We are all in the middle of an interesting crossroads in our lives. We are being faced with questions and decisions that many of us have never had to tackle before. We are constantly digging for trustworthy information we can use to move forward and flourish. It can admittedly be exhausting, right?

Through all of this, I take immense pride in the Shawnee spirit. I see it every single day. As City leaders, we are working hard to keep our community moving forward. We are proud that most major projects are still on track, including:

- Heartland Logistics at 43rd and K-7
- 2020 Mill and Overlay program that is improving 41 lane miles of roads, 13 miles of curb and 4.5 miles of sidewalk
- Schier Headquarters at Woodland and Shawnee Mission Parkway
- McLain’s Market opened at 5833 Nieman Road
- Drastic Measures opened at 5817 Nieman Road

Progress would not be possible without our amazing and steadfast business owners. It would not be possible without all of YOU who are making major efforts to support our small businesses. What does that look like? It could be getting a cup of coffee from a locally owned shop, picking up a birthday gift from a local boutique, grabbing a meal in Shawnee or hitting a happy hour at one of our local breweries.

Here are five simple ways you can help support our small businesses:

- Stay in Shawnee when dining out or grabbing a drink
- Buy gift cards
- Leave a bigger tip than you normally would
- Share Shawnee businesses on social media
- Order delivery or curbside pickup from local restaurants and stores

I want to personally thank all of you who are showing each other grace during these difficult times. We are all doing the best we can and a little patience can go a long way. Please keep doing what you are doing to keep that Shawnee spirit alive and well.

Sincerely,

Michelle Distler
Mayor
DEAR
CAREGIVERS
GROCERY WORKERS
PARAMEDICS
FOOD SERVICE WORKERS
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
VOLUNTEERS
DOCTORS
POLICE OFFICERS
FIREFIGHTERS
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE WORKERS
RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS
DELIVERY WORKERS
NURSES
POSTAL WORKERS
THERAPISTS
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
PHARMACISTS
SHELF STOCKERS
HEALTH CARE WORKERS
EVERYONE
WE THANK YOU

What do you call those who dedicate their lives to saving thousands, who spend their days caring for others and who work tirelessly to give us a brighter future? We call them heroes. To everyone on the frontline of the COVID-19 fight, the City of Shawnee can't thank you enough.
There's always something NEW TO DISCOVER in Downtown Shawnee. TASTE local flavors, grab a bite to eat at one of our local restaurants. INDULGE in retail therapy with boutique shopping. UNCOVER Shawnee's rooted history with an outdoor escape.

AND WITH EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO DISCOVER, YOU'LL WANT TO KEEP COMING BACK.

cityofshawnee.org
In 2021, the Monticello Road project will be kicking off! The project will be divided into two separate projects to maximize funding.

**Phase I** - Monticello Road from Shawnee Mission Parkway to 71st Terrace and 71st Terrace from Monticello Road to Chouteau Street (to be constructed in 2021).

- On-Street Bike Lanes
- Sidewalk
- Shared use path
- Lighting
- Signs
- Curbs
- Gutters

**Phase II** - Monticello Road from 71st Terrace to 7900 Block of Monticello Road (to be constructed in 2022).

cityofshawnee.org/monticello
Where did you go to college and how long have you been with the Shawnee Police Department?
I received my Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Washburn University and later earned a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. My career with the Shawnee Police Department started in 1999.

How do you want the Shawnee Police Department to relate to the community?
The department’s Mission Statement is “Serving Our Community with Purpose and Care.” That’s what I think of when it comes to community relations. Every contact has the purpose of keeping our community safe, and we treat those contacts with dignity, respect and care.

What is the most challenging part of being Chief?
Recently, it has been dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. Responding to the issues this pandemic created while continuing to deal with the every day operational priorities has been challenging. We have stringent hiring standards, so replacing a recent round of retirements with the best qualified candidates, while competing with surrounding agencies for those candidates, is a challenge as well.

What imprint do you want to leave on the department?
I will soon be outlining a three-part investment plan to the department: Employees, Community, Technology. Investing in these categories will help each one grow and reach new potential.

What is your most memorable moment with the SPD?
The people and the teamwork. Our officers are outstanding decision makers, and always come together as a team to solve complex problems, never asking for or expecting recognition for their work. I was honored to have known Officer Don Gamblin Jr., who was killed in the line of duty on July 13, 1991, and to witness the community support during that tragic time. It helped instill the feeling of honor I have to serve the community I grew up in as Chief of Police.

What changes have you seen since you joined the SPD?
Community and department growth. Along with that growth comes the need for positive change. I have seen this occur with technology, training and partnerships. Internally, those partnerships include providing the officers assistance after experiencing a critical incident. Externally, we partner with social programs such as the Johnson County Mental Health Co-Responder where we help all citizens get the services they deserve.
What inspired you to get into the fire service?
I am a servant! I was drawn to the opportunity to help others as a career. I must admit I did not have any idea of how challenging yet rewarding this career would be as a young 21 year-old. Thirty years later and I would still do it all over again!

What do you love most about your job?
Every day I go to work is a different day and each one brings new challenges. Working through the issues and developing solutions creates a sense of fulfillment and purpose. I am privileged to lead an organization which is dedicated to help citizens in need. The need may be a simple answer to a question, a medical/fire emergency, or a complicated technical rescue.

What are your first impressions of Shawnee?
Shawnee is a beautiful city and the people here have been very welcoming to my wife and me. The people we have come across have been more than helpful in providing assistance to us.

