

eastside-olympia.org

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Eastside

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

Partially funded through a city of Olympia neighborhood matching grant . Made possible by your neighbor volunteers

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- Community Clubhouse
- Neighborhood Sidewalks
- Toxic Trees Removed

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 9th

Block Parties

August 6th

Annual Picnic

WHY AM I GETTING THIS?

Every resident of the Eastside Neighborhood is a member of the ENA.

Read it all to find out why volunteering makes you awesome!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Neighbors!

We have had a busy couple of years and thought we should let you know what we as a board have been up to. Please see the articles in this newsletter to read the highlights. I want to thank all the volunteers who make our neighborhood an interesting place to live. I have explored more of our neighborhood in these past two years than the last ten. I have enjoyed the little libraries, the puzzle exchange box, the poetry box, the art box, and the food/seed exchange on Legion.

Seeing all of you out walking, meeting your children and your dogs has given me a happy heart. I am grateful to those of you who continue to plant flowers in the roundabouts, pick up trash on your walks, plant trees for the future. I love my neighbors who decorate their mailboxes, and put all the work into wonderful Halloween and Holiday displays.

We are looking forward to having more folks come to our board meetings. We meet in person when we can at the Swantown Inn. It's consistently the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7PM. Maybe you have an idea for a project in our neighborhood and would like to get others involved. The board meetings are a great place to get started. Many of you donate annually on our website and at the annual picnic. We use your donations to cover expenses for all the activities we host. We are actively seeking new board members. It's currently a very active board working on numerous projects to improve our neighborhood.

Sherry Chilcutt, ENA President

The ENA Board and fellow neighbors have been busy implementing action steps from the Eastside Subarea Plan.

- Artist Laurel Henning created a wonderful mural for the neighborhood with help from many children and adult residents. The mural was funded through a City grant and organized by ENA President Sherry Chilcutt. Check out the mural on Central Street between 7th and 8th.
- Nine diseased chokecherry trees on three properties in the neighborhood were removed by neighbors.
- Residents planted two trees in Lions Park where trees had been removed by the City.
- New neighborhood activity sign boards were created by ENA Board member Jim Rioux using grant funding from the City.
- Our members encouraged the City to purchase the Armory and make it into an art center. See the article, "Olympia Armory Transformation."
- An Eastside Neighborhood coffeehouse and meeting location was established at the Swantown Inn (11th and Central). See the article, "Did Someone Say Coffee?"



OLYMPIA ARMORY TRANSFORMATION

Built in 1939 as a military installation, the Olympia Armory is entering a new phase of life as a Creative Campus. Located on the edge of our neighborhood at 515 Eastside Street SE.

The City of Olympia is the new owner of the property. Change of ownership was a complicated process requiring cooperation between the City and Council, Military Department, and State Legislature. In March the Washington Military Department handed over the keys to the City at a festive public ceremony.

The ENA Board was very involved in making this transition a reality. Following an Action Step included in our Eastside Subarea Plan the Board worked with partners to enable the City to acquire the Armory as a community asset. Members participated on several City committees during the process.

To learn more about the new Creative Campus:

- Visit the City's Engage Olympia webpage at <https://engage.olympiawa.gov/olympia-armory-building-creative-campus>
- Tour the building on the first Thursday of the month at 11:00 am from now until August



ONGOING WORK OF THE ENA

The ENA Board has an ongoing list of projects (see the Eastside Subarea Plan) and responds to emergent opportunities and issues throughout the year. Currently the Board is involved in the following projects (read on for details):

- Trees Issues
- Neighborhood Sidewalks
- Lions Park Spray-Ground
- Art Crossings
- Neighborhood Hub
- Advocacy

DID SOMEONE SAY COFFEE?

A COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE TO HELP CREATE COMMUNITY

Have you ever wished there was a great place to get a delicious cup of coffee right in our neighborhood? Or maybe you need a place to host a neighborhood workgroup meeting. You are in luck. The Swantown Inn & Spa at 11th and Central has partnered with the Eastside Neighborhood Association to open the Eastside Neighborhood Community Clubhouse.

