



September, 2018

2018 OWL Day

Saturday, September 22

Street Party: 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Garage and Art Sales: 8:00 am – 12:00 Noon

The annual **OWL Street Party** will again take place on the north end, near 7th Street, of the 700 block of Mississippi Street. Our annual party is an eagerly anticipated event that brings together OWL neighbors for food, drink, and, most importantly, *community* – the chance to see old friends and neighbors and meet new ones.

Of course, this event would not be possible without the help of many OWL neighbors and we need it to make this event happen, so we're looking for volunteers in several areas. We've made it easy to both view needed areas and also to sign up at <https://bit.ly/2Nnfsn9>

Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share (and remember to tag your serving dishes and utensils with your name/phone)!

We will again be collecting food donations for **Just Food**. Preferred items are canned fruit, cereal, whole grains, peanut butter, and canned tuna and chicken.

Finally, this important event does require significant up-front funding, and since OWLA does not collect dues, we will “pass the OWL” during the party soliciting donations to defray costs.

Please contact **Maren Bradley**, 785-554-1830, or marenfaye@gmail.com with any questions regarding the street party.

Newsletter

From the President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope your summer has been going well. At the OWL meeting in February, I took the reins from **Kathryn Tuttle** and am serving as OWL president. It is a privilege to be able to serve what I think is the best neighborhood in Lawrence. If there is anything I can do to help the neighborhood, let me know.

Right now, we are ramping up to put on another great street party on September 22nd.

If you haven't signed up to help with the party, please contact **Maren Bradley** at marenfaye@gmail.com. We look forward to having you there.

-Daniel Poull

Safe Crossing for Tennessee Street

The thirty-year battle for a safe pedestrian crossing on Tennessee Street continues. Over 100 OWL residents signed petitions last fall to improve safety at 7th and/or 8th Streets; OWLA requests to the City had been made as early as 1986.

Subsequent meetings with the City Engineer and Traffic Engineer, in which a Pedestrian Hybrid or Rapid Flashing Beacon was recommended, led to a request to the Transportation Committee and a traffic engineering study in November 2017.

It wasn't until March 2018 that we learned City staff recommended the denial of a marked crosswalk because average car speeds recorded at these intersections were over 40 MPH, i.e. 10 miles over the speed limit—a classic Catch 22!

Transportation Commission members, understanding the safety concerns at these inter-

sections, came to our rescue and placed it on the "Non-motorized Projects Priority" list.

Unfortunately, project scoring, not favoring neighborhoods or a larger range of priority destinations, ranked us very low on the list of 236 projects. Undeterred, we met with two City Commissioners to explore support, and also asked for a special meeting of the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN) that included City staff and Lawrence Police Department leaders to discuss modifications to the Priority Policy and concerns about speeding.

A subcommittee of LAN members, including OWL rep **Eric Kirkendall** and **Tresa Hill**, is addressing gaps in the policy. With the leadership of **Tresa Hill** and creative talents of friend **Michael Herzmark**, a video to highlight safety concerns was posted to the OWL Facebook page. (Check it out under OWL Videos!)

Finally, we will pursue funding for a beacon and other possible intersection safety enhancements through the capital improvements section of the 2019 Community Development Block Grant. Be sure to post your pedestrian challenges on Facebook and support us in our efforts.

– **Kathy Nemeth Tuttle** and **Tresa Hill**

The Kansas Leadership Center *Journal's* Best Neighborhoods (OWL did just "OK")
<https://klcjr.nl/bestneighborhoods18>.

Excerpt from the *Journal's* decision:

"There are hundreds of very good neighborhoods across the state of Kansas that provide comfortable housing, wonderful neighbors, pleasant amenities and opportunities to connect. They're places to love and feel lucky to live in. But the best neighborhoods in Kansas have higher aspirations. They invest in building and maintaining community to the highest degree possible.

"That's why *The Journal* is recognizing four places as the Best Neighborhoods in Kansas for 2018: **Rosedale** in Kansas City, Kansas; **Delaware Street Commons** in Lawrence; **College Hill** in Topeka; and **East Lawrence**.

"In all, judges identified 10 neighborhoods they thought deserved recognition. In addition to the four winners, another six garnered enough support to receive honorable mentions. They are: **Neighbors Who Care** in

Kansas City, Kansas; **Sunset Hill** in Lawrence; **Old West Lawrence; College Hill** and **Delano** in Wichita; and **Mill Creek Farms** in Olathe."

Said about Old West Lawrence:

"This neighborhood is so historic that the first homes built here are survivors of Quantrill's 1863 Raid of Lawrence. Neighbors formed the city's first neighborhood association in 1961, and it remains a strong force for preserving the neighborhood's beautiful character. Since 1971, Old West Lawrence has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places. A walkable neighborhood within reach of downtown Lawrence, it's a great place for a stroll, preferably with your dog in tow."

OWL Garage Sale

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 these 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, etc.) and a brief description of your offerings.

Email the information to me by **Monday, Sept. 17**, at pminkin@juno.com and we will put an ad in the LJW telling people about the sale and directing them to the OWLA website. As in past years we ask participants to donate 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 given to him at the block party.

–**Phil Minkin**

Kansas Preservation Conference

The Kansas Preservation Conference will be held in Lawrence, Sept. 20-22, 2018, and will have information of interest to OWL homeowners, especially details on the Historic Tax Credit program. Sessions are free and open to the public and registration is not required. For more information: <https://www.kshs.org/p/2018-kansas-preservation-conference/14644>