



Olympia Fields East Homeowners Association
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Olympia Fields, IL 60461

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2023 OFEHA MEETINGS
During Covid-19 Pandemic, meetings held through ZOOM. Check ofeha.org Calendar for links.
May 11, 2023
July 13, 2023
Sep 14, 2023
Nov 9, 2023

OFEHA 2023 Dues - \$50

Support OFEHA, if you haven't paid this year's dues, please send your payment to:

OFEHA
PO Box 152
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

2023 Dues

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

I am interested in helping with these committees:
 Beautification Communications Membership

OLYMPIA FIELDS EAST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

OFEHA Annual meeting

The Covid-19 crisis has subsided, so the OFEHA board meetings will transition from being held online to in-person meetings. The 2023 annual OFEHA meeting will be held at the Park Forest Public Library on May 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Please contact any OFEHA board member for further information, or send an email to: ofeha.news@gmail.com.

OFEHA

ofeha.news@gmail.com
Ofeha.president@gmail.com
www.ofeha.org



OLYMPIA FIELDS EAST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Spring / Summer 2023
Athenia Park - Fairway Estates
Olympia Woods - Parkside Estates

OFEHA

The President's Message

Greetings Neighbors!



OFEHA's primary focus is to beautify our common areas and in this effort WE NEED YOUR HELP!! We've postponed the OFEHA annual meeting, which will be in person, on May 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Park Forest Public Library in hopes of having greater participation. Any change that might be made to the date, time, and location will be posted on our website, www.ofeha.org. We will also email a reminder to those who have provided their email address to us. This is your opportunity to join OFEHA's board, share your thoughts and ideas for beautification projects, and be a help to your community. While I appreciate the confidence you have in the OFEHA board, we need greater participation from more residents to accomplish bigger and better beautification projects. How the common areas look has an impact on the perceived values of the homes in the area.

While walking through our community recently, I noticed that the area is littered with fast food wrappers, pop cans, and a variety of other debris. Sure, some comes from trash day when it blows out of trash cans or garbage trucks, but people tossing things from their cars or otherwise intentionally littering also contributes to this eyesore. Most homes in this area are worth upwards of \$250,000 but there's trash in the streets and grass like we're in a ghetto. Help set a higher standard for our community by keeping your property clean, regardless of the source. For a greater positive impact, pick up litter while out on a run or walk. If anyone wants to help organize a community clean-up day, feel free to contact us and we'll help pull things together. People tend to litter more in an area that already has large amounts of litter, so cleaning up litter regularly can have a positive impact. Cleaning up after your pets is also essential to presenting the best image of your community.

Recently, there was a fire in our community. Fortunately