

The Heart of City Hall: Mike Macaitis

Holly Jarvis

Long before most of Osage Beach City Hall wakes up, Mike Macaitis, the facilities custodian, is already at work.

The hum of the vacuum echoes softly down the empty hallways. Trash bins are emptied one by one, and the building slowly comes to life under his care. By the time the

first staff arrive, the floors shine, the offices are neat, and the day feels ready to begin.

Mike's mornings always start on the police department side of the building, where he gets in early to make sure everything is ready before the 7 a.m. shift change. He has a system: first the bathrooms, wiping things down and restocking paper towels and supplies, then vacuuming and mopping the floors. Once the police side is refreshed, he moves through the lobby, singing along to the music in his headphones, before continuing into the City Hall side for the same routine. Throughout the day, he makes rounds to each desk and office, quietly taking care of the trash and pausing to greet his coworkers.

What most people don't see is all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into keeping City Hall running smoothly. Mike's responsibilities go far beyond cleaning: He resets rooms, makes sure supplies are stocked, and rearranges spaces so they are ready for the next day's business. When new employees arrive, Mike and the building department help set up desks and computers so they feel right at home. He also handles the small but meaningful details that often go unnoticed, like keeping the flagpole maintained and retiring worn flags with respect. On top of that, he regularly coordinates with contractors



and service providers for larger building maintenance needs. From HVAC and plumbing to electrical and structural repairs, Mike makes sure everything is handled properly.

He's also the one staff call when the unexpected happens around City Hall, and one recent incident proved just how important his role really is. A few weeks ago, during an HVAC leak, a loose piece in the system caused glycol to drip from the ceiling into the area below. While others scrambled with trash cans and shop vacs, Mike knew exactly what to do. He ran to the system controls and shut it down, cutting off the flow and helping lead the cleanup effort. His quick thinking prevented further damage and got the situation under control.

Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, Mike has been with the City of Osage Beach for just four months, but he has already made a lasting impression. A proud Nebraska Cornhuskers football fan, he keeps up with every game. He and his wife have a Bernadoodle who loves the City's dog park, and when he's not at work, Mike often finds joy in the kitchen. Cooking is one of his favorite pastimes, especially preparing family Italian recipes passed down from his mother. Mike frequently brings in some of his mother's recipes on snack day to share with his coworkers.

"Mike is the best," said Jeanette Gordon, the Building Department secretary.

Whether he's hauling out trash, resetting a conference room, arranging maintenance with contractors, or cracking a joke in the hallway, Mike brings lightness and reliability to the office. Around here, everyone knows if you need a smile, a helping hand, or even a plate of something delicious, Mike is the guy.

City Hall may be brick and mortar, but with Mike around, it feels like home.

