RESOLUTION NO. 1009

APPROVING FUNDING FOR THE PRODUCTION OF "OKLAHOMA" AS THE CENTERPIECE OF CLINTON'S ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, U.S. Route 66, the "Mother Road", which passes through Clinton in its 400-mile path through Oklahoma will be celebrate its centennial in 2026; and

WHEREAS, through the years Clinton has been, and is still very proud to be a "Route 66" community; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the South West Play House (SWPH) and other community groups, the City of Clinton supports the SWPH's plan to present nine performances over three weekends next fall of the extremely well known musical "Oklahoma" at the historic Dick Lloyd Amphitheater in McLain Rogers Park situated on Route 66 in Clinton; and

WHEREAS, the production of "Oklahoma" will be the center piece of Clinton's celebration of the Route 66 Centennial Celebration; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with presenting this historic production are well beyond the financial means of the SWPH to fund independently; and

WHEREAS, financial support from the City of Clinton and the Clinton community will therefor need to occur, with some pledges already being made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Clinton to pledge $50,000.00 cash in FYE 26 towards the production costs of "Oklahoma".

PASSED by the City Council this 18th day of November 2025.

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David D. Berrong, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Amy E. Jones, City Clerk

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BRIDGETOWER MEDIA

Oklahoma unveils plans for Route 66 centennial celebration in 2026

The Journal Record 11/13/2025

Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell and the Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission announced early plans for a yearlong celebration honoring the 100th anniversary of America's most iconic highway in 2026. The announcement, made as Route 66 marks its 99th anniversary, launches a multi-year effort to spotlight Oklahoma's leadership in preserving and promoting the Mother Road.

The celebration will showcase Oklahoma's more than 400 miles of Route 66, the most drivable miles of any state, and invite travelers worldwide to experience the historic highway that helped define the American story.

"Nothing gives the authentic American experience better than Route 66, and in Oklahoma, we're thrilled to celebrate its centennial with an exciting lineup of events," Pinnell said in a news release. He chairs both the Oklahoma Tourism Commission and Oklahoma Route 66 Centennial Commission. "As we prepare for the 100th anniversary, we are showcasing our communities and leaning into the incredible economic impact that Route 66 brings to our state."

The Route 66 Centennial Commission will oversee projects and events leading to 2026, including several major celebrations.

On May 30, 2026, Tulsa will host a Route 66 Capital Cruise, featuring the largest classic car parade ever assembled and what organizers are calling the biggest birthday bash the Mother Road has ever seen. That same day, Oklahoma City will present a Route 66 "Kickin' It" Centennial Birthday Bash, a full-day experience blending nostalgia with modern flair.

An Oklahoma Route 66 Muralfest will take place July 18, 2026, in conjunction with Oklahoma's Independent Shopkeepers Association's "Weekend of Local." The event will feature the unveiling of murals in communities along Route 66.



Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios is located at 1347 E. 11 in Tulsa. PHOTO PROVIDED BY OKLAHOMA TOURISM & RECREATION



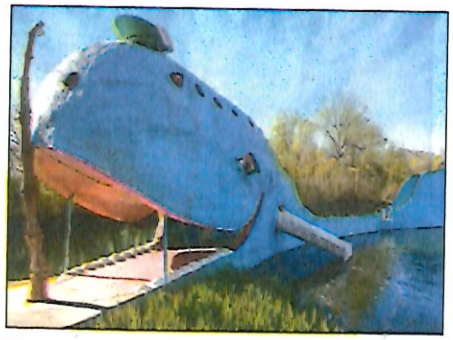
This giant spaceman is located in Weatherford and stands as a nod to the town's substantial space heritage. PHOTO PROVIDED BY OKLAHOMA TOURISM & RECREATION

The yearlong celebration will conclude on November 11, 2026, with the Route 66 Tulsa Birthday Bash and Veterans Day Parade. The event will feature live music and performances at various downtown Tulsa locations, culminating with a concert at Cain's Ballroom.

Sterling Zearley, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, emphasized the highway's enduring significance. "For nearly a century, Route 66 has embodied the spirit of exploration and optimism that defines Oklahoma," Zearley said in a news release. "As we look ahead to the centennial, we're not just celebrating our past, we're inviting a new generation of travelers to discover why bold truly belongs here. The Mother Road tells a story of progress, resilience, and connection, and Oklahoma will continue to lead that story into its next hundred years."

Trait Thompson, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, noted the highway's role in connecting communities. "The creation of the Mother Road in 1926 connected Oklahoma to the rest of the country and became a thread that wove together countless lives and communities. The centennial is not just a moment to look back—it's an opportunity to look forward," Thompson said. "We're working to ensure Route 66 remains a living, breathing experience for generations to come."

The statewide celebrations will bring together travelers, historians, and road trippers from around the world. Details on individual events, partnerships, and promotional campaigns will be announced throughout 2026.



The Blue Whale of Catoosa is a nostalgic watering hole that once was a local swimming attraction. PHOTO PROVIDED BY OKLAHOMA TOURISM & RECREATION

For updates on Oklahoma's Route 66 Centennial programming, visit TravelOK.com/Route66.