OTTERVILLE • MISSOURI • OCTOBER 2026

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

LOCAL PROGRESS | COMMUNITY PRIDE | NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

CITY OF OTTERVILLE MO
Where the Community flows Together

WRITTEN BY MAYOR SEAN MAIN • A LETTER TO EVERY OTTERVILLE HOUSEHOLD

A Letter to Our Neighbors

As summer turns to fall, I wanted to share a little of what has been happening in the City of Otterville—some unexpected challenges, meaningful progress, and, above all, the people who make this community so special.

For neighbors I have not yet met, I'm Sean Main. I grew up in Sedalia, graduated from Smith-Cotton in 2005, and have been part of the Otterville community for nearly 20 years. I was raised to work hard, appreciate what I have, and lend a hand when it is needed. I was eager to enter the workforce, and over more than 18 years with Frito-Lay, I worked my way from an entry-level role to district sales manager. Today I lead about 17 employees across nine routes, $225,000 a week in sales and 189 accounts within. That experience has taught me to listen, set clear goals, document with proper guidelines and follow through.

Otterville has also given me many opportunities to serve: six years on the school board, three years on the city council, and time helping with the Street Fair and wherever else I was needed. I have seen firsthand how much heart our neighbors put into this town. When the former mayor stepped down and the board selected me to serve, I wanted to bring that same work ethic and care to City Hall. I may not have every answer right away, but I will keep asking questions, communicate openly, and work to leave Otterville stronger for the next generation.

When the Lights Went Out, Our Community Stepped Up

My time as mayor began with some fireworks—or, rather, a lack of them! Over the Fourth of July weekend, powerful straight-line winds damaged power poles across several miles and left our community without electricity for days. Ameren worked to restore service, while our fire department stepped up with welfare checks and the steady support we have come to count on.

Cooper County brought a generator for our water tower, helping us prepare before water service became a concern. The Missouri Rural Water Association was also ready to assist with a generator from Lincoln if needed. My thanks go to George Sponcler, Larry Oerly, David Lorenze, and everyone who helped put those plans in motion. We were not in crisis at the tower, but being prepared matters. That is neighbors helping neighbors in action.

A Bumpy Road—and a Better Repair

Not long afterward, BB Highway decided to bubble up like bubble wrap. We had been watching the area, but unusually wet spring and early-summer conditions made a possible water leak difficult to detect. Once the surrounding ground dried and the roadway did not, it was time to act.

Because the work was on a state highway, permits, inspection, and specific backfill requirements were necessary. Cooper County helped move the process along, and Matt Helmig went above and beyond in working with the state and completing the repair. The water line now runs through a sleeve, so a future failure may be repaired without tearing up the roadway again.

Building Better Systems for Tomorrow

Behind the scenes, we have been strengthening procedures, timelines, and recordkeeping. That includes updated citizen complaint forms, work on the employee handbook, clearer policies, and more digital documentation. This may not be the flashiest work, but it is important. Future boards, employees, and residents deserve to understand how decisions were made, who is responsible, and why things are done a certain way.

If I do not know an answer, I intend to keep looking until I find it—and then make sure that knowledge is documented for the next person. Clear communication and accountability are part of building a city that serves people well.

Road Improvements Around Town

We recently completed a $28,000 road resealing project with Line Lava of Sedalia. The work covered two sections of Olive Street that had been missed previously, along with heavily traveled North Boonville Street. The contractor coordinated with City Hall and me throughout the project.

Before work began, Lexie and I distributed notices to affected households. We also shared information with the school and emergency-service groups so they could plan for road impacts. A little advance notice goes a long way, and communication will remain a priority.

A Stronger Plan for Emergencies

One improvement I am especially excited about is our generator project. The city previously had a generator that had not been fully connected for its intended purpose. After further conversations and planning, a generator is now on city property, with work underway to install a transfer switch and connect both the well house and City Hall.

Once completed, this setup is intended to keep the well operating and allow City Hall to function during a major outage, including powering the building's HVAC system when needed. It gives Otterville a potential central place for operations and community support during an emergency. At the time of this update, the remaining work was expected to wrap up in the coming weeks.

You may also have noticed a new cabinet near the water tower. It houses Cooper County radio equipment, with a repeater installed on the tower. This should help improve radio coverage and clarity for emergency personnel in and around Otterville—another meaningful step forward for public safety.

Helping Our Community Cats

We are also excited about an opportunity to help neighbors address our growing community-cat population. The city is sharing information about reimbursement of up to $50 toward the cost of spaying or neutering community cats. Some residents have already taken it upon themselves to care for and sterilize community cats, and this is one way to recognize those efforts while encouraging a lasting solution. Please see the accompanying flyer for program details and requirements.

A Weekend That Reminds Us Who We Are

To everyone who helped organize and run the Otterville Street Fair: thank you! I know firsthand how much work goes into an event like this. For one special weekend, old friends reconnect, new neighbors meet, and our streets fill with conversation, laughter, and small-town pride.

I made it down on Saturday and loved seeing the atmosphere. I heard wonderful things about the band, and the city park was full of life for cornhole. It is encouraging to see people invest their time and energy in Otterville. Here's to even more memories in 2027!

From My Heart to Yours

I am proud to call Otterville home. This is a community with deep history, strong family ties, and a heart that shows up when it matters. From early-morning sunrises to beautiful sunsets, there is so much here worth appreciating.

Tonight, step outside for a moment and look up at the stars. Those quiet little moments are part of the gift of living in a small town. I hope we never take them—or one another—for granted.

As our staff, board, and I continue improving how the city operates, please know that the work is being done with genuine care for the place we share. Thank you for your patience, your involvement, and the love you bring to this community.

With love and passion,

Mayor Sean Main