



February, 2017

**Old West Lawrence Association  
General Membership Meeting  
February 25, 2017, 10 a.m.  
Lawrence Public Library, Meeting Room C  
Agenda**

1. Reaffirm OWLA officers for 2017  
**Kathy Nemeth Tuttle** -- President  
**Phil Minkin** --Vice-President  
**Mary Carson** – Secretary  
**Steve Lopes** – Treasurer
2. Downtown grocery
3. Neighborhood safety
4. Cars speeding in the neighborhood
5. Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods report – Kirk McClure
6. Sidewalk repair and maintenance
7. Pinckney School renovations and the Pinckney tunnel
8. Announcements: Proposed OWL Day Picnic/Garage Sale Date:  
**September 16, 2017**

# Newsletter

## Pinckney School Fundraiser Sale

The Pinckney School **Really Big Sale** will be February 18 from 8 am - 2 pm at 1430 Haskell ("Pinckney Heights"). This is the school's only big fundraiser of the year, so stop by for some good finds. Also, you can donate items for the sale. Go to the storage container behind the school at 1430 Haskell. Collection dates: Feb. 9, 7-8 pm; Feb. 11, 10 am - 12 noon; Feb. 15, 5-6 pm; Feb. 16, 7-8 pm; Feb. 17 - all day.

## November OWLA Meeting Notes

OWLA held a membership meeting on Nov. 18, 2016, at the library. Approximately 25 neighbors attended. Lynne Zollner, the City's Historic Resources Administrator, led an extended discussion of state and local laws applicable to property in designated historic districts, like OWL. She shared maps showing the parts of OWL that are in the OWL historic district (established on the national registry), and identifying homes in the district with individual listings on state, local or national registries.

The newly established Johnson Block historic district in the western part of OWL was discussed. Work on buildings within the OWL or Johnson Block district are subject to review under state or local law before any work is performed that requires a city permit. Zollner also discussed historic tax credits and the wide variety of projects within historic districts that may qualify for historic tax credit subsidy. Zollner will assist applicants for tax credits.

The group also discussed sidewalk repairs and the city's existing policies and proposed changes to city sidewalk maintenance and repair policies.

City Commissioner Lisa Larsen attended the meeting and participated in this discussion. President Kathy Tuttle gave brief updates on home security matters (we hope to have Linda Cottin attend a future meeting to provide home security tips), shared information on trees in the neighborhood, and discussed the "next door" app that covers several Lawrence neighborhoods.

The group also discussed the format of the OWLA newsletter.

**Mary Carson, Secretary**

### **Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods**

LAN serves as a watchdog on the City Commission and the Planning Commission. In particular, LAN advocates for the interests of older, established neighborhoods where planning and development policies serve the interests of developers, often at the expense of older neighborhoods.

LAN is advocating for the City to take an equitable position on the repair and maintenance of sidewalks. Kansas law calls for owners of property adjacent to public sidewalks to take responsibility for cleaning, maintaining and, when necessary, replacing sidewalks. This approach works modestly well for snow removal; it does not work well for repair and replacement.

Nothing in Kansas law prevents the City from taking charge of the repair and maintenance of sidewalks. Fear has been expressed that it can be too expensive and, by accepting the duty of repair and replacement, the City would be exposed to too much liability.

LAN finds that the City can carry out repair and replacement at much lower costs than can individual property owners. LAN also finds that other cities have taken on the repair and replacement duties without suffering from liability issues. For LAN, the remaining outstanding issue is funding the repair and

replacement program. The obvious sources are increased sales taxes, property taxes and/or fees, such as an addition to the water/sewer bill. All have strengths and weaknesses. This issue is especially difficult right now as sidewalks are competing with so many other demands for additional tax dollars including a jail expansion, a mental health center, a new police station, and many other worthy projects.

LAN will continue to watch the issue and campaign for sidewalks to be treated as part of the City's infrastructure, rather than an obligation of adjacent property owners.

**Kirk McClure, OWLA LAN rep.**

### **Postcard Collection**

For over 50 years my grandmother, Charline Fitzpatrick, and my mother, Sally Postma, collected every old photo postcard of any Lawrence site they could find – at antique shows, flea markets, and through the mail with dealers and other enthusiasts around the country. The postcards reveal Lawrence's past through images of buildings, events and people: downtown businesses, neighborhood streets and houses, KU and Haskell, Kaw River scenes, tornado and flood damage, and more! Now a significant portion of the 2000-card collection has been scanned (both sides of each of 700 cards), annotated and uploaded to a website by the Lawrence Public Library for all to enjoy. The Digital Douglas County History Project is a joint effort of the Library and the Douglas County Historical Society. To see the Fitzpatrick-Postma Postcard Collection, go to [history.lplks.org](http://history.lplks.org). For best viewing experience, click on the phrase "Welcome to Lawrence" by a photo of my grandmother and my mother. The collection is searchable, so you can find the part of Lawrence's history that most speaks to you!

**Rosalea Carttar**