



August, 2014

Newsletter

From the President

Cooper's Hawks and Community

Throughout the spring and early summer my husband Bill and I watched a family of Cooper's Hawks join the neighborhood near our house on Louisiana Street. In daily walks with our dogs we watched the hawks in their treetop nest, heard their loud calls, and admired the white heads of young chicks rising above the nest. We even observed the mother teaching the fledglings to fly one morning. Others in the neighborhood noticed, too, and it made that part of the block an extraordinary place each day.

This fall will be the twentieth year I have lived in Old West Lawrence, and each year brings new appreciation for the joys of living in a genuine neighborhood. When I was asked to consider serving as the president of the Old West Lawrence Association (OWLA), I hesitated because I didn't know what I could offer to a group that for over fifty years has nurtured our extraordinary neighborhood. Still, I can give my time, perspective, and cumulative awareness that what we have is as rare as seeing a fledging fly and must be protected. Whether addressing zoning issues related to single-family homes, parking garage lighting, library and school renovations, or broader development issues in the community, OWLA is committed to making this a better place for all of us. We encourage you to become informed and participate in OWLA; if you would like to be on the OWLA email list, please send your email address to me at knemethuttle@gmail.com.

Remember that by living in Old West Lawrence, you are automatically a member of OWLA – no membership dues are required. But we do need your donations to keep our efforts going and sponsor the annual picnic. Join with us this fall for the annual **Old West Lawrence Day on September 13** to celebrate and bring your insights to the fall **general membership meeting on November 1** to keep us in flight.

Kathy Nemeth Tuttle, President

Neighborhood Meeting about Pinckney School

Please join OWLA along with the Pinckney Neighborhood Association at a community meeting at **Pinckney Elementary at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 4**, to learn more about the many upcoming changes at our neighborhood school.

Members of the Gould Evans design team will share drawings and other information about the design and construction that is planned to start immediately

following the 2014-15 school year. The school principal and parent leaders will be there to discuss the construction process, volunteer opportunities, and how our community can be involved in our neighborhood school's ongoing success.

OWL Day

The OWL garage sale has become a successful and fun tradition, especially with the addition of neighborhood artists showing and selling their work. We are asking each participant to submit a 2-4 line description of their sale. We will then post those on our website (<http://oldwestlawrence.net>). Include your address, hours of your sale (a minimum of 8 am until noon is suggested), location (alley, art studio, porch) and a brief description of your offerings. Send the information to: pminkin@juno.com by Monday Sept, 8 and we will put an ad in the LJW telling people about the sale and directing them to the website. As in past years we ask each participant to give at least 15% of their sales to OWL to help with our activities. Money can be sent to the treasurer, Steve Lopes, 704 Ohio, or give it to him or Kathy Tuttle at the block party. Thanks

Phil Minkin

Membership meeting

The general membership meeting of the Old West Lawrence Association will be **on Saturday, November 1, at 10:00 am at the Lawrence Public Library in Meeting Room A** on the lower level. Brad Allen, Lawrence Public Library Executive Director, will be our guest speaker. A reminder with agenda items will be sent out prior to the meeting. Put this on your calendar now and plan to join us!

Library Garage Lights

As determined at the February 1, 2014, meeting of OWLA, a committee was formed to address the Library parking garage lights. It met multiple times with Scott McCullough and staff of the City of Lawrence Planning and Development Services. The City took night-time pictures to establish a lighting baseline and then made changes to the lights as follows: 1) Lights on the 2nd and 3rd floors, 3 rows deep from Kentucky, were raised and angled; and 2) shields were added to 2 (of 3) pole lights on the roof.

While it is difficult to fully realize the impact of the changes due to summer tree foliage, the lighting glare as seen from the 700 block of Tennessee has been reduced. The "industrial" glare, as described by Mr. McCullough,

has not been reduced when viewed from Kentucky, Vermont, 7th or 8th streets, however.

During the process, the City did reduce the pool night-time lighting, turning off 4 of the 6 poles of lights, and also turning off half the lights on the remaining 2 poles.

The City believes they have completed the majority of the work on the glare issues.

