2012	\$12,035	\$15,036

Transportation (2013-17)

Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+22.6	23.5
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Income & Poverty (2013-17)

Median household income (in 2017 dollars)	\$50,419	\$51,542
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2017 dollars)	\$22,179	\$28,282

Geography

Population per square mile, 2010	1293.9	87.1
Land area in square miles, 2010	4.1	68,741.52

Latitude 39.00 N, Longitude 93.95 W

Elevation 935

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City of
Odessa
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quality growth to Odessa

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City

Commonly asked codes questions

The city of Odessa has many codes, enforced by police and codes enforcement officer, Sybille Wilson. City staff provided the following list of answers to common questions from residents.

What is the maximum height grass/weeds can be before it is in violation? Grass and weeds are in violation if exceeding ten (10) inches (2006 IPMC302.4)

What am I responsible to mow? In addition to the lawn, you are responsible to mow all rights of way and easements included on your property, everything up to the street and everything back to the alleys.

What is considered an inoperable vehicle? Any vehicle not currently licensed, or that has issues that cause it to be illegal to be driven on the street.

Where may I park my vehicle? Vehicles are required to be parked on a paved surface. No vehicle may block any public sidewalk, extend into the street, or be parked on the grass. (OCDC 8.406)

May I add a gravel driveway? If the original driveway was gravel and legally permitted at the time of installation, it would be legal. You may keep it provided you maintain it. However, you may not increase the size. New gravel driveways are not allowed. (OCDC 8.406)

May I burn yard waste? Yes, ONLY yard waste may be burned (limbs, sticks, branches, etc). You must notify the Odessa Fire & Rescue Department first. You shall not burn on windy days, or if a burn ban is in place. Brush piles must be removed or properly disposed of.

Do I need a permit to install a fence? A permit is required for any fence that is over three & one half (3 1/2) feet. Any fence over 3 1/2 feet shall not encroach into a required front yard setback. Fences may extend onto side yard setbacks on corner lots, provided that they set back from the right-of-way line at least eight (8) feet. (OCDC 8.309.1)

Do I need a permit for a detached accessory building? If the building is more than one hundred twenty (120) square feet, a permit is required. (2006 IRC 105.2)

How big may I build my accessory building? Main and accessory buildings shall not cover more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total lot area on interior lots and thirty percent (30%) on corner lots. Accessory buildings shall not cover more than twenty percent (20%) of the rear yard. (OCDC 8.309)

Do I need a permit for building a deck? If the deck is going to be over thirty (30) inches above grade, a permit will be required. (2006 IRC 312.1)

Do I need a permit for a swimming pool? Any swimming pool with a depth of twenty-four (24) inches requires a permit. Pools, hot tubs and spas containing water more than twenty-four (24) inches in depth, shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier at least forty-eight (48) inches in height. (2006 IPMC 303.2)

How many layers of roofing material may I put on my house? The maximum allowable number of layers of roofing is two (2). (2006 IRC 907.3) The City of Odessa does require an ice shield to extend from the lowest edges of all roof surfaces to a point at least twenty-four (24) inches inside the exterior wall line of the building. (OCDC 7.201)

How many pets may I have? The maximum number is three (3). A kennel license is required for more than that. Operating a kennel is not allowed in a residential district.

What work do I need a permit for? If you have this question for a particular project, please call the Code Compliance Department and ask. Most minor projects do not need a permit.

City staff also advises:

- Always call DIG-RITE before beginning any excavation project.
- Residential trash containers should be placed at the curb not more than 24 hours prior to scheduled collection and stored at the side or rear of property after pick-up.
- Garage and yard sale signs shall not be placed on public utility/light poles.
- Street address numbers must be in contrast with background, must be Arabic numerals at least 4 inches high and be visible from street.



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City

Severe weather



The Community of Christ, 515 S. First Street, is the city's designated storm shelter.

Severe weather sirens in Odessa are usually tested for three minutes at 11 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month.

If the sirens sound, residents should go inside and seek information from sources including local television and radio stations as well as the internet and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration All-Hazards radios. Residents can also sign up for local alerts through the city website, cityofodessamo.com.

Odessa does not use an "all clear" signal, so any repeat soundings of the siren mean the emergency is continuing. Sirens may sound for three to five minutes at a time in an emergency. Sirens are not intended to permeate the insulation of modern houses, instead intending to warn residents outside.

In addition to tornado warnings, which is when a tornado has been spotted or indicated by radar, the sirens can be sounded in the event of a severe thunderstorm warning in which wind is expected to reach 70 miles per hour or create hail two inches in diameter or any emergency in which immediate action needs to be taken.

Tornado watches mean weather conditions can result in storms which produce heavy rain, lightning, strong wind, large hail or tornadoes. In case of a warning, shelter should be taken in small interior rooms on the lowest floor available. In such cases, mobile homes should be vacated.

The Community of Christ, 515 S. First Street, Odessa, is the city's designated shelter in case of severe weather.

Any and all pets accompanying people seeking shelter must be in a kennel/cage. Those seeking shelter must stay in the designated shelter area. Smoking is not allowed in the church or on church property. The church and representatives of the church are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items. Those seeking shelter are asked to remain in the church until the storm has passed. The church will not be responsible for anyone who chooses to leave before a severe weather event has ended.

Josh Thompson, police chief, is director of the Odessa Emergency Management Agency. The agency is tasked with preparing the city for disasters including tornadoes.

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City Odessa Police Department

The new Odessa Police Department was formed June 1, 2018 after two years of contracting police services from the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office.

Josh Thompson, police chief, and Leland "Bubba" Liese, assistant chief, head a department containing eight officers and a newly-added K-9 program.

Department is located at the shop building of the 1912 school building.



Josh Thompson,
chief of police



Leland "Bubba" Liese,
assistant chief



Cody Smith,
sergeant



Phillip Salmon,
detective



Dallas Reitz,
detective



Derek Zarda,
K-9 officer



K-9 Hawkeye



Greg Daniel,
school resource officer



Dyllan Ratigan



Daitrien Buchanan



Andrew Lockhart

Fire Odessa Fire & Rescue Protection District



In January 2020 the Odessa Fire and Rescue Protection District became the area's EMS service provider.

Odessa Fire and Rescue Protection District was organized in 1993, after years of service as a City of Odessa and Rural Fire Association. In 2020, the district will undergo the largest change since its founding with the addition of ambulance service and all-hours staffing.

The District operates under a publicly elected Board of Directors. Derek Downs serves as board chairman. Marty McDermed is board secretary, and Grant Kuhlmann is board treasurer of the five-member board which also includes Ruth Ann Dillon and Gary Johnson as directors. The directors of the district hold a regularly scheduled monthly meeting the third Wednesday of each month.

In April 2019, residents of the district voted for additional taxes for the district to provide ambulance service in the area, which was previously provided by the City of Odessa.

With the addition of EMS in 2020, district hours began to offer 24-hour in-house staffing. Non-emergency telephone line is in operation from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Firefighter staff includes full and part-time employees and volunteers.

The district's six-bay fire station at the corner of Dryden and Third streets was dedicated in 1995.

Insurance rating for the City of Odessa or any property within five miles of the Odessa station or within five miles of any of its automatic aid stations is "5". Properties not within five miles of any station may have a higher ISO rating.


The District, which covers 101 square miles, has made many improvements since 1895, when the first department

used a team of horses owned by G.B. Thatcher to pull the ladder wagon.

District equipment includes a 2019 ambulance, 2003 engine, 2000 engine, 1993 75-foot ladder truck, 2006 tanker and 2017 tanker. The District also has three brush trucks, the newest purchased in 2016, and one utility truck in its fleet, as well as a secondary ambulance acquired in the service transition from the City of Odessa. Through the years, miscellaneous equipment, firefighter turnout gear and rescue equipment upgrades also have been purchased.

District has seven full-time employees around 25 employees. All full-time and most part-time employees are certified in both fire and EMS.

As of July, Roger Kratz and Kim Shook serve as district co-interim chiefs. Captains are Matt Couch, Josh Sidebottom and Travis Hopkins.



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Liquor - Smokes
Fountain Drinks
Milk - Lottery

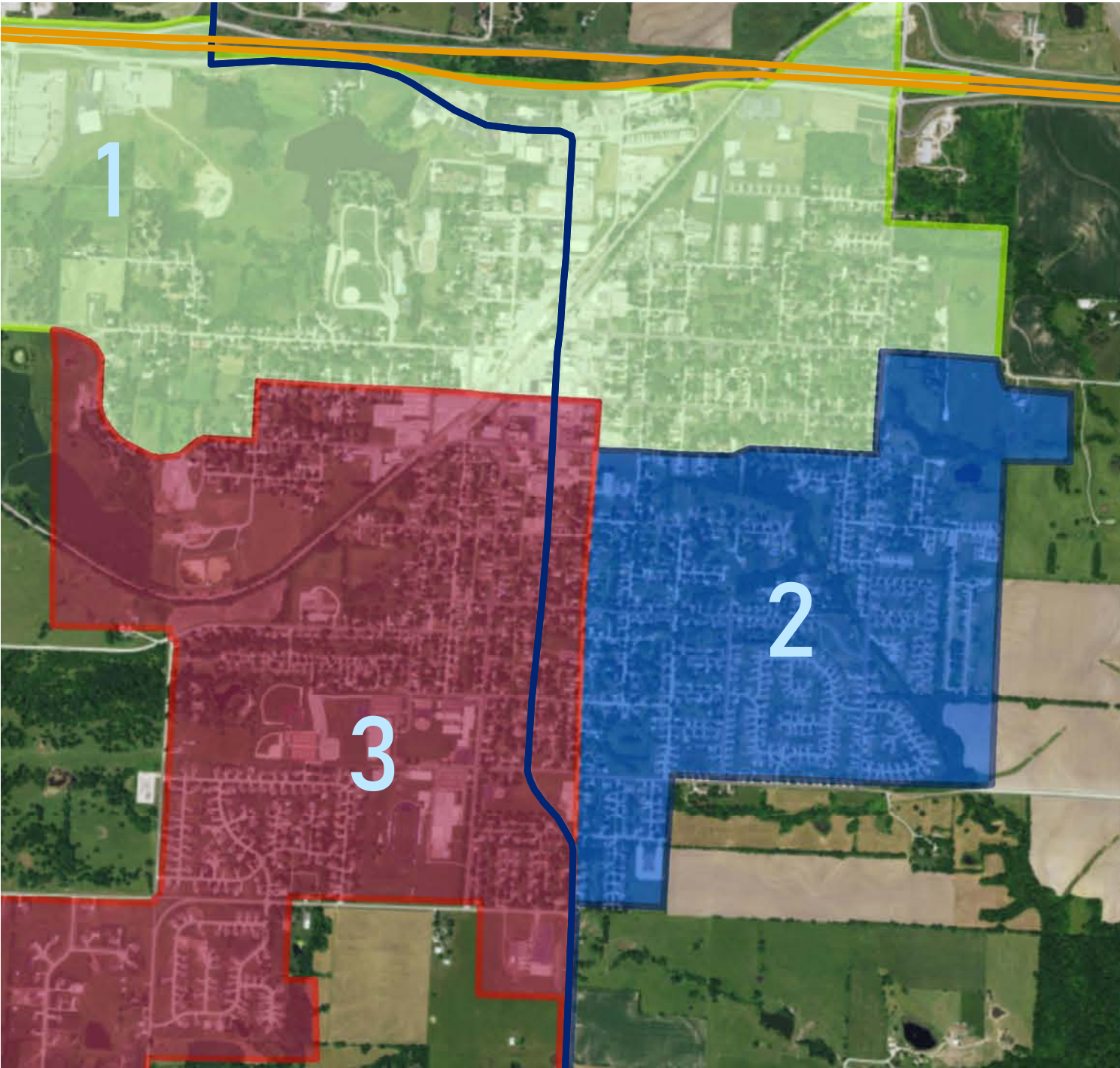
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Cityward map

Odessa aldermen represent areas, or wards, of the city. Wards are adjusted based on U.S. census data each decade. Wards 1 and 3 are divided primarily by Mason Street, wards 2 and 3 by First Street, and 1 and 2 primarily by Dryden Street, with some exceptions on the edges of the city.





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Mud room
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Schools Odessa R-VII

Odessa R-VII School district is located in western Lafayette County and includes a portion of northern Johnson County. The district is approximately 25 miles east of Kansas City.

The district has consistently earned over 90% of total points possible on the state's annual performance report.

The Odessa R-VII District operates under a \$4.6932 tax levy.

Student population for the district currently totals 2018 in grades K-12.

The district employs approximately 259 persons including classified staff.

