

Tourism/Economic Development Committee Report  
July 2019

Tourism

July was fair month in Owen County. The event was held June 29th-July 6th, and was widely praised as the best fair Owen County has seen in some time. The fair board hired Paradise Amusements to provide rides and games for fair-goers, and they did not disappoint. Many events took place during the fair, including a variety of derby car events, pageants, animal shows, and exhibitions. Perhaps the most talked about event was the return of the fireworks show, which hasn't been a part of the fair in many years. The hope is that such a high quality fair will bring patrons from surrounding counties.

Economic Development

In July, Committee Member Spurgeon attended meetings of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD). The Owen County Industrial Authority (OCIA) did not have a monthly meeting in July and Member Spurgeon was unable to attend the meeting of the Owen County Chamber of Commerce. Progress continues with the new manufacturer coming to the industrial park.

/s/ Todd M. Spurgeon, Committee Member

/s/ Chad Rose, Committee Member

Tourism/Economic Development Committee Report  
August 2019

Tourism

August in Owen County brings the start of the school year. The first day of the new school year was August 14th. Many hunters have begun their preparations for the start of archery season for deer and turkey. Owen County continues to be a popular hunting destination for many in and out of county. Other popular draws continue to be Elk Creek Winery, Blue Wing Landing, Bird Dogs Cafe. August is also the month for the 127 Yard Sale. The World's Longest Yard Sale is a major boon to the local economy during the 1st weekend of the month.

Economic Development

In August, Committee Member Spurgeon attended the meeting of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD). The Owen County Industrial Authority (OCIA) did not have a monthly meeting in August and Member Spurgeon was unable to attend the meeting of the Owen County Chamber of Commerce.

As stated in last month's report, progress continues at the Industrial Park and the addition of hemp processing to the county is demanding much interest.

/s/ Todd M. Spurgeon, Committee Member

/s/ Chad Rose, Committee Member

## Tourism/Economic Development Committee Report September 2019

### Tourism

September marks the beginning of deer and turkey season in Owen County. This continues to be a huge draw and a boon to the local economy. Sweet Owen Day was held on September 21st, and featured many local and out of town craft and food vendors. The event also had a 5k race, musical acts, a cornhole tournament, and the annual Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast.

### Economic Development

Due to a last minute scheduling conflict, Committee Member Spurgeon was unable to attend the annual meeting of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) held in Covington. The Owen County Industrial Authority (OCIA) did not have a monthly meeting in September and Member Spurgeon was unable to attend the meeting of the Owen County Chamber of Commerce. Member Spurgeon did attend the Sparta City Council meeting in September as he continues to work with the City on improving the public park located in Owen County.

As stated in last month's report, progress continues at the Industrial Park and the addition of hemp processing to the county is demanding much interest.

Tourism/Economic Development Committee Report  
October 2019

Tourism

Of course, Halloween is the big draw in October. The Owen County Chamber of Commerce held their first annual Family Fright Night on the Old Courthouse Lawn. The event featured vendors, a 5k fun run, and a family friendly movie. Leadership Owen County held a "Dinner in White" on the Old Courthouse Lawn. Patrons at the catered event were served under romantic lighting, while dressed in all white. October also featured a fall truck and tractor pull at the Owen County Fairgrounds. Truck and tractor pulls, along with demolition derby events continue to be valuable draws to the community. Trick or treating was moved to November 2nd due to inclement weather.

Economic Development

Committee Member Spurgeon attended a meeting of area community banks at General Butler State Park in Carroll County in October and heard presentations on banking trends and investments in communities by local lending institutions.

/s/ Todd M. Spurgeon, Committee Member

/s/ Chad Rose, Committee Member

Tourism/Economic Development Committee Report  
November 2019

Tourism

The Owen County Chamber of Commerce Marketplace was held on November 16th. The third annual event featured many local and out of town vendors, and was held at Owen County High School. In addition to the usual draws from Elk Creek Winery, Blue Wing Landing, and Bird Dogs, the Gratz Cafe has become a new favorite for locals and “near out of towners”. Gratz Cafe offers food, music and karaoke. November also saw an influx of visitors due to modern gun season for deer hunters.

Economic Development

In November, Committee Member Spurgeon attended the annual meeting of the Owen County Chamber of Commerce where education was the focus, including the educating of our workforce to facilitate the state’s economic growth and development. There were no meetings of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) or the Owen County Industrial Authority (OCIA).

/s/ Todd M. Spurgeon, Committee Member

/s/ Chad Rose, Committee Member

Tourism/Economic Development Committee Report  
December 2019

Tourism

The annual Christmas Parade was held in Owenton on December 7th. The start time for the parade was moved to 5:00. The evening timing allowed for parade goers to witness the lighting of the Owen County Christmas tree in near darkness. Attendees also visited craft vendors in the Old Courthouse and the Odd Fellows Lodge. The parade was well attended and brought many into the downtown storefronts that remained open.

Economic Development

Committee Member Spurgeon attended the meeting of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) in December. The Annual Auditor's Report to the Board of Directors was presented at the meeting which confirmed the many programs, services and needs fulfilled by the NKADD in the Northern Kentucky counties. The Owen County Industrial Authority (OCIA) did not have a monthly meeting.

/s/ Todd M. Spurgeon, Committee Member

/s/ Chad Rose, Committee Member

Tourism/Economic Development Committee Report  
January 2020

Tourism

January tends to be a slower month in terms of tourism for Owen County. Deer season, which creates an economic boon in the late fall and early winter, has wound down by the first of the year. With the season ending on January 20th, many hunters will have pulled out of their leased properties, only to return sporadically through the spring and summer months to manage their food plots. Elk Creek Winery continues to bring steady business and “out of towners” often stop at Bird Dogs Coffee. The Owen County Fair Board announced it will host the Wide Open No Fear Rodeo on July 24 & 25. Proceeds will benefit the Wyatt Cole Memorial Scholarship fund.

Economic Development

January was a slow month and there were no meetings of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) or the Owen County Industrial Authority (OCIA). Member Spurgeon was unable to attend the meeting of the Owen County Chamber of Commerce. Progress continues with the new manufacturer coming to the industrial park with work being done on the plant floor and in its administrative offices.

/s/ Todd M. Spurgeon, Committee Member

/s/ Chad Rose, Committee Member

Tourism/Economic Development Committee Report  
February 2020

Tourism

Planning continues for Spring and Summer events in Owen County. Mayberry Days 2020 has been announced by the Owen County Arts Council and will take place on June 20th. The fair board continues preparations for the July fair. In all, February is a slow month for tourism in Owen County. The Gratz Cafe continues to bring in steady business and draws some visitors from Henry County. Gratz Landing Gifts and The Backwards Saddle Boutique offer shopping options for visitors and locals.

Economic Development

In February, Committee Member Spurgeon attended the meeting of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD). At the NKADD meeting, a financial review was presented to the Board. Member Spurgeon also attended the Owen County Chamber meeting where a presentation was made by a representative from NKU concerning opioid use in Northern Kentucky and solutions thereto. The Owen County Industrial Authority (OCIA) did not have a monthly meeting.

Finally, Member Spurgeon as well as Member Rose attended the Magistrates and Commissioners' annual Legislative Training Day in Frankfort and were invited for remarks by Gov. Andy Beshear at the Governor's Mansion.

/s/ Todd M. Spurgeon, Committee Member

/s/ Chad Rose, Committee Member