OWL Picnic

We are excited to announce that the 2014 OWL Street Party will take place on **Saturday, September 13th, from 5pm-8pm on Mississippi Street (near 7th Street)**. The annual Old West Lawrence Street Party is an eagerly anticipated event that brings together all OWL neighbors for food, drink and, most importantly, community- the chance to see old friends/neighbors and meet new ones.

Of course, this event would not exist without the help of many OWL neighbors, and we need your (very brief) help to make this event happen in 2014. We're looking for volunteer help in several areas and we've made it very easy to both view needed areas of help and also sign up. Just visit this URL to do so: <http://bit.ly/OWLPparty>

As always, tables will be set up for potluck dishes and we encourage neighbors to bring their favorite dishes to share (please remember to tag your plateware and utensils with your name/phone)!

Finally, you might guess that holding this important event does require significant funding, paid out of Old West Lawrence Association funds, which are not easily replenished. We'll "pass the hat" during the party and would welcome any and all donations.

Please contact Richard Andrade (617-970-8359 or pivoss@yahoo.com) with any questions. Thanks for helping and we are all looking forward to seeing you there!

LAN News

The Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN) is an organization that brings together representatives from each of the city's neighborhood organizations. Through this organization, the various neighborhood organizations exchange information on various topics that may be of concern to other member organizations. LAN also serves in an important "watch dog" role, keeping a close eye on the actions of the City Commission and the Planning Commission as they deal with issues that affect older established neighborhoods. Here are some issues that LAN is currently following:

Horizon 2020 Update: The city's comprehensive plan, Horizon 2020, is currently being updated. A steering committee is directing the process. The real estate development industry has been given a great deal of influence on this committee and neighborhoods very little. This means that LAN will have to monitor the actions that the steering committee takes and will need to take actions to prevent the updated plan from working against the preservation and enhancement of older neighborhoods.

Southpoint Development: A developer is proposing a shopping center on Iowa Street, south of the South

Lawrence Trafficway. The proposed development would be located in a flood plain and would add in excess of 500,000 square feet of retail space (approximately 40 percent of the entire downtown). It is clear that this project would significantly damage existing shopping centers throughout the city, including downtown. The developers are spreading misinformation that the center would add property taxes, sales taxes and retail jobs. None of these claims are true. The amount of spending in the city's retail market is fixed by the size of the population and its income. If built, the proposed development would not add taxes or jobs; it would simply cannibalize them from other existing centers, causing those existing centers to lose value and deteriorate. LAN favors balancing the growth of retail space with the growth of retail spending. Lawrence has allowed its retail market to become overbuilt, threatening the health of existing centers and our downtown.

Sidewalks and bike lanes: LAN is active in the Bike/Ped Coalition which is pushing for improved pedestrian and bicycle travel. In particular, the Coalition is pushing for a mechanism that can improve sidewalks without the costs of repair or replacement having to be paid by the adjacent property owner.

Bed and Breakfast Regulations: LAN is monitoring changes proposed to the rules that govern the conversion of residential properties, especially historic properties, into Bed and Breakfast operations. Adjustments to rules can benefit one neighborhood but can create threats to another neighborhood.

Downtown Grocery: OWLA supports the effort to locate a grocery in the building that was the Border's Bookstore at 7th and New Hampshire. Few facts are known with certainty, but a local grocery store owner is interested in turning the building into a grocery. A local developer, however, has been seeking to buy the building to locate a "mega" liquor store. LAN is supporting the development of a grocery store in principle and opposing a liquor store.

Meetings: LAN meetings are open to the public, and your participation is invited. Voting is performed only by the designated neighborhood representatives, but interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the meetings and join into the discussions. LAN meets on the first Thursday of each month at the People's Bank conference room inside the Sandbar Sub Shop at 8th and New Hampshire Streets. The meetings begin at 7:00 pm and usually run until 9:00 pm

Kirk McClure, OWLA LAN Representative

2014 OWLA Officers & Staff

Kathy Nemeth Tuttle, President
Phil Minkin, Vice-president
Mary Carson, Secretary
Steve Lopes, Treasurer/ Newsletter editor
Karen Kressin, Blockworker coordinator