

OLPNA Year in Review: 2015-16

The Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association (OLPNA) board has spent the last year actively working hard to make Oakwood and Lincoln Park neighborhoods even better places to live, work and play. The board meets regularly and its members are leaders in organizing events and actions. A surge in participation makes us really appreciate the many neighbors who contribute to the betterment of the neighborhoods. We are excited and proud of the progress OLPNA has made and look forward to continuing efforts. As we anticipate our board elections on Monday, we'd like to share with you our activities and accomplishments. If you're not already attending, consider joining your neighbors at gatherings.

Here are the highlights of the past year:

Getting Together

Monthly gatherings include a variety of activities and programs. Neighbors enjoyed a cook-out on Sharp's Ridge, two bingo nights, trivia game night, Latino culture night and more. Programs included weatherizing your home, greenways, and an opportunity to meet with local candidates (and eat hot soup on a cool evening!). A police officer attends regularly keeping neighbors up-to-date on traffic and crime issues. Participation is good and pictures taken at the gatherings show lots of smiling faces.

"Open Clubhouse" had a successful start in April, an opportunity for neighbors to gather, visit, play games, get online, print. Open Clubhouse happens every Sunday evening 6:30-9:00pm.

Yard signs are displayed around the neighborhood during the week before gatherings to invite everyone to attend.

A **postcard mailing** to all households went out in March letting neighbors know what OLPNA is doing and inviting everyone to participate. This mailing was partly funded by much appreciated grants from City Councilmen Mark Campen, Finbaur Saunders and Marshall Stair.

Clubhouse

Your OLPNA board applied for and received a generous grant from the City of Knoxville Neighborhoods Office that covered a **beautiful redecoration of the clubhouse, purchase of a printer** and setting up **of Wireless internet**. Seven **five-foot round tables and a nice sound system** were donated. The two speakers are now installed in the main room.

Improvements were made to the **clubhouse rental policy**. When ready the new rental process will allow **online reservations and payment by PayPal and credit card**.

The **clubhouse continues to be rented** for baby showers, bridal showers, birthday and holiday parties, and more. **Income from rentals** covers expenses for clubhouse maintenance and some improvements, including repairs to the heating and cooling system, replacing locks and installing new emergency exit signs. OLPNA makes the clubhouse available to Community Schools for regular meetings of their Circle of Parents organization. Twice weekly **Alcoholics Anonymous open meetings** are held at the clubhouse.

Board Actions

In partnership with others, OLPNA took action to successfully prevent the demolition of the beautiful, historic **Howard House** and what would have been the construction of a **Walmart** in its place.

Board members and City Councilman Mark Campen advanced a plan for Knoxville to buy a vacant piece of property on Oswald Street for the development of a **neighborhood park**. We are early in the process and still determining if the property is available for purchase.

OLPNA board members regularly represent OLP at **community meetings** including meetings of MPC and City Council, Broadway Corridor Task Force, the Neighborhood Conference, the Neighborhood Awards and Networking Luncheon and Mayor Rogero's recent State of the City and budget address.

Board members initiated the construction of a **little free library** on Shamrock Avenue beside the clubhouse for neighbors to share books.

The OLPNA board donated \$100 to the Fulton High volleyball team.