



TOWN OF LUTHER, OK

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

LUTHER, OK

Since 1898



Board of Trustees

Terry Arps, Mayor
Jeff Schwarzmeier, Vice Mayor
Jerrod Davis
Carla Caruthers
Valarie Braxton

Town Manager

Scherrie Pidcock

Court Clerk

Stephanie Mason

Office Assistant

Dawn Shelton

Code Enforcement Officer

Daniel McClure

Luther Public Works Authority

Utility Clerk

Cathy Schmitz

Team Leader

Matthew Piatt
Brian Proc

Luther Police Department

Chief Johnny Leafly
Captain Les Warren
Sergeant Randy Nailon
Officer Travonna Wright
Officer Jason Hall
Officer Jeremy Ledford
K9 Kodi
and dedicated
Volunteer Reserve Officers

Luther Fire Department

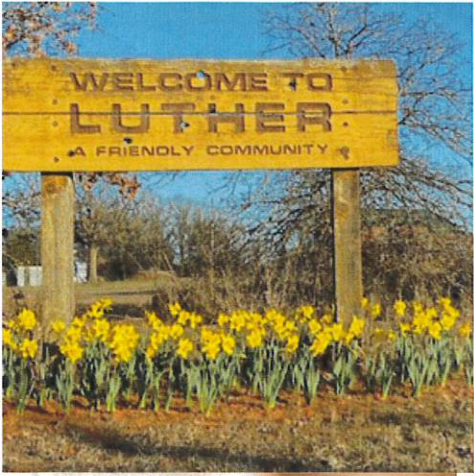
Chief Joseph Figueroa
and dedicated
Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs

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Year in Review the Town of Luther *a friendly community* 2023

The Town of Luther celebrated its quasiquicentennial, marking its founding in 1898. The last 125 years of our shared history have brought many opportunities, changes, and challenges, with the hope of a bright future for our citizens. The spring brought celebrations for the new **Route 66 Disc Golf Park** and the newly improved **Wildhorse Park**, made possible by the dedication of the Luther Parks Commission and its fundraising organization, Luther Friends of the Park.



The resurgence of the Luther Historical Society breathed new life into the nonprofit organization with plans to transform their Main Street space, on land donated by the **Morgan & Hayes families**, into The Plaza—a homage to veterans and a new focal point for community gatherings. Grants empowered the Town of Luther to enhance public works, equip the volunteer fire department with a state-of-the-art pumper tanker engine, and conduct a pivotal flood plain study. The crowning moments of the year included lighting L'Whotherville, the town's newest **Route 66 attraction** on Main Street, and the annual pecan festival that attracted more visitors and vendors than ever before.



The **Luther Police Department** and **Luther Fire Department** remain steadfast guardians of our community, exemplifying dedication and valor. Their collaborative efforts in ensuring public safety, responding to emergencies, and engaging in meaningful community service have been integral to our town's overall well-being.

In the face of economic uncertainties and the loss of a beloved restaurant, the resilience of our community shone through, as evidenced by **steady sales tax revenues** and a wave of home construction and renovation. As we bid farewell to departing elected leaders and staff, we extend heartfelt gratitude to them while eagerly welcoming new volunteers, leaders, and dedicated staff to continue the progress in the Town of Luther.



Year in Review



the Town of Luther

a friendly community **2023**



January

Election announcement for two Board of Trustees members.

