

2022 Edition | Volume #7 | 40 Pages

Owensville/ Rosebud Area Visitors Guide



Antique Shops
Wineries | Restaurants
Calendar of Events
and More!
Index on page 4

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<h3>SIDES</h3> <p>Mashed Potatoes White/Brown Gravy Potato Salad Mac & Cheese Baked Beans</p> <p>Fried Mushrooms Sidewinder Fries Shoestring Fries Curly Fries Tater Tots</p> <p>Onion Rings Onion Petals Green Beans Coleslaw Okra</p>	<h3>FEED THE FAMILY</h3> <p>8-Pcs. w/2 Sides 12-Pcs. w/3 Sides 16-Pcs. w/4 Sides</p>	<h3>KIDS AND SENIORS</h3> <p>(Includes small drink & 1 side) Cheeseburger • Chicken Dippers Toasted Ravioli • Mini Corndogs</p>	<h3>CATFISH</h3> <p>Grilled or Fried Served with Fries & Hush Puppies</p> <p>2 Fillet Meal or add Fillets to order</p>

Drive-Thru ~ Game Room ~ Large Party Seating ~ RV, Camper, & Bus Parking

contents



- ▼ **PLEIN AIR PAINTING EVENTS**
[page 6, 8 & 10]
- ▼ **GASCONADE COUNTY FAIR**
[page 12 & 14]
- ▼ **GASCONADE CO. THRESHERS**
[page 16]
- ▼ **OWENSVILLE MEMORIAL PARK**
[page 18]
- ▼ **INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS**
[page 20]
- ▼ **DOUGLAS PRAIRIE QUILT TRAIL**
[page 22]
- ▼ **GASCONADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**
[page 24]
- ▼ **HISTORICAL CRAFT DAYS**
[page 26]

- ▼ **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
[page 28]
- ▼ **ROCK ISLAND TRAIL**
[page 30 & 31]
- ▼ **A LEGEND AMONG THE CLASSICS**
[page 32, 34, 37 & 38]
- ▼ **ROSEBUD EVENTS / GERALD RODEO**
[page 38]

advertising index

▼ ANTIQUÉ & GIFT SHOPS	▼ FINANCIAL	▼ RESORT
Artworks on Main.....31	First State Comm. Bank..... 5	Lost Valley Lake..... 7
Cotton Gin's 17	Legends Bank23	▼ RESTAURANTS/BARS
Everyday Goodlife Co-op 15	Maries County Bank27	1st Street Eats39
Ivy Ann Antique Mall 17	▼ GENERAL INTEREST	7th Street Events14
Owensville Mercantile.....27	Gasconade County Historical	Bistro at the Mill..... 2
MacRae's Indian Books and	Society Museum 3	Bogeys Sports Bar33
Native American Art 13	Tea Lakes Conservation Area .29	Dos Primos.....31
Red Brick Antiques.....10	▼ HARDWARE / HOME CENTER	Figo's Mexican Restaurant.....19
Rusty Gate Antique Mall17	Gerald Home Center21	Gerald Cafe13
Relics Antique Mall 17	▼ MASSAGE THERAPY	Leslie Depot14
Yesteryears Antiques.....27	Massage for your health 11	Loeb's Mill Bar & Grill13
▼ BED & BREAKFAST / AIR B&B	▼ MEAT MARKET	M. Clancy's BBQ & Pub Fare17
Brinkman Farmstead B&B..... 9	Swiss Meat & Sausage.....40	McDonalds.....33
Henneke House15	▼ MEDICAL	Mubuhay Asian Cafe21
Merchant Townhouse.....39	Hermann Area Dist. Hosp.....29	Pizza Hut Express.....23
Red Brick Antiques..... 10	▼ MOTORCYCLE REPAIR	Rustic Garden31
▼ BINGO GAMING	J&R Max Power Tuning21	Silver Dollar Restaurant..... 7
Owensville Llons Club31	▼ MOVIE THEATER	Simply Sweet33
Owensville VFW Post 6133.....33	Great 8 Cinema21	Snowensville 3
▼ BOWLING ALLEY	▼ ORGANIZATIONS	Twister's Bar & Grill..... 7
Thunder Alley 7	City of Rosebud..... 8	White Mule Winery23
▼ CAMPING	Hermann Missouri25	▼ WEDDING VENUE
Memorial Park Campground.... 5	Owensville Chamber..... 5	Red Oak Valley35
Rock Island RV Park.....13	▼ REAL ESTATE	▼ WELDING
▼ CHEESE	HD Real Estate 13	Zelch Welding Company24
Cool Cow Cheese..... 9	Koehn Realtors37	▼ WINERY
▼ CLOTHING	Re/Max Exclusive Properties ..27	Wenwood Farm Winery.....29
28th & Main Boutique 14		White Mule Winery23
Rosebud Vault Boutique..... 17		
▼ CONVENIENCE STORE		
QuiKorner.....23		

FRONT PAGE PHOTO: ARTIST PAINTING ON CANVAS FOR OWENSVILLE'S 2021 PLEIN AIR CONTEST

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THE “QUICK” PAINT for the 2021 October Plein Air was held at the scenic White Mule Winery on Highway 50 between Rosebud and Drake.

Art Works on Main schedules youth, amateur Plein Air events

Art Works on Main Gallery, located on historic First Street in Owensville, is hosting two annual Plein Air events in 2022, along with one-day experiences.

Chrysa Niewald is on the committee for the October Plein Air.