Odessa R-VII offers many programs and its students excel in state and national academic competitiveness. Odessa R-VII students traditionally receive high honors in such organizations as DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, FEA, Math Relay Team, drama, speech and debate, band and vocal music. Both the FFA and engineering instructors have received honors and recognition in the work they do with students. Other outstanding programs offered by the district include Drug-Free World, special education, breakfast, all-day kindergarten, infant care for teen students and patrons, Peer Helpers, Hi-Step, SOAR before and after school child care, Parents as Teachers, gifted, at-risk, entitlement, summer school, computer labs, vocational Lex La-Ray Vo-Tech School in Lexington with job training courses, student athletic activities, before and after school tutoring and numerous organizations/clubs. Integrated technology is an important element in the Odessa R-VII curriculum with students frequently using computers and various media to problem solve, research and create project-based products.

Students who reside more than one mile from their attending school may be transported by bus to the appropriate facility. One-mile requirement does not apply to Grade 5 and younger.

The ACE program offers alternative classes for students struggling in a regular classroom setting.

Parents support the schools through active parent/teacher organizations. PTO at the elementary level and STEP at the middle school give volunteer support and host fundraising activities.

More than 50% of the teaching staff in the district hold master's degree along with an average of more than 10 years longevity. The R-VII School District remains competitive with the surrounding area regarding base salary. This is the benchmark of most school districts and Odessa has managed to keep pace with an experienced staff. According to the state funding mechanism, the district strives to maintain a salary schedule comparable to those districts of similar size, as well.

Base salary for beginning teachers in the 2020-21 school year is \$36,200.

Academically, Odessa offers students a range of choices from computer labs in each R-VII school to a physics requirement for each high school student with four levels of study offered.

Odessa's athletic program offers football, basketball, track, tennis, golf, cross country, soccer, volleyball, wrestling, softball, baseball and cheerleading.

In addition to an excellent sports program and other traditional clubs and academic organizations, Odessa has an outstanding fine arts program.

The district continues to provide diverse opportunities to ensure a variety of experiences and opportunities for the students.

According to performance data from state testing, Odessa R-VII surpassed Missouri standards set by the state in mathematics and communication arts. Almost all students realized gains in achievement scores compared to the previous year. ACT scores continue to improve, as well.

In April 2017, Odessa R-VII voters overwhelmingly passed a \$6 million no-tax-increase bond issue, which allowed the district to renovate the

Odessa R-VII Board of Education



Brian Young



Tahnam Gittinger



Tim Wufekotter



Aaron Dillon



Chad Hubbard



Junior Munsterman



Brian Madsen

The Board of Education meets in public session at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the high school media center, 713 South Third Street.

Meeting agendas are available the Friday before each meeting at the central office. District patrons wishing to place items on the agenda must submit them in writing to the superintendent's office the Wednesday prior to the board meeting, in accordance with guidelines in the district's Policy and Procedures Manual.

Brian Young, President

Tahnam Gittinger, Vice President

Aaron Dillon, Director

Chad Hubbard, Director

Brian Madsen, Director

Junior Munsterman, Director

Tim Wulfekotter, Director

stadium located on the high school campus during the summer of 2017. In addition, the bond issue included a new facility construction of a district Childcare Center, located on the McQuerry Elementary campus, which opened in August 2018.

Security cameras have been placed in all schools and on all buses to strengthen the district's safety program.

Dr. Jon Oetinger, superintendent, stresses the district has good cooperation with the local police department. The Drug Free program is part of the curriculum for sixth-graders at the middle school. A School Resource Officer is on site.

The public health and safety department in Odessa assists the school district. The county health department holds annual immunization clinics. The fire department is involved in bicycle and fire safety along with inspection of buildings and fire extinguishers, and insurance inspection reports.

Schools Odessa R-VII

Welcome to the Odessa R-VII School District! We are proud of our school system and its long tradition of excellence. Excellence occurs when students, staff, parents and the community recognize the value of education by working together to prepare our students for the future.

The Odessa R-VII School District has earned a statewide reputation as an innovative educational leader, and our staff is working continually to provide the highest quality instructional program for our students. We help our students master the basics, develop practical life skills, become problem solvers, learn to communicate and work effectively with others, and develop patterns for lifelong learning.

We want you to get to know us and learn about our history, our financial situation and our educational programs. We invite you to become acquainted with the faculty and administration, the curriculum and special programs, and the buildings which students occupy.

At the same time, we would like an opportunity to get to know you. We encourage you to visit the buildings, classrooms and offices which are in our district.

We are eager to answer your questions or offer assistance. As always, we appreciate your support.

Jon W. Oetinger, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Jon W. Oetinger



**Jon
Oetinger**

Dr. Jon Oetinger will begin his second year as superintendent of the Odessa R-VII School District during the 2020-21 school year. Previously, Oetinger served six years as superintendent of the Carrollton R-VII School District.

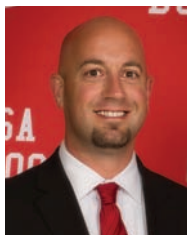
In addition, Oetinger served the Waynesville R-VII School District as assistant superintendent for business and operations from 2006-2013; Halfway R-III School District as superintendent from 2003-2006 and high school principal from 2002-2003.

Oetinger holds an undergraduate degree from Newman University, Wichita, Kansas, in secondary education; Master's and Specialist degrees from Missouri State University in secondary and educational administration, respectively; and a Doctorate degree from Lindenwood University in educational administration.

Odessa R-VII School District Administration

Dr. Jon W. Oetinger	Superintendent of Schools	633-5316
Dr. Roger W. Feagan	Assistant Superintendent	633-5316
Dr. Abby Volmer	Director, Curriculum/Federal Programs	633-5316
Zachary Danner	Director, Special Services	633-1599
Brad Briscoe	Principal, Odessa High School	633-5533
	Dave MacLean, Assistant Principal	633-5533
Kendra Malizzi	Principal, Odessa Middle School	633-1500
	Brad Begemann, Assistant Principal	633-1500
Chris Doering	Principal, Odessa Upper Elementary	633-5396
	Amanda Smith, Assistant Principal Intern	633-5396
Daniel Armstrong	Principal, McQuerry Elementary	633-5334
	Katie Russell, Assistant Principal Intern	633-5334

Dr. Roger W. Feagan



**Roger
Feagan**

Dr. Roger Feagan will begin his fifth year as assistant superintendent with the Odessa R-VII School District. Previously, he served the Norborne School District for three years as superintendent and two years as principal.

Dr. Feagan began his teaching career at Malta Bend R-V as a sixth grade teacher and junior high communication arts teacher for one year and then served the district as K-12 principal/activities director for four years. He then spent one year as a sixth grade teacher in the Sweet Springs School District before moving into the principal position at Norborne.

He has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Missouri Valley College, a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Lindenwood University, and Specialist degree and Doctorate degree from St. Louis University in Educational Leadership.

Schools Odessa R-VII

**Brad Briscoe**

Brad Briscoe

Brad Briscoe is beginning his third year as Odessa High School principal. Previously, he served the district as the assistant high school principal for three years.

Briscoe earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Missouri State University in 2004, a Master of Science degree from Louisiana State University in 2006 and a Specialist degree in Education Leadership from William Woods University in 2014.

Kendra Malizzi

Kendra Malizzi is serving her sixth year as principal at Odessa Middle School after serving as interim principal and two years as assistant principal. Previously, Malizzi served six years as McQuerry Elementary assistant principal.

Malizzi received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, a Master's degree and a Specialist degree in Education Administration, all from the University of Central Missouri.

**Kendra Malizzi****Chris Doering**

Chris Doering

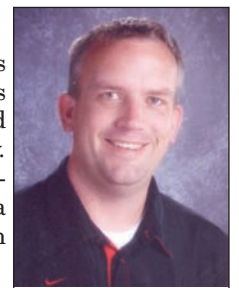
Chris Doering is beginning his first year as principal of Odessa Upper Elementary. He was previously assistant principal and activities director at Odessa Middle School.

Prior to his role in administration, Doering was a fifth grade math and science teacher in the district.

Daniel Armstrong

Daniel Armstrong will begin his fifth year as McQuerry Elementary principal. Armstrong has been in the district the past 20 years and served as assistant principal for McQuerry Elementary.

Armstrong holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from William Jewell College and a Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Central Missouri.

**Daniel Armstrong**

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Schools Odessa R-VII



Doug Burnett
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Basketball Coach



Connor Bush
Speech and Debate
Coach



Melanie DeMore
Head Volleyball
Coach



Amanda Drinkwater
Head Boys Tennis
Coach



Aimee Feagan
Head Cheerleading
Coach



Randy Florence
Head Softball Coach
and Head Girls
Basketball Coach



Kirk Gross
Head Wrestling
Coach



Harry Hamblin
Vocal Music
Director



Sam Hughes
Head Boys/Girls
Soccer Coach



Zach Meler
Head Cross
Country Coach



Chad Meyer
Head Boys and
Girls Golf Coach



Kris Poisal
Scholar Bowl
Coach



Ashley Ray
Dance Team
Coach



Mark Thomas
Head Football
Coach and Head
Track Coach



Derek Twombly
Band Director



Allan Twilligear
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Odessa R-VII Schools

Odessa is proud of its public school system which serves the communities of Odessa, Bates City, Mayview and Lake Lafayette.

Accredited with Distinction by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Student population in the 2019-2020 school year was 2,018 students in four buildings.

Dr. Jon W. Oetinger, Superintendent

Dr. Roger W. Feagan, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Abby Volmer, Director of Curriculum/Federal Programs

Amy Mahurin, Director of Special Services

R-VII Central Office

701 South Third, Odessa, Phone 633-5316



McQuerry Elementary School
Grades K-2

607 South Third • Phone 633-5334
Daniel Armstrong, Principal



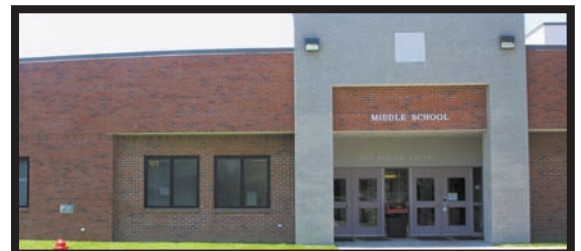
Odessa Upper Elementary
Grades 3-5

1100 West Cox School Road
Phone 633-5396
Chris Doering, Principal



Odessa High School
Grades 9-12

713 South Third • Phone 633-5533
Brad Briscoe, Principal
Dave MacLean, Asst. Principal



Odessa Middle School
Grades 6-8

607 South Fifth • Phone 633-1500
Kendra Malizzi, Principal
Brad Begemann, Asst. Principal

Schools R-VII Foundation

R-VII Public Foundation was formed in 1992 and became active in 2004 to enhance educational opportunities and to provide support for schools in the Odessa R-VII School District.

Each year, the Foundation holds a gala to honor persons who have had a positive impact either in their chosen career or in advocating for education.

To date, more than 95 persons have been honored, including the 1994 undefeated state champion football team players and their coaches.

The Foundation provides numerous grants to teachers each year to provide for educational needs beyond the scope of budgets.

Some of the notable gifts were the replacement of seating in the Odessa High School auditorium and installation of exterior electronic signs at the high school, middle school and McQuerry Elementary.

A \$2500 scholarship is provided to a graduating senior at OHS. In addition, the Foundation manages other scholarships provided by alumni, former teachers or patrons.

Aaron Dillon serves as president; Tahnam Gittinger, vice president; Dr. Roger Feagan, secretary; Janet Tirschel, treasurer.

Dr. Jon Oetinger, superintendent, is a member of the board. Other members are Candace Osborne, Brett Nickels, Peter Rorvig, Sue Young, Ray Sullivan, Ruth Beamer, Jennifer Smith, OEA representative and Betty Riekhof. Honorary directors are Dan Cobb and Henry Grubb.



Teacher grants are awarded by the Odessa R-7 Public Foundation every year to enhance student learning.

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Schools Day cares



Bright Beginnings Academy

Bright Beginnings Academy is located at 305 A North Park Lane. A staff of 20 cares for approximately 120 students ages birth to 12 years, offering quality child care Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. as well as before and after school care.

Bright Beginnings is proud to serve the community with a Pre-K curriculum based on Kindergarten readiness. All classrooms run on an age-appropriate curriculum based on appropriate milestones and learning through play.

Academy has partnered with Head Start, which pays for class fees and required items such as diapers and formula for qualifying children ages birth-two years. Victoria Barker, director, said the partnership has a goal of allowing all children to receive quality child care. A 2018 expansion allowed for an update of both playgrounds and addition of a sensory room to the facility. The new school-age facility is open from 6 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.



Odessa R-VII Childcare Center

The newly constructed Odessa R-VII Childcare Center opened its doors in August 2018. The facility is offered to school district faculty, staff and community at a reasonable rate. Located at 402 West College Street, directly behind McQuerry Elementary School, the center has an infant room, rooms for children ages 1, 2, 3 and 4, and 4 and 5 year old preschool room.

