



City of Oshkosh  
Department of Community Development

# Oshkosh Neighborhood News

AUGUST, 2015

**Neighborhood Security encompasses a lot of different ideas and strategies. However, the unifying element is the need for residents to work both as individuals and as a coordinated team.**



**Oshkosh residents visit Green Bay for a neighborhood tour and peer learning event.**

## Neighborhood Night Out Brings Residents Together

On Tuesday, August 4, 2015 Oshkosh residents celebrated Neighborhood Night Out by hosting ten community building events throughout the City. Nearly 500 residents from a variety of neighborhoods came together for food, fun, and the chance to socialize with their neighbors. Police and Fire department officials visited each event and offered kids of all ages the opportunity to meet our brave officers and firefighters and to tour their emergency vehicles. City Council members were also in attendance at many of the events to socialize with community members while enjoying the ideal summer weather. Oshkosh's Neighborhood Night Out is one of nearly 16,000 events held across the country in cele-

bration of National Night Out. Oshkosh changed the name of its event in an effort to focus on bringing neighborhoods together. Sgt. Matthew Kroening explained that "it's a neighborhood-building opportunity. Strong neighborhoods historically have lower crime rates" (*Oshkosh Northwestern, August 3, 2015*). In fact, neighbors on friendly terms are more likely to watch out for each other, report suspicious activity, and be more aware of what's going on in their community. Events like Neighborhood Night Out and organized neighborhood associations allow neighbors to get to know each other and are invaluable tools when it comes to promoting community safety and strong neighbor connections. To learn more about starting a

neighborhood association in your area, please call Planning Services at 236-5059.



**Oshkosh residents celebrate Neighborhood Night Out**



## City Sponsors Peer Learning Event

Thirteen resident leaders representing six Oshkosh neighborhoods traveled to Green Bay on Thursday, August 6, 2015 to participate in a site visit and peer learning opportunity. The Oshkosh group was treated to examples of quality housing redevelopment projects, neighborhood branding and promotion efforts, and small group Q&A sessions with Green Bay resident leaders. The evening was topped off by

"the best chicken dinner in town" at the historic Riverside Ballroom, followed by a meeting of the Green Bay Neighborhood Leadership Council, a 501c3 non-profit comprised of representatives from each of Green Bay's neighborhood associations. Our resident leaders reported being impressed by the way Green Bay neighborhoods are organized, as well as the redevelopment projects that have been completed

there. At the same time, many were encouraged to learn that Green Bay's neighborhood associations face many of the same challenges as we do in Oshkosh. As one Oshkosh participant stated, "sometimes it's just nice to know that you're not alone." If you're interested in becoming more involved in your neighborhood association, or organizing a group in your area, please call Planning Services at 920-236-5059.

“Each home is a billboard for the image of the neighborhood” ~ David Boehlke

## Healthy Neighborhoods Principles

The most effective revitalization strategies target four elements that profoundly affect neighborhood stability: the positive or negative **image** that defines the neighborhood, the viability and particular characteristics of the neighborhood’s real estate **market**, the quantity and quality of improvement to and maintenance of the **physical conditions** of individual houses and public spaces, and the strength of **social connections** among neighbors and local institutions. The specific programs,

policies, and strategies in Healthy Neighborhoods reflect several basic principles:

**Healthy Neighborhoods builds assets.** The Healthy Neighborhoods approach is an asset-oriented strategy that builds both household and neighborhood equity. A healthy neighborhood is one in which property values appreciate in a way that encourages continued resident investment—those investments are financial (such as rehab and homeownership) as well as social (such as participation in

neighborhood associations and in neighborly activities). For an older neighborhood to position itself to compete successfully for resident investment, it must recognize, enhance, and market its unique assets and amenities. It needs to draw attention to the historic nature of housing, the unique “story” the neighborhood has to tell as part of the heritage of a city, the quality of local parks and greenways, and the presence of neighborly institutions such as garden clubs and community-serving churches. (cont. pg 3)

## Garbage and Recycling Compliance Reminder

The City’s Sanitation Division wants to remind residents about what should be done on collection days. Compliance with these regulations will help keep our community looking clean and attractive and streamline the solid waste collection process. 1. Roll the cart(s) to the curb no sooner than 4:00 p.m. on the day preceding collection and no later

than 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection. 2. Place the cart within one foot of the curb or edge of pavement; and three feet away from trees, mailboxes, other carts, or obstructions. 3. Make sure the arrows on your cart are facing the street and that the cart lid is fully closed. 4. Do not set materials outside of the cart, except for those items with a

special pre-paid sticker. 5. Do not park a vehicle on the street in front of a cart. 6. do not set carts on top of a snow bank—cart must be at ground level. 7. Carts must be returned to their proper storage area within 12 hours of collection. Proper storage locations for refuse containers include a garage, shed, or any area in the rear (continued on pg. 3)



## Back-to-School Property Maintenance Tip

With cooler weather right around the corner, your AC will finally get a break. After you use your AC unit for the last time this fall, it’s important that you prepare it for winter. 1. Regularly clean or replace air filters. Dirty, clogged air filters prevent sufficient air flow and decrease your sys-

tem’s efficiency. 2. Check and clean your system’s evaporator coil. Dirt can literally insulate the coil, decreasing its ability to absorb heat. 3. Repair aluminum coil fins. The fins on both the condenser and evaporator coils can become bent, reducing air flow. A tool known as a “fin comb” can

actually comb these fins back into their original position and condition. 4. Clear dirt and debris from your condenser unit. 5. In fall, completely remove and store your portable AC unit and cover your central AC unit to protect it from the perils of winter weather.



## Principles Cont...

Neighborhood plans must position those assets as the defining features of a place and leverage them to achieve neighborhood revitalization. **Healthy Neighborhoods focuses on markets.** Every neighborhood, old or new, has a definable “market niche.” Based on the type of housing and the relative mix of amenities, the neighborhood has a likely pool of customers to which it can successfully market itself. All investments by new and current residents must reinforce the housing market—that is, investments should and can increase home values. Even small-scale rehab

projects by current homeowners should include exterior improvements that add curb appeal and home value, because each home is a billboard for the image of the neighborhood. Each resident making an investment enhances the neighborhood’s overall market prices. **Healthy Neighborhoods targets outcomes** by measuring whether the neighborhood is improving as a place for residents to invest and to build equity and neighborly connections. **Healthy Neighborhoods values neighbors as investors and leaders.** Prospective homeowners

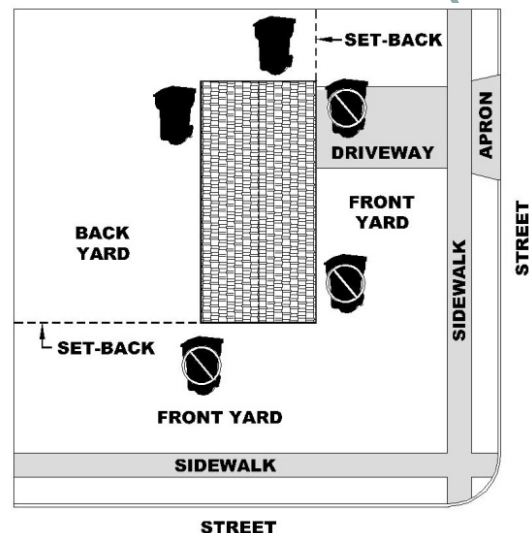
and current residents are the most important neighborhood decision makers. Every investment by non-profits and other institutions must be structured to encourage property owner investment with the greatest potential for raising home prices and maintenance standards. Healthy Neighborhoods strategies encourage ALL households to invest in their homes and other activities that secure the neighborhood’s future. Finally, unless people have positive ways to relate, effective means of communication, shared visions for the neighborhood, and the ability to manage

everyday issues, the investment in physical change will not translate into long-term success.

*(This article was excerpted from Great Neighborhoods, Great Cities by David Boehlke)*

## Reminder cont...

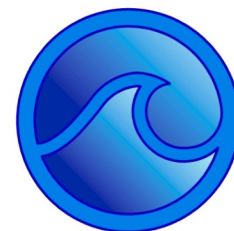
of the property, not visible from the street. The following storage locations are prohibited by Municipal Code 23-8: Any side of a building that faces a public right-of-way, except alleys; on, under, or alongside of a front porch, stoop, landing, accessible ramp, or deck facing a public right-of-way; and within 15 feet of a public right-of-way, except on collection days. For more information, on proper recycling and disposal techniques, please see the Oshkosh Municipal Code, Solid Waste Disposal, section 23 at <http://www2.ci.oshkosh.wi.us>, or contact the Sanitation Division at (920) 232-5383. For questions regarding property maintenance codes or violations, please contact the Inspection Services Division at (920) 236-5050. Let’s all do our part to keep Oshkosh clean and beautiful!



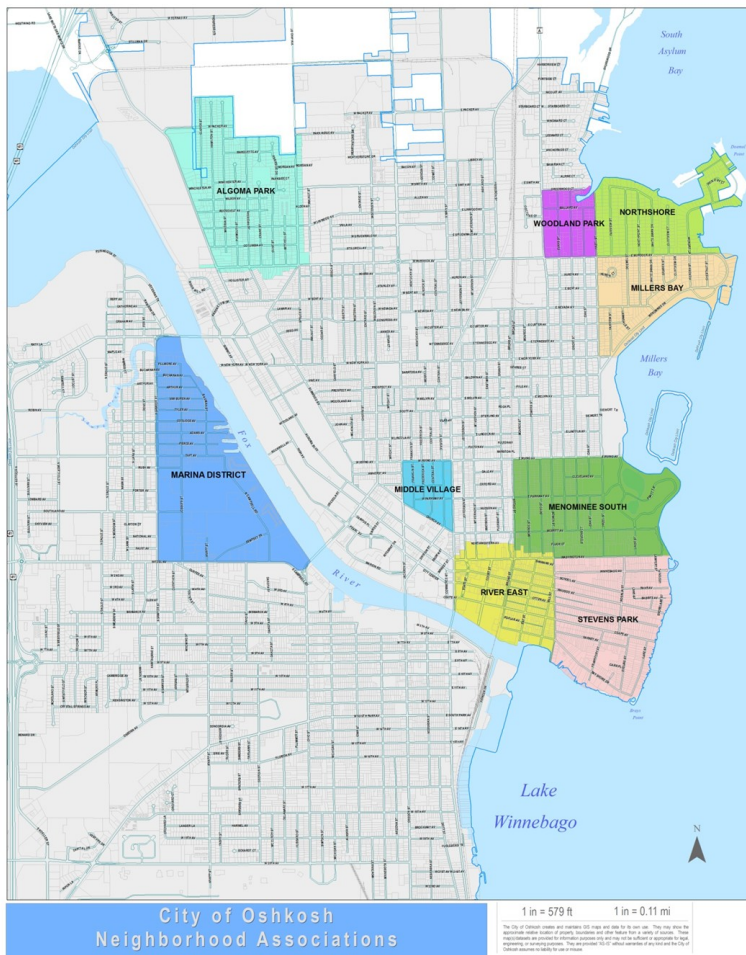
## We Want to Hear From You!

Do you have a comment or question about the content of this newsletter? Do you have a topic you’d like us to cover or a suggestion on how we can improve this newsletter? We want to hear from you! Contact Planning Services to submit your suggestions, articles, editorials, upcoming events, or anything else neighborhood related that you’d like to share.

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## Upcoming Events

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME / DATE	COST
Tree Pruning Workshop	River East	Sat., Sept. 12	FREE
ONHS Neighborhood Tour	Multiple locations	Tues., Sept. 8	FREE—Call Planning Services to host a tour

Please contact us to have your event included in an upcoming newsletter. Be sure to include the name of your event, the location where your event will be held (the more specific, the better), the event date and time, and the cost to attend, if any.

### Planning Services

215 Church Ave, Room 204

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