The espresso window is open Friday through Sunday from 8:00 am to noon. The Inn serves Olympia Coffee Roasters coffee (regular and decaf) as well as a selection of fresh baked goods. Feel free to walk on up, go inside and enjoy your coffee or sit outside at one of their outdoor seating options or even just take a cup to go. Neighborhood groups can meet at the Inn at approved times. Contact the Swantown Inn at www.swantowninn.com.

At the same time the ENA Board wanted to create a place for neighbors to connect, the owners, Nathan and Casey Allan, of Swantown Inn & Spa were looking for a way to sustain their business and provide a possible employment opportunity as well as enhance their connection with the neighborhood. The Eastside Neighborhood Community Clubhouse was born! What a wonderful way to bring the community together - one cup of coffee at a time.



MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ENA board members have maintained an active presence in the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations.
- An ENA Board member participated in the artist selection process for the Art Crossing at Eastside Street and I-5 at the request of the City. Native American artist, Andrea Wilbur-Sigo, created two large-scale statues for the project.



OFFER

Bring this newsletter to the Community Clubhouse and get one free espresso drink!

Espresso / Clubhouse Hours

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
8am to Noon

Does your community group need space? Talk to Nathan and Casey about hosting at other times.

YOU WANTED MORE DETAIL?

Tree Issues

Michelle Bentley, the City's Urban Forester, spoke to the Board about tree issues in Olympia. She also shared a few basic City requirements with us:

- You may plant trees as you wish on your property.
- A minimum number of trees should be maintained on your property (see Urban Forestry FAQ on the City's website).
- If you are interested in planting trees in the City right-of-way and median, a permit is required.

The ENA Board is interested in working with the City to add trees on the Legion Way right-of-way east of Central Street and strongly encourages neighbors to consider adding trees to their property to increase the density of trees in our city.

Neighborhood Sidewalks

The Eastside Neighborhood is desperately in need of more safe sidewalks. Walking in our neighborhood often means walking in the street. The ENA Board continues to engage with another neighborhood and the City to advocate for neighborhood sidewalk improvements.

Our current focus is a pedestrian pathway on 7th Avenue adjacent to Lions Park. The ENA has literally worked for decades on this issue. Funding and the need for permission from adjacent property owners have been ongoing barriers. The need for this sidewalk has become urgent due to plans for the Lions Park spray-ground. The ENA board is in active dialogue with City Parks, Transportation and Engineering departments as well as the adjacent property owners. Our hope is that a pedestrian pathway along 7th Avenue between Fairview Street and Wilson Street will soon become a reality.

Lions Park Spray-Ground

This summer the City of Olympia Parks will construct a spray-ground at Lions Park. The ENA board worked with the City early in the design process. Although we did not get everything we asked for, the final design includes additional parking and improved pedestrian facilities while preserving open space and retaining the character of this beloved neighborhood park as much as possible.

Art Crossings

The City is planning its third Art Crossing project which will be located at the "Bow Tie" intersection formed by State and Pacific Avenue. ENA Board member Jim Rioux participated in the jury selection process. We are now working with the City Parks Department to hold a community discussion with the artist at our annual picnic in August.

WHATS YOUR PASSION?

Is there something that you are passionate about or would like addressed by the association?

Attend a board meeting and discuss it. You may want to take the lead, or work in a group to make it happen.

When neighbors work together we can achieve so much!

YOU WANTED MORE DETAIL?

Neighborhood Hub

Imagine you decide to go to the store tomorrow for a cold drink. It's a nice day so you decide to walk. You navigate around missing and broken sidewalks, to arrive at 4th Avenue. You hit the button and hope the cars and trucks notice the flashing lights _ the traffic seems quite a bit faster than the 25-mph speed limit. Crossing the hot asphalt parking lot, you look for shade and notice there are no trees. Next time you decide to drive ... like everybody else.