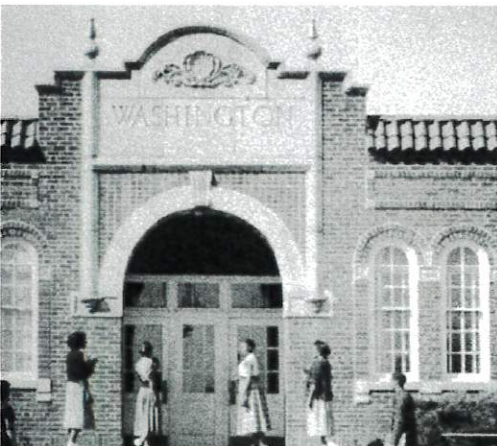
February

- Jeff Schwarzmeier automatically retained his trustee position for a second 4-year term, drawing no other candidate.
- The Board sought applications to fill a vacancy after Brian Hall fulfilled his term.
- Grants Funded. The Town of Luther received funds for three grant awards announced in December 2022. The projects are slated for completion in 2024:
 - **New Public Works Facility.** The new shop will house all public works equipment in a secure facility and includes a new animal shelter. COST: \$208,550.00
 - **Valve enhancement and replacement for the Town's water system.** This project will alleviate system-wide outages during repairs. COST: \$99,999.00
 - **New sidewalk installation near Luther Public Schools.** This grant application was submitted by Oklahoma County District 3 on behalf of the Town of Luther and also will be installed by the county. COST: \$91,000.00.



March

- The Town of Luther marked the anniversary of its founding on March 18, 1898.
- Reminders were sent from the Luther Emergency Management Team for Storm Shelter Registration.
- A full-page ad for Luther debuted in the 2023-24 Oklahoma Route 66 Association trip guide, along with an updated, accurate description of our town and nearby attractions.





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April

- The Luther Parks Commission and Friends of the Park hosted a grand opening of the new Route 66 Disc Golf Park with a huge crowd and celebration.
- The Luther Founders' Day Parade featured **Grand Marshalls Dolph Grolock and Ed Threatt** as well as State Representative John George, County Commissioner Myles Davidson, and wonderful entries from the Luther Fire Department, Luther Middle School, Luther High School Band, Luther cheer, Luther Historical Society, and classic cars, bicycles, a BMX team, and more.
- LPWA trash customers took advantage of the dumpsters provided for Spring Clean-Up Day.
- LPD K9 Kodi received a bullet and stab-proof protective vest from the National Police Organization.



May

- A Public Hearing was held for the proposed 2023/24 Budgets for the Town of Luther and Luther Public Works Authority.
- **Lt. Gov Matt Pinnell posed with a group of Luther leaders and business owners** when the new Rt 66 Midpoint Corridor was announced. The group is a collaborative effort to market Route 66 between Edmond, Arcadia, Luther, Wellston, Chandler, Davenport, Stroud, Bristow, Kellyville, and Sapulpa.
- L'Whotherville was announced as its first Rt 66 Midpoint Corridor project for Christmas 2023.
- The community celebrated the improvements at Wildhorse Park with a ribbon cutting.
- Jerrod Davis was appointed to the Luther Board of Trustees.
- Michael Voss was hired as LPWA Team Leader.



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June

- A Soap Box Derby benefitted the Luther Fire Department.
- Trustee Josh Rowton resigned from the Board of Trustees.
- Dr. Rosemarie Strong resigned from the Luther Parks Commission and joined the nonprofit Luther Friends of the Park.
- The Luther Zoning Committee held a kickoff meeting, and committee members were named: Terry Arps, Anna Campbell, Jason Roach, Trandy Langston, and Chris Ivich.



July

- Valarie Braxton resigned as Court Clerk/Admin Assistant to care for her grandchildren.
- **The Luther Fire Department organized Independence Day celebrations** with a parade, festival, and fireworks.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT:** \$375,000 grant award to the Luther Fire Department for a new Pumper Tanker Engine from the Board of Commissioners of Oklahoma County using ARPA funds.
- The Board of Trustees approved a Utility Rate Hike. The modest increase to offset rising maintenance and operation costs addresses significant infrastructural issues and budget deficiencies and aligns with similarly situated communities.
- The new budget took effect for the Town and LPWA.
- FOX 25 features **Luther's Wildhorse Park**, showcasing TSET Healthy Community Incentive Grants.
- The Board of Trustees approved hiring Stephanie Mason as Court Clerk/Administrative Assistant.



August

- The Board of Trustees appointed Valarie Braxton as a trustee to fulfill an unexpired term.
- Assistant Fire Chief Craig Martin was honored for 20 years of service as an EMT by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.
- The Board of Trustees approved hiring Captain Les Warren and Officer Jason Hall for the Luther Police Department.





