



September, 2011

OWL Day and Neighborhood potluck

On Saturday, September 17 (rain date: September 24), neighbors will host garage sales, and artists will open their studios all over the neighborhood. That evening, we will host our annual neighborhood potluck in the 700 block of Mississippi. It's a special occasion, as we'll be celebrating the Old West Lawrence Association's 50th birthday.

Lots of help will be needed for the potluck; but a little bit of help from you will go a long way. To find out what you can do, please check out the Old West Lawrence group on **Facebook**, the OWLA web site (at <http://www.oldwestlawrence.net>), or your email inbox. Spread the word!

OWL Garage and Art Sale

The OWL garage sale is back again this year on September 17th. Last year's event was very successful, and we expect this year's to be even better. An exciting new addition this year will be a neighborhood art sale. Neighborhood artists will be showing and selling their works. We will place an ad in the *Journal World* to run Thurs.-Sat. The hours will be 8am-noon. If you are interested in taking part in either event, email pminkin@juno.com with your address, and whether you will be a garage or art seller, by Monday the 12th so it can run in the ad. We suggest that you contribute at least 20% of your sales to pay for the ad, signage (along 6th and 9th) and help build up our dwindling treasury. Payments and donations can be made at the OWL block party later that day or mailed to our Treasurer, Burdett Loomis 701 Louisiana.

Library Status

At our General Membership meeting in May, OWL neighbor and Gould-Evans architect Steve Clark spoke to us about the emerging plans for the expansion of Lawrence

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Public Library. During the past year, Steve and fellow architect Jane Huesemann have spent many hours presenting their plans and discussing them with the public. OWLA neighbors and executive committee members have been active participants in these discussions, which have resulted in a design that makes the most of the current structure, site, and mission of the library, while promoting new public uses.

Two of the most innovative features are a full enclosure of the "old" building, which will allow for a more unified design, as well as more flexible use of the interior; and an open-air plaza on the south side of the library, which will act as a new public space while also encouraging safe pedestrian traffic between Kentucky Street and the library entrance.

One open issue – and it's literally a big one – is the height of the parking garage that is planned as part of the project. Riding on the coattails of the library bond issue that voters approved last November, the city asked the architects to design a version that would add another full story to the planned 250-space garage.

While the city promises that such an expansion would be paid for out of funds that are separate from the bond issue, the scale of the proposed addition raises issues regarding both aesthetics and public safety. This is not a question for the library or Gould-Evans architects to address: rather, it will be taken up by the city. Members of the OWLA executive committee are reaching out to the city manager and city commission to explain their concerns. OWL neighbors are urged to do the same.

David Carttar, President

School Consolidation

As anticipated in the May newsletter, Public Schools Superintendent Rick Doll appointed 26 community members and nine teachers (including four neighbors and one teacher from the Pinckney district) to the "Central and East Lawrence Elementary School Consolidation Working Group." The mission of the group is ostensibly "to plan the consolidation of six central and east Lawrence elementary schools into three or four schools" – in other words, to

plan how to close a minimum of two or three neighborhood schools, a goal that has been publicly contested as recently as last month. The first regular meeting of the group will be on September 7, and will take place roughly every two weeks thereafter. The group is to conclude its work by the end of February 2012. More information is available at <http://www.usd497.org/Consolidation/>.

Neighbors are encouraged to stay informed, and to attend OWLA's general membership meeting on Saturday, November 5, to discuss the status of this initiative.

David Carttar, President

Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods

1. SIDEWALKS- LAN is seeking input from its various member neighborhoods regarding Dave Corliss's idea to fund sidewalk repairs. A small fee, estimated at 75 cents per month, would be added to water bills. The fees would all go to a sidewalk fund to repair and replace deteriorated sidewalks. The fee program would transfer the obligation to repair and replace sidewalks from the abutting property owner to the city. The city can replace walks at a mere fraction of the price paid by property owners. Is OWL in favor? At the risk of being the last person to buy the city a new walk, I am in favor of this idea.

2. LAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE FALL- I will be on sabbatical this fall, living in Washington, D.C. I can attend the September 1 meeting, but I need a person to attend LAN meetings on October 6, November 3, and December 1. Any takers? Contact David Carttar.

Kirk McClure, OWL rep to LAN

A BIG THANK YOU to all the OWL Blockworkers!

The call went out (well, email) to all the OWL block workers for help in identifying artists/craftsmen in the neighborhood. The response was great with over 35 artists and musicians being named by these workers who knew their blocks well. We are hoping that those artists who will take part in the art open studio/porch/ garage sale on September 17 this year are the start of an annual tradition.

Linda McKay mckaylinda@mac.com, 841-3581

50 for 50: Support your Neighborhood!

Celebrate 50 years of OWL with a \$50 (or more) donation. For 50 years the Old West Lawrence Association has been the effective voice of Old West Lawrence residents.

OWLA has helped protect the neighborhood from destruction in the early days, from commercial intrusions, and from foolish downtown actions that would have affected us. We've helped build sidewalks, advocated for brick streets, and argued successfully for lower speed

limits and controlled intersections. We've recently helped Professor Dennis Domer complete a survey of the neighborhood to document our past and present.

For the past 25 years, the position of OWLA has been that every resident is a member of the association, and for more than 20 years we have lived off the proceeds of some successful homes tours. With the celebration of our 50th anniversary, it's time to refill the association's coffers.

While we welcome larger gifts, our major goal is to have as many residents as possible give \$50 to commemorate 50 years of OWLA success, and to ensure a bright future. Our expenses are modest, mostly for the annual block party, for newsletters, and a handful of other expenses. And we want to make sure we have a fund in reserve in case an unforeseen challenge, or opportunity, comes our way.

Please support the neighborhood that has supported all of us for half a century. It is the neighborly thing to do. We'll have pledge cards at the OWLA picnic, and will distribute them through the neighborhood.

50 years, \$50 of support. What a deal!

Bird Loomis, Treasurer

OWL on the Web

Check out the newly amended website: www.oldwestlawrence.net! About 15 summertime front porch photos rotate at random around the site. See if your house is pictured! Happy clicking!

OWL Membership Meeting -Nov. 5

Our next general membership meeting (besides the potluck on September 17, of course) will be on Saturday, November 5, in the Auditorium at Lawrence Public Library. Our agenda has two main items:

9:30 am, Dennis Domer and his team of curators will present the results of their 2010 OWL survey. Neighbors will begin to learn how this database works, how to use it, how to update it, correct it, modify it and keep it as a community-building tool for the neighborhood.

10:15 am, we will discuss the status of the initiative to consolidate elementary schools in central and eastern Lawrence. Details in the next Newsletter.

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