Center hours are 6:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and is open during days the school district is in session, during teacher work days, in-service days, summer school and during parent-teacher conferences. Center is not open during summer school.

Further information may be obtained by calling Wendy Reynolds, director at 816-633-5437.

St. George Catholic Church



Rev. Bryan Amthor, Pastor

716 South Third Street
Phone: 816-230-4127 Parish Hall: 816-633-7475

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Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.

Parish School of Religion
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Development Business

The City of Odessa is making a concerted effort to promote business in the city through its own initiatives and by supporting those of area economic development groups.

The city recently had a market feasibility study performed to identify needed businesses and attract those with the potential to do well in Odessa.

The city has a list of resources available on the city website, cityofodessamo.com.

The city also works with Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission on economic development throughout the region.

Residentially, the city has recently seen an increase in building, particularly in empty lots in older neighborhoods. Two new subdivisions have also been approved in recent years. In 2019, the city issued 15 residential building permits. As of July, 9 had been issued in 2020.

Below are local real estate professionals available to assist with inquiries about residential and/or commercial property in the Odessa area:

•**Integrity Group Real Estate**
Larry and Donna Shutt, agents
816-304-8951 or 816-304-4840

•**Heritage Realty**
Danette Iman and Harley Todd
owners/brokers
200 S. Second, Odessa
230-5324

•**Home Realty**
Cheryl Jungeblut, owner/broker
Lora Becker, Donn Quick
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Recreation

Parks & Rec



Dyer Park's walking trail was repaved in 2019.

Odessa Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of recreational activities and facilities for local residents. Employees include a full-time director and maintenance director as well as seasonal workers, as needed, throughout the year.

The department is funded by a 1/2¢ park sales tax and a 14¢ per \$100 assessed valuation on Odessa residents' real estate and personal property.

Lindsey Adams, director, oversees the development and maintenance of the department's parks and facilities.

Joey Starner, maintenance supervisor, performs mowing, trimming and maintenance work on the department's parks and facilities.

Formed in June 1997, the Parks and Recreation Department offers programs and activities throughout the year. Available to children from four years old through seventh grade are basketball, baseball, softball, machine pitch baseball and softball, t-ball, co-ed soccer and girls volleyball for grades 4-7.

Special youth events organized by the department are Knights of Columbus free throw competition in January and Challenger British soccer camp in August.

Youth programs offered by the department include karate, taught by **Alan Best**.

Adult activities offered to area residents include co-ed church league slow-pitch softball in the summer and men's slow-pitch and co-ed adult softball in the fall.

Aquatic Center activities available are swimming lessons for age 4-Adults. Pool parties at rental rates are offered as well.

Pool hours are 1-6 p.m., Saturday-Thursday and 1-7 p.m., Friday.

The department also offers five parks, a community center, rodeo arena, basketball courts, three paved walking trails and shelter houses for the community's recreational use.

Volunteers are a big part of the recreation side of the Parks and Recreation Department.

"Volunteers are needed for coaching in all of our youth



New basketball court was opened in 2020 in Chestnut Memorial Park with the help of funds provided by Partners for Parks, West Central Electric and the Odessa Clothes Closet.

activities," Adams added. "If anyone is interested, call the parks department and inquire. We have some great people volunteering their time now, but we need more."

Members of the Odessa Parks and Recreation Board are **Jannan Bradley, John Elliot, Thad Madsen, John Carmody, Alan Barner, Mike Duncan, Logan Seals, Emily Oldham** and **Gerald Gittinger**.

Residents may call the park office at 816-633-8324. The park office is at Dyer Park and is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Website is odessaparksrec.com.

Recreation City Lakes



Sunset over Lake Venita.



A Department of Conservation fishing dock at Lake Odessa.

Lake Odessa, the former city reservoir, is located southwest of Odessa city limits on Odessa Lake Road off of Eds Road from Hwy. OO. Lake is owned by the City of Odessa and managed for its fishery resource by the Missouri Department of Conservation. This partnership was created as a way to provide the residents of Odessa and the surrounding communities with a quality fishery to enjoy.

To fish at Lake Odessa, anglers need a state fishing permit as well as a City of Odessa user permit which may be purchased at City Hall and the Police Department.

There is a protected slot limit for black bass in the lake which means that all fish between 12 and 15 inches must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

The use of any motorboat is allowed but boats must be operated at slow, no-wake speeds. Firearms are prohibited on the premises and hunting is not allowed.

Lake Venita, located in Dyer Park, also is a hot spot for local fishing. A state fishing license is required. Row-boats are allowed as well as boats with trolling motors, however, boats are not necessary to fish the lake.

Users are asked to help preserve the quality of the lakes and report any wildlife violations to the Department of Conservation by calling Operation Game Thief hotline 800-392-1111 and any other violations by calling the Odessa City Police Department.



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Odessa Police Department

Odessa Parks & Recreation Department

The mission of the Odessa Parks and Recreation Department is to provide safe, usable, adequate park land and to offer affordable recreational activities for the Odessa community. As we anticipate the area's continuing growth, we intend to provide new programs and facilities as needed to fit the changing desires of our community.

The Parks and Recreation Board adopted a new master plan in the spring of 2003. This plan is a guide to lead the board in future developments. Copies of the master plan are available to view at the Parks and Recreation Office.

PARK FACILITIES

Dyer Park
601 W. Main St.

Lake Venita, pool, 2 pavilions, walking trail, playground, 2 ball fields, lighted basketball courts, 2 sand volleyball courts, rodeo arena and community building

Railroad Park
2nd St. & Main St.

Landscaping and historic signage

Phillips Park

E. Dryden St.

Pavilion, play equipment and basketball court

Centennial Hills Park
Hwy. 00

Open space, walking trail, play equipment

Chestnut Memorial Park
Chestnut St. & Johnson Dr.

Pavilion, open space, play equipment and walking trail
City Reservoir/Lake Odessa
Southwest of town on Hwy. 00

Lake, fishing dock, boat ramp, restroom and pavilion



ADULT ACTIVITIES

Programs

- Men's Softball
- Church Softball
- Co-ed Softball



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Programs

- Fall Soccer
- Basketball
- Spring Soccer
- Baseball/Softball
- Karate
- T-Ball, Boys machine pitch & Girls coach pitch
- Youth Volleyball

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition
- Odessa Country Jubilee Music Show 3rd Friday of each month at Community Center
- Phone call from Santa

Odessa Parks & Recreation Department

601 W. Main St., Bldg B - PO Box 128

Odessa, MO 64076-0128

(816) 633-8324

Activities #: (816) 633-5728

E-mail: LindseyAdams@cityofodessamo.com

website: www.odessamoparksrec.com



VOLUNTEER - VOLUNTEER

Please take the time to make a difference in the life of a child. All OPR programs rely on volunteers. Coaches and assistant coaches are needed for most youth programs.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Please contact the office with any questions regarding programs or facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Board meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Community Building in Dyer Park. Board meetings are open to the public.

ODESSA PARKS & RECREATION'S AQUATIC CENTER

POOL ACTIVITIES

- Swimming Lessons for all ages
- Pool Parties

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The Odessa branch of Trails Regional Library moved into a beautiful new facility in 2016 thanks, in part, to generous donations from the community. Located at 107 W. Mason Street, the library is approximately 7,000 square feet with an open floor plan and includes a community meeting room, storytime room and several computers accessible to the public, in addition to its sizable collection of print and audiovisual materials.

Regular library hours are Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. COVID-19 curbside hours are Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Tuesday, 2 - 7 p.m.

Friendly staff includes Linda Washam, branch manager, Kendra Redden, Amy Harris, Pamela Gladbach and Pamela Barker.

In August 2017, the library joined the Missouri Evergreen consortium, allowing users the ability to access titles from 40 library districts across the state. A full catalog of materials is accessible by visiting the library's website, www.trailslibrary.org. Users are able to search for books and other materials, place requests, verify which items they have checked out and renew materials. Books and other materials are often delivered to the Odessa branch in days. In addition to the physical collection, the library offers a digital collection, accessible via the library's website, such as downloadable eBooks and audiobooks through OverDrive or hoopla, or reference databases offered through Ebsco.

The library has programs year-round for all ages, from storytime and other early learning programs to adult book clubs and escape rooms. Program information also may be found online.

The library also is a good source for genealogy research, offering local history, a large file of local obituaries and microfilm copies of local newspapers dating from 1901 to 2014. Detailed information from U.S. Census reports from 1830 to the latest printed census also are available for those conducting research. Online resources, such as Ancestry Online and HeritageQuest, also are available to cardholders. Trails Regional Library Foundation provides patrons the opportunity to support the library. Foundation activities

promote the branch within the community and raise funds for library needs. To become involved with the Foundation, call the library at 816-633-4089.

Trails Regional Library system includes Warrensburg, Knob Noster, Concordia, Corder, Waverly, Holden and Lexington.

Trails Regional Library Board members are Scotty Walker, Holden, president; Ron McMullin, Lexington, vice president; Judy Wolter, Knob Noster, treasurer; Judy Tyler, Corder, secretary; Jeany McGowen, Leeton; Amanda Travis, Wellington, Fern Deatherage, Waverly, Allycen Burton, Lexington, Carlin Dillon and Georgia Jarman, Holden.

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The Odessan began in 1884 as *The Odessa Moon*. Renamed the *Odessa Democrat* by publisher A.J. Adair, who purchased the newspaper in 1906, the paper was sold in 1940 to the Collins Ewing family, owners of *The Missouri Ledger*. The two papers were merged into what is now *The Odessan*.

The Ewings sold the newspaper in 1947 to William A. Bray. Remaining the publisher until 1954, Bray left to become executive director of the Missouri Press Association and sold the paper to Joe Western. Western was publisher from 1954 to 1960, until moving to Washington, D.C., to join the staff of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Betty Simpson Spaar purchased the newspaper on December 1, 1960, and remained actively involved in reporting the news and assisting businesses with advertising needs until her death in 2018. The newspaper is now published by her sons, John and Joe Spaar. The Simpson/Spaar family has worked in the newspaper profession for five generations beginning with Betty's grandfather who published the newspaper in Rolla. For many years, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Simpson, owned and operated the *Holden Progress*. The Spaar family has deep roots in the community of Odessa and continues to chronicle it and the area's history. Currently, two generations of the family have been raised in Odessa and work at *The Odessan*.

Joe Spaar, co-publisher and production manager, is a past board member of the Missouri Press Association. He is treasurer and past president of the Odessa Parks and Recreation Board. He won a first place award in the state for his weekly column, Sports Time Out.

John Spaar, co-publisher and advertising manager, was the 2005 president of the Missouri Press Association, the third generation of his family to hold that office. He has served as president of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce. He also is a member and past president of the Odessa Rotary Club.

Renee Spaar, who handles the Newspapers in Education program for the Odessa and Wellington-Napoleon school districts, received a Missouri Press Association award for best NIE program. She delivers *The Odessan* each Thursday

morning to fifth grade classrooms at the Odessa Upper Elementary School and Wellington-Napoleon Elementary School. In addition to NIE duties, Renee, wife of Joe Spaar, is office manager.

Hannah Spaar, daughter of Joe and Renee Spaar, is news editor. A 2009 graduate of Odessa High School and a 2013 graduate of the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri School of Journalism, Hannah has written a weekly column in *The Odessan* since she was 10 years old. She has received numerous awards for reporting, editorial writing and photography and was named the Missouri Press Association's 2016 Outstanding Young Journalist. She also serves as news editor for *Focus on Oak Grove*. She is currently on the board of the Missouri Press Association.

Linda Gillis, production, compiles and writes the Yesteryears column. She also researches and writes historical features and compiles information on the local men and women who serve in the military.

Ruth Beamer reports on Bates City and Wellington city governments.

Kory Hales, sports editor and photographer, Pam Schuchner, production and Marty Beamer, circulation, round out the staff.

In an effort to better serve area businesses, employees continually strive to create effective advertising. *The Odessan* staff has received numerous advertising awards, among them a national grand prize for the annual Christmas section.

The largest paid circulation newspaper in Lafayette County, *The Odessan* continues to receive awards for feature stories, news coverage, special sections, advertising and photography. Serving western Lafayette County, the newspaper covers the Odessa and Wellington-Napoleon school districts, city and county governments as well as the businesses and families that make up our communities.

The office is located at 212 West Mason Street. The building is handicapped accessible and features ample parking for customers.

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Community History



Second Street Looking South (circa) 1880's

Downtown Odessa looking south from the railroad tracks in the 1880s. The Chicago and Alton Railroad Depot is on the far right. A lumberyard is on the far left and the Myrtle Hotel is on the left side of the main street.

