Onawa Chamber of Commerce November 2026 Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE 2026 CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Santa will be coming to town on Thursday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. to welcome the Holiday's to Onawa. I wonder how Santa will arrive into Onawa this year? Saturday, December 12th at 1:00 p.m. the Chamber will be hosting a FREE movie at the Iowa Theater. The free movie will be Home Alone. Long Lines will be giving everyone in attendance a free small popcorn and pop. Thank you Long Lines!

The Chamber is asking all businesses to get in the Holiday spirit and decorate their store front windows, outside of their business and/or the inside of their business. Seeing the streets lite up and business decorated will get people more in the Holiday spirit and to shop locally.

Onawa Chamber Holiday Promotion

Trying something new this year for the Holidays and to promote more local shopping. The chamber will be giving any participating business a Chamber ornament to hide inside their business. When the ornament is found, the customer can take it to the counter to receive Chamber Holiday Dollars. The Chamber will give any participating business the ornament and Chamber Bucks to give to the customer. We will start off with a few Chamber Bucks at each business and if you need more, contact the Chamber and more will be brought to you.

If you would like to participate and get an ornament to hide, please e-mail chamber@onawa.com and the items will be delivered to you.

2nd Annual Merry & Bright Shopping Event in Onawa

Feeling a little nostalgic this time of year? Remember Christmas when you were a kid? We're taking a step back to simpler times this year for our 2nd Annual Merry & Bright Festival.

Downtown shops will be decorated around their favorite era of Christmas past. You will get to vote on your favorite!! We will have merry activities you remember from your childhood, cozy food and drinks, and holiday shopping with your favorite small local shops and vendors.

A schedule of activities will be posted soon so save the date!! November 27th and 28th. Watch Explore Onawa Page on Facebook for more updates and a list of participating businesses.

Sponsored by the Onawa Business Alliance

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2026

This is a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. Onawa is very fortunate to have many unique small businesses to shop at.

Fun facts about shopping local to keep in mind.

1. Buying local keeps 4 times the money in our local economy compared to buying from out of town.
2. Local businesses support local events, sporting events and charities 250% more than big corporations. Keep this in mind this Holiday season when shopping. Stay local and support small businesses.

CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER

Christmas in November is happening again this year at the Loess Hills Historical Museum. The Board of Directors are working hard to make this event happen so please take the time to go see all their hard work.

The Museum will be opening to tour the tress on November 7th and 8th, 14th and 15th and 21st and 22nd from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. November 14th come for kid's day with a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Coffee and treats will be provided while viewing the trees as well as entertainment. Gift bags will be given to every child who attends the activities and the top three most voted tress will win a prize. The Museum will be hosting Chamber Coffee on Friday, November 6th from 9:30—10:30 a.m. The Board of Directors would like as many trees as possible be set up. If you or your business would like to put a tree on display, call the museum at 712-212-9090 to set up a time.

First Christian Church Thanksgiving Dinner

On Friday, November 6th the First Christian Church of Onawa will be hosting their Annul Thanksgiving Dinner from 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. Dine in or carry out available. All funds raised from this event go towards buying the meat for the packages put together for families less fortunate and taken to West Central Community Action in Onawa for the Holiday's.

Friends of the Onawa Public Library Silent Auction and Events

The Friends of the Onawa Public Library will be hosting a silent basket auction this year to help raise funds for further upkeep of the Library. This is not limited to baskets, wreaths and handmade items are always welcome. The Friends of the Library have been busy making handmade items on their fiber works days at the Library. Silent auction items can be delivered the month of November. Deadline for items to be delivered is November 20th. On-line, Facebook and phone-in bidding will run December 4th and 5th. All bidding concludes at close of Library normal hours on December 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate our Veteran's. Veteran's Day Dinner and Program

On Sunday, November 8, 2026 at the Onawa Community Center 12:30 p.m. there will be a free-will spaghetti lunch to honor our Veteran's. Free meal for veterans and their families. Veteran's Day Program on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. at the West Monona High School. Larry Christensen from Whiting will be the featured speaker. Quilts of Valor will also be presented to area Veterans. These programs are sponsored by the David McNeill American Legion Post and American Legion Auxiliary Unit #129 of Onawa, IA. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we honor those who served our nation.

Pleasant View Annual Harvest Auction

Join Friends of Pleasant View for their annual fundraiser at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2026. Doors will open at 5:15 p.m. for a sneak peak at all the auction items. The auction will have a wide variety of items, gift baskets, gift certificates, homemade items and baked goods. Hornick Methodist Church will be making homemade apple pies.

All auction items are generously donated by area merchants, community members, residents & families. The auction will take place in the Education Center at Pleasant View in Whiting. For more information call Pleasant View at 712-458-2417 extension 2 or e-mail auxiliary@pleasantviewcares.com.

Bring a friend, raise a number and help them celebrate 51 years! A night of fun & fundraising for the residents.

Onawa Fire Department Chili Cook Off

On Saturday, November 7, 2026 the Onawa Fire Department will be hosting a Chili Cook off at the West Monona High School Commons. Competitors can enter a minimum of a standard (6-7 QT) crock pot of chili. The public is welcome to come and judge all the competitors. The charge will be $10 for adults and $5 for kids 12 and under.

There will be a Thanksgiving meal raffle and a pie auction starting at 6:30 p.m. Raffle items donated by Sunshine Foods and auction sponsored by McCall Auction and Frannies Cafe.

For competition rules, regulations and registration visit the Onawa Fire Department Facebook page or text your contact information to 712-420-0301 by October 31st. RSVP is encouraged by October 31st but not required.

Come taste some chili and purchase some Thanksgiving items and support your local volunteer Fire Department.

Chamber Board Members

Starting in January 2027 we have four Board Member positions open. We are sad to see these four Board Members leave and I would like to thank them for their years on the Board, Bryana Beneda, Minnihan Law Firm; Jen Andresen, Family Focus Chiropractic; Lori Beck and Nick Holverson, Hoffman Agency. Kenzie Moreno, Fannie's Cafe is up for her 3-year renewal and has excepted another 3-year term.

These positions require a three-year term commitment. A total of 3 consecutive 3-year terms can be served. A voting ballot to accept the four new Board Members for their first three-year term and Kenzie Moreno's renewal is included in this newsletter. THERE WILL BE NO WRITE-IN'S ON THE BALLOTT FORM!!! Please call or email the Chamber Office if you have any questions, 712-423-1801 or chamber@onawa.com. You can mail the form to 707 Iowa Ave, Onawa or e-mail it to chamber@onawa.com.

Ladies Night at Bomgaars

Bomgaars is once again bringing its annual Ladies Night event to the community, combining an evening of fall shopping, festive fun and giving back to local organizations. On Sunday, November 1, 2026, from 5–8 p.m., Bomgaars customers at all locations will have the opportunity to enjoy special savings, giveaways and an evening dedicated to supporting the communities Bomgaars is proud to serve.

As part of Ladies Night, 5% of the evening's sales will be donated to a local charitable organization in each Bomgaars community. This year, Burgess Foundation has been selected as the recipient for the Onawa community.

The donation will be presented to Burgess Foundation in December 2026, with the amount based on sales from the local Bomgaars store during Ladies Night.

Mark your calendars to get some Chrstimas shopping done, enjoy some savings and give back to the Burgess Foundation.

Calendar of Events for November 2026

November 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 1 Iowa Prairie Documentary Program at the Onawa Library. Time TBD.
November 1 Bomgaars Ladies Night 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
November 3 Election Day
November 4 Onawa City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
November 5 Chamber Board Meeting at noon at the Onawa Public Library.
November 5 Pleasant View Harvest Auction 6:00 p.m.
November 6 Chamber Coffee hosted by Monona County Historical Museum 9:30-10:30 a.m.
November 6 First Christian Church Thanksgiving Dinner 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
November 7-8 Christmas in November at the Historical Museum 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
November 7 Onawa Fire Department Chili Cook Off West Monona High School 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
November 8 Bob Ross Painting Workshop Onawa Library 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
November 8 Veteran's Lunch at the Onawa Community Center 12:30 p.m.
November 11 Veteran's Day. Program at West Monona High School at 9:30 a.m.
November 14 Ladies Night at the Onawa Country Club 5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
November 14-15 Christmas in November at the Historical Museum 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
November 15 OJ Fargo Greyhounds and Hawks program Onawa Library 2:00 p.m.
November 18 Onawa City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
November 19 Chamber Board member balott deadline.
November 21-22 Christmas in November at the Historical Museum 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
November 26 Happy Thanksgiving.
November 27-28 Merry & Bright Shopping event in Onawa.
November 28 Small Business Saturday.