Now imagine the same trip a few years in the future. New and improved neighborhood sidewalks allow you and anyone with a walker or wheelchair to navigate the route without having to venture into the street, except at well-marked crosswalks. You continue to a new bistro with a walk-up window and pleasant outdoor seating. The vehicle traffic is well removed from where you are sitting, as it calmly traverses the new roundabout. Every vehicle gives way to foot and bicycle traffic.

If this sounds like a fantasy, it is. But every plan starts in the imagination, and sometimes plans have a marvelous way of becoming reality. The Eastside Neighborhood Association imagined a scene similar to the one described above in the 2020 Eastside Subarea Plan. This Plan envisions a "neighborhood hub" which will "establish a business area that brings together our neighborhood residents with residents from nearby neighborhoods." The Plan directs the neighborhood to "work with the City to designate a shared neighborhood hub in common with the Upper Eastside and Bigelow Highlands neighborhoods," and "design a shared neighborhood hub that is pedestrian-friendly, lively and attractive.

The "Hub" would be located around the area where 4th, State, Martin and Pacific all intersect.



THANK THY NEIGHBOR

We have some awesome neighbors. We have all seen them or their work.

So kudos to these wonderful neighbors who make living in the Eastside that little bit better!

To the woman who plants the traffic circle by Lions Park, the tulips are always a gorgeous sight!

Praise to the woman who wanders our streets picking up every last scrap of trash.

Kudos to the Tech Wiz who hosts the neighborhood web site.

To the neighbors who brighten the neighborhood with their unusual mailboxes, little free libraries, puzzle exchange, poetry box, art box, and the Eastside Community Garden Stand, thanks for adding to our great community.

Do you know someone whose selfless actions benefit the neighborhood? If so let us know!

EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

Block Parties

July 9, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Locations will be:

- Lybarger Street from 10th Avenue to Union Avenue
- McCormick Street from 13th Avenue to 14th Avenue
- 5th Avenue from Fairview Street to Edison Street
- SE corner of Lion's Park

Block parties are open to all and generally include food and drinks provided by the sponsors and neighbors who bring some to share, as well as lawn games (e.g., corn hole, Bocce ball, Jenga) and other activities (e.g., sidewalk chalk, bubbles) as well as opportunities to chat with potential guests from the City Council and staff.

ENA Picnic

August 6, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: Lions Park

Join your neighbors for a barbeque, music, fun activities, and opportunities to talk to potential guests from the City Council and staff. More information to come.

Neighbor-Tainment Variety Show

October, date and time to be determined

Location to be determined

Neighbor-Tainment Variety Shows were held in 2018 and 2019. Performances are by people of all ages from both the Eastside and Northeast neighborhoods. More information to come.

Annual ENA Meeting

November 9, 6:00 pm

Location to be determined

The annual meeting is open to anyone who lives or works in the Eastside Neighborhood. We will discuss ways to improve the neighborhood, opportunities for involvement, and provide information on upcoming events. Key City staff and/or Council members often attend.

Winter Holiday Walkabout

Approximately December 16-31

Locations throughout the neighborhood

Some of our neighbors really enjoy decorating their home and/or business for the winter holiday season. Walk the neighborhood and check out their efforts. The ENA Board provides a map of participating homes and businesses to help you find your way. The Board also awards prizes for window decoration, yard decoration, and other unique decorations. If you are interested in participating, check out the association web site.

BOARD MEETINGS

Every Second Wednesday

Location is Swantown Inn

1431 11th Ave SE
(Corner of 11th and Central)

We love it if you walk, but if you drive please park on Central.

Meeting starts at 7pm.

WE WANT YOU!

Do you have an issue, topic or passion for our neighborhood?

Do you want to meet your neighbors?

Do you need a creative outlet?

Do you like creating a better Olympia?

If the answer is "Yes!", then you should attend a ENA Board Meeting.

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