“We already have the events scheduled for Oct. 19-23,” Niewald said. “We already have 24 artists signed up as of (March 26). It is a sign that we are successful because artists have already signed up for it.”

The October Plein Air event is five-days-long. Artists paint in various prepared locations throughout the county.

“There are different locations every year,” Niewald explained.

“We are still working on locations for this year and I know Manuela (Woolsey) and Suzie (Jost) will be checking out some private farms.”

Last year the group arranged for a painting at Peaceful Valley Lake outside of Owensville. On Friday and Saturday, they painted in Owensville, Rosebud, and the farm at Cool Cow Cheese.

The location of the 2022 Plein Air event has yet to be determined.

They try to do one private estate and someone’s farm with good scenery,” Niewald explained. “I think we will probably have the quick paint scheduled, tentatively, on Oct. 21.”

Suzie Jost, who is on the Fall Plein Air planning committee, explained the quick paint event.

“The artists have two hours from

start to finish and they are amazing to watch,” Jost said.

The locations of the quick paints are also pre-determined. “They paint all three days. Sunday is the finale with the sale of the paintings at White Mule Winery.”

At the end of each day during the event, artists may display paintings at the Seasons of Faith Church. The artwork is for sale.

“Paintings can be sold as they are hanging,” Jost said. “You could approach an artist and purchase a painting on the spot. If the artists want to sell it, they can. Usually, they want to wait until after judging because if they win, they get a prize. They have a lot of flexibility.”

Artists may receive commissions
See **Plein Air** page 8

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”

— Pablo picasso



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AN ARTIST paints the historic Henneke Building in Downtown Owensville (left). And the end of each event the paintings are on display for judging and sale.

Plein Air from page 6

from the painting events as well.

"We like for the public to watch the artists as much as possible," Jost said. "It is awesome to see them paint, especially the quick paints. They can make something out of a pile of weeds!"

The gallery recently added a youth division with the help of the Bayer Grant, according to Pam Ellis.

See **Plein Air** page 10

Everyone's Welcome in Rosebud!

We invite you to stay at one of our bed and breakfasts or pull up a chair for lunch or dinner at one of our fine restaurants.

You're always welcome to visit our friendly town, shop for one-of-a-kind antiques, and visit our many other shops.

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 Hwy. 50 • 25 miles west of Union
 55 miles east of Jefferson City



Rosebud Events

- ~ May 7: Spring Treasure Day
- ~ July 2: 4th of July celebration in Rosebud Park
- ~ July 15-17: Gasconade County Threshers Association Steam Engine & Threshing Show (held in Rosebud Park)
- ~ October 1: Fall Treasure Day
- ~ November: Ladies Night Out
- ~ December: Old-Fashioned Christmas in Rosebud

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Plein Air from page 8

"We are adding a youth division with 30 spots for ages 10 to 15-years-old," Ellis said. "We are hoping that students can learn from the Plein Air events, like quick paints at Spring Fest for ages 15-years-old and up."

The Bayer Fund Rural Community Arts Program Grant from the Arts Education Council awarded Art Works on Main \$2,400 to help host the youth events and pay for supplies.

"We are trying to get everything else going," Ellis said.

In addition to the 2022 Fall event, Art Works on Main has several events scheduled throughout the summer months, including:

Cruising Main Street June 23, July 23 and Aug. 20: Capture Historic Downtown Owensville during the summer evening while vintage and classic cars line up along or go cruising down Main Street.

7th Annual Gasconade County 2022 Fair Plein Air Event for professionals and amateurs July 27-30: The event takes place during the annual Gasconade County Fair. Rules are listed on the Artworksonmain.org website. Pre-registration is required for all artists.

Youth Division Plein Air event ages 10-18 July 29: The event has 30 openings available for art enthusiasts ages 10 to 18. Registration is required at artworksonmain.org.

For more information, visit ArtWorksOnMain.org. Cruising Main Street June 23, July 23 and Aug. 20: Capture Historic Downtown Owensville during the summer evening while vintage and classic cars line up along or go cruising down Main Street.

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Youth Division Plein Air event ages 10-18 July 29: The event has 30 openings available for art enthusiasts ages 10 to 18. Registration is required at artworksonmain.org.

For more information, visit artworksonmain.org.



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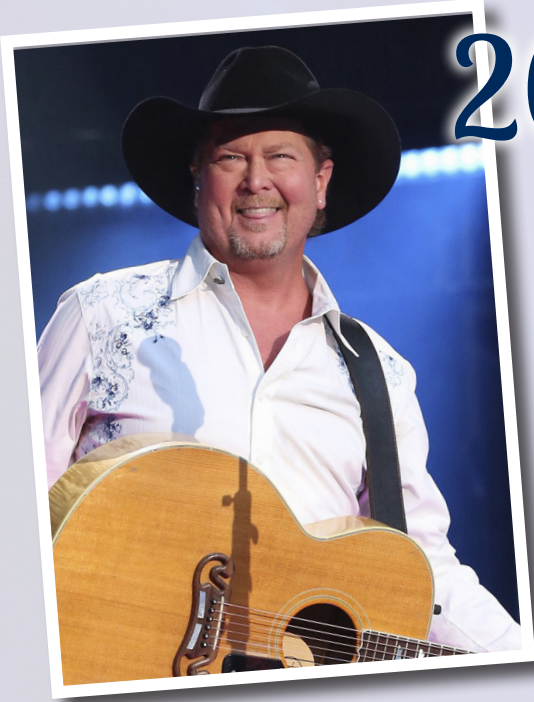
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2022 Gasconade County Fair



Tracy Lawrence
Sat., July 30, 2022

8:30 p.m. on the main stage



Oak Ridge Boys
Friday, July 29, 2022
8:30 p.m. on the main stage

For over 70 years, the annual Gasconade County Fair has provided plenty of entertainment to unofficially wind down the summer months in Gasconade County and the surrounding area.