The city of Odessa, platted on September 17, 1878, by Judge John Kirkpatrick, Sara Kirkpatrick and Alexander R. Patterson, was built on the north side of the Chicago & Alton railroad tracks, 39 miles east of Kansas City. The city was incorporated on February 3, 1880.

Residents of Odessa preferred naming the town Kirkpatrick, after Judge Kirkpatrick, the largest landowner in the community but Kirkpatrick, according to historical accounts, did not want the town named after him. T.B. Blackstone, president of Chicago & Alton Railroad, while visiting, told residents the land reminded him of the wheat belt in the great exporting community of Odessa, Ukraine. Originally a village of 100 people, Odessa approved fourth class city status during an 1884 election.

In 1878, the first locomotive came through Odessa, followed by many new settlers. Families were moving to the area on a daily basis.

Many of the early structures, originally built at Mt. Hope southeast of Odessa, were moved to Odessa. During the Civil War, the Bowlan Hotel, which was at the northeast corner of Second and Main streets, relocated at a cost of \$500, was occupied by a group of federal soldiers in Co. 1, 1st Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, under the leadership of Captain Milton Burris.

Another historical building, the original Presbyterian church, was razed in 2003 and the property in downtown Odessa is now the site of NASB.

Other well-known structures in Odessa included the Myrtle Hotel, on the southeast corner of Second and Main streets, built in 1883, where William Jennings Bryan sometimes stayed.

The Phoenix Opera House, built in the 1880s by Alexander Patterson, sat on the northwest corner of Second and Mason. The hotel burned in 1884 in the first big fire in Odessa and was rebuilt on an even grander scale. The Phoenix Opera House eventually burned on July 22, 1913.

By June of 1879, communities on the north and south side of

the railroad tracks were competing for the business district. The competition continued until the construction of a post office at the corner of Second and Mason streets.

"The old public well," in the middle of the street at Second and Mason, provided water, since a water system was not in place until September, 1922.

A water plant, approved and built in 1922, and electricity made available in 1899, all contributed to Odessa's continued growth.

Another point of historical interest was the Ozark Short Line, a scenic route from Leon, Ia., to the Pea Ridge Battlefield in Arkansas. Traveled frequently in the 1920s and 1930s, travelers crossed the Missouri River at Lexington and followed markers through Wellington to Odessa.

During that time, Lake Venita in Odessa was a spot not only for travelers, but locals, as well. The 23-acre lake contained 61,000,000 gallons of water, and was known in 1908 as Mulvill Park. The facility provided entertainment, boating, bathhouses, a sand beach, tourist cottages, dining and dancing.

In 1997, the dam broke and the lake was drained.

Lake Venita was restored with the assistance of a \$144,000 grant from the Landmark Local Parks Program, through the Department of Natural Resources, and assistance from the city of Odessa. The restoration of the lake was commemorated at a dedication ceremony on July 4, 2004. Dam broke again July 18, 2009. The dam has been repaired and the lake bed has been filled with water.

Odessa, according to the 2010 census, is the largest city in Lafayette County with 5300 residents.

Odessa also boasts the largest population increase of any city in Lafayette County. In 1970, the official census recorded 2839 residents. The 1980 census figures reported 3088. In 1990, population had grown to 3685 and in 2000, the population was 4818.

That percentage of growth surpassed all the cities in the county.

Community Church History

Many of the oldest churches in the Odessa area were chartered more than 100 years ago. The Presbyterian, First Baptist, First Christian, St. George Catholic, United Methodist and Church of Christ are six of the oldest churches in the community. Some of these churches have had at least six generations of family members in attendance.



First Baptist Church, 100 W. OO Highway, was first organized in 1874 as Mt. Hope Baptist Church. In 1879, the branch moved to the year-old city of Odessa. Until the frame church building could be completed, services were held in Gibbs Hall, which was across from today's City Hall.

Completed in 1878 for \$1450, the building became the first official church home for the congregation. The original church was on Dryden Street, across from the present First Christian Church. The building was damaged in an 1886 tornado.

In November 1924, a new church was built at First and Mason with 22 members. It later included an educational building, added to the west of the structure in 1956 and an additional annex completed in 1976. Due to membership growth and the need for a larger facility, the congregation sold that structure and moved in August 2007 into a new church building on property at the southwest corner of the intersection of Highway 131 and Route OO. The building contains classrooms, offices, kitchen and nursery facilities and a large sanctuary. The church completed the addition of The Refuge, a social, youth and event space.



The **First United Methodist Church, 301 S. First Street**, organized in 1880, constructed its first church building in 1882 and an additional structure in 1896. Both were destroyed by fire in 1903. A new building was built and ready for occupancy by October 17, 1904. Since that time, the church has added a sanctuary, educational building, classrooms and basement, and remodeled the original part of the building. Damaged in the 2016 tornado, it has been repaired and a ramp installed in the rear for handicapped members.



First Christian Church, 224 W. Dryden, congregation met for the first time in 1879 when the Greenton and Mt. Hope congregations blended into the Odessa congregation after the towns moved nearer the railroad. In 1880, a building was constructed from materials removed from the Greenton church, which dated back to 1850. That building was destroyed in the 1886 tornado and was replaced by a frame building which later burned. A third church, built in 1893, was placed on the same site and was dedicated on November 21, 1926. An addition to the church, which includes an elevator, was dedicated in 1995.



St. George Catholic Church, 716 S. Third Street, dates back to 1888. Early church records were destroyed in a fire at the Higginsville Catholic Church. In 1888, the first church building was near the present-day 1912 Public School building. It burned a year later. In 1890, the church relocated to the southeast corner of Second and Dryden streets. The congregation remained in the building until August 1964, when that building was demolished and a church was built at Third and Phillips across from Odessa High School.

Begun as a mission, the church received its first residential pastor, the Rev. James Hardy, in 1977. The church constructed a parish hall on the lot next to the church in 1978. A home for the priest was purchased in 1983 on Third Street, south of the church.

A new building was dedicated in April 2005 adjacent to the former church, which now serves as a meeting hall.

Community Church History



Odessa Church of Christ, Fourth Street and Otway, celebrated its 100th anniversary at this location in July, 1992. After meeting in different locations, the church's first building was destroyed in 1886 by a tornado. Another building, erected on the same foundation, burned. The next building was constructed in 1893 on land purchased for \$100 from the John Kirkpatrick Sr. family. The interior of that building was damaged in 1963 by a fire of unknown origin. The building has since been torn down to make way for a new gymnasium. The new sanctuary adjacent to the original structure was completed and dedicated in 1999. An additional fellowship hall/gymnasium opened in July, 2019.

In 1905, Odessa also was the site of the **Western Bible and Literary College**, run by the church and housed in buildings which had been abandoned by an unsuccessful college. The dormitory still exists as two homes on South First Street and a third home southeast of Odessa on Varner Road.



New Horizon Presbyterian Church USA, 4266 S. 131 Highway, organized January 27, 1883, as the First Presbyterian Church of Odessa, was the first church to open in Odessa and stay at its original location until a new building opened for services on July 14, 2002.

Church sits south of Odessa on 131 Highway on land donated by the B.B. Barr family. Name was changed prior to the move to the new location.

The first building, destroyed in the May 11, 1886 tornado, had to be rebuilt. Eleven years later, in 1897, the building was dismantled and rebuilt after faulty workmanship and material were discovered. That building burned January 29, 1900, and the records were destroyed. Finally, for the fourth time, the building, constructed in 1900-01, was completed on the original site and was in use until it was razed upon completion of the new church building. Site, on the northeast corner of Second and Dryden streets, is now the home of NASB.



Calvary Baptist Church, I-70 and 131 Highway, was formed in 1978 when 100 members of the First Baptist Church left to create a new church, which sits atop a hill on I-70 overlooking the city of Odessa. Church celebrated its 40-year anniversary in 2018. A new sanctuary was completed in 2003.



Odessa Restoration Branch, 131 Highway North, organized when members broke off from the Odessa Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in September of 1989. Congregation met temporarily at the Odessa Truck Sales facility on I-70 until a new structure was built on Highway 131, one-fourth mile north of I-70. The first service was held there December 5, 1992.



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 300 E. Crestview, was formed in 1979, meeting in a small facility on North Fourth Street for five years until 5.25 acres at the east end of Crestview Drive was purchased and a meetinghouse was built.

Meetinghouse was rededicated in 2005 after a nine-month renovation which extended the north face of the building. Addition included a choir rostrum, additional classrooms, library, larger foyers, plumbing and HVAC.

In 2006, the meetinghouse was expanded again to the south, providing larger auxiliary instruction rooms. Today the meetinghouse provides approximately 15,000 square feet of worship and instruction space.

Community Church History



Community of Christ, 515 S. First Street, the former **Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, purchased the present church site in 1948, where the Western Literary and Bible College once stood. They also purchased materials from the Mt. Zion Methodist Church building, near Chapel Hill. The congregation used the authentic Chapel Hill church pews until new pews could be obtained. Those pews were then used in the Bates City RLDS Church until other pews were purchased.

Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, eight miles south of Odessa on 131 Highway, was built in 1884 and remodeled in 1984. The church burned to the ground October 10, 2019. It is being rebuilt at the same location and should be ready to reopen sometime in 2020.

Cedar Grove Christian Church is located south on 131, then east on Route U to County Road 370, and south on gravel road 1 1/2 miles. The church was organized in 1883.

Crown Christian Center, organized in 1996, meets at 7 p.m. each Sunday at 7411 Outer Road, the former Countryside Family Dining Restaurant building.

Rolling Meadows Christian Church constructed a new building on Odessa Cemetery Road. The congregation formerly was known as Community Christian Church.

New Hope Baptist Church, 110 S. First St.; Pastor Tyrone Thirfield; Evangelist, Wilbur Conway. Church holds Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.



Life Point Church, the former First Assembly of God, was organized in 1964. In 1979, the present structure was built on a triangular lot on 131 Highway, Phillips and First streets. Church members have completed a sanctuary which seats 400 persons adjacent to the present building, which was converted to an education wing.



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Community Church Directory

Bates City Restoration Branch

Elder John Martinko
728 Old 40 Hwy., Bates City
Phone: 816-726-4985

Calvary Baptist

Pastor Devin Hackler
Youth minister, Gary VanLanker
Interstate 70 and 131 Hwy. North, Odessa
Phone: 230-4200

Cedar Grove Christian

Minister Rob Deuel
Youth minister, Emylee Deuel
1195 NW 271st Road, Mayview
Phone: 660-584-6218 or 660-584-2564

Church of Christ

Pastor Jason Hawkins
Fourth and Otway, Odessa
Phone: 633-5369

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Bishop Matt Wamsley
300 Crestview, Odessa
Phone: 633-5420

Columbus Christian Fellowship

640 NW M Highway, Odessa
Phone: 633-7645

Columbus Restoration Branch

Odessa

Community Bible Church

Pastor Merle Mosley
1450 NW 950 Rd., Odessa
Phone: 633-5011

Community of Christ

Pastor Bruce Watson
515 S. First St., Odessa
Phone: 633-4224

Concord Baptist

Pastor Bill Olinger
2899 Baptist Lane, Bates City
Phone: 816-625-7528

Countryside Church of the Nazarene

Marissa and Michael Coblentz, co-pastors
614 NW M Hwy., Centerview
Phone: 660-747-3207

Cross Ties Cowboy Church

Odessa
Phone: 816-898-0442

Crown Christian Center

Pastor Bud Shepherd
7411 North Outer Road, Odessa
Phone: 633-7811

First Baptist, Bates City

Pastor Matthew Dunn
200 Z Hwy., Bates City
Phone: 816-625-3086

First Baptist, Mayview

Pastor Brooks Stotts
509 E. Marshall, Mayview
Phone: 660-237-4336

First Baptist, Odessa

Pastor Terry Hodges
Associate pastors Jim Cline,
Casey Young, Jacob Asher
100 OO Hwy., Odessa
Phone: 633-5535

First Christian

Pastor Tabatha Johnson
224 West Dryden St., Odessa
Phone: 634-7726 or 633-7756

First United Methodist

Pastor Jeremy Lundergan
301 S. First St., Odessa
Phone: 230-4926

Greenton Baptist

Pastor David Howie
9345 Greenton Rd., Odessa
Phone: 633-7986

Journey of Faith Ministries

Pastor Tom Owens
601 Clinic St., Wellington
Phone: 217-9488

Life Point Church

Pastor Danny Davis
707 S. First St., Odessa
Phone: 417-413-9781

Long Branch Baptist

Pastor Kevin Schildknecht
1495 Chrisman Rd., Odessa
Phone: 633-4743

Mt. Tabor United Methodist

Pastor John Churchill
12507 Mt. Tabor Rd., Odessa
Phone: 633-4176

New Hope Baptist Church

Pastor Tyrone Thirkield
Evangelist, Wilbur Conway
110 S. First St., Odessa
Phone: 706-615-1643

New Horizon Presbyterian

Pastor Grant Gillard
4266 Highway 131, Odessa
Phone: 633-5544

New Beginnings Free Will Baptist Ministries

Rev. Bruce Washam
563 McKendree Rd., Odessa
Phone: 633-5667

Odessa Restoration Branch

Branch President, Paul Simmons
6783 131 Hwy. North, Odessa
Phone: 263-1770

Rolling Meadows Christian

Pastor Chris McCullison
10406 E. Odessa Cemetery Rd., Odessa
Phone: 816-661-7397

St. George Catholic

Priest Bryan Amthor
716 S. Third St., Odessa
Phone: 230-4127, Parish Hall: 633-7475

St. Paul Church of Napoleon

Pastor Keith Mackey
205 Hill St., Napoleon
Phone: 934-8228

St. Luke Evangelical

Senior Pastor Chris Middleton
Worship Pastor Jeremy Gray
700 W. Hwy. 224, Wellington
816-240-2312

United Methodist Church

Pastor Curt Wilhelmsen
385 Church St., Napoleon
Phone: 934-8250, Parsonage: 240-8250

Wellington Christian Fellowship

Pastor Mario Carrillo
Highway 224 and Cherry Street, Wellington
Phone: 934-8301

Wellington First Baptist

Pastor David Updegrave
224 Vine St., Wellington
Phone: 934-2560

Wellington United Methodist

Pastor Jeremy Lundergan
Hwy. 131
816-934-2400 or 230-4926

Woods Chapel United Methodist

Pastor David Mortenson
813 NW 131 Hwy., Odessa

Zion A.M.E. Church

Pastor Barbara Harper
107 Heth St., Mayview
Phone: 660-237-4382 or 816-509-0803

Zion United Church of Christ

Pastor Kristin Aardema Faigh
105 N. Mary, Mayview
Phone: 660-237-4355



The Odessa Cemetery is located east of town on Odessa Cemetery Road. An association was formed in 1943.