What would you like Shawnee residents to know as you begin to lead the Shawnee Fire Department?
The City of Shawnee Fire Department is a great organization filled with highly skilled and dedicated men and women who come to work every day to serve the citizens of Shawnee. I am dedicated to leading this department as we continue to find ways to improve the services provided. I commit to being a good steward of the resources the community has entrusted to us.

What do you like to do in your free time?
In addition to spending time outdoors we enjoy experiencing the local eateries.

Do you have a favorite spot in Shawnee yet?
The trail systems and parks are favorite places for us to enjoy with our dog Sombra. We fell in love with the green spaces for outdoor recreation.
“Neighbors Helping Neighbors” is a program connecting volunteers with eligible residents. A couple hours of your time makes a lasting impact on our community.

Check out some of the ways our volunteers help their neighbors in need:

- Trash removal
- Yard maintenance
- Lawn mowing
- Limited plumbing and electrical repair
- Exterior painting
- Raking leaves
- Trimming branches
- Washing windows
- Changing light bulbs
- Changing smoke alarm batteries
- Turning mattresses
This edition highlights Canine Officer Shaun Arnold. Shaun is a Maser Patrol Officer assigned to the Police Department’s Canine Unit.

1. **What do you like most about your job?**
   I really enjoy interactions with the community. Shawnee has a lot of history. Speaking with the "seasoned" residents can provide a lot of historical knowledge regarding the city. It still surprises me to see photographs of the city from earlier times!

2. **How does your work impact the community?**
   I have been a K9 handler for 10 of my 16 years of service here in Shawnee. As a K9 handler, I assist officers with providing narcotic searches/sniffs utilizing my canine partner. The K9 is an excellent tool for locating and seizing illegal narcotic contraband. My partner also assists officers with apprehending suspects that have committed violent crimes. The police canines excellent sense of smell provides officers with another tool to ensure dangerous apprehensions are done so as safe as possible.

3. **What is your favorite spot in Shawnee?**
   My favorite spot in Shawnee is Donald B. Gamblin Jr. Park. I first visited the spot to honor Shawnee Police officer Donald Gamblin who was killed in the line of duty on 07/13/1991. The park is a beautiful spot that is heavily wooded along Clear Creek. It always feels cooler in the park area during my runs on the trails, and you often see deer in the area. The playground is a favorite for my kids!
Shawnee Swag

Adult T-shirts $12
Adult Hoodies $30
Toddler (2T-5T) T-shirts $8
Baby Onesies $8

FARMERS’ MARKET

• Fresh and Locally Grown

EVERY SATURDAY
7AM TO 12PM

JUNE - OCTOBER

City Hall Parking Lot

Need a Lift?

Do you know a Shawnee resident who is disabled or is 65 or older? If so, the City offers a transportation program called CityRide. It is a partnership between the City and 10/10 Taxi that allows eligible riders to purchase 10 one-way trips per month for $2 per trip. Riders can go anywhere in the City limits and to the Shawnee Mission Hospital Complex, the Mission Transit Center or the Irene French Community Center in Merriam. Riders can also take up to three additional riders for no extra cost. Contact the City Clerk's Office at 742-6014 to sign-up and purchase ride.

$2.00 One Way - Available 24/7
WANT TO SERVE ON A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION?

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY
We are looking for volunteers who are engaged in Shawnee and feel a strong drive to serve our community.

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SHAWNEE
Our Board Members and Commissioners make recommendations to our City Council on a wide variety of projects, developments and decisions that help shape Shawnee.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO SERVE
• Planning Commission
• Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
• Board of Zoning Appeals
• Code Board of Appeals
• Civil Service Commission

WANT TO LEARN MORE?
Each Board and Commission requires different time commitments. Visit cityofshawnee.org/calendar to see when meetings are scheduled.

READY TO APPLY?
Visit cityofshawnee.org
You will find descriptions of each Board and Commission, along with information on how to apply. We accept applications any time.

For Updates Please Check cityofshawnee.org/calendar

September
3 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board - 5:30 p.m.
7 Labor Day - City Offices Closed
9 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
14 Joint City Council/Planning Commission 5:00 p.m.
   City Council - 7:00 p.m.
17 Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30 p.m.
21 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
28 City Council - 7:00 p.m.

October
1 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board - 5:30 p.m.
5 Council Committee - 6:00 p.m.
   Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
12 City Council - 7:00 p.m.
15 Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30 p.m.
19 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
22 Shawnee Downtown Partnership - 6:00 p.m.
26 City Council - 7:00 p.m.

November
2 Council Committee - 6:00 p.m
   Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
5 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board - 5:30 p.m.
9 City Council - 7:00 p.m.
11 Veterans Day Observed - City Offices Closed
16 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
19 Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30 p.m.
23 City Council - 7:00 p.m.
26 Thanksgiving Day Holiday City Offices Closed
27 Thanksgiving Holiday City Offices Closed

VOLUNTEER
cityofshawnee.org/shawneevolunteer
ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor
Michelle Distler 634-5883 mdistler@cityofshawnee.org

Ward I
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The CityLine, an official publication of the City of Shawnee, Kansas, is published four times a year and mailed to residents in Shawnee under the direction of the Communications Manager. Readers’ comments are encouraged and may be directed to:

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Shawnee, Kansas 66203
By phone 742-6202 or
e-mail jbreithaupt@cityofshawnee.org

This document, meeting agendas and packets, and other information about Shawnee, are available at cityofshawnee.org.