



# OVERBROOK



*'A town with a great future,  
built on a trail of past success.'*

**Gabe Faimon & Jeremy Gaston**  
Herald-Chronicle

Overbrook began on a ridge along the Santa Fe Trail. The ridge divided the Marais des Cygnes River and Wakarusa River watersheds, where two men owned land - William D. Coffman and Joseph B. Fairchild - both of whom wished to start a town.

Coffman was on the east side of a road, now known as Maple Street, and Fairchild own the land to the west.

In 1885, they learned that the Kansas, Nebraska & Dakota (KN&D) was planning to lay track in the area. The two men convinced the railroad to build through their proposed town site, in exchange for half-interest in the town site.

The town site was platted in 1886 following the completion of the railroad. Coffman proposed naming the town Sunflower City, while Fairchild proposed to name it Jasper City. Sensing an impasse, the railroad representative, an engineer, proposed the name of his hometown, Overbrook, Penn. The men agreed.

The Burlingame Independent published the earliest known account regarding development of Overbrook on Nov. 11, 1886:

"Across this trail and dipping to the north and south over the divide are the

farms, side by side... Upon either side [of the railroad] are the stakes marking the lots and blocks of the new town, among which the carpenters were busy erecting a handsome store build-



ing and at another point a residence... Another new frame building is owned by a Mr. Thompson, a blacksmith. The railroad track as graded crosses the town site from east to west, and ample provisions have been made for side tracks, depot grounds, stock yards, etc..."

The article stated the first business was a grocery store owned by William Kincaide. "There was no other rail-

road station or trading point for miles around, so Overbrook attracted a good business from the start," the article continued. "Residents moved in from the surrounding area. Carbondale,

smiths, two carpenters, a confectioner and a barber.

As the town grew, Fairchild added an addition to the original town site, followed by five Coffman additions.

The city's population was around 500 in 1960, almost doubling over the next two decades to 930 in 1980. The number of resident has remained about the same for the past 30 years.

Today, one of Overbrook's strongest businesses remains its grocery store, one of just four in the county. The city is dotted by real estate, crafting, accounting/insurance and construction businesses, along with an auction house, appliance repair store, two banks, two convenience stores, a grain elevator, a farm store, dog grooming and training businesses, a lawyer, a laundry mat, several butchers, a dentist, a veterinarian, five restaurants, three salons, a retirement home, a trucking company, a travel agent, a post office and four churches.

The city is also home to the Overbrook Attendance Center, which instructs kindergarten through second-grade students in the Santa Fe Trail school district, which includes Carbondale and Scranton.

For leisure and recreation, Overbrook has the Nina Schlink Memorial Swimming Pool, the Overbrook Public Library and Jones Park, which includes baseball diamonds, tennis courts, a fishing lake and trail. The city also plans to add a new soccer field and youth fishing pond this year.

The city is also adjacent to the nine-hole Hidden Springs

Golf Course, just one mile southwest of Overbrook.

The city participates in a variety of festivals each year, including Santa Fe Trail Days, Oktoberfest and the Overbrook Osage County Fair.

Overbrook has a seven-member police force, led by Police Chief Ed Harmison, with another full-time officer and five part-time officers. The city is protected by Osage County Fire District No. 4, which includes Overbrook and the Michigan Valley area to the south. The office is run by Fire Chief Mike Pruitt, and has 11 vehicles - eight at Overbrook and three and the newly-expanded Michigan Valley station.

The city is run by Mayor Don Shultz with council members Tadd Goodyear, Dorothy Chikly, Jim Gates, Jon Brady and Carol Baughman. The council meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Overbrook City Hall.

The city has recently completed a sewer improvement project and continues other improvements, but Mayor Schultz believes the city's best assets are more visible.

"It's all about the people," Schultz said. "We're a little community with a tremendous amount of pride. Overbrook people care about people, they care about the community and they care about themselves."



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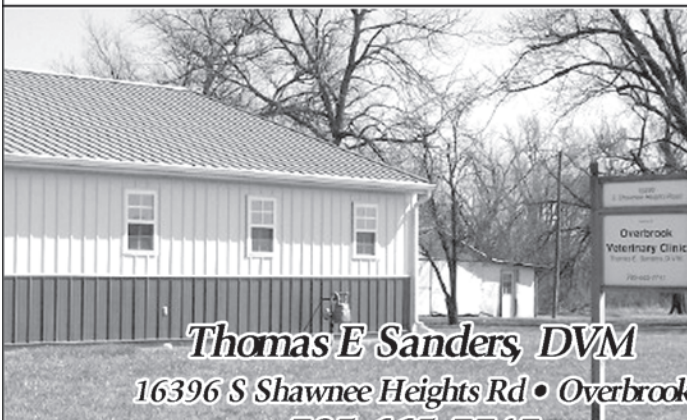


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