Before the two communities, Greenton and Mt. Hope, moved nearer to the C&A Railroad forming the town of Odessa, people buried their loved ones, or perhaps complete strangers, in family or church cemeteries. On September 26, 1881, land purchased from Asa Hatch became the Odessa Cemetery, shortly before the town of Odessa was incorporated.

The first person buried in the cemetery was a one-year-old child named Robbie, by his parents Mr. and Mrs. P.W. Gum, on October 16, 1881. Families who had buried loved ones in family graveyards or in rural areas, primarily from the Greenton and Mt. Hope areas, moved family members to the Odessa Cemetery. Some of these reburials covered deaths as far back as 1847.

In 1943, Mayor Thomas Dyer recommended maintenance of the Odessa Cemetery be turned over to a citizen board.

Hugh Ramsey, present at the first board meeting, suggested an endowment fund be established in order to properly restore and manage the cemetery. Ramsey reviewed plans in other cities, worked on cemetery records, and developed bylaws to manage the cemetery. Located at the Odessa Cemetery is a monument placed there by the Odessa Cemetery Association, Inc. in memory of Ramsey's contributions.

Officers are Denny Fieth, president; Joe Parshall, vice president; Martha Dahlor, secretary; Amanda Hotmer, treasurer. Other members are John Hotmer, Dennis Slusher, Robert Danner, Joey Kleoppel, Sherryl Delana, Paul Robbins, Bruce Whitsitt and Phil Varner. Board meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at the cemetery office, 202 W. Mason. To purchase lots, contact Larry or Tyra Greenfield, 633-8264 or 263-1994.

Greenton Cemetery, established in 1835 north of Odessa, is the oldest cemetery in the area. The church is the last building left from the town of Greenton. The land, donated by Joseph H. Green, contains one of the earliest recorded headstones, that of a child, Harriet V., the infant daughter of M.M. and M.J. Robinson, dated 1849.

Harvey Geary is the current president of the Greenton Cemetery Association board. Gary and Joyce Kite are co-secretary-treasurers and board members are Ronnie Gray, Glenn Barker, Bill Schieber and Larry Jones.

Mt. Tabor Cemetery originated in 1893 when a tract of land was donated southeast of Odessa on what is now Mt. Tabor Road by John and Nancy McNeel.

The cemetery is made up of the original tract, plus an area donated by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Steelman Jr., and a five-acre tract purchased in 1989 from the Steelmans.

Present corporation board members are Jerry Wade, president; Ronnie Steelman, vice president; Laura Nolte, secretary; Frances Laun, treasurer; Roger Douthit and Arthur Steelman Jr.

Greenton Cemetery, established in 1835, is one of the oldest cemeteries in the area. The cemetery adjoins Greenton Baptist Church.

Woods Chapel Cemetery is south of Odessa on 131 Highway in Johnson County. The cemetery, which is east of the church, was incorporated May 2, 1944. The oldest tombstones date back to those of Civil War veterans.

Woods Chapel Cemetery Association board president is Donald Pemberton. Leland McNeel is vice president and Wilma McNeel is secretary/treasurer. Board members are Penny Sisk and Jerry Long.

The association is governed by a board which manages the money, ascertains where new graves can be placed, charges for plots, pays for maintenance and keeps the records.

The Bates City Cemetery was opened in 1891 when the community's founder, Theodore Bates, died. His widow purchased five acres of land from her son and selected a family plot in the center before deeding the remainder to the churches of Bates City as their cemetery.

In later years, the south side of the cemetery was used for burials but today the original land has been modified with burial lots and driveways. Cemetery added a brick entryway and repaired the iron fence around the Bates family plot in 2010.

Current board members are Don Reynolds, president; Gayle Bainbridge, secretary; Jim Bainbridge, treasurer; Ruth Ford, Bob Bainbridge and Bill Bainbridge.

Rural cemeteries are either family or church graveyards. Two graveyards, Muir and a portion of Mt. Hebron, were reserved for black families. The Summers-Helm and Powell cemeteries each have a cenotaph in memory of men who died in the Revolutionary War. The first was placed at Summers-Helm for Ezekial Stewart (1741-1837) by his son, David Stewart. The other, thought to be a memorial stone as it was placed after the 1974 survey, is for Joseph Powell (1760-1835).

A collection and work documenting area cemeteries has been compiled and published by Marty Helm Brunetti, Odessa. The transcription may be accessed at the Odessa branch of Trails Regional Library in the genealogy section.

The oldest grave site recorded in the history books, Brunetti said, is at the Thomas Hopper Cemetery. The son of Thomas Hopper died May 31, 1924, around the age of 26 leaving a wife and two small sons. Cemetery is a short distance from Junction 131 and FF, northeast, between Odessa and Wellington.

Other rural cemeteries include Barker, Campbell, Chapel Hill, Cobb, Concord Baptist, McKendree Chapel, Mt. Hope, Pleasant Prairie, Poole, Old Concord Baptist, Shore, Summers-Helm, Odessa; Marvin Chapel, Mayview, Mound Prairie, Zion United Church of Christ, Mayview; Anderson, Napoleon United Methodist, St. Paul, Napoleon; Arnold, Mt. Olivet, St. Luke Evangelical, Wellington City Cemetery, Wellington.

Community

Historical Society



Odessa Area Historical Society members pictured, front row, from left, Julia Cobb, Kay Robbins, Elaine Miller, Ruth Beamer; middle, Lenora Fieth, Delores Turner, Dennis Slusher, Linda Bowlin; back, Steven Cobb, Candace Osborne, Lola Belle Hawthorne and Bonnie Keyserling.

Odessa Area Historical Society was organized to preserve and protect the historical artifacts of Odessa and surrounding area, generally the Odessa R-7 School District, and to educate the general public on the heritage and history of the greater Odessa area, including the cities of Bates City and Mayview.

Donation of many items in the society's collection was made by the late Kay Sanders in the hope that a historical society for Odessa would be formed. Sanders' granddaughter, Laura sought the assistance of the community to form a board and establish a historical society in 2008. The result was the Odessa Area Historical Society.

Odessa Area Historical Society has opened a museum and headquarters at 203 South Second St. in downtown Odessa. The building was donated for use to the Society by the Bank of Odessa.

Officers are Dennis Slusher, president; Candace Osborne, vice president; Kay Robbins, secretary; Lenora Fieth, treasurer; Julia Cobb, executive secretary.

Activities of the society include archival of the collection as well as promoting the history of Odessa.

For additional information, contact Cobb at 417-619-5151. Mailing address is PO Box 324, Odessa MO, 64076. Society also maintains a Facebook page, which has museum hours information.

Arts Association

Odessa Arts Association is a nonprofit community organization started in 2008 by a group of local artists with the purpose of gathering together to learn, explore and share artistic abilities. Group consists of artists of all ages, abilities and disciplines.

Organization has its work on permanent display in City Hall.

The organization has an annual art show during the Odessa Puddle Jumper Days festival at the First Christian Church to showcase local artists of all ages and their artwork.

Odessa Arts Association works with several local organizations, including the Lafayette County Juneteenth Organization, the Tunis Sheep Association and the Odessa Area Historical Society.

The organization holds monthly meetings and workshops to explore different mediums and styles of art.

"We also have painting days to have fun with art, museum visits and periodic civic projects for the community," Nancee Wilson, president, said. "Our goal is to make Odessa an art destination."

Wilson can be contacted about the arts association at 816-633-8888 or 816-719-3679.



Sydney Stevens presenting her Mayor's Choice award from the 2018 Puddle Jumper Days festival.

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Service Odessa Outreach

Odessa Outreach is a 501(c)(3) public charity created to receive funds which are then distributed to nonprofit organizations serving Odessa, Bates City and Mayview. Odessa Outreach relies entirely on the generosity of the community to help meet the needs of the local nonprofits which make a positive difference in the lives of youth, seniors and families in the community.

Each donation received is distributed among several groups and therefore, gives donors the ability to help many organizations through their gift.

The all-volunteer board led by Phyllis Ferguson, chairman, plans several activities throughout the year to raise funds including a July 4 duck race. Other events include a penny pitch booth at Puddle Jumper Days, Turkey Bingo in November, St. Patrick's Bingo in March as well as a wreath fundraiser during the holidays.

Organization has a \$25,000 annual fundraising goal. Board hears pleas for funding from eligible organizations the second Thursday in January.

Groups which typically receive funding are area 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Odessa Senior Center, Odessa Community Service Center, Partners for Odessa Parks & Recreation, Odessa Community Day Care, House of Hope, and veterans groups.



July 4 Duck Race is one of the many activities sponsored by Odessa Outreach to raise funds for local nonprofits.

Residents are encouraged to participate in fundraising events and to send donations to Odessa Outreach, PO Box 40, Odessa, MO 64076. In addition, those who contribute to the United Way through salary deduction may designate Odessa Outreach as the receiving organization. All donations to Odessa Outreach are tax-deductible.

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Service Odessa Rotary

Odessa Rotary Club, chartered in 1988, was the first club in this international organization to be chartered with women.

Rotary is where neighbors, friends and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders and take action to create lasting change. Present membership is 19. As of July club meetings were suspended due to COVID-19 but in regular order the club meets Thursdays at noon at JJ's Down Home Cafe.

More than 150 students have benefited from scholarships given each year to Odessa High School graduates and to students continuing their education at state-supported Missouri colleges and universities. An endowment fund of more than \$125,000 is used to provide four \$1000 scholarships to high school graduates and additional funding for qualified applicants who are continuing their education.

In addition to support of Polio Plus, a Rotary International project to eradicate polio worldwide, the club sponsors an OHS student to attend Boys State, donates to the Senior Center, BackSnack program, Shoes for Orphan Souls, Odessa R-7 holiday project, Odessa Project Connect and sponsors a child in need of braces.

Two Students of the Month are honored from Odessa High School during the school year. Community events



Charter members of the OHS Interact Club were recognized at a November banquet.

sponsored by the club include the Frog and Turtle Races at Puddle Jumper Days.

Last year, the club chartered an Interact Club at Odessa High School. Interact Clubs are sponsored by Rotary chapters worldwide to promote community service and international understanding.

Richard Ray is Rotary club president.



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Service

Odessa Optimists

Odessa Optimist Club was chartered in September of 1974 with 41 members, two of whom are still members. There presently are 22 members. Optimists meet at 6:45 a.m. the second Thursday at JJ's Down Home Cafe and at 6:45 p.m.

Larry Hol is president.

Club sponsors events for youth in the community including the Optimist train, bicycle drag races at Puddle Jumper Days, youth wrestling, scholarships for Odessa High School graduates, Project Grad, AAU track meets, swim parties, sponsorship of a student to the Missouri Leadership Seminar and sponsoring soccer, t-ball and basketball teams through the Odessa Parks and Recreation Department.



The Halloween costume contest is one of many community service projects sponsored by Odessa Optimist Club.



