



# Newsletter



August, 2016

From the President  
*55 Years Together!*

**Old West Lawrence Association  
2016 OWLA Street Party**  
Saturday, September 24, 5:00 – 8:00 pm  
Garage and Art Sales 8:00 AM – Noon  
Volunteer Sign-up: <http://tinyurl.com/jhmbret>

We are excited to announce that our annual **OWL Street Party** will take place on Saturday, September 24th, on the 700 block of Mississippi Street (nearer 7th Street).

This eagerly anticipated event brings together past and present OWL neighbors for food, drink, and, most importantly, community – the chance to visit with old friends and neighbors and meet new ones.

Of course, this event would not exist without the efforts of many OWL volunteers and we need your assistance to make this happen. We have made it easy both to view needed areas of help and also to sign up. Just contact: <http://tinyurl.com/jhmbret>

OWLA will provide burgers and beer and a table will be set up for the always excellent potluck dishes that neighbors bring to share. Be sure to tag your dishware and utensils with name/phone.

Contact **Suzanne Wikle**, 785-554-1830, or [swikle@gmail.com](mailto:swikle@gmail.com) with any questions regarding the street party.

Finally, you might guess that this important event requires a significant investment of Old West Lawrence Association funds, which are not easily replenished because we have no annual dues. Therefore, donations will be solicited.

This year we are celebrating OWLA's 55th birthday, so in addition to "passing the hat" during the party we will be requesting commitments of "**\$55 for 55 years.**" Thanks so much for helping, and we look forward to seeing you there!

## OWL Garage and Art Sale

Take advantage of 100s of shoppers in our neighborhood by being a part of our annual sale.

To participate as a seller in the *OWL Garage-and-Art Sale*, submit a 2 to 4 line description of your sale to **Phil Minkin** at [pminkin@juno.com](mailto:pminkin@juno.com) by **Monday, Sept. 19**, and we will then post it on our website, [OldWestLawrence.net](http://OldWestLawrence.net).

Include your address, hours of your sale (8 to noon is suggested), location (alley, front yard, art studio, porch, etc.) and a brief description of your offerings.

We will put an ad in the LJW, directing shoppers to the website. As in past years we ask each participant to donate at least 15% of their sales to OWLA to help with our activities. Thanks.

-Phil Minkin

And now a brief pause in this election year cacophony to give thanks for living in Old West Lawrence. As Maya Angelou and an Apple ad remind us, "*...we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike,*" and being a part of a true neighborhood provides a core of connection and care. Yes, OK, better together. And now we celebrate 55 years of the Old West Lawrence Association that has made this the neighborhood we all enjoy.

Join us at the September 24th OWL Day street party, participate in the garage/art sales, and volunteer to help. Learn more about OWLA history from **Karen Kressin's** article below.

To ensure another 55 years (at least) to "*preserve historical aspects and inherent values*" of our neighborhood, we are launching a **55 (dollars) for 55 (years)** campaign. Inspired by the 50 for 50 initiative led by **Burdett Loomis** in 2011, we are asking OWL neighbors to contribute \$55 to sustain the Association into the future. Look for donation envelopes at the street party or send your donation directly to Treasurer **Steve Lopes** at 704 Ohio (or to the OWLA drop box on his front porch). Donations of any amount will be appreciated, of course, but thank you all for working together to make this happen.

-Kathy Nemeth Tuttle, President

## Big Move for Pinckney School/ Bus Safety Reminders

Most of you know that Pinckney Elementary School has temporarily relocated to the East Heights building at 15th & Haskell for the 2016-17 school year while Pinckney's building is being renovated.

Neighborhood children are being bused to their new location, and the bus travels east on 7th Street stopping every few blocks to pick up all the OWL kids. The last stop is at 7th and Ohio at approximately 8:20 a.m.

**Please travel with caution because children will be heading toward 7th Street from various directions in the morning (and then away in the afternoon).** School dismisses at 3:50 p.m. on all days except for Wednesday, when dismissal is at 2:20 p.m.

The Pinckney tunnel remains open during the renovation. A special thanks goes out to the Old West Lawrence families who have volunteered to keep the tunnel cleaned up during the year: **Deb Graber; Katharine Weickert; Kelly Barth; Jon, Barb & Harrison Heeb; Janice & Daniel Poull; Rosalea & Peter Carttar; LeAnn Ward; Susan King; and Linda & Doug McKay**. Pinckney Neighborhood Association shares tunnel responsibility with OWLA.

