



Newsletter

It appears that those pushing for a grocery store are now calling for public subsidies to a new downtown store. Opinion appears to be divided within the LAN membership on the use of subsidies.

-Kirk McClure

February, 2016
Old West Lawrence Association
General Membership Meeting
February 20, 2016, 10 a.m.
Lawrence Public Library
Meeting Room A

From the President

As many of you know, Old West Lawrence has been considering a Neighborhood Watch program. At the February 20th OWLA meeting, we will discuss next steps for this project. My thanks to each of you who returned your Neighborhood Connection form to your Block Worker or to me so we could gauge interest in the program and get contact information from residents. It is not too late to turn in your form. Paper copies are available in the Old West Lawrence box on the front porch of my house at 713 Louisiana St. or you can email me at knemethuttle@gmail.com for an electronic copy.

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense. It teaches residents how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhood. It will involve a one-time, one-hour training session with Lawrence Police Department neighborhood resource officers. The resource officers recommend a maximum of 2-3 blocks in a Watch area, and they require at least 50% of residences in that area participating in the training to receive the Neighborhood Watch designation. Once training is completed, the area will receive Neighborhood Watch signs, and the Old West Lawrence Association will cover the cost of the signs.

I still need to do final tabulations, but we are approaching 50% participation in some blocks. In other blocks we are far short of 50% and will need to do additional work. Before the February meeting, I will consult again with our LPD neighborhood resource officers about training options, and we will try to set a minimum of two different training times.

Regardless of your interest in Neighborhood Watch, having good contact information is vital, so please consider submitting your email address and phone number to us as we move to more forms of electronic communication.

Thank you.

-Kathy Nemeth Tuttle

Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Reaffirm OWLA Officers for 2016
4. Lawrence Register of Historic Places
5. Neighborhood Watch – next steps
6. OWLA E-Newsletter?
7. Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods report
8. Pinckney School renovations and Pinckney Tunnel
9. Pedestrian-Bicycle Task Force report
10. Announcements: Proposed OWL Picnic/Garage Sale
Date: September 17, 2016

We need new coordinator(s) for the Street Party! Contact Kathy if you are interested.

Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods News

KTEN Crossing: LAN opposed the development of a shopping center on the land southeast of the South Lawrence Trafficway and Iowa Street. LAN alerted the City Commission to the false claims made by the developer that the shopping center would create new jobs and taxes. Given that there would be no new shoppers or spending in Lawrence, there would be no new taxes. Retail jobs are on the decline in Lawrence due to big boxes and Internet shopping. The shopping center would simply cannibalize jobs and customers from existing stores in town. Agreeing with LAN, the City Commission voted 4-1 to oppose the development.

Downtown Grocery Store: LAN continues to monitor efforts to bring a grocery store to the downtown area. OWLA has supported this idea. While there is a need for a grocery store closer to customers in North Lawrence, it is not clear that Lawrence suffers from a shortage of grocery stores.