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Service

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Services provided include a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, outreach services in Lafayette, Ray and Carroll counties, children's services, emergency transportation, legal referrals and advocacy, support groups for adults, teens and children, community awareness and education, parenting classes, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program and counseling, as well as supervised visitation and monitored exchanges of children and their noncustodial parent(s).

Services are provided in shelter or through the House of Hope Community Outreach Center.

Community Outreach Center
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Crisis Hotline
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Service

BackSnack

Odessa BackSnack program attempts to alleviate hunger in the Odessa School District by providing backpacks filled with food to families in need of assistance. The BackSnack board works closely with school counselors and social workers to identify food-insecure families. Backpacks are sent home on weekends and are also available for pickup throughout the summer.

Program is supported by community members through grants and donations by businesses, churches, civic groups and individuals. Donations of time, money and new or used backpacks or bags are needed. Those who are wanting to provide community service may shop and pack bags.

Kid-friendly, nonperishable food donations, easily prepared with minimal ingredients, are accepted. Monetary donations are tax deductible and may be given through the school district's Central Office or directly to the BackSnack Program.

Food and backpack donations may be made at Odessa participating churches: First United Methodist, Calvary Baptist, First Christian Church, Church of Christ, St. George Catholic and Zion United Church of Christ, Mayview.

During the COVID-19 school closure, BackSnack continued to provide food to local children.

Those with questions may call coordinator Bessie Madsen, 263-5045.



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Service

Community Service Center



Odessa Community Service Center is located at 212 S. Second.

Odessa Community Service Center (OCSC) at 212 South Second Street is in the heart of downtown. In 1991, the center opened in response to needs and the transportation problems posed for families traveling to Lexington for services.

The center is open 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Phone number is 230-7558. OCSC relies heavily on private donations from churches, schools and businesses and a generous community.

Additional sources of support and funding come from the Salvation Army Bell Ringing program where 85¢ of each dollar donated is returned to the community to provide utility assistance for families. Center coordinates with churches, businesses and the community on an annual Christmas Adoption program that provides Christmas gifts for children. School supplies for K-8th grades are collected prior to the beginning of the school year and at Thanksgiving, the center provides families with food to make a turkey dinner.

Center is a Harvesters Food Agency providing USDA commodities for families. In addition, the center operates a food pantry. A summer kids food program provides kid-friendly food for children.

In addition to food and utilities assistance, other services include emergency prescription and Christmas adoption program.

OCSC works with the Health Care Collaborative of Rural Missouri, House of Hope and Missouri Community Action Agency of Lafayette County to provide individual and family services and offers referral services for those in need.

Center operates with an all-volunteer staff led by Craig Kidwell, executive director and Patty Kidwell, food distribution director. Officers are Shannon Quick, president, Linda Elliott, vice president, Sharon Petkoff, treasurer and Larry Hol, secretary.

Contributions and volunteers are always needed. Anyone looking for a way to contribute to their community in service may contact the center.

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Service

Helping Hands of Odessa



Helping Hands of Odessa opened its doors in June 2014.

Organization is located at 209 W. Mason Street with hours Tuesday, 9-2, Thursday, 2-6, and the first Saturday of each month 9-12. Phone number is 816-653-2048.

Helping Hands, a 501(c)3 organization, has partnered with churches, individuals and civic organizations in the community for support. Its goal is to work closely with individuals and families who need help with food bundles, fresh produce, toiletries and household items. The organization also helps with back-to-school supplies and provides a Christmas store.

Facility funding comes from individual and business donations, as well as fundraisers, such as bake sales and rummage sales.

Helping Hands became a Harvesters partner in February 2016.

The Board of Directors is always looking for volunteers for both the office and to assist with fundraising.

Board members are Carol Sadler, president; Sharon Dyer, secretary; Carol Sothy, Joyce McKinney and Dennis Hattey. AJ Briggs is director.



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Service

Clothes Closet



Odessa Clothes Closet, located in the east side of Odessa Outlet Center, makes gently used clothing, housewares and bedding available to the community. Pictured, from left, Alice Bronson, Sylvia Curtis, Joyce Turner, Jeanne Wade, volunteers.

Odessa Clothes Closet is staffed by local volunteers plus volunteer board members to make gently used clothing, housewares and bedding available to the community.

The Clothes Closet is located on the east side of the Odessa Outlet Center, 1324 E. Old Hwy. 40. Donations are accepted inside or at the drop box in back of the building.

Facility is open 1-5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. The board meets quarterly or as needed at 12 p.m. on the first Tuesday at the store.

After expenses, proceeds from the sale of merchandise are donated to local organizations.

Board members are Ray and Nita Dillon, Jim and Sylvia Curtis, Annie Hotmer-Utz, Rena Munsterman, Jerry Nance, Bill Hotmer, Beverly Bragaw and Linda and Don Cohron.

Helen's House

Helen's House, located at 211 W. Main Street, helps provide quality clothing to women and children in the area.

Helen's House is a mission of Rolling Meadows Christian Church. The space is set up as a boutique, with size sorted clothing for women and children, displays of accessories and a dressing room in the back.

Organization provides two outfits to children kindergarten-senior and women every 90 days. Outfits also include accessories, and children are also given a pillow each year. Patrons are able to shop through the items at Helen's House and try them on in order to make sure they fit correctly.

There is no purchase or proof of income necessary, Brenda Neidel, director, said, however proof of residence in the Odessa R-7 School District is required.

Organization accepts monetary donations and like-new clothes.



Helen's House is located on Mason Street and provides women and children with two new or like-new outfits every 90 days.

Service Odessa Senior Center



Care Connections For Aging Services Odessa Senior Center

Joyce Van Sickle, center coordinator
 Deb Krieger, regional services director - Care Connections
 217 South Second Street, 816-633-4161
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Odessa Senior Center, located at 217 S. Second Street, provides seniors with the opportunity to gather, participate in activities and enjoy nutritious meals. Senior Center Services Board members are Don Owing, Margaret Gardner, Luella Burge, Barbara Long, Jerry Carter, John Fried, Joe Morgan, Phyllis Hubbard and Elaine Edwards.

Building board members responsible for maintenance are Harold Ewbank, Harold Richard Barker, JoAnn McCarty, Bill Crawford, Jim Pater, Jim Henning, Willis Shafer, Gene Barker and Kay Lueck.

The center's main focus is to provide meals to senior citizens, both at the center and at home through a homebound delivery program. Information about the home-delivered meal program is available from the Senior Center coordinator.

"Heart Healthy" meals are available for those who need to follow a low-salt, low-cholesterol or diabetic diet.

Frozen meals also are available to homebound participants. Home delivery is provided five days a week by volunteers.

Donations are requested from those receiving meals, but no one is ever turned away. Meals run about \$7 each. Funding comes from various sources including money from the Older Americans Act and local community fundraising.

Odessa Senior Center volunteers are active year-round raising monies for meals.

The center has transportation assistance, supplied by Consumer Directed Trans and OATS, which is available to bring seniors to the center and provide other transportation. Local transportation is available from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those who need more information may call 633-4161.

Activities offered at the center include cards, puzzles, bingo, dominoes, crafts, Silver Sneakers, reading material, exercise, educational and health programs and walking. Center also offers a variety of entertainment.

Community members who are seeking a volunteer experience are encouraged to visit the center and inquire about the many volunteer opportunities. Volunteers contribute thousands of hours to the center each year.



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Organizations

Veteran organizations



VFW Post 5675 and its Auxiliary put on the annual fireworks show at Dyer Park.



Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5675 was first established in 1899 in Columbus, Ohio, and was chartered in Odessa in 1946. Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the post home on 40 Highway.

Commander is Brad Schwantz and service officer is Bob Woodruff, 230-3286.

Annual events include the VFW Breakfast on the second Saturday of each month, Memorial Day service, Fourth of July activities at the post home and co-sponsorship of Dyer Park fireworks, MIA-POW balloon release, B.H. Milby Fishing Derby, Otis Kirts Memorial Fish Fry, VFW/AL appreciation picnic, Puddle Jumper Days booth, military funeral honors team, Canteen, blood drives, assists with The Auxiliary Poker Run.



VFW Auxiliary was established nationally in 1919 and was chartered in Odessa in 1946.

The group hosts many annual events including Fourth of July activities at the post home and co-sponsorship of Dyer Park fireworks, Tuesday Tacos, children's Patriotic Art contest,

Buddy Poppy Drive, Puddle Jumper Days beer garden, poker run fundraiser to benefit the Veterans Community Project Tiny House Project and the Veterans Assistance League, coffee and razor collection for the VA Hospital in Kansas City, cancer grants, Queen of Hearts 50/50 drawing, Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen essay contests, Halloween Costume Party for children, Smart Maher citizenship education award, Easter Egg Hunt, joint Christmas party with VFW, Adopt-A-Family at Christmas, Adopt-A-Highway quarterly trash pick-ups, bake sale at VFW fish fry, military suicide awareness billboard and military funeral honors team.

The Auxiliary meets on the second Sunday of every month. Patty Corbett is president.



IN HONOR OF OUR BRAVE VETS



AMVETS National Headquarters was founded in 1944 by an act of Congress. Odessa's chapter was formed in 2009.

Annual event is a Puddle Jumper Days drawing. Money raised is donated to veterans hospitals and organizations and to assist local

veterans.

Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Odessa branch of Trails Regional Library. Commander is Loren Couch.

For more information or to join, Ron Roland, 816-977-7142 or James Harvey, 816-588-7634, may be called.

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Organizations

Veteran organizations



American Legion Post 286 was founded in 1919 and named for Pvt. William "Roy" Douthit who died November 13, 1918, in France. Douthit, who served in Company A, of the 101st Infantry, was awarded the Purple Heart and the WWI Victory Medal. After World War II, the name was changed to the Douthit-Specker American Legion Post 286, also to honor Sgt. Joe Carl Specker, who served in the 48th Combat Engineer Battalion and was killed January 6, 1944, at Mt. Porchia, Italy. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Europe-African-Middle Eastern Medal, Good Conduct Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation. A ship was named for him in 1945. Both men are buried in Odessa Cemetery.

The Legion hosts annual events which include sponsoring Boys State, Bingo at the Veterans Home in Warrensburg, placing flags on graves for Memorial Day, military funeral honors team and assistance in obtaining military benefits from Bob Woodruff, service officer, 816-230-3286

The Legion meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the VFW post. Commander is Dave Russell. Those interested in joining may contact Russell at 816-888-0570 or Jim Harvey at 816-588-7834.



American Legion Auxiliary was formed in 1919. Karen Shipp is president of the local organization which meets on the first Wednesday every other month at the VFW post home on Old 40 Highway.

The Auxiliary sponsors annual events including Girls State, a 50/50 raffle which benefits the Odessa Community Center, Odessa Senior Center, BackSnack Program and the Outstanding Lunch Balances program; two garage sale fundraisers to support Girls State; Poppy Day, placing flags on graves for Memorial Day, clothing donations to elementary schools and donations to the Veterans Home in Warrensburg.

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Organizations

Chamber of Commerce

The Odessa Chamber of Commerce is located at 112 S. Second Street in downtown Odessa.

Chamber director Tamara Kirk works to promote community and business relations, to keep the businesses informed of current news, make business contacts, schedule events and build business relationships. Through membership meetings held the fourth Wednesday of each month, after-hours social gatherings, ribbon cuttings and its newsletter, the Chamber provides networking opportunities for members.

"The networking we do during membership meetings and our event volunteer times is critical for our small businesses. This is where our members develop and learn what is successful or not and gives us the knowledge to cross sell so all our businesses are successful," Kirk said.

The Chamber has two main fundraisers each year, Odessa Rodeo in June and Sweet and Savory in March. A portion of funds raised from these events goes to community betterment, such as replacement of the downtown Christmas lights and the Downtown Lighting Ceremony held the Monday before Thanksgiving.

"We work together as The Downtown Group and Economic Development Committee to make Odessa a destination you want to see," Kirk continued.

Executive board members for the Chamber of Commerce are Shannon Quick, Art Glass Depot, president; Alan Berry, Berry Acres, vice president; Candy Hall, Bank of Odessa, secretary; and Shelby Varner, SERC Physical Therapy, treasurer. Other elected board members include Brad MacLaughlin, K 12 Perform, Carissa Suhr, Sunrise Market, Craig Kidwell, Odessa Community Service Center; Kim Rider, Thad Madsen State Farm Insurance; Linda Washam, Trails Regional Library; and Vickie Barker, Advanced Industries, Inc. Nici Wilson, City of Odessa and Roger Feagan, Odessa R-7 School District hold appointed board seats.

Those who are new to Odessa are asked to stop by the Chamber of Commerce to receive a new resident gift bag.

Office hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Thursday. The Chamber can be contacted at 816-633-4044 or chamberodessamo@gmail.com. Website is www.odessamochamber.com. Organization also maintains a Facebook page.