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September

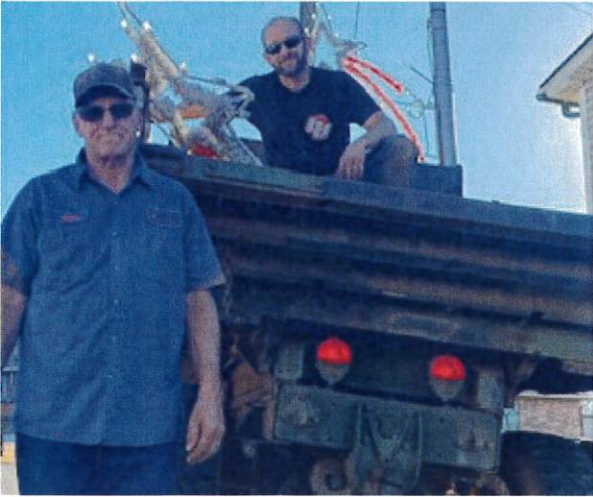
- Luther Friends of the Park sponsored a CIRCUS fundraiser.
- The Board of Trustees approved hiring Sargeant Randy Nailon for the Luther Police Department.
- The Board of Trustees thanked Kasey Wood for her service as Chair of the Luther Parks Commission upon her resignation from the commission.
- Utility Rate Increase took effect.



October

- OGE helped remove a dead tree at Wildhorse Park.
- LPWA trash customers took advantage of the dumpsters provided for Fall Clean-Up Day.
- Michael Voss resigned as LPWA Team Leader.
- Trunk or Treat was held in the community.
- Construction of L'Whotherville began.
- U.S. Senator James Lankford met leaders from Luther and Arcadia.
- The Board of Trustees passed resolutions for REAP grant applications to ACOG for a sewer extension and a Deep Fork River flood map study.
- REAP grant applications were submitted.
- The Board of Trustees appointed Fred Stephany to the Luther Parks Commission.





Year in Review

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November

- Luther Pecan Festival drew 115 vendors and an estimated 10,000 visitors.
- Lighting of L'Whotherville. Thank you to our community sponsors who supported the first year of the new holiday attraction. The Town appreciates the sponsorships, in-kind donations, and volunteers including: **Kickapoo Casino, BancFirst, The Orchard on 66, Trail of Cheer, Luther Tag Agency, Lil Bit Western Lawncare, Luther Register News, Allan Booher, CPA, Opus Entertainment, Enbrighten, Luther FFA, Luther Community Service Center, Valarie Braxton, Cathy Schimtz, David Erikson, Jerrod Davis, Carla Caruthers, Terry Arps, Malia Schmitz, Audrey Mohr, Shelly Dill, Chris Ivich, Scherrie Pidcock, Josh Smith, Lindy Jerlow, Jimmi Roach, Dawn Shelton, Brian Proc, Captain Les Warren, and the Luther Economic Development Authority.**
- Due to severe weather, the Luther Emergency Management leadership canceled the Luther Founders' 5K and Luther Pecan Festival on November 19.
- Matthew Piatt was hired as LPWA Team Leader.
- Luther Municipal Court complied with a new state law (HB 2259) regarding processing and collecting court financial obligations owed by defendants.



December

- The Parks Commission held a community Carriage Ride Christmas Event on Main Street.
- ACOG approved the town's 2023 REAP grant applications for a sewer extension and a flood map study, and approved Oklahoma County's application on the town's behalf for a new jetter was.
- The Board of Trustees named Edward Threatt to the Luther Parks Commission.





2024

As we bid farewell to 2023, the Town of Luther eagerly anticipates a future marked by progress and community enhancement. A pivotal milestone in this journey is constructing the new LPWA shop near the water tower, symbolizing our commitment to modern infrastructure and efficient services. The forthcoming relocation of the current shop from the "old Town Hall" on Main Street is a catalyst for positive change, promising improved aesthetics along our Main Street and laying the groundwork for a host of ambitious plans.

With grants secured for water valve replacements and a dedicated sewer extension, we envision a more efficient and enriched quality of life for our residents while simultaneously fostering an environment conducive to attracting businesses to our vibrant town.

Looking ahead, we eagerly embrace the opportunities that the approaching 100th anniversary of Route 66 will bring while enhancing our dedication to the historic Booker T Washington Park, and economic development. As we embark on this journey, we invite all residents to join us in advancing the Town of Luther toward a future of prosperity and community pride. **Together, let us shape the legacy of Luther for generations to come.**