

2023 Edition | Volume #8 | 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>APPETIZERS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White Gravy Cheese Fries</li> <li>Salted Pretzel Bites</li> <li>Toasted Ravioli</li> <li>Chicken Wings &amp; Boneless Wings (Buffalo, BBQ, &amp; Plain)</li> <li>Honey Garlic Shrimp</li> </ul> <hr/> <h3>SIDES</h3> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mashed Potatoes</td> <td>Fried Mushrooms</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Onion Rings</td> <td>Onion Petals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White/Brown Gravy</td> <td>Sidewinder Fries</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Potato Salad</td> <td>Shoestring Fries</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mac &amp; Cheese</td> <td>Curly Fries</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coleslaw</td> <td>Baked Beans</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tater Tots</td> <td>Okra</td> </tr> </table>	Mashed Potatoes	Fried Mushrooms	Onion Rings	Onion Petals	White/Brown Gravy	Sidewinder Fries	Potato Salad	Shoestring Fries	Mac & Cheese	Curly Fries	Coleslaw	Baked Beans	Tater Tots	Okra	<h3>FRIED CHICKEN</h3> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>CHICKEN DINNER (Cooked Fresh to Order)</td> <td>CHICKEN STRIPS (1 Free Dipping Sauce)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2-Pc Mixed</td> <td>2-Pc Strips</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3-Pc Mixed</td> <td>3-Pc Strips</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-PC WINGS</td> <td>Chicken Sandwich</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chicken Bowl</td> <td>Country Fried Steak</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mashed Potatoes, Chicken, Corn, Cheese, &amp; Gravy</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <h3>FEED THE FAMILY</h3> <p>8-Pcs. w/2 Sides 12-Pcs. w/3 Sides 16-Pcs. w/4 Sides</p>	CHICKEN DINNER (Cooked Fresh to Order)	CHICKEN STRIPS (1 Free Dipping Sauce)	2-Pc Mixed	2-Pc Strips	3-Pc Mixed	3-Pc Strips	4-PC WINGS	Chicken Sandwich	Chicken Bowl	Country Fried Steak	Mashed Potatoes, Chicken, Corn, Cheese, & Gravy		<p>The ONLY square patty <b>CHEESEBURGERS</b> in Owensville's history!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Served with seasoned fries • Classic Double BBQ Burger</li> <li>Jalapeño Burger</li> <li>Ultimate Cheddar Burger</li> <li>Mushroom Swiss</li> </ul> <hr/> <h3>KIDS &amp; SENIORS</h3> <p>(Includes small drink &amp; 1 side)</p> <p>Cheeseburger • Chicken Dippers Toasted Ravioli • Mini Corndogs • Shrimp</p>	<h3>SALADS*</h3> <p>~ CHICKEN (Grilled or Crispy) ~ SIDE SALAD</p> <p>*Salad ingredient options include: Tomatoes, Onions, CheddarJack Cheese, &amp; Croutons</p> <hr/> <h3>SEAFOOD</h3> <p>LARGE FRIED FISH FILLET Served w/Fries &amp; Hush Puppies</p> <p>12 BUTTERFLY SHRIMP Served w/Fries</p> <p>FISH FILLET SANDWICH Served w/Fries</p>
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Mashed Potatoes, Chicken, Corn, Cheese, & Gravy																													

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

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**FRONT PAGE PHOTO: COOL COW CHEESE / M&T FARM MILK COWS WITH A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET ON THE FARM**



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\*Cost is determined by the expense it takes to get our merchandise from our suppliers to our shelves.

Welcome to Owensville. Owensville possesses an active business community, a strong industrial community, an excellent school system, many churches of all denominations and sizes, and varied organizations for adults and youth. Fairs and festivals during the year provide community spirit and good times. We are proud of the caring people who live here. The clean neighborhoods exemplify individual and community pride.

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#LoveOwensville



**TOM AND MARTHA BLATCHFORD** along with their son and daughter-in-law, Ben and Elizabeth, and grandchildren Randas and Dorothy.

# M&T Farm offers artisan cheese, county B&B, supports agri-tourism

**A**rtisan food? Check. Bed and breakfast? Check. Country setting with relaxing opportunities? Check.

M&T Farm, LLC owners Martha and Tom Blatchford purchased the former Brinkman farm 12 years ago and have since expanded operations to share the aspects of its natural beauty.

As artisan cheese makers, the Blatchfords began Cool Cow Cheese, making the product from the land, feeding their cows with local grass to harvest cream and make one-of-a-kind cheese. They were later joined by their son Ben Blatchford, an artisan cheese graduate from Pennsylvania University.

"Grain and hay come from local farmers who spend money at the

local vet," Blatchford said. "It makes a community a community. Without it, (none of us) would be able to be here."

The family also allows guests to have a private viewing of the cheese-making process.

"There is a window from where we have the cows, to where we make the cheese and then the cheese shop carries local products," Blatchford said. "They can taste cheese off the cheese wheel."

When cheese is locally made it will have a unique taste.

"The grass is different, so the cheese is also different," Blatchford said. "Cheese may taste one way one time but different in the next batch."

Some cheeses are only made during certain seasons.

"Havarti Cheese is only produced in the springtime," Blatchford said. "We stop making in the summer when the grass changes. To me, it is like winemakers, they get different grapes, but we get different milk when we make different cheese. Once the batch is gone, it is gone forever."

When they expanded their Cool Cow Cheese production facility, they also opened Brinkman Bed and Breakfast, named after the Brinkman family who originally homesteaded the farm.

"We get a lot of guests from Swiss and Lost Valley. They all make it special for us," Blatchford said.

It isn't just about M&T's Farm, Cool Cow Cheese, or Brinkman Bed and Breakfast. Blatchford said he is

See **M&T Farm** page 8

*"Give me a good sharp knife and a good sharp cheese and I'm a happy man."*

— *George R. R. Martin*

Mgr. Adolfo Ramirez



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## M&T Farm from page 6

looking for a way to support all agribusiness in the area.

"We support our family and other families as well," he said. "In June (2-3) we do a Missouri Artisan Cheese Festival in McKelvey Vineyards in New Haven. For Mother's Day, they are doing a special event for us at Stone Hill Winery in Hermann."

He also mentioned Kringle Market and The Best of Missouri Market in St. Louis.

"What we are trying to do is agri-tourism," said Blatchford. "People are moving away from the farm and we all have roots in the farm. I don't know how many guests say 'I grew up on the farm.'"

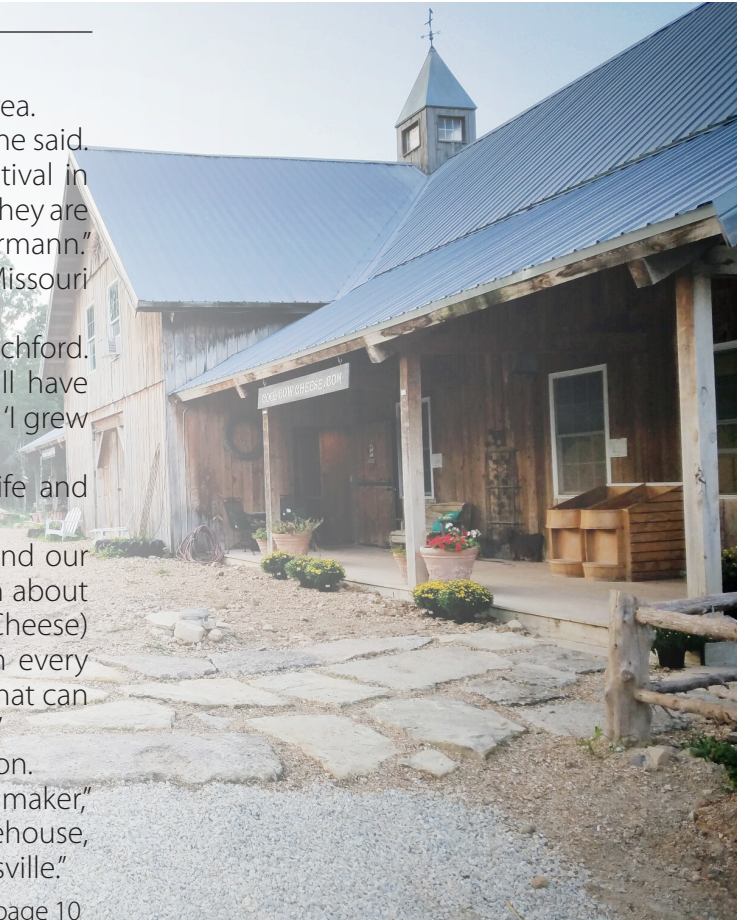
The Blatchfords are trying to reintroduce farm life and aspects of local products.

"We are doing that with the bed and breakfast and our cheese," said Blatchford, who went to school to learn about artisan cheese making at the University of Vermont. "(Cheese) used to be a local product, produced differently in every community. We are trying to make cheese in place that can only be made with certain pasture and certain cows."

Blatchford said he is also carrying on a local tradition.

"The mayor of Hemann, Mr. Baker, was a cheese maker," Blatchford said. "Jost Tire, where they put their warehouse, was an old creamery and produced cheese in Owensville."

See **M&T Farm** 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.

**Rosebud, Missouri**  
**Hwy. 50 • 25 miles west of Union**  
**55 miles east of Jefferson City**



### Rosebud Events

- ~ First Sat. in May: Spring Treasure Day
- ~ July 1: 4th of July celebration in Rosebud Park
- ~ July 14-16: Gasconade County Threshers Association Steam Engine & Threshing Show (held in Rosebud Park)
- ~ October 7: Fall Treasure Day
- ~ November 10: Ladies Night Out
- ~ December 2: Old-Fashioned Christmas in Rosebud



M & T Farms



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**M&T Farms**

## M&T Farm from page 8

Local food production changed during the world wars.

"It was different for them," Blatchford said. "The process got consolidated to send overseas."

Blatchford doesn't just advertise for his own business. He sells it as part of a wholesome group of local businesses.

"This area, with all its wineries, should be a foodie world," he said. "There are a lot of farmers who make great products. It is about having a place where people can see that."

When Blatchford says "see" the farm life, he means literally. The accommodations are authentic and comfortable, set in a new post-and-beam barn with a 3,000-square-foot hayloft and 18-foot ceilings. The cheese-making facility is on the first floor.

"This is not a Disneyland farm," Blatchford said. "We give a good look at it. It's what people remember, what kind of farm they grew up on."

M&T works the farm to produce their product.

"We are a working farm, milking cows twice a day," he said. "Most people just enjoy being out by the farm,

sitting by the fire pit and playing horseshoes."

Blatchford said every now and again a guest will make a suggestion to modernize or update something for more convenience that doesn't really fit the farm setting. At that point, they do their best to accommodate, compromise or explain why things are the way they are.

"One guest wanted us to put more lighting in our parking lot," Blatchford said. "She said 'Meet me outside about 9 p.m.'"

After the sunset, they met their guest in the parking lot and when she pointed out the darkness, they pointed at the stars, a view that is obstructed by city light pollution. The guest changed her mind about the parking lot lighting.

"People in Owensville have different skyline views and want others to be exposed to that," Blatchford said.

M&T Farm, Cool Cow Cheese, and Brinkman Bed and Breakfast is unique and an experience on its own.

"That is why it is artisan," Blatchford said. "We aren't keeping it uniform." For more information, visit [artworksonmain.org](http://artworksonmain.org).



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# 2023 Gasconade County Fair



**Sarah Evans**

**Sat., July 29, 2023**

**8:30 p.m. on the main stage**



**Tracy Byrd**

**Friday, July 28, 2023**

**8:30 p.m. on the main stage**

**F**or 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.

**Headlining this summer's Gasconade County Fair**

**will be Missouri native**

**Sarah Evans.** As the fifth most-played female artist at country radio in nearly the last two decades — her five No. 1 singles include “No Place That Far,” “Suds In The Bucket,” “A Real Fine Place To Start,” “Born to Fly,” and “A Little Bit Stronger.” Sara’s “stunning, country voice” (Rolling Stone) has earned her the prestigious Academy of Country Music Top Female vocalist accolade. Evans grew up in New Franklin, Mo.

See **Fair** on page 14

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# Fair, from page 12

Friday night's main stage event is a household name on the Country Music Scene, Tracy Byrd.

Byrd has charted more than thirty hit singles in his career, including eleven additional Top Ten hits.

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](http://www.GasconadeCountyFair.com). Anyone under the age of 5 is FREE.

"A Star-Spangled Summer" has been set as the theme for the **2023 Gasconade County Fair** scheduled to take place from Wednesday, July 26 through Saturday, July 29.

Find more about this years fair online at [www.GasconadeCountyFair.com](http://www.GasconadeCountyFair.com) or on Facebook.



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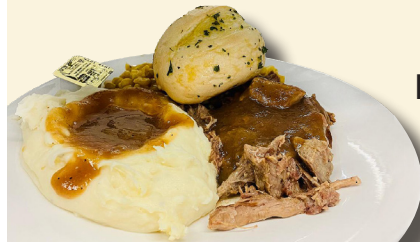
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**Roast Beef Dinner**  
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12:00PM-3:30PM.



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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 61st Owensville Threshers Association show to be held in Rosebud July 14 through the 16.

For more information on the non-profit organization, visit them online at [www.GCTA.us](http://www.GCTA.us).



**2023 Gasconade County Threshers Show: Fri., July 14 through Sun., July 16.**



To be part of the 2024 area visitors guide  
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# Memorial Park

**T**hroughout 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](http://www.cityofowensville.com/parks), call 573-437-8231 or email [parkrec@cityofowensville.com](mailto:parkrec@cityofowensville.com).



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# Independence Day Celebrations

## #1: Owensville



**F**rom 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, June 30 this year.

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

## #2: Rosebud

**E**ach 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 1.



*Two 2023 Independence Day Celebrations:  
Owensville - Friday, June 30      Rosebud - Saturday, July 1*

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# Owensville's Corn Cob Pipe Factory Fire Revisited

By Don Kruse, Gasconade County Historical Society

An old photograph of three young men working at the Union Pipe Factory in Owensville in the early 1900s was recently dropped off at the GCHS Museum. The photo came from the Zinn family photo collection with a note about the years of the corncob pipe factory's existence.

We could never establish why it was called the "Union Pipe Factory," which was located at North Second Street and McFadden Avenue in Owensville from 1905-1909. Along with the photo was a sheet which mentioned bits of its history:

"Union Pipe Factory began operation in 1905, making Missouri sweet corn cob pipes. It employed between 25 and 50 workers at various times. That first year, according to statistics compiled by the State Labor Commission, 90,550 pounds of corn cob pipes, or 1,086,600 individual corn cob pipes, and 1,200 pounds of pipe stems (80,000) were shipped. In addition, 14 carloads of raw corn cobs were shipped to other pipe makers. In July 1909, the pipe factory was destroyed by fire that spread next door to the Farmers & Merchants Mill, which provided electrical power to the pipe factory."

The editor's column, in the *Gasconade County Republican* newspaper after the fire, commented on the tragedy:

"The terrible fire that destroyed our new mill and factory Tuesday morning was the worst in the



history of the town. Thousands of dollars went up in smoke in a few minutes. Hundreds of anxious men, women and children looked on at the awful spectacle with drawn faces. But let us take courage in the lesson we have learned. Let us build another factory, larger and better than the first. Let us build it away from the hazard of fire, and if necessary employ a night watchman to see that no blaze starts in the dark hours. Let us also have another mill. Our growing town, our prosperous country, demand these things, any way we must have them."

We did some research on that old corn cob pipe factory in Owensville, and discovered that the devastating fire was recalled in an issue of the GCHS newsletter over 30 years ago.

It was also learned that the folks in Owensville were quick to rebuild their factory. In the Aug. 20, 1909, edition of the *Gasconade County Republican* it was reported:

"We are glad to announce that the Union Pipe Company will rebuild their factory with as little delay as possible. The site has not been selected but the management has several good sites in view. The building will be one story, of brick, 40 x 100 feet--much larger than the old building--and as near fire proof as possible.

"The fact that it will be rebuilt speaks volumes for Owensville and the faith of the company in our growing city. From what we can learn we judge the new building will be complete within 30 days."

The factory was not up and running in 30 days, but it should be mentioned that production resumed in a short time. A week later, in the Aug. 27, 1909, newspaper a page 1 headline read: "New Pipe Factory Site."

The Union Pipe Co. had secured the site of the Ettinger granary near the Rock Island line on which to build the new pipe factory, and

See **Pipe Factory**, Page 24



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## Pipe Factory, from page 22

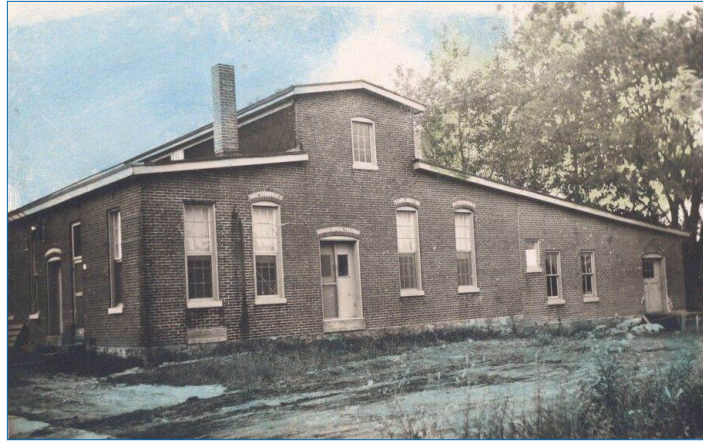
workmen had already commenced tearing down the old granary and putting in the foundation.

The editor proclaimed: "This is a splendid location — the finest to be had — near the depot on a siding, and will show up well for the town to people coming here and passing through. Work will be pushed as rapidly as possible to get the factory in operation again.

"On behalf not only of the company but of the town, we extend thanks to M. Ettinger for letting the site go for this purpose at a very reasonable figure."

Who was this M. Ettinger, whose name was so listed in the newspaper article?

Further digging by staff at the Archives & Records Center in Hermann found that Morris and Carrie Ettinger of St. Louis deeded lots 5 and 6 in block 14,



and parts of lots 10 and 11 in block 14, in Owensville's Buschmann Addition, to the Union Pipe Co. for the sum of \$500.

In just less than four months, a new factory location was secured and production of corn cob pipes resumed.

The Nov. 10, 1909 edition of the *Gasconade County Republican* reported it this way with a page 1 story:

"Though not celebrated with loud acclaim and though perhaps the fact is not truly appreciated by all her citizens, Monday, November 15, was a red letter day for Owensville. Monday morning the Union Pipe Factory resumed operations

after an enforced idleness of nearly four months since July 27, when the building, along with the Farmers & Merchants Mill, was destroyed by fire.

"The fact that it has been rebuilt is a tribute

See **Pipe Factory**, Page 26



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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.



Open: Mon., Fri. & Sat., 11 am to 3 pm • 105 West McFadden, Owensville, MO 65066 • 573-437-5617 • [www.GasconadeCountyHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GasconadeCountyHistoricalSociety.com)

## Pipe Factory, from page 24

not only to the officers and stockholders but to the live progressive spirit of our town. The object accomplished was in no small measure due to private donations by Owensville's most prominent and public spirited citizens.

"The new factory, which occupies the site of the old Ettinger granary just west of the depot, is of brick, and is 120 feet long and 40 feet in width. At the front facing north are the office, shipping room and finishing department leading back into a storage room, workshop and the varnishing room. Then comes the main work room where the saws, lathes, sorting, boring, sanding and filling machines are operated,

and on the extreme south a large storage for cobs. The engine room is to the west and there is found a 30-horsepower Lambert gasoline engine. The engine room is of brick, also with cement floor. The machinery, save a few pieces from the old building, is new and of the latest manufacture. It is quite an imposing structure, prominent to the view of travelers on the Rock Island.

"Chas. W. Mellies is president; Gus Egbert, superintendent; and Frank Demaree, foreman and machinist. The whole force of workers is not yet at work as some departments get ahead before others can commence. However, the complete force of between 40 and 50 people will soon be

employed and will likely have to work overtime to catch up with the orders.

"We must not neglect to mention that a large whistle will be attached to the engine, without which the factory would not be complete."

*(Editor's note: Morris Ettinger died in St. Louis on March 21, 1922, at the age of 71. His occupation was listed as dry goods merchant. He was born in France and is buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery, St. Louis. His wife, Carrie, died May 22, 1943, at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, at the age of 79. She also was buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery. Her birthplace was listed as Iowa.)*

**Corn cob pipes are manufactured today at Missouri Meerschaum Co. in Washington, Mo.**

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# Calendar of **Events**

## **First Sat. of Month ~ April thru Nov.**

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

## **Area Church Picnics**

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

## **June 9, 2023 ~ Friday at Dark**

Event: **Fidelity Flick**  
Location: Buschmann Park, Owensville, MO  
Information: 573-437-8231, [www.cityofowensville.com/events](http://www.cityofowensville.com/events)

## **June 17, 2023 Saturday**

Event: **2nd Annual Donnie Wehmeyer Memorial Car Show**  
Location: Rosebud Park  
Information: [www.GCTA.club](http://www.GCTA.club)

## **June 30, 2023 ~ Friday**

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

## **July 1, 2023 ~ Saturday at Dusk**

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

## **July 7, 2023 ~ Friday at Dark**

Event: **Fidelity Flick**  
Location: Buschmann Park, Owensville, MO  
Information: 573-437-8231, [www.cityofowensville.com/events](http://www.cityofowensville.com/events)

## **July 14-16, 2023**

Event: **Gasconade County Threshers Old Time Steam Engine and Tractor Show**  
Location: Rosebud Park  
Information: [www.GCTA.club](http://www.GCTA.club)

## **July 26-29, 2023**

Event: **Gasconade County Fair**  
Location: Memorial Park, Owensville, Mo.  
Information: [gasconadecountyfair.com](http://gasconadecountyfair.com)

## **July 29, 2023**

Event: **Gasconade County Fair 8th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show**  
Location: Memorial Park, Owensville  
Information: [www.GCTA.club](http://www.GCTA.club)

## **Aub. 11, 2023 ~ Friday at Dark**

Event: **Fidelity Flick**  
Location: Buschmann Park, Owensville, MO  
Information: 573-437-8231, [www.cityofowensville.com/events](http://www.cityofowensville.com/events)

## **Sept. 8, 2023 ~ Saturday**

Event: **Car Cruse-In**  
Location: Downtown, Owensville, Mo.  
Information: [gtacarclub.com](http://gtacarclub.com)

## **Sept. 8, 2023 ~ Friday at Dark**

Event: **Fidelity Flick**  
Location: Buschmann Park, Owensville, MO  
Information: 573-437-8231, [www.cityofowensville.com/events](http://www.cityofowensville.com/events)

## **Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2023**

Event: **Family Campout**  
Location: Memorial Park Campground, Owensville, MO  
Information: 573-437-8231, [www.cityofowensville.com/events](http://www.cityofowensville.com/events)

## **Sept. 7-9, 2023**

Event: **Owensville City Wide Garage Sale**  
Location: Owensville area  
Information: [www.GasconadeCountyRepublican.com](http://www.GasconadeCountyRepublican.com)

## **Sept. 23, 2023 ~ Saturday**

Event: **Car Show**  
Location: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Owensville, Mo.  
Information: [gtacarclub.com](http://gtacarclub.com)

## **Sept. 30, 2023 ~ Saturday**

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

## **Oct. 6, 2023 ~ Saturday**

Event: **Car Cruse-In**  
Location: Downtown, Owensville, Mo.  
Information: [gtacarclub.com](http://gtacarclub.com)

## **Oct. 7 & 8, 2023 ~ Saturday and Sunday**

Event: **26th 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

## **Oct. 7, 2023 ~ Saturday**

Event: **Rosebud Community Treasure Days**  
Location: Rosebud, Highway 50  
Information: 573-764-418

## **Oct. 13, 2023 ~ Friday at Dark**

Event: **Fidelity Flick**  
Location: Buschmann Park, Owensville, MO  
Information: 573-437-8231, [www.cityofowensville.com/events](http://www.cityofowensville.com/events)

## **Oct. 14, 2023 ~ Saturday**

Event: **Market in the Park**  
Location: Memorial Park, Owensville, MO  
Information: 573-437-8231, [www.cityofowensville.com/events](http://www.cityofowensville.com/events)

## **Oct. 28, 2023 ~ Saturday**

Event: **Gerald Trunk or Treat**  
Location: City Park, Gerald  
Information: [geraldchamber.com](http://geraldchamber.com)

## **Dec. 1, 2023 ~ Friday**

Event: **Night Out with Santa, Parade of Lights**  
Location: Downtown Owensville

## **Dec. 2, 2023 ~ Saturday**

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

## **Dec. 2, 2023 ~ Saturday**

Event: **Gerald's Parade of Lights**  
Location: Gerald, Mo.  
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# Falling in love with a '72 Duster not once, but twice

By Roxie Murphy, Gasconade County Republican

**T**odd Rehmert has always had a soft spot for the Plymouth Duster.

"Growing up in Gerald, there was a guy named Mark Steineker, and he had bought a 340ci (Plymouth) Duster," Todd recalls. "It was black with white stripes. I was probably only 10 years old when he was driving that thing around. I said I would like to have it. I thought it was cool."

When Rehmert first noticed the Chrysler-made machine, they had only been on the market for five years — running primarily between 1969-76 as a two-door coupe version of the compact Plymouth Valiant.

His first run-in with the Plymouth Duster was around 1972 when his father bought a new Charger from a dealership in Sullivan.

"He said, 'hey, you want to come with me and pick up the new car today? Your mother can't come.' We

went over to Sullivan to pick up the Charger and in the same lot, this other car had been sold. I said 'cool car' and asked my dad what it was. He said it was a Duster."

The A-body style was slick, painted bold red with white stripes. Rehmert's 10-year-old-self thought it was a race car.

"My dad explained that the 340ci

Fast forward six years and Rehmert's father found a 1974 Plymouth Duster with a 225ci slant 6 he purchased for \$600 on a lot in St. James — the same vehicle in which Rehmert would drive his future wife Alicia Landwehr around.

Until one day in 1982, a fancy Mustang, some friendly competition, and gentle ribbing by his lady would lead Rehmert to a lightning-fast decision that would bring great memories for the next 40 years.

"I was picking up my girlfriend/future wife from volleyball practice from the old junior high — the high school is there now, it used to be the old junior high," he said. "This other girl, Sheri Limberg, was our next-neighbor in Gerald. Her boyfriend come and picked her up and he had this Mustang Mock 1 he had just fixed up with this 351 cubic engine in

it and it was all rumblin'. Then (Alicia) looked at me when I pulled up and said, 'you think you can even spin the

See **'72 Duster**, Page 31



was the size of the engine," Rehmert said. "That, and then the guy in Gerald — I knew I wanted one when I was old enough."

## '72 Duster, from page 30

wheels?' She was makin' fun of me, and I said, 'I don't know, I'll try.'"

But that day Rehemert realized he wanted to make a change.

"It's like when you go to the barber and say 'give me a haircut that makes girls run towards me, not away from me,'" he laughed.

Souped Up — from 318 stock to a 340 rumble

He went to Mike Riefer at Owensville Motors located on First Street.

"Back in them days, him and Jim Brandon worked up there and I said, 'I gotta get a 340 for my car.' That was the legendary motor for MOPAR."

The 340ci engines were part of Chrysler's LA Series — one of four of the company's first low-cost V8 engines that would become a pillar in engine production for the car manufacturer. Modern-day Chrysler vehicles continue to sport a variation of the original design, as late as the 2017 Viper-10.

Rehemert told Riefer he needed something more powerful to burn rubber.

"He said 'I don't know where one's at, and that car you've got is a six-cylinder car and we would have to change things around too much. Change the motor mounts, it's got a wimpy transmission, and the rear end's not right.'"

Rehmert agreed the car was "poochy."

Riefer didn't leave him completely without hope though. He had recently purchased Dennis Frahm's 1972 orange Plymouth Duster with a 318-block engine that was sitting in the back of the car lot. The then-school teacher was well-known.

"Dennis Frahm, he was kind of a wild man back in his younger years," Rehmert said. "He ran the piss out of this car, he bent the frame and had to have it straightened, he had the top dented in and the road grader in Owensville was plowing the snow and knocked into the corner panel and busted the weld and had a whole crackdown. It was a real mess."

The '72 Duster had a 318 motor, which would make it easier to convert to a 340ci with less hassle.

"It had the right rear end, transmission stuff, it would work," Rehmert said. "And it had the motor mounts to bolt it."

'Why don't you just get this car?' Riefer asked.

Riefer wanted \$400 for it.

"I was working there local while I was going to college," said Rehmert, who was studying to be a teacher himself.

He agreed to the deal and took funds from his summer job.

See **'72 Duster**, Page 32

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## '72 Duster, from page 31

"As soon as I buy it, I had it one day and took it up to Owensville to Dean Gabathular, he has passed away since, he used to run the Dino Sinclair Station. He painted cars and stuff on the side," Rehmert said. "Jim Brandon said Dean would paint it on the side. I said 'paint it black, I don't want the orange, I want it black' and we put a gold-colored stripe on it."

The next stop was finding a 340ci motor for the car, which came in the form of Dave Pfeifer.

"Dave had a 1975 Dodge Demon back in the day, that was basically like Dodge's version of the Duster," Rehmert said. "I found out he had a 340 engine for sale after I had asked around at the junkyards and the like. I called him, he had one for \$100 bucks there at his house. I went to pick it up. He didn't have the heads on it or the engine manifold, so I had to buy those. But then I took it right back up to Owensville Motors and Riefer and Jim Brandon built the engine and we put it in the car. Of course, it was pretty loud and beefy."

The family drove the car for years, but eventually outgrew the coupe and it sat in the garage to be brought out for joyrides and special occasions. A boy's dream to a man's reality — return to the original design

In 2004-05 Rehmert began to look hard at the ole' jalopy and decided it would be a good project.

"I said 'hey, let's fix this thing up,'" he said. "It's not a hard numbers-matching original 340 because it is really a 318ci car."

Rehmert explained the difference between the 318ci and 340ci is obvi-

ously the engine but also the interior, door panels, striping and also the grills are different in the front.

"I said let's clone it into a 340ci car and I will make it as close to stock original as I can get it," Rehmert said. "We will take it to car shows and all that."

In 2005, Rehmert took the car to Jim Oglesbee in Gerald for a paint



**REHMERT HAD** the dash and bucket seats, door panels and steering wheel replaced to match what a factory 340ci Duster would have been.

job — back to the original orange.

"I said 'I want the paint back to the original color, to the orange that it was before,'" Rehmert said.

Next was the search for all-original parts — original door panels, Rally Wheels, dash, and seats.

"We stripped it all the way down to the skin or basically the frame," Rehmert said. "I had to replace most of the quarter panels because these cars are famous for being rusted out. One of the front fenders, both inner fenders, the doors are original, the hood, roof, the trunk, all of that, all the floor pans because they rust real bad. All the bumpers have been re-chromed."

However, the 340 Duster had a different grill than all the others.

"It was called a sharktooth grill — they don't reproduce them and they are very difficult to find," Rehmert

said. "I looked around for months and months trying to find that grill."

We finally found a guy in Florida who had one," Rehmert said.

The second hard-to-find item was a set of specialty taillights.

He bought a pair of taillights from a guy in Gerald who had a junkyard full of MOPAR parts.

He was also able to buy the original Rally Wheels and hubcaps.

"Jim Brandon took the motor again and rebuilt it," Rehmert said. "He was teaching auto mechanics at Linn Tech and took it over there and did it all right."

He told Brandon he wanted to make everything as stock as he could, but the car would have run on leaded gas in 1972 and now everything runs on unleaded gas.

"He said it is so hard to buy lead additive, so what we did was put hardened

valve seats and that allows you to run modern, unleaded gasoline in the old leaded engines," Rehmert explained.

Hardened exhaust seats are resistant to unleaded gas-reduced exhaust valve seat recession as long as the vehicle isn't running consistently above 3,500 RPMs or is towing a heavy load.

The engine also received an overhaul.

"I think we had to put sleeves in the cylinder walls because they were scarred up," Rehmert said. "Everything was redone on the whole engine. It's actually a 343ci now, 'cause they get thinner when you rework 'em."

Rehmert said they painted the motor to the original medium blue color and all the crank batteries, speakers and decals were ordered to make it





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## '72 Duster, from page 32

look exactly like a 1972 Plymouth Duster 340 off the lot.

"It's very close, down to the plugs and alternator wires," Rehmert said.

### The interior was reupholstered

"I bought all original upholstery from a guy in St. Clair," Rehmert said. "Original '72 bucket seats and the back seats. It was all redone and had all the original carpets. I did buy a new dash panel, new headliners, door panels, armrests, and window tops. We put in a Tuff steering wheel like the 340s came out with. We found an original reproduction."

The center console has wood grain in the middle, on the dash and wood grain on the floor.

The entire rebuild took an estimated six months in 2005. For nearly six years the Rehmert family took Duster to shows and special events.

Completion of the '72 Plymouth Duster

### Restomod, try — try again

The successful rebuild of the '72 Plymouth Duster restomod — a classic car modified with modern running gear — came to a screeching halt in 2012 after a MOPAR Weekend trip.

"We took it to a lot of car shows when we were done," Rehmert said. "I guess the biggest car show we took it to was the Monster MOPAR Weekend in St. Louis at the Gateway Racetrack in 2012 and I won first place in Stock/Original at Monster MOPAR Weekend. I went to a lot of car shows and won first or second place a lot because, even though it wasn't a number matching, it was a clone that was so close to the original car. We were so happy."

Then on the way home, things took a turn.

"We were bumper-to-bumper crossing the Poplar Street Bridge out by the Arch and someone turned off, we were getting ready to turn off on the I-44 exit when a truck driver from Virginia was looking over at the Arch and ran into the back of the car three cars behind me," Rehmert said. "It was a chain reaction, just bam, bam, and of course one of the guys was from Union riding with us in a muscle car and he was right behind me so he got crushed. His car got shoved into the back of mine. I seen it comin' but there was nowhere you could go because it was all bumper-to-bumper. Couldn't swerve out or nothing. I thought, 'oh, my gosh, I just won first place at MOPAR Nationals and I get rear-ended 30 minutes later

on the way back home!"

Rehmert said he made the decision pretty quickly to build the car back.

"The rest of the car wasn't damaged, but the whole tail panel where the taillights are was crushed, of course, the bumper, a little bit of the trunk pan, and the impact of the quarter panel where it pushed against the doors chipped a little paint between the quarter panel and the doors from the flexing of the metal car bending was really weird," Rehmert said.

He was back to the drawing board to find someone to repaint the Duster.



**THE FLAT** black hood sports a 340 wedge decal. The 340 "wedge" decal was introduced in '71. The wedge refers to the wedge cylinder heads which all 340s had.

"I wanted to take it to someone else to repair it," he said. "I took it to Tommy Shoemaker who lives in Rosebud — and realized it was Tommy Shoemaker, Jr., — I went to school with Tommy Shoemaker and this is his son."

Shoemaker ended up repainting the whole car except the hood and restriping it with 3mm decals so

that everything would match still.

"He painted huge stripes down both sides and the tail and he did a phenomenal job painting," Rehmert said. "It was better than before and insurance covered it all."

After completing what could technically be considered the Duster's third remodel, Rehmert said he was gun shy to drive it for fear something would happen. Parts are so rare and hard to find, he made sure when he was looking for parts during the 2012 rebuild that he had backups.

"I still drive it around, but it looks brand new — everything on it," he said. "I don't plan on ever getting hit again."

He regularly goes back and touches up the paint on the exhaust manifolds.

### For the gearheads:

The 1972 Plymouth Duster came out of its restomod with a 340ci engine, an A-727 TorqueFlite transmission — arguably the best muscle car transmission ever built and Chrysler's go-to build — with a shift kit. The 8 ¾ rear-end differential allowed for an upgraded positraction and 3.55 gears, making the car more fun to drive while reaching easy 75 mph cruise speeds for interstate driving.

### The rest is history

Miraculously, Rehmert says he has never really hot-

See '72 Duster, Page 36



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**2023 Mid-Mo. Horse, Mule and Ox Farming: October 7 & 8**

## '72 Duster, from page 34

rodded the car, as tires and fuel are too expensive. However, one memorable time in Gerald when he was backing out of a driveway, the tires squawked a little and former Chief of Police Gary Weirich gave Rehmert a ticket.

"It was the only ticket I ever got in the car," he said.

A lot has changed since 1982, and not just leaded gasoline.

Rehmert and his wife Alicia had their daughter Fallon and for nearly 20 years she stood to be the sole recipient of Duster. Then 18-years-ago the expectation was

swayed with the birth of the Rehmert's twin boys Reese and Rane Rehmert.

Rehmert said he is going to eventually have to have a sit-down conversation with his three children.

"Does anyone really want it or not want it," he may ask. Or ideally, "I will have to build two more cars and have three, which I would like to do. I don't know who will get it. Maybe one will want it more than the others."

The family never named the car, they have always just called it "the Duster."

"I have had this car for 40-50 years and it is part of our family just like anybody else," Rehmert said. "It has been such a huge part of our family."

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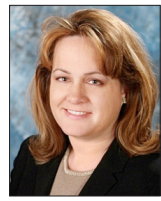
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