The Downtown Christmas Lighting Ceremony includes a chance to visit with Santa Claus.

Greetings from the



The Chamber sponsors these events:

Monthly luncheons (4th Wednesday of each month)

Sweet and Savory, Fall 2021

Odessa Rodeo (Dyer Park) June 18-19, 2021

Trick or Treating, October 2021

Downtown Christmas Lighting Ceremony,

Monday, November 23

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For more info or to join call

633-4044

Visit our website - OdessaMoChamber.com

Office: 112 S. Second St. • Odessa, MO 64076

Organizations Downtown groups

Downtown Odessa, Inc.

In June of 2014, Downtown Odessa, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit, was accepted into the Missouri Main Street Connection affiliate grant program.

The organization's volunteers work to create a sense of place in downtown Odessa, with a goal to make Odessa a destination. The organization hopes that people will work together to create an atmosphere that brings people to Odessa and gives them a reason to stay.

Shoppers can be seen downtown exploring the retail stores that offer a multitude of products and services. Store owners and community members have joined forces to be creative in their approach to promoting interest in the downtown Odessa shopping district.

Downtown Odessa has supported beautification projects and activities which draw people to the downtown area.

Board members are Rachel DeFoe Newton, president, Mark Begemann, vice president, Mary Bertram, treasurer, Katie Lockhart, secretary, Ariann Haskin, Rob Waibel and Samantha Kintz.

Downtown Merchants

In early 2018, store owners in the historic downtown Odessa shopping district banded together to beautify and promote Odessa's downtown. The Downtown Merchants Group holds an annual Wine Walk the second Saturday in June to showcase the shopping district and local wineries. Wine walks are held throughout the year. Organization maintains flowers at Second and Mason streets.

Membership is open to businesses who operate within the perimeter of the downtown district. Current advisory board members are Ariann Haskin, The Olive Branch, president, Mary Bertram, The Mixing Bowl, vice president, Jamie Wimberly, The Creamery, secretary, Deborah Fiene, Tilley & Co., treasurer, and at large members Vanessa Fahle, The Tea Room, and John Spaar, The Odessan.



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The Puddle Jumper Days parade is a highlight of the annual festival.



Frog and turtle races are a popular Puddle Jumper Days activity.



A talent show, "Odessa's Got Talent," was held at the 2019 Puddle Jumper Days.

Puddle Jumper Days is an annual tradition celebrated the first full weekend in August, dating to Odessa's centennial in 1978.

The event was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will be held August 5, 6 and 7 of 2021.

Puddle Jumper Days was named after a train called the "Puddle Jumper" which stopped in Odessa and other area towns.

Activities are varied on Friday and Saturday. Area organizations raise money by sponsoring booths and local businesses donate funds to support activities and entertainment. Live entertainment is available.

Children's activities include a Little Mr. and Miss Odessa contest, frog and turtle races, bicycle races and a carnival full of exciting rides.

Other events and activities include a talent show, 5K run, car show, art show, Optimist kiddie train and plenty of old-fashioned games. Live bands are featured on Friday and Saturday nights. A parade is held Saturday at 10 a.m.

There is always something for everyone to enjoy. The Puddle Jumper Days Committee is made up of volunteers from the Odessa community. The committee may be contacted through their website, odessapuddlejumperdays.org.

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American Legion Auxiliary

Karen Shipp, 816-633-5493

Odessa Baby Grace Ministries

230-4926

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority

•Delta Psi Chapter
Teresa Begemann, 816-633-4133
•Xi Epsilon Upsilon Chapter
Carolyn Gittinger, 816-633-7246
•Alpha Epsilon Alpha Chapter
Cinda Dowell, 816-352-8024

Black Americans Concerned of Lafayette County

Arluster Bass, president
660-909-5008

Boy Scouts of America

•Troop 120, Sean Croucher, 816-517-1235
•Troop 286, Scott Medlock, 816-200-2220
•Venturing Crew 2675, Scott Medlock,
816-200-2220.

Clothes Closet

816-633-5600

Cub Scouts

•Pack 120, Justin Shull, 816-263-1393
•Pack 286, Scott Medlock, 816-200-2220

Daughters of the American Revolution, Gilead Rupe Chapter

Nancy Mears, 816-230-5019

Downtown Odessa

Rachel DeFoe Newton, 816-382-5210
Mary Bertram, 816-633-5500

Federated Republican Women's Club of Lafayette County

Doris Strickler, 816-204-0443

Girl Scouts

Chloe Fey, 816-358-8750

Habitat for Humanity

Lafayette Co. office, 660-259-2649

Healthcare Collaborative of Rural Missouri

825 S Bus. Hwy. 13, Lexington
660-259-2440

Helen's House

267-2865

Helping Hands of Odessa

816-653-2048

House of Hope

Ann Gosnell, executive director
660-259-4766
Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-888-259-6795

Lafayette County Democratic Club

Jack Bainbridge, 816-985-2100

Lafayette Foster and Adoptive Support

Happy Sparks, 816-719-3131

Little League Football

Adam Bradley, 816-721-2135

Mayview Community Betterment

Chris Wildschuetz, 816-263-4545

Mayview Lions Club

Tahnami Gittinger, 816-263-3003

Mt. Hope Masonic Lodge

Bill Watts, 816-263-0254

Nap-Well Homemakers

Louise Block, 816-240-2359

OATS, Lafayette County

1-800-276-6287

Odessa Alumni Band

Joe Smith, 816-633-0756

Odessa Area Historical Society

Julia Cobb, 417-619-5151
Ruth Beamer, 816-769-5964
beamfxa@aol.com

Odessa Chamber of Commerce

Shannon Quick, president
Tamara Kirk, executive director
816-633-4044

Odessa Football Boosters

Shon Badder, 816-918-3812

Odessa Outreach

Phyllis Ferguson, 816-633-5387

Odessa R-7 Alumni Association

Michelle Barker, 816-263-4479

Odessa Wrestling Boosters

Heather Palmer
816-982-1134

Optimist Club

Tahnami Gittinger, 816-263-3003

Partners for Odessa Parks and Recreation

Cinda Dowell, 816-352-8024

Puddle Jumper Days

Carrey Goodman, 816-653-0684

Rotary Club

Richard Ray, president
573-473-8333

Shaw Club

Wanda Dyer, 816-633-4997

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Darrel Vorwork
816-645-8738

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

Patty Corbett, President
Amy Jo Lett, 816-668-3164

Writers' Bloc

Marilyn Maun, 816-633-7265

Health Service Directory

Medical Physicians

Odessa Medical Clinic

Bradley Zink, DO
Debra Koch, Nurse Practitioner
408 N. Fourth St. Suite B,
Odessa
230-8777

Odessa Medical Group

Ahmad Aslami, DO
Timothy Hall, OB/GYN
Jacqueline Pyle, Podiatry
Bethany Foss, FNP
Dean Adkins, FNP
1280 West Old 40 Highway
Odessa
633-5774

Dr. Ram Chandra Family Practice & Surgery

Dr. Ram Chandra
408B North Fourth Street
Odessa
633-1630

Clinics

The Neighborhood Clinic

Jo Hilbrenner
Family Nurse Practitioner
203 East Market
Bates City
816-625-1274

Optometry

Nancy J. Fry, O.D.

201 North Second, Suite C
Odessa
230-5321

Dentistry

Scott W. Heriford, D.D.S.

110 West Dryden Street
Odessa
230-4813

Odessa Family Dental

404 North Fourth Street
Odessa
633-5393

Hospitals

St. Mary's Medical Center

201 NW R.D. Mize Road
Blue Springs 64014
816-228-5900
816-655-5500

Lafayette Regional Health Center

1500 State Street
Lexington 64067
660-259-2203

Children's Mercy East

20300 East Valley View Parkway
Independence 64057
816-478-5200

Centerpoint Medical Center

19600 East 39th Street
Independence 64057
816-698-7000

Western Missouri Medical Center

403 Burkarth Road
Warrensburg 64093
660-747-2500

Pharmacists

CVS Pharmacy

Kris Reifel
101 South Second Street
Odessa
633-5518

The Drug Store

Christy Gibson
408A North Fourth Street
Odessa
633-8000

Independent Living West Central

Independent Living

210 West Mason Street
816-565-4470

Health Departments

Lafayette County Health Department

Tom Emerson
547 South Business Highway 13
Lexington 64067
660-259-4371

Johnson County Community Health Services

723 PCA Road
Warrensburg 64093
660-747-6121

Resources

Healthcare Collaborative of Rural Missouri

825 South 13 Highway
Lexington 64067
660-259-2440

Lafayette County Cancer Coalition

Janet Erdman
660-674-2453
Lois Wiley
660-584-7740

Home Health Visiting Nurse Association

309 Park Lane
Odessa
816-633-4205

Chiropractic Services

Tim Kesemann, D.C.

Odessa Chiropractic Center
216 South Second Street
Odessa
633-5355

Ted Cox, D.C.

421 North First Street
Odessa
633-8187

Rehabilitation Services

Odessa Rehab Clinic at New Haven Living Center

Physical, occupational and speech therapy
609 Golf Street
Odessa
230-7530

SERC Physical Therapy

211 North Second Street
Odessa
633-4063

Pediatric Therapy

213 A West Mason St.
Odessa
816-446-9018

Laboratory Testing

Quest Diagnostics

1280 West Old 40 Highway
Odessa
816-633-0132

Counseling

Schlotman Counseling Services

Terry Schlotman
Ryan Mallonie
406 North Fourth Street
Odessa
816-616-2812

Center for Counseling and Training

213 West Mason Street
Odessa
816-653-2297

Compass Health Network

1278 West Old Highway 40
Odessa
633-5921

Agencies Directory

Voter Registration

- County Courthouse
1001 Main Street
Lexington 64067
660-259-4315
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Odessa City Hall
125 S. Second St.
Odessa 64076
230-5577, 8:30-5 p.m. M-F

License Bureau

Motor Vehicle License Bureau
1016 Main Street
Lexington 64067
660-259-2872
Hours M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. last four business days of month
Last Saturday of month 8:30 a.m. - noon
Testing Location: Lexington Fire Dept.
533 S. Business 13 Hwy., Lexington
Tests administered Thursdays (except holidays)
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.

Family Support Children's Division and Senior Services

736 S. Business Highway 13
Lexington 64067
660-259-2294

Lafayette County Board of Sheltered Services

Marcus Whitlock
312 W. 19th Street
Higginsville 64037
660-584-3101

Lafayette County Enterprises, Inc.

(Employment for developmentally disabled)
109 West 19th Street
Higginsville 64037
660-584-7232

Higginsville Habilitation Center

(Dept. of Mental Health facility in support of people with developmental disabilities)
100 W. First St.
P.O. Box 517
Higginsville 64037
660-584-2142

Missouri Department of Conservation

Justin Pyburn, Lafayette County Conservation Agent
660-641-3347

Missouri State Highway Maintenance

7353 Outer Road
Odessa 64076
816-230-7712

Missouri Valley Community Action Agency

(Housing & energy assistance, Missouri Works, Early Head Start, Head Start and weatherization)
1712 N. Main Street
Higginsville 64037
660-584-3131

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- First United Methodist Church •Community Christian Center
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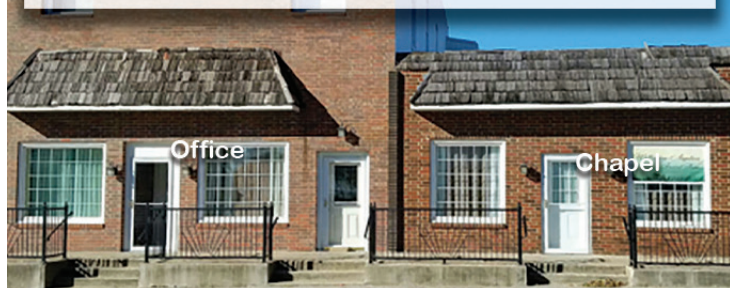
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Representation

Polling Locations

State Officials

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 Lt. Governor: Mike Kehoe
 Attorney General: Eric Schmitt
 Secretary of State: John R. Ashcroft
 Treasurer: Scott Fitzpatrick
 Auditor: Nicole Galloway, CPA

US Congress

United States Senators

Josh Hawley 202-224-6154
 Roy Blunt, 202-224-5721

United States Representative

Emanuel Cleaver, Fifth District, 202-225-4403

State Senate



Denny Hoskins

District 21 includes Caldwell, Carroll, Howard, Johnson, Lafayette, Livingston, Ray and Saline Counties.

Denny Hoskins, R-Warrensburg, was elected to Senate in 2016. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 2008 and elected as House Speaker Pro Tem in 2013.

866-331-4073

State House of Representatives

To be elected in November

District 53 encompasses all of Lafayette County.