Held at Memorial Park (off Highway 28) in Owensville every year since 1947, the fair has numerous activities for children and adults of all ages.

Kids activities have included a nickel scramble, kiddie tractor pull, carnival rides, livestock and animal shows, a parade to collect candy and other items given out along with a Little Mr.

and Miss Gasconade County and Gasconade County Fair Queen contests.

Exotic animal shows and game shows for kids have also appeared at the fair over the years.

Activities primarily geared for adults have included bull riding, a demolition derby, truck and tractor pulls, motocross, a barbecue cook off and live music by local and national artists.

The headline entertainer for this year's fair is

celebrating 30 years in the country music industry, Tracy Lawrence. He has sold more than 13 million albums and charted 18 number one songs including "Sticks and Stones," "Alibis," "Can't Break It to My Heart," "My Second Home," and "If the Good Die Young."

On the main stage Friday night will be the Oak Ridge Boys.

Every time they step before an audience, the Oaks bring four decades of charted

See **Fair** on page 14

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Fair, from page 12

singles, and 50 years of tradition, to a stage show widely acknowledged as among the most exciting anywhere.

Family night at the fair on Wednesday enables everyone to enjoy all of the amenities of the fair for only \$10 per person.

Information for advanced season passes, \$40 for all four days, can be obtained on the web at www.GasconadeCountyFair.com. Anyone under the age of 5 is FREE.

“Diamonds and Denim” has been set as the theme for the **2022 Gasconade County Fair** scheduled to take place from **Wednesday, July 24 through Saturday, July 30**.

Find more about this years fair online at www.GasconadeCountyFair.com or on Facebook.



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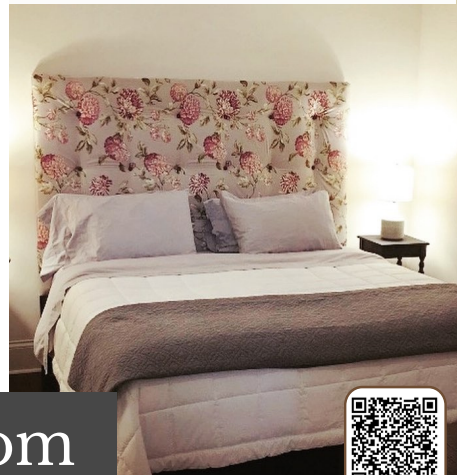


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Gasconade County Threshers Steam Engine & Threshing Show

Every third weekend in July, in the small town of Rosebud, enthusiasts of old-time farming gather at the Rosebud Community Park for the annual Gasconade County Threshers Association's Steam Engine and Threshing Show.

Formed in August of 1962, the Gasconade County Threshers started their annual show as a part of the Gasconade County Fair.

Moved to Rosebud Community Park in July of 1966, the Gasconade County Threshers Association's annual show has only grown.

In recent years, the number of tractors, steam engines and old gasoline engines has pushed 200.

The show's main objective is to demonstrate to the younger generation how old steam tractor engines were used to supply power for plowing, threshing, sawing, grinding and other farm-related tasks.

Recently, popular activities during the show have included a draft horse pull, parade of tractors and steam engines, tractor pulls, a watermelon eating contest, a cast-iron skillet throwing contest for women, a fiddle and banjo contest, a hay bale toss, car show and pedal-tractor pulls for kids and adults.

Where there are activities, great food isn't far away.

Popular food options include pulled beef, hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, fish sandwiches, fries and nachos. Beverage choices include beer, soda,

lemonade, tea and coffee.

Traditionally, fried chicken dinners are also served the third and final day of the show.

For the one-time admission price of \$10, anyone 13 and older can enjoy all three days of the show. Children 12 and under are admitted free with an adult.

Planning is underway for the 60th Owensville Threshers Association show to be held in Rosebud July 15 through the 17.

For more information on the non-profit organization, visit them online at www.GCTA.us.



The Baker Family is a high energy bluegrass band located in south central Missouri. They perform at bluegrass events throughout the United States from Maine to California.

2022 Gasconade County Threshers Show: Fri., July 15 through Sun., July 17.

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Throughout the summer months, Owensville's Memorial Park will have a lot of activity between Winter Water Park, the golf course and campground.

Winter Water Park, named after the late, long-time park supporter Milford H. H. Winter, is located at 705 Parker Drive. The facility was built in 2014 and features a zero-depth entry, baby bungee, splash elements, castle with 3 slides, 14' tall body flume, lazy river, rock climbing wall, diving board, shade structures and a covered concession pavilion.

During the summer, the facility is open daily from 12-6 pm from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, with reduced hours after Gasconade County R-2 School District resumes classes for the school year.

Owensville Golf Course, located at 702 North Maple Street, is a 9-hole public course that was built in 1952 on approximately 40 acres within Memorial Park. Course features 2,076 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 32. Greens consist of creeping bentgrass, while the rest of the course is a mixture of bermuda, zoysia and kentucky fescue. Green fees, cart rentals and memberships are offered. Cash and checks are accepted year-round, with credit cards accepted seasonally (approximately April through September). Leagues and tournament rentals are available.

Memorial Park Campground, located at 510 Red Oak Road, has 25 sites; most are equipped with both water and electric (30 amp) shared between sites. Water at sites will be locked and unavailable November - March. There is a seasonal single-occupant bathhouse approximately 350 feet from campground that is open April-October. There is a dump station onsite available for an additional fee.

For more information and prices, please visit www.cityofowensville.com/parks, call 573-437-8231 or email parkrec@cityofowensville.com.



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Independence Day Celebrations

#1: Owensville



From cake walk and bingo to the fireworks display, the annual Firemen's Picnic and Fourth of July celebration in Owensville has plenty of fun for all.

Activities include, bingo, a cake walk, a kiddie tractor pull and plenty of good food and drink to go around.

At dusk, everyone gathers on the south side of town for the annual fireworks display that is launched from the ninth fairway of the Owensville Golf Course.

People either watch from their yards or gather on the baseball diamond of Memorial Field.

The annual event is scheduled for Friday, July 1 this year.

The celebration is organized by the Owensville Volunteer Fire Department and held at Memorial Park in Owensville.

#2: Rosebud

Each year a group of volunteers stage one of best community fireworks displays in central Missouri right here in Rosebud.

Last year the show included an estimated \$10,000 worth of consumer fireworks purchased through local donations. Area residents put on the show, continuing a tradition which began with friends launching displays at the edge of town. Several thousand viewers have gathered at the community park in recent years for the free show.

Held each year at the Rosebud Community Park the show begins before sundown with candy shot from a special cannon for the children.

This year the show is scheduled for Saturday, July 2.



*Two 2022 Independence Day Celebrations:
Owensville - Friday, July 1 Rosebud - Saturday, July 2*

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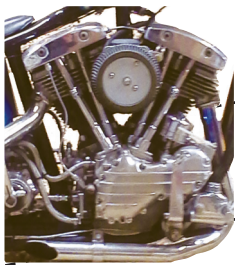
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Douglas Prairie Quilt Trail

Tourism Committee works on "Trail" with quilt block theme.

One of the best parts about visiting a new area is learning about the local history, what makes the community come together and why it is proud of its origins. The Owensville Chamber of Commerce (COC) Tourism Committee is working on ways to share the pride of the Owensville, Drake and Rosebud communities as "Find Your Own Trail" destinations to encourage tourists to visit area attractions. The group hopes to establish the idea with one of the town's existing allures, a Quilt Block Trail.

Quilt blocks are designed to tell stories, including history, politics and religion. Originally, the chamber hoped to encourage interest and curiosity about Owensville's origins locally. The idea became reality in 2012, when the chamber chose the quilt block "Crossroads" (pictured center) to represent their location on Old Springfield Road because it's building is located at the crossroads of the Old Iron Road and Springfield Road that took travelers between Hermann and Springfield.

Historically, people used to stop and water their mules at the location because it was the halfway point from St. James to Hermann.

When the quilt blocks first began to appear on the exterior walls of downtown businesses, residents and visitors took notice.

"We started out using traditional blocks, but then the Garden Club wanted a large picture of

an applique rose they found in a quilt book," said Gerri Kellmann, head of the quilt block committee.

The blocks grew in popularity "They go as far as the six miles south on Highway EE, as far north as Drake, as far west of Owensville as Lane Building Products and as far east as Rosebud," Kellmann said.

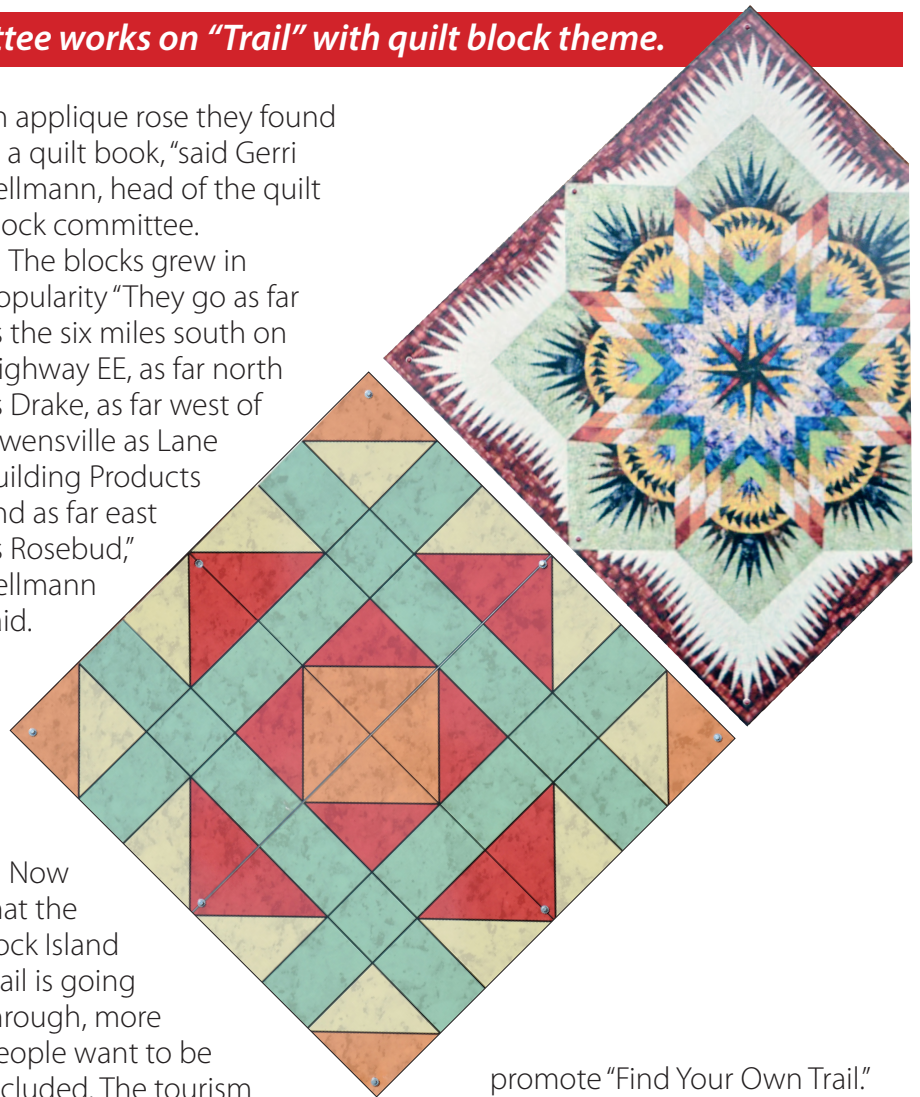
Now that the Rock Island Trail is going through, more people want to be included. The tourism committee has also added other trails to their web site including an antique trail, a wine cheese, food and farm trail and a trail to family fun.

"Small towns have to live together as a region, because we are not going to make it alone," Grus said. "We have to find a way to make our whole area stronger."

"We are gathering info and having some kind of map created, both printed and online, so someone could go to our website and see what there is to do this weekend, then go," Grus said.

The committee will continue to

promote "Find Your Own Trail." Contact the chamber with questions or suggestions through their website at www.OwensvilleMissouri.com, and click on the "contact us" tab.



Most quilt blocks include a description plaque like this for the Prairie Star Quilt block, pictured top right.

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Gasconade County Historical Society Museum

The Gasconade County Historical Museum (GCHS) was constructed about 1910 to serve railroad clientele and has been known as the Owensville Hotel, Ozark Hotel, and the Railroad Hotel.

The museum's focus is primarily on items related to Gasconade County and its residents. The display rooms tell the stories of people coming to this area to start a new life. They depict their homes and farms, clothing and tools, churches and schools. It tells of a people who were involved in six wars, founded businesses, civic and social organizations and left us with a wonderful heritage of music, art and literature.



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Mid-Missouri Horse, Mule & Ox Farming and Historical Craft Days



Another celebration honoring old-time activities is the Mid-Missouri Horse, Mule and Ox Farming and Historical Craft Days.

Held the first weekend of October since 1997, at the WitnessTree Land and Livestock Farm north of Gerald on Route Y, the annual event is sponsored by the Missouri Draft Horse and Mule Association Inc.

The event will host a wide variety of family friendly activities. Music and fresh food will be available.

Activities throughout the weekend may include cider pressing, dry stone masonry, beekeeping, weaving, natural dyeing and soap making. Animal

powered field work, corn grinding, log loading and wagon and buggy rides. Other past activities have included a demonstration by Rural Missouri Spinners, wild flower walks and rare livestock breeds on display.

Admission is \$6 for ages 6-years-old and older. No pets, alcohol, or motorized vehicles (excluding wheel chairs) will be allowed.

Primitive camping is available for exhibitors only. For more information call Gail Cross (573) 764-2629 or e-mail tenacity@fidnet.com, or you can find them on facebook at www.facebook.com/MidMODays/

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Calendar of Events

Saturday's ~ May thru Sept.

Event: **Owensville Farmer's Market**
Location: Krooked Moon Parking Lot, Hwy. 28 West

First Sat. of Month ~ April thru Nov.

Event: **Rosebud Flea Market**
Location: 204 Hwy. 50, Rosebud, Mo.
Information: 573-764-4000

Second Sat. of Month ~ May thru Oct., 8 am - Noon

Event: **Rosebud Farmer's Market**
Location: Corner of Hwy. 50 & T, Rosebud, Mo.
Information: Facebook, Rosebud Area Enrichment Asso.

Fourth Sat. of Month

Event: **Flea Market in Downtown Owensville**
Location: Downtown Owensville
Information: 314-691-2240

Area Church Picnics

Event: **Church Picnics, June thru Sept.**
Location: Various Churches in the area
Information: www.GasconadeCountyRepublican.com
look under special sections

June 10-12, 2022 ~ Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Event: **Silver Dick Days**
Location: Wenwood Winery, Owensville, Mo.
Information: Facebook, Wenwood Winery

June 11, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Car Show**
Location: Rosebud Park
Information: gtacarclub.com

June 25, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Car Cruise-In**
Location: Downtown, Owensville, Mo.
Information: gtacarclub.com

July 1, 2022 ~ Friday

Event: **City of Owensville 4th of July Celebration & Fireworks Display**
Location: Memorial Park, Owensville
Information: (573) 437-2000

July 2, 2022 ~ Saturday at Dusk

Event: **Rosebud's 4th of July Fireworks**
Location: Rosebud, Highway 50
Information: Facebook, Rosebud Area Enrichment Asso.

July 15-17, 2022

Event: **Gasconade County Threshers Old Time Steam Engine and Tractor Show**
Location: Rosebud Park
Information: www.GCTA.club

July 15 & 16, 2022 ~ Friday and Saturday

Event: **ORA Rodeo Association Rodeo**
Location: Gerald City Park, Gerald, Mo.
Information: Gerald Saddle Club, Facebook

July 23, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Car Cruise-In**
Location: Downtown, Owensville, Mo.
Information: gtacarclub.com

July 27-30, 2022

Event: **Gasconade County Fair**
Location: Memorial Park, Owensville, Mo.
Information: gasconadecountyfair.com

August 20, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Car Cruise-In**
Location: Downtown, Owensville, Mo.
Information: gtacarclub.com

September 5, 2022 ~ Monday, Labor Day

Event: **Chris Bohl Memorial Foundation 5/10 Mile Walk/Run**
Location: Woody Bogler Trucking, Gerald, Mo.
Time: 6 a.m. registration
Information: 573-764-2532

September 8-10, 2022

Event: **Owensville City Wide Garage Sale**
Location: Owensville area
Information: www.GasconadeCountyRepublican.com

September 17, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Gerald Lions Fall Festival**
Location: Gerald, Mo.

September 24, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Car Show**
Location: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Owensville, Mo.
Information: gtacarclub.com

October 1 & 2, 2022 ~ Saturday and Sunday

Event: **25th Annual Mid-Mo. Horse, Mule and Ox Farming and Historical Craft Days**
Location: North of Gerald on Hwy. Y
Information: 573-764-2629 and on Facebook

October 1, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Rosebud Community Treasure Days**
Location: Rosebud, Highway 50
Information: 573-764-4181

October 28, 2022 ~ Friday

Event: **Owensville Trunk or Treat**
Location: Downtown Owensville

October 29, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Gerald Trunk or Treat**
Location: City Park, Gerald
Information: geraldchamber.com

December 2, 2022 ~ Friday

Event: **Night Out with Santa**
Location: Downtown Owensville

December 3, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Rosebud's Old Fashion Christmas**
Location: Rosebud, Highway 50
Information: Facebook, Rosebud Area Enrichment Asso.

December 3, 2022 ~ Saturday

Event: **Gerald's Parade of Lights**
Location: Gerald, Mo.
Information: geraldchamber.com



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LANDOWNER BOB ESTES looks over his farm from the Rock Island railroad trestle that crosses his property.

Rock Island Trail exploration in the works

Visitors and residents alike are ready to take advantage of the Rock Island Trail — a former railroad turned hiking and biking corridor that is now owned by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under the management of State Parks.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson announced on Dec. 14, 2021, after nearly 30 years of attempts to convert the former railroad, that the state would accept the 144 miles of the corridor. The new linear park that stretches from Beaufort to Windsor was formerly owned by Ameren Missouri and began its physical transformation into a hiking and biking trail in 2016. A salvage company was hired to take up the metal rails and clean up the wood ties.

Local officials are already attractions for the trail and are teaming up with neighboring communities to advertise available shopping, camping, antiques and sightseeing to potential visitors.

The Owensville community is centrally located among four other trail communities, all within 10 miles or less of their neighbor for a total 40-mile span. Belle, Bland, Owensville, Rosebud, and Gerald are looking to connect their communities along the trail and encourage visitors to make a weekend trip on the stretch.

Local representatives from three of the four communities met with State Parks officials in January 2022 to request assistance with completing nearly 40 miles of trail that stretches between Gerald and Belle.

At least one community, Belle, has applied for grants to help complete their section of the trail through the city limits according to the state’s specifications. Officials have discussed providing camping at Belle City Park in addition to advertising the many restaurants that the city has.

The Belle Community Betterment Association (BCBA) is also raising money to build a Flag Park near that trail. The park will have every state flag in the United States for visitors to see. One of the primary supporters of the Flag Park is BCBA member Kathy Stanfield who recently passed. A donation to the Flag Park was recently made in Stanfield’s honor by her son’s employer.

When visitors arrive in Belle town, they will be greeted by the two-story MFA building that local business owner Jimmy Zumwalt is remodeling into offices. Opportunities to explore downtown Belle happen another two blocks down at Alverado Avenue. Those who stay on the trail will eventually reach Belle City Park, a perfect picnic, fishing and rest stop area.

The city of Bland is located five miles from Belle and will be a “stay over” location where people can comfortably spend the night between their exploration of Owensville. They can then travel on to Belle and eventually Freeburg to see the Gasconade Train Bridge. Bland is 35 miles from the famous bridge. The five

See **Trail** page 31

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.” — ALBERT EINSTEIN

Trail, from page 30

miles hike between Belle and Bland is perfect for the mature biker.

Trail visitors should check the City of Bland Mo. Facebook page for community events for more information.

The city of Owensville offers several bed and breakfasts located in downtown historical buildings for visitors who chose to explore the Rock Island. If visitors are coming from Rosebud, they will eventually get to walk across the Soap Creek trestle near the Estes farmstead. The trail runs past a future "safe way to school" as it gets closer to the city limits, runs through various industries and neighborhoods before leading out to Sears Avenue behind City Hall, and just a block away from First Street businesses.

On the way to First Street, visit the Historical Society located in the Old Owensville Hotel.

Businesses on First Street include small clothing boutiques, pubs and grills, and a coffee shop. Several buildings are also in various stages of remodeling in preparation for commercial and bed and breakfast space.

Travel six miles west on Highway 50 to visit Rosebud, where most of the businesses are sandwiched between the Rock Island Trail and Highway 50. Rosebud is home to antique shops, boutiques and pubs. Residents know the trail will be good for their future as Rosebud works to continue bringing in more business.

A campground was recently built in Rosebud to allow visitors to camp, shop, explore and take a ride back down the trail at their leisure.

The city of Gerald offers unique opportunities to visitors in several forms, especially because of the Rock Island Depot located along Highway 28. Visit the only Rock Island Depot to survive in all five towns. The little park is perfect for a picnic lunch, and the various restaurants can pack lunches to go. Both the Bistro at the Mill, a former mill turned restaurant, Figos (Mexican style), and the newest restaurant Simply Sweet 2 are located near the Rock Island Trail.

Each town is planning to have its own brochures made, trailheads up and information stands available shortly. The Rock Island Trail is here and it's time to start building! For those who enjoy a camping trip, hiking, biking or just traveling through, stop in and visit for a while. These Rock Island Trail Communities can't wait.

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1957 Chevy Bel Air: A “legend among the classics”

Not many old cars are more recognizable than the “legend among the classics” that is the 1957 Chevy Bel Air, and Ken (Fuzz) Dorton’s newly restored vintage ride is a great example of the model’s timelessness.

“I always wanted a 1957 hardtop,” said Fuzz, who is most recognizable by his 1956 Nomad that he hot-rodded through the ‘70s around Owensville.

Fuzz’s relationship with the ‘57 Bel Air began in 2006 at a GTA Car Club Christmas party at Allen Lowder’s Auto Body shop.

“The car was sitting there looking kinda sad in the bay,” Fuzz said. “Mike Reifer comes up to me and says ‘you need to buy that from me.’”

Once the idea was planted, Fuzz couldn’t shake it.

“I don’t know, I just let my zeal override my common sense,” he said. “Took me about a week-and-

a-half and I was like ‘alright, Reif, I’ll buy this from you.’ I even had to borrow the money. It took me five years to pay it off. I started working on it in 2010 and finished it in 2021.”

Like every classic-car enthusiast who knows he will have to sit on that project a while before he can



get it started, Fuzz dug into the history of the ‘57 while he eagerly anticipated its restoration.

“Gary Smart owned it since 1963,” Fuzz said, talking about the

Smart family from Gerald. “He was coming home from work one day in April 1982 and his wife was driving the car from Owensville to Gerald and rear-ended a guy in a pickup truck. Rumor was she was picking up a cake for (Gary’s) birthday.”

The car was eventually sold to Allen Lowder, then Reifer and finally to Fuzz.

“I put it in the barn for about five years because I had no money to do anything with it,” Fuzz said. “When I got it, it was wrecked. A new windshield had been put in cause the hood went through it. The cowl was bent up.”

From 2006 to 2010, the ‘57 remained in Fuzz’s barn, waiting for restoration. She came out looking much the same with several

more layers dust than she went in with.

“The floor pan was rusted out,

See **Bel Air**, Page 34



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Bel Air, from page 32

the inner and outer rockers were rusted, the front end was wrecked," Fuzz said, remembering the rough condition she was in. "It had the windshield though."

Coming out of the barn, the apple red interior was still good as well as the door panels.

"I cut the floor pan out and put it up on the rotisserie and then sandblasted," Fuzz said. "I sandblasted the car all the way around six inches up the frame inside and out — the wheel wells and firewall. The rest of the body you work by hand. I don't believe in sandblasting the body 'cause it roughs 'em up. But all that metal I was going to replace I wanted to sandblast to see what I could attach to it."

He said the trunk looked good at first, but after sandblasting, it wasn't good after all.

He took the whole thing apart to the last screw.

"These old cars look good on the outside, but things underneath aren't so well," Fuzz said from experience.

"For five years the dome light was the only thing left hanging in it's ceiling and I eventually yanked that out."

The self-described machinist, mechanic, and autobody man realized that if he was to make this restoration happen on his own, he was going to need a few pieces unique pieces to work with.

"It took me three months to make an automobile rotisserie," he said. "It's the Cadillac of rotisseries and one of these days I'm gonna sell it."

Made out of the axel of an old

mobile home, Fuzz welded and cut until the rotisserie took shape and added levels, pulls, tires and brakes to make it adjustable. Holes were drilled to match up to the car so when it was skewered on the rotisserie it could be bolted down and rotated.

The headliner in the car was moldy.

Sandblasting came first, then replacing those rusted parts with new ones.



THE INTERIOR of the Bel Air is Candy Apple Red. Dorton outfitted the '57 with modern conveniences — Tilt steering wheel, cruise control, air conditioning, power windows and locks and a modern stereo so he can listen to classic music as he cruises in his classic Chevrolet.



"Bondo is a real problem in old cars like this one," Fuzz said.

Cutting out the bad and replacing the underneath was a must.

He rebuilt all the suspension on the front and rear, put a new floor pan back in, sway bars, front and rear power disk brakes, drop spindles, power steering, power windows and locks, tilt steering column and Dakota Digital Gauges.

"They aren't really digital (gauges) but they have the needle

on them and they look original and pretty," Fuzz said. "I also added a custom sound stereo system and download music to a jump drive to listen to it in the car. Plus rain gear wipers with a modern-day three-speed setting."

He ended up replacing all of the windows, side trim, headlight bezels, bumpers, grille, emblems, and door handles.

"All the pretty stuff, all of the jewelry, a new headliner and new carpet (was replaced)," Fuzz said.

While he did most of the work himself, Fuzz called friends who were car enthusiasts like himself to assist with certain parts of the project.

He didn't stop with cosmetics though. Adding in AC and heat required additional wiring.

"The original car had like five wires and the new cars have 500," Fuzz joked. "I replaced them with a 25-pound wiring harness from American Auto."

The '57 was starting to retake her shape. He reinforced the frame with over 200 feet of

angle iron.

"I did all the body work, primer work myself and got it pretty then talked to Bobby Scheel," Fuzz said. "If you have painted yourself you know it's a mess in your shop."

When Fuzz called Scheel, his buddy wasn't committing to painting anything.

"He's particular," Fuzz said. "Bobby said he would paint it if it was gonna look good. He came out and ran his hands over it and

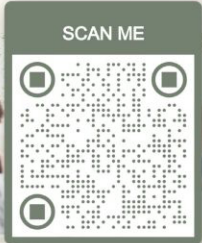
See **Bel Air**, Page 36



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DORTON BUILT a custom rotisserie (photo left) for his 10-year project to restore the wrecked 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air he purchased from Mike Riefer in 2006. The wreck, in April 1982, required that he replace the front quarter panels and the engine compartment (photo right). Dorton worked on the car three to five night each week from 2010 to 2021.

Bel Air, from page 34

said he would paint it 'cause 'it's gonna be pretty.'

The car went out of Fuzz's shop and into Scheel's in pieces. Scheel painted it black and added a clear coat to make the car shine.

While he waited for pieces to be complete, Fuzz was building a motor for the car.

"I built the rung stand and fired the engine up on the rung stand," Fuzz said. "I built a 383 cubic inch small block. I build my own engines when I am doing

stuff like this."

He also added mufflers.

"It sounds pretty good," Fuzz said. "I am a machinist and a fabricator. I planned this stuff out before I do it."

He also built a 4L60 overdrive transmission for the vintage '57 Bel Air that was taken off of a 1979 Camaro rear-end assembly and added 342 gears in it for a positraction rear-end that will provide the vehicle with more traction control on the open road.

See **Bel Air**, Page 37

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Bel Air, from page 36

"I made a pitman arm attached to a steering box — 600 Delphi that did not come original on a '57," Fuzz said.

The project was made of the upper half of an '87 pickup and the bottom half of a '57. I cut them in half, grinded and welded them together."

"An old-timer once said anybody can restore a car," Fuzz said. "It takes a real one cut one up trying to modernize it. That thing fails, I'm in trouble."

The '57 Bel Air came out with a factory 283 engine that could jump from zero to 60 miles per hour in 9.9 seconds, not fast by modern standards but impressive for its time. Fuzz wasn't looking to change too much on the speed.

"I built it to drive," Fuzz said. "I built it to cruise, not to smoke the tires."

While Fuzz will say he did the bulk of the work on the '57 himeslef, his friends and lady were there any time he called for a hand.

"Mike Reifer and Mike Scego help me put the windshield and back glass in the car," Fuzz said. "My sweetheart Marilyn Russell also helped me when I called her out of the house to assist and my brother Buck Dorton and his son Shane Dorton helped."

Fuzz said that in projects like car restoration, relying on someone else to help get you moving, isn't going to work.

"You can't expect a lot of help from people," Fuzz said. "You take on a project like this and have to understand you are going to be doing it on your own."

After 10 years of working on the '57 Chevy for three to five nights a week, his efforts paid off.

"I finished the car back in August 2021 and this year I plan to take it to the TriFive event in Kentucky," Fuzz said. "I cruised it up to Rustober Fest in New Florence during the summer of 2021 and that was quite a deal, big car party."

He was driving home from New Florence on Highway 19 South of Hermann and turned left off of the bridge onto mainstreet to grab food on their way home.

"Didn't know it was October Fest in Hermann and as we went to one of the restaurants to get something to eat, the street was jammed packed with people hootin' and hollerin' and runnin' up to take pictures," Fuzz said. "You'd think we was celebrities."

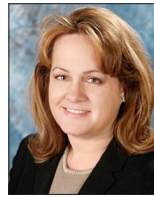
It doesn't get much better than making memories in an vintage ride that is rebuilt into a turnkey daily vehicle with a great stereo system.

"I am a child of the '60s and '70s," Fuzz says. "I like the classics and I like to listen to the classics."



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Visit Rosebud

Rosebud is known far and wide for their quaint shops including antiques, clothing, restaurants and flea markets.

Several times a year the area businesses get together to plan various activities and invite visitors to join them.

Get the entire experience at the Rosebud Flea Market, the first Saturday of every month, May through October. Grab a coffee or tea to-go from C and wander open-door businesses for beautiful and whimsical finds. Stop off for lunch at the local pubs; Loeb's Mill Bar and Grill or M Clancy's Pub and Grill.

Throughout the season, check out special town-

wide events such as:

- Springfest, the first Saturday in May;
- Independence Day Fireworks and the Threshers Show in July;
- Fall festival in October;
- Ladies Night Out, the Friday before deer season (guns), in November; and
- Christmas in Rosebud, the first Saturday in December.

Ask any Rosebud business owner for more details. Come out and enjoy the fun!

Gerald Rodeo

Starting in June, the Gerald Saddle Club will have plenty of events at their arena in Gerald City Park.

Rodeos put on by the Ozark Rodeo Association (ORA) rodeo will be held at the GBSC arena on July 15 & 16.

Hosted by the ORA, events for participants of all ages include Bareback, Saddle Bronc, Breakaway, Calf Roping, Mutton Busting, Barrel Racing, Calf Riding, Pee Wee Bulls, Jr. Bulls, Team Roping, Bull

Riding, Pole Bending, Chute Dogging, Goat Tying, Steer Wrestling and Roping.

2022 Fun Shows are scheduled for June 11, Aug. 27 and Sept. 18 (for kids only). For more information on any or all of these events, visit the Gerald Saddle Club on Facebook





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