## Fall General Membership Meeting

The fall OWLA general membership meeting will be on Saturday, November 5, at 10 a.m. in the Lawrence Public Library. We will do a follow-up on the *Neighborhood Watch* training and offer information on home security and lighting systems. (In the meantime, remember to lock your cars, doors, and windows, and keep your house well lighted!)

## Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Report

LAN is a coalition of neighborhood associations monitoring local government actions that impact neighborhoods in and around Lawrence. Currently, LAN is monitoring and recommending action on a variety of issues that may have either direct or potential impact on Old West Lawrence (OWL).

### *Oread Neighborhood Design Overlay*

The Oread Neighborhood has been undergoing a planning process to gain a special overlay to the zoning map that will protect homes in that neighborhood. It is designed, among other things, to restrict the conversion of single-family homes into multi-family properties. Developers have been creating duplexes with large numbers of bedrooms to circumvent the City's parking and occupancy limitations. OWL is susceptible to this type of damaging development, thus we have an interest in the passage of this overlay.

### *Economic Development Planning*

The Chamber of Commerce receives over \$400,000 per year from taxpayers to implement local economic development planning in the City and County. The Chamber does not have any staff members with advanced education in local economic development planning, making it incapable of providing the analysis and guidance for which it is paid.

In addition, the Chamber is a business advocacy organization that is at odds with the interests of the community when subsidy packages are negotiated between the City and businesses. LAN follows the actions of the Chamber and has uncovered many poor investment decisions led by the Chamber.

LAN has recommended that the City hire professionally trained economic development planners who would report to the City Manager in lieu of paying the Chamber to perform these duties.

### *Update of the Comprehensive Plan*

The City and County are updating Horizon 2020, the comprehensive plan that guides future development. Developers want the plan to be diluted, permitting them to continue to build at a pace that is unsustainable given the population and income growth in the community. LAN is pushing for greater growth management so as to protect older neighborhoods, helping them to better maintain value as they compete for investment and residents.

**-Kirk McClure**, OWLA LAN Rep

## An OWLA Primer

### *1961 – Lawrence's First Neighborhood Association*

Fifty-five years ago, Jackie Kennedy was First Lady, the end of World War II was as recent in people's memory as the turn of the Millennium is in ours, and a big idea was circulating in this neighborhood.

The idea first occurred to **Pearl Clark**, of 643 Indiana, who had been serving on the Planning Commission. Her idea was that this area of old homes

was becoming worn down but had assets worth preserving. She decided that something should be done to prevent further decline, so in May 1961 she invited neighbors to come to her living room and discuss the possibility of forming an association.

In September, representatives from each block attended a meeting at a downtown church. They warmly received the idea of an association, and **Jim Postma** agreed to draft bylaws.

They spread the word, and in October about forty people unanimously decided to form an association of property owners with goals of "preserving historical aspects and inherent values of Old West Lawrence" by "encouraging pride in ownership and proper maintenance of homes and grounds, beautification of the general area, and a cooperative approach to any general neighborhood problems."

On November 15, 1961, bylaws were adopted, and first-year officers were elected, including Mr. Postma as president. The Old West Lawrence Association (OWLA) – the first neighborhood association in Lawrence – was up and running.

For 55 years, OWLA has worked (sometimes fought) to define (and defend) our neighborhood. We have advocated before the city commission and other city boards to protect our single-family residential character; arranged social events such as picnics, neighborhood garage sales, house tours, and holiday caroling; educated people on neighborhood safety and old house restoration and maintenance; mounted alley clean-up campaigns, sidewalk-repair programs, and traffic-calming projects; posted historic street signage and award medallions for beautification – and much more.

OWLA efforts have fostered a trajectory of private investment that can be seen today in restored exterior details, colorful paint schemes, and attractive landscaping and flower gardens. All that can continue into the future with your help.

Because OWLA doesn't collect dues, your donations are essential for to it continue working to make Old West Lawrence the very best neighborhood it can be.

Please consider donating to the **55 for 55** campaign today!

**-Karen Kressin**

## OWL Dog Owners



It's in the City Code: "It shall be unlawful for any person who is an owner or possessor of an animal in their care to fail to remove any excrement deposited by the animal upon any public or private property, other than the property of the owner of the animal." (Ord. 7125) In other words, be respectful of your neighbors and pick up your dog's poop. Thank you!

## Appreciation . . .

. . . to **Amy and Andrea Albright** for creating our **55 for 55** logo. Amy designed it and Andrea helped with setting it up. Thank you very much!