Glen Kolkmeier, R-Odessa, represented District 53 through 2020. After four terms in the House of Representatives, he reached his term limit.

Many officials on this page could change with the November 2020 election.

• **Odessa Dyer Park, Community Bldg.**
 601 W. Main St.- N Odessa 1st, 2nd, 3rd wards, and E Odessa

• **Odessa New Horizon Presbyterian Church**

4266 Highway 131 - S Odessa 1st, 2nd & 3rd wards and Lake Lafayette

• **Bates City First Baptist Church**
 200 E. Highway Z - Bates City, Ferguson School Rural

• **Mayview, Community Building**
 All Mayview precincts

• **Community Christian Center**
 710 W. Highway 224 - All Wellington precincts

• **Napoleon, City Hall**
 104 S. 2nd St. - East/West Napoleon

Absentee Voting County residents who are not able to go to their polling place on Election Day may vote absentee beginning six weeks prior to an election.



LAFAYETTE COUNTY CANCER COALITION

Is a not-for-profit that supports Lafayette County residents with a variety of cancer-related services:

- Financial assistance for transportation, wigs, hats and turbans
- Financial assistance for medical tests, exams and services
- Food Supplements
- Cancer and caregiver network (816-225-5547)

Visit us on facebook and our website at
www.lafcocancer.org for forms and more information (660-674-2453)

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www.newhavenlivingcenter.com

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 Bus (816) 230-7530

County



Welcome to Lafayette County, Heart of Missouri's Old Trails Region

When you visit our county seat in Lexington, you will see a plaque describing our historic courthouse, built in 1847 and the oldest in continuous use west of the Mississippi River. It is known far and wide for the cannonball embedded in the upper left column, a remnant of the Civil War Battle of Lexington, fought September 18-20, 1861.

Rich in history, the old Santa Fe Trail wanders through Lafayette County where Lewis and Clark once camped and where Native Americans, explorers, traders and Civil War armies journeyed through this region.

Today, Lafayette County is an area rich with agricultural farming operations as well as orchards, produce farms and vineyards. Tourists looking for a day trip or weekend getaway destination will find wineries, produce vendors, farmers markets, unique shops, restaurants and bed-and-breakfasts.

In addition to tourism, Lafayette County is a perfect destination for those interested in starting a small business or in entrepreneurial investment opportunities. We welcome inquiries and will be happy to help provide the economic and demographic information needed.

Lafayette County is blessed to have excellent public, private and technical schools, exceptional emergency services, airports serving small aircraft, city parks and aquatic centers, numerous sports and recreational facilities, five community newspapers and a variety of churches to meet the spiritual needs of our residents.

In Lafayette County, we have a strong volunteer spirit that can't be matched as local residents work continuously for the betterment of their communities and county to improve the quality of life for all our citizens.

Whether you have lived here a long time or are just visiting, we are glad you are here and thank you for being a part of this area that is rich in history and heritage, agricultural bounty and economic promise.

Harold Hoflander
Presiding Commissioner

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County officials

Offices are located in the Lafayette County Courthouse, Lafayette Hall and the Dryer Annex in Lexington. Office phone numbers and hometowns are listed.

Presiding Commissioner

Harold Hoflander, Higginsville
660-259-4315

Southern Commissioner

Tracy Dyer, Odessa
660-259-4315

Northern Commissioner

Craig Williams, Lexington
660-259-4315

Circuit Court Clerk

Kim Mason, Higginsville
660-259-6101

Auditor

Cherie Mason, Lexington
660-259-6168

Collector of Revenue

Lori Fiegenbaum, Higginsville
660-259-6171

Assessor

Chip Langman, Lexington
660-259-6158

Treasurer

Jennifer Jellum, Higginsville
660-259-3711

Recorder of Deeds

JoAnn Swartz, Lexington
660-259-6178

County Clerk

Linda Niendick, Wellington
660-259-4315

Some of these positions will change with the November 2020 election.

Prosecuting Attorney

Kristen Ellis Hilbrenner
Lexington
660-259-6181

Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys

Trevor Potter, John Boyer

Sheriff

Kerrick Alumbaugh,
Higginsville
Gene Darnell Justice Center
107 S. 11th Street, Lexington
660-259-3392 or 660-259-3622

Coroner

Dr. Ram Chandra
Lexington Medical Clinic
660-259-3111

Public Administrator

Barbara Copenhaver,
Lexington
660-259-4520

Associate Circuit Judges
Division 1

Dennis Rolf
Alma
660-259-6101

Division 2

Russell Kruse
Concordia
660-259-2324

Division 3

Kelly Rose,
Odessa
660-259-6101

Emergency Management

Mark A. Appleby
660-259-6551



The Lafayette County Courthouse, the oldest courthouse in continuous use west of the Mississippi River, is located in Lexington, the county seat.

Lafayette County Planning and Economic Development

The role of Lafayette County Planning and Economic Development is to protect investment in rural Lafayette County. Zoning regulations have been in effect in the unincorporated areas of Lafayette County since 1987. Brad Worthington is the Planning Administrator.

The Lafayette County Planning and Economic Development office is located at 1001 Main Street in the historic Lafayette County Courthouse in downtown Lexington.

The Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan can be found on the county website, www.lafayettecountymo.com. Those who have questions regarding building and sewer permits, land splits, changes in zoning or any other development in Lafayette County should call 660-259-4439 to make an appointment.

The county Planning Commission meets as needed with representatives from each county township at the courthouse.

Cities & Boards

Bates City

Mayor, Don White

Aldermen:

Ward I, Roy Trussell

Ward I, Sherry Gaverth

Ward II, Julie White

Ward II, Jeff White

City Hall, 203 N. 2nd St., 690-3818, Open 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Police Dept., City Hall, 690-6575

Board of Aldermen meeting 7 p.m. Second Tuesday, City Hall

City of Wellington

Mayor, Richard Peterson

Councilmen:

At Large, Kent Rogge

At Large, David Russell

At Large, William Roy Barker

At Large, Randy Florence

City Clerk, Jan Florence

Collector, Mark Schroer

City Hall, 101 E. 4th Street, PO Box 598, 934-2521

Police Dept., City Hall, 934-2666

Business meeting 7 p.m. Second Monday

City of Mayview

Mayor, Kaylie Thompson

City Hall 660-237-4353

Part-time, no set hours

Business meeting 6 p.m. Second Monday

City of Lake Lafayette

Mayor, Donny Reynolds

City Hall, 633-8783, Open 9 a.m. - noon, Tues, Thurs., Sat.

Business meeting 7 p.m. Third Tuesday of each month

Odessa Special Road District

Business meeting 7 p.m. Second Tuesday,

headquarters 408 N. First St., Odessa

Road District Shed 816-633-7454

City of Napoleon

Mayor, Vickigene Merritt

Councilmen

At Large, Rex Robertson

At Large, John Mansell

At Large, Kevin Nieweg

At Large, Richard Dale

Council meeting 7 p.m., Second Monday

Odessa R-7 Board of Education

See page 14

Business meeting 7 p.m. Second Tuesday, high school media center

Odessa Fire and Rescue Protection District

See page 10

District meeting 7 p.m. Third Wednesday, 301 W. Dryden

Wellington-Napoleon R-9 Board of Education

See page 73

Business meeting 7 p.m. Second Wednesday, library media center

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Mindy Hampton
Superintendent

Some area residents with Odessa addresses located north of town may belong to the Wellington-Napoleon R-9 School District.

With 414 students, the Wellington-Napoleon district has a 14:1 student-to-teacher ratio and contains students from Wellington and Napoleon as well as many rural students.

The school offers a preschool for ages 3-5 that was started in late 2014.

The district boasts a 100% graduation rate and 96% attendance rate. The district most recently received a 100% accreditation rating.

Other statistics the district is proud of are that more than 31% of staff are Wellington-Napoleon graduates and 63% have advanced degrees. On average, district teachers have 14.5 years of experience.

High school students have the ability to take college-level classes while enrolled through ITV, online with the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg and Central Methodist University. Vocational training is available through Lex La-Ray Technical Center.

The district also participates in the A+ program and has a School to Work program for approved seniors through the vocational agriculture department.

Wellington-Napoleon R-9 Board of Education

President, David Twente

Vice President, Amy Legate

Treasurer, Sam Leach

Rheanna Todd

Mike Zykan

Diane Rukavina

Jerry Nagel

Wellington-Napoleon R-9 School District

816-240-0082

Mindy Hampton, superintendent

Todd Shannon, high school principal

Justin Mefferd, elementary school principal

Bill Hughes, activities director

Aileen Hephner, special services director

Services

Sni Valley Fire District

Sni Valley Fire Protection District provides coverage from stations in Oak Grove and Bates City.

Sni Valley Fire Protection District Stations are located at 1600 S. Broadway, Oak Grove and 207 E. Market Street, Bates City.

The district boundaries are the Johnson County line on the south, Route F (Truman Road) on the north, an imaginary line extending north and south from the 33 mile marker of I-70 on the east, and another imaginary line extending north and south from the 25 mile marker on the west.

This area encompasses the cities of Bates City, Oak Grove and most of the rural unincorporated areas surrounding those cities. It is an area that includes 78 square miles of territory; 40 in Jackson County and 38 in Lafayette County.

The district has mutual aid agreements with other fire departments, and immediate response agreements with Fort Osage, Odessa, Lone Jack and Central Jackson County (CJC) fire departments.

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 pennysisk35@gmail.com
816-230-0149 or 816-263-2234

Sylas Hicks - Agent

210A N Second Street
 Odessa, MO 64076-1136
 shicks@ShelterInsurance.com
 ShelterInsurance.com/CA/agent/SHICKS
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Services

PWSD No. 1



Jeanette Nickels, left, is district manager of Public Water Supply District #1; Vivian Garrett-Bumgarner is district clerk.

Rural Odessans have an ample supply of water due to Public Water Supply District #1 of Lafayette County.

Jeanette Nickels serves as district manager and Vivian Garrett-Bumgarner is district clerk.

The district serves 3369 customers, including the towns of Wellington, Napoleon, Bates City and Lake Lafayette.

The district offers automatic bill payment for customers. If interested in this option, contact the office. The district now accepts debit and credit cards with a 3% convenience fee. There are no after-hours reconnections.

To help alleviate problems caused by electrical outages, the district has a generator at the main pump station and a portable generator which can be moved between pump stations, to allow it to be filling towers should widespread electrical outage occur.

The district is working with the city of Independence for a second master meter for the north side of the water district. This will bring additional water to the district and supply more water in needed areas.

Meter deposits are \$100 for renters and \$60 for owners. An engineer reviews applications once a month to determine whether existing lines will handle increased loads without decreasing the quality to customers. The application fee for submittal is \$2560. Areas not adjacent to existing water lines are covered under a separate policy.

Board members are Kevin Brown, Marvin Siefker, Donald Pemberton, Brad Drecktrah and Devin Lundquist.

Board meets at 6 p.m., the third Monday of each month at the district office, 210 South Third Street. Office phone number is 633-7125.

Services **West Central Electric**

A member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., was formed in 1939 to bring electricity to the rural areas of west central Missouri.

WCE distributes power to rural members of Lafayette, Johnson, eastern Jackson and parts of Pettis and Cass counties. The company's headquarters are in Higginsville, Lafayette County, with a branch office in Oak Grove in eastern Jackson County.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. WCE may be contacted by phone at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942 or by mail at P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, 64037.

The Higginsville office is one mile north of I-70 on Highway 13. The Oak Grove office is one-half mile north of I-70 on Highway F.

WCE operates as a cooperative system, regulated by bylaws. When someone signs up for service, they become a member and are a part owner of the cooperative. A board of directors, elected from among the members, meets monthly. An annual meeting of the cooperative membership takes place each year in August.



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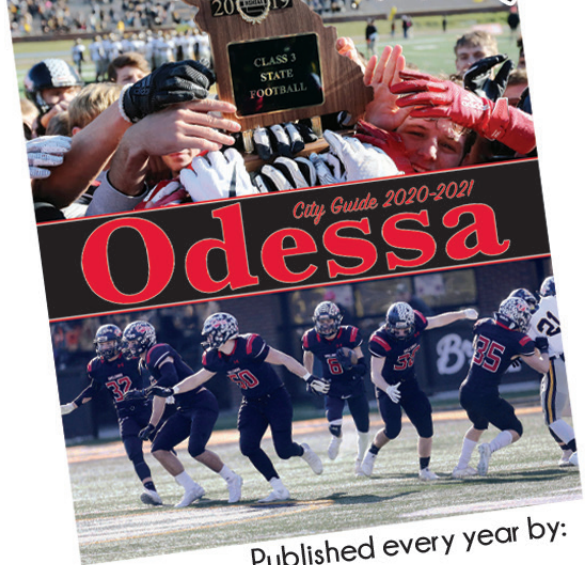
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