



City of Oshkosh
Department of Community Development

Oshkosh Neighborhood News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

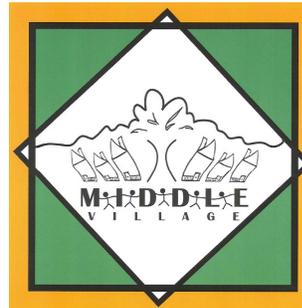
JULY, 2015

“Nothing else can begin to have the enormous impact of every day decisions by residents to invest their energies and dollars in the promise of a bright future.” ~ Great Neighborhoods, Great Cities

Middle Village Neighborhood Hits Investment Milestone

The Middle Village Neighborhood is now home to a new community asset. The Middle Village Green Space lies on the corner of Franklin St. and Ida Ave. at a previously vacant, city-owned double lot. The project is a result of the Middle Village neighborhood plan, which was developed by a steering committee comprised of neighborhood residents working in partnership with City of Oshkosh Planning Services staff. The creation of this public green space is the latest in a list of plan goals to be implemented by the City. In 2014, three streets in the neighborhood were replaced and now feature enhanced safety and traffic calming measures, as specified in the neighborhood plan. All streets in the neighborhood are

now lined with terrace trees, and numerous Middle Village residents are completing home improvement projects either individually, or with the help of one



of the City’s housing rehabilitation programs. Since 2011, total investment of time, effort, and money by all neighborhood stakeholders is estimated to be nearly \$5 million!



City staff and community volunteers plant flowers in Middle Village



Emmeline Cook Beautification Project Breaks Ground

June 2015 was an exciting month for residents of the Millers Bay neighborhood! After 2 years of hard work and planning, the E. Cook Beautification Project finally broke ground. Residents of Millers Bay and the students, staff and families of E. Cook are sure to be pleased with the updates to

the façade of their neighborhood school. Improvements will include new sidewalks, a new bus loop, improved lighting, a new entry plaza, new landscaping, a new school sign, and MUCH more! This project was made possible through the tireless volunteer efforts of the project

sub-committee, an \$8,000 Community Impact Grant from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, generous financial contributions from community supporters, and the technical support and expertise of City of Oshkosh and Oshkosh Area School District staff. Thank you!

“The four elements of neighborhood stability are a positive image, a viable real estate market, good physical conditions, and strong social connections.” ~ David Boehlke

Defining a Future Vision for Neighborhoods

City of Oshkosh planning staff have been hard at work developing neighborhood plans in partnership with recognized neighborhood associations. The Middle Village Neighborhood was the first to have their plan adopted by Council and are now in the implementation phase. In June 2015, Millers Bay Neighborhood residents had the opportunity to provide public comment on the draft Millers Bay Neighborhood Plan. The 50 page plan document can be viewed in its

entirety by visiting the Millers Bay Neighborhood website at www.millersbayneighborhood.org and clicking on Neighborhood Plan. A paper copy of the plan can be viewed by visiting Planning Services, room 204, City Hall. The Stevens Park Neighborhood Association is the most recent of Oshkosh's recognized neighborhood associations to begin the neighborhood planning process. In May, all residents that reside within the boundaries of the Stevens Park Neighborhood were in-

cluded to participate in a resident survey to measure neighborhood perceptions and identify the assets and challenges in Stevens Park. Planning Services Division staff have been hard at work analyzing and summarizing the collected data. Survey results will be available to view and discuss at two upcoming visioning sessions. All residents of the Stevens Park neighborhood are invited and encouraged to attend one of these visioning sessions. *Cont. pg. 3*

Code Compliance Reminder

Residents are reminded that blowing or placing grass clippings, leaves, or other debris onto the street is prohibited in the City (see Municipal Codes 25-26 and 14-30 for more information). Storm water runoff carries grass clippings and other debris on the street pavement surfaces into the storm water sewer system. The City of Oshkosh's storm

water runoff drains directly to local lakes, rivers, and streams; meaning storm water runoff is not treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Debris carried by storm water runoff can cause inlets and storm sewers to become clogged and can lead to flooding. Additionally, grass clippings and leaves contain nutrients that help feed algae blooms in adjoining wa-

terways. The good news is there are a number of alternative uses for your grass clippings. Many homeowners leave their clippings on the lawn. Rich in nitrogen, the grass clippings act as natural mulch and may reduce the need for annual fertilizer applications by up to one-fourth. Grass clippings can also be used as mulch in flower or *Cont. pg. 3*



Summer Property Maintenance Tips

In addition to fun in the sun, warm summer weather offers the perfect opportunity to do some basic home maintenance that will improve the state of your home, spruce up its appearance, and maybe even save you some money!

1. Clean your dryer vent.
Nearly 16,000 dryer fires

occur each year. Keep your home safe and your dryer running efficiently by cleaning out your dryer vent tubing.

2. Clean out your gutters.
Water and debris in your gutters can lead to water damage in your house. Spend an afternoon cleaning

and inspecting your gutters to ensure that water stays where it belongs—**OUTSIDE!**

3. Spruce up your siding.
Power washing your house can be fun and it makes your property look great. Good-bye dirt and bugs, hello pride of ownership!

Vision cont...

Dates and times TBD. For questions regarding a specific neighborhood plan, or the neighborhood planning process, please contact Elizabeth Williams at (920) 236-5059, or ewilliams@ci.oshkosh.wi.us.



“Have your neighbors come together around a coordinated code compliance strategy? Have you identified what outcomes you want in terms of maintenance and resident behaviors? Have you discussed what can be done to deal with both issues? Are you partnering with the City to get to the goals you want to achieve?”
~ The Oshkosh Neighborhoods Workbook

Reminder cont...

vegetable gardens, or as a component in a compost pile. If none of these options is suitable for your needs, a Yard Waste Drop Off permit can be obtained through the City’s Public Works Department for a \$25 fee. For more information, visit http://www2.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/Public_Works/Sanitation, or call Public Works at (920) 236-5056. Please help keep grass out of the street. Your efforts will mean that less debris reaches the storm sewer system and will help reduce pollution in Lake Winnebago and the Fox River.



Positive Language Impacts Neighborhood Identity and Image

Did you know that neighborhood names are important shortcuts to quickly identifying places? There are no successful neighborhoods in America that don’t have well known identities or specific names. Identity is a powerful tool for stability. National experience tells us that you can’t promote your neighborhood as a place of choice if it doesn’t have a name and people can’t

find it. Beyond names, other language creates expectations. If the focus of a community is on its crime watch, don’t be surprised if people believe there is a crime problem. If an area is described in terms of its neighborliness, it is usually assumed that crime isn’t a problem. Recognizing this, many cities avoid terms such as crime watch and instead talk about “good

neighbors” programs. Therefore, in the process of neighborhood preservation and renewal in Oshkosh, it is critical that we use the names, boundaries, and positive language that position our neighborhoods as special places where people are choosing to live.





City of Oshkosh

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Do you have a suggestion for a story or other content for an upcoming newsletter? Do you or your organization have an upcoming event that you'd like publicized? The City of Oshkosh welcomes your questions, comments, and suggestions. Please contact the Planning Services Division. We look forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming Events

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME / DATE	COST
Stevens Park Garden Weeding, pizza at Hustle Inn to follow	Stevens Park	Fri., July 24, 2015 5:00—6:30 pm	Your own pizza and beverages at Hustle Inn
Oshkosh Neighborhood Night Out	Multiple locations	Tues., August 4, 2015 times vary. Check with your neighborhood association for details	Free to attend
Green Bay Neighborhoods Site Visit	Depart Oshkosh City Hall	Thurs., August 6, 2015 1:30 pm—9:00 pm	Free—call Planning Services to reserve your spot
Millers Bay Neighborhood Yard Sale	Millers Bay Neighborhood	Saturday, August 22, 2015 8:00 am	Free to attend