First Impressions

Compiled Report Form

Community Visited: OLSBURG Date(s) Visited: a) 12/28/16 (Wed.)

b) 1-8-17 (Sun.)

c) 12-30-16 (Friday)

**Pre-visit web search: How easy was it to get information on the community you were visiting? Did it accurately reflect what you saw? Did you have difficulties obtaining information on the community through a web search?**

1. I was very impressed with the information and pictures. Someone really took a lot of time to get the “true Olsburg” represented on their website. I have liked them on Facebook (good representation there also) so I can keep up with their activities.
2. The City has a Facebook page and a city web page, we were able to review the page with ease.
3. Lots of Community events! A simple Google search was easy to find the Olsburg web page.
4. The “Five-Minute” Impression**: After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted. The following observations were noted when entering the community from major entrances (signs, streetscapes, buildings, etc.)**
5. The town was very clean and well-maintained. The sign at the highway was a very eye catching sign.
6. Good radio reception. No to minimal cell service with AT&T provider. It looks/feels bigger than Robinson, KS. Some clean up needs to be done. We observed that most houses have propone tanks. Roads are well maintained. Great location to Manhattan/K-State. The sign when entering Olsburg was well done, but would like to be bigger. Street signs are present, but could use some work. We notice there were a number of satellite systems in town and those this might be a cause for concern for someone that was looking to reside there.
7. Quiet little town. Has made a lot of priority toward keeping the town nice. Family town—lots of playground equipment. Swedish Town. Lots of signs.

2. Downtown Business Area

**Describe the buildings, signs, infrastructure, etc. Explain what type of businesses you observed and give a description of the variety and quality of merchandise displayed. Describe the customer service received when you entered those retail businesses. (Were you greeted? Did you have to ask for assistance?)**

1. Buildings were very well maintained, each building had signs identifying the business. Grab-N-Go, Gas Station, Beauty Shop, Gift Shop, Cleaners, Loberg Grocery & Café, Post Office, Telephone Co. We only visited the grocery store-café, bank & city hall. The customer service at the Grocery/Café & Bank were excellent. Very friendly!
2. Good size for the size of the town. Grocery store/restaurant – post office – City Hall – Painting business – Fire Department – Legion Hall. While there we are a number of businesses in the downtown location, as it was cold and the businesses were not open we did not get out visiting those businesses. Customer Service N/A – we visited on a Sunday when businesses were closed. We were fortunate that the City Clerk pulled into City Hall while we were there and she was open to having a discussion with one member of our group.
3. Older but kept up well. Grocery store, specialist, Hair boutique, tailoring. We were greeted. Very friendly.

**What public amenities were available (drinking fountains, benches, public restrooms, etc.) Comment on appealing landscaping and streetscaping. Did you have difficulty finding parking? Could you access multiple services from where you parked?**

1. Benches were downtown and at Park, Swimming pool area. Didn’t have any problems parking. Very accessible to most businesses when you park downtown. Streets were clean and store fronts were very appealing.
2. Good public space – pool/park were in good condition – what we thought were the Basketball goals begin removed, we learned from the City Clerk that they were still being finished. Ample parking in the downtown area and in public areas. Good access to the services provided in the “shopping” area.
3. Public restrooms, drinking fountain, benches could use some fixing up. No difficulty, plenty of parking.
4. **Other Retail Shopping Areas**

**Describe other retail shopping areas. Were the areas attractive and easy to access?**

1. The Grab-N-Go and gas station was very well kept area.
2. NA
3. Garden Retail shop—yes, it was attractive and easy to access.

**4. Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas**

**Is there a defined area where manufacturing industries could easily locate/expand? If so, describe.**

1. I felt that possibly the east side of town would be a good location for manufacturing/industries. It would be easily located and able to expand.
2. Square foot of overall space seems to provide areas for both additional commercial and/or residential expansion. Didn’t notice that commercial/residential areas were split. It seemed to be a mix and residential section grew around commercial area.
3. NA

**5. Health Care Services**

**Comment on the availability and apparent quality of hospitals and emergency medical services.**

1. NA
2. We were unable to identify medical care available within the town itself, but then again, larger areas were readily accessible for these services (within ½ hour).
3. NA

**Comment on the availability and condition of facilities for physicians, dentists, optometrists, public health and other healthcare providers.**

1. NA
2. None present. Found, after discussion with the City Clerk, that the town did not have medical/dental/optical care available within the town
3. NA

**What long-term care services, assisted living or nursing facilities exist in the community?**

1. NA
2. Did not observe any.
3. Just a senior center

**6. Housing**

**Give a brief description of the existing mix of housing stock. Does the local market have housing that would appeal to all income wages? What challenges do you see in regards to finding acceptable housing? (Neighborhoods, size, properties for sale, etc.)**

1. I felt there was a mix of housing and would appeal to all income wages. The houses well maintained for the most part.
2. From what we observed, there were a low number of houses for sale. Some properties would not be somewhere we would choose to live.
3. Yes, the local market has housing that would appeal to all income wages. Not many houses for sale.

**What kind of rental properties did you observe for persons interested in building or simply living in the community prior to buying housing?**

1. Really didn’t see any defined rental properties.
2. We did not see any signs of rental properties.
3. Nothing advertised.

**7. Schools**

**Do the following schools appear to be adequate in size or do you see the use of temporary classrooms? Are the buildings and grounds well-maintained?**

1. There was a school which houses K-4. The building, playground and area around school was very well maintained.
2. McCormick Elementary School – Blue Valley School District – found out from City Clerk that Olsburg housed the elementary school and Middle/High school were in another location. The play area attached to the school was nice and good repair.
3. Elementary school

Were you able to find print information in the community that helped assess the quality of the educational system?

1. Yes, received information from Jackie at City Hall.
2. (No answer)
3. Blue Valley is a nice School District.
4. **Childcare**

**Were you able to determine if childcare was affordable and available?**

1. Childcare is available, but didn’t inquire about the cost.
2. We were unable to determine if there were any child care providers located in the area and did not think to ask the City Clerk when we visited.
3. Yes. Emily’s Daycare.
4. **Faith/Religion**

**Comment on the number of denominations and the physical appearances of the churches represented in the community. Did you observe any evidence of church-sponsored community services?**

1. There were two churches in Olsburg. Very nice looking structures. Yards were well maintained.
2. We found two Churches within the City Limits – Methodist and Lutheran – both building seemed to be in good repair. The Lutheran Church was a very big structure and stood out.
3. Lutheran and Methodist.
4. **Civic**

**Tell about the variety of nonprofit organizations and clubs within the community.**

1. Olsburg has several organizations and clubs. Received information from Jackie at City Hall.
2. We were not aware of any organizations until we spoke with the City Clerk. Did not see anything that pointed those out.
3. 4-H, Extension Unit, Quilters, Legion Post 284. We saw evidence of PRIDE activity.

**Public Infrastructure**

**Comment in general on the streets, street signage, sidewalks, parking, lighting, restrooms, landscaping, and streetscapes in areas other than downtown.**

1. Streets were well maintained. Didn’t really look for street signs, sidewalks that I was on were maintained, parking was good. I was there during the day, but lighting appeared adequate. Restrooms available at park area, several areas were nicely landscaped.
2. Overall, the city was in good shape – seemed to be well maintained. Snow was graded off but did not seem to have salt/sand application completed to aid in removal. Landscaping in downtown was nice as well as other areas of the town. Those that are public areas were well maintained – lots of benches around to sit in. Had public restrooms in the park area but we could not determine if they were open or not.
3. Nice & Clean

**Comment on city/town hall (How were you received? Was there information about the town available?)**

1. Jackie at City Hall was wonderful! She gave us history on town, events, businesses, logo, parks. Also gave us the newsletter made by PRIDE committee with lots of information. Introduced us to different people in town. Answered all questions asked. Took us out for lunch. (met the Mayor, City Treasurer and the Fire Chief while we were there.) Very friendly and nice people. Absolutely a wonderful person and great asset to Olsburg.
2. Even though it was a Sunday, the City Clerk (who happened to come to the building while we were there) was happy to take time to chat and answer questions. She provided a wealth of information on the city and projects, events, areas we needed to see, etc.
3. Received very well. Lots of information.

**Police/fire protection:**

1. Fire station was well-marked. They are getting ready to move to a bigger building. Met Fire Chief. Very nice man.
2. Volunteer Fire Department located in downtown, directly across from City Hall. Noticed during our drive that individuals were showing tags denotation they were volunteers close to the Fire Barn. Did not observe a police presence.
3. Good

**Library:**

1. Saw sign for library. Didn’t visit. Jackie gave us the history of the library and told of some of the activities held. Very well attended by the town residents.
2. Was not able to identify a Library in town, until after we chatted with the City Clerk and she advised it was in the Community Building.
3. Good. Open once a week. Summer reading program.

**City parks (walking tracks, ballparks, playgrounds, sportsplex)**

1. The park area was fabulous! Very well maintained. Had a very nice playground area, swimming pool and new basketball court. I really liked the wooden train.
2. Park was nice – very well taken care of – benches in the park – well kept – pool – basketball courts in the process – donated pieces.
3. Lots of good equipment and options! Loved the train.
4. **Recreation/Tourism**

**Is the community well-known for any particular attraction or event? Do they have a community slogan that capitalizes on that asset?**

1. They are a Swedish community and have a logo that was designed by the postmaster just for Olsburg. (red donkey) Nelson family farm, Shannon Creek Farm, Greenwood Park, Mariadahl Steeple.
2. The City Clerk provided information on different events that are held each year.
3. Swedish events, swimming lessons, “One of a Kind”

**Did you see any indication of significant events taking place in the community that would be of interest to both visitors and residents?**

1. There weren’t any events going on the day we visited. They host an Olsburg Festival in August, Olsburg Land UtFard and Swedish supper that I feel would attract both visitors and residents. They host other smaller events that attract residents. They are hosting a couple events I would like to attend myself.
2. Not publically displayed that we were able to identify during our visit.
3. Yes. Many of them! Santa, Swedish Supper, East Egg Hunt, etc.

**Elaborate on any significant natural or manmade features that have the potential of drawing people to the community.**

1. Greenwood Park Camp grounds is a good asset to the community. Has hook ups, shelter house, bath house and playground.
2. Until our visit with the Clerk, we were not aware there was a camping/outdoor area just out of Olsburg. We did visit and were impressed with the fact they had electric/water available for camping as well as an area for tent camping.
3. Parks, Swimming pool, trails.

**Is there an obvious visitor’s center, chamber of commerce office, main street office, or other facility that serves the needs of visitors? Comment on the staff, facilities, signage, visibility, etc.**

1. I believe that City Hall serves as visitor’s center, Chamber of Commerce office as well as City Hall. Jackie is very knowledgeable about each business and organization in Olsburg.
2. City Hall in downtown – easily identified as somewhere to stop for additional information on the town or to get assistance.
3. City Hall covers these.

**Are there any restaurants, specialty shops or attractions that would bring you back to this community in the near future?**

1. (No Answer)
2. Maybe the restaurant as another group that visited had nothing but positive comments regarding it.
3. The Gift Shop
4. **Wrap-up**

**What are the most positive things you observed about the community?**

1. How very friendly the people were! How clean and well maintained the town was. The Parks were excellent!
2. Feel of the town – for being small it seems a lot bigger. Location to other, larger areas. Small town feel with some needed businesses present. Pool/Park facilities for children/residents
3. Lots of community pride. Lots of events to bring everyone together. Safe Community, having a major university nearby.

What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?

1. I really didn’t observe any obstacles/challenges.
2. Some housing inadequate for residents, Concern regarding internet/TV providers in the area. Again, noticed a number of satellite systems in the area.
3. Finding enough employees to work part time jobs in the future.

What will you remember most about this community six month from now (positive or negative)?

1. I think that the sign out at the highway sums up Olsburg very well, “Olsburg- a Community with Pride.” You can definitely tell that the Olsburg community has a lot of pride!
2. Time that was taken by the City Clerk even though it was a weekend. Park/Play areas for the residents. State of some of the housing (negative)
3. Positive—very nice community.

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