



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO LATELY



October was filled with lots of activity as we started to settle into our new home at the Municipal Building. We started the month with a discussion with fellow Chamber members about the creation of a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) for Ottawa. The next week we marched over to The Endzone to listen to the OGHS Pep Band with The Kiwanis and 1820 BrewWorks. From there, you could find us at the alley between Always Blessed and RMS of Ohio as we started the process of giving that alley a facelift. Read more about this on the back! In November, we were invited to speak at the OG Rotary Club meeting and will be participating in the Christmas Parade! We've partnered with the Ottawa Elementary STEM program to help build our first ever Go Ottawa float!

Stay up to date by following our blog:



OTTAWA LIGHT UP CONTEST

How to Participate:

- Email hello@go-ottawa.com to sign up
- Deadline to sign up: 12/1/23
- Decorations must include lights
- Winner announced 12/15/23

A map will be available online for residents to check out the lights as well! Contest participants are not required to share their address for the map, but we hope that most will.

What is going on in the alley?

As part of Ottawa's strategic plan, Go Ottawa was charged with activating our Main Street and filling in gaps in our public realm. One such strategy for accomplishing this is through placemaking initiatives along our Main Street. Placemaking is the process of creating spaces that promote social interaction, cultural expression, and community engagement. By investing in placemaking initiatives, we not only improve the aesthetics of our village but also foster a sense of belonging and community pride.

The alley between Always Blessed (232 Main St) and RMS of Ohio (224 Main St) holds immense potential as an underutilized space that can be transformed into a vibrant and welcoming place for our residents. With its location directly across from the Courthouse and along a well traversed street, its visibility makes it a potential great asset for the community.

Our first step was to draw attention to the alley, which hopefully we have done with our fall and winter displays. Now we will start the true transformation. We envision this alley as a place where you can sip on your morning coffee or take your lunch outside. A quiet escape in the middle of our downtown. Our vision has a few tables and chairs, overhead lights, and an inviting atmosphere throughout. We see opportunity to host small events to highlight community artists and projects. We envision this space being dynamic and changing over time to continue to draw your eye to what was just a gap and now will be a celebrated space in our public realm.

Our next steps:

- 1) Present 3 sketches for design & let the voting commence!
- 2) Finalize design and budget upon selection
- 3) Apply for placemaking grant in January
- 4) Build it this Spring, with an event to celebrate!



Get to know our Board:



Amy Sealts

Economic Development
Director - Putnam County
Community Improvement
Corporation

Hello! It's been a privilege and a growth experience volunteering for Go Ottawa. Together, the team coined phrase "something is happening here" describing what we were learning, doing and hearing from the community. It describes excitement of what lies ahead. Equally exciting, I believe, is the phrase "it happened!" What happened? A movement began. People with ideas and dreams about what the future could be. People from all corners of the community and beyond working together so that BIG things could happen. Interacting with thousands of residents stretched the limits of what anyone thought was possible, and ultimately the Village of Ottawa adopted a growth plan. It happened! So what now? In the words of J.P. Nauseef, "we chalk up a win and go back to the huddle." To me, a huddle sounds like a many people working towards the same goals. In this case that is building upon good things Main Street already offers, enhancing aesthetics and neighborhoods and creating more places and spaces for people to connect and be active. Strengthening the sense of belonging and giving people a reason to care about their community again are my favorite pieces of the plan. This can be duplicated anywhere, and I hope it is. I've spent 29 years of my career serving people and businesses in Putnam County and I'm so glad to call this place home. As an economic developer, I know that creating a stronger sense of place is proven to help businesses thrive and attract new investments, amenities and housing. This journey for the community feels like a once in a lifetime opportunity. To all the dreamers, makers and doers out there, join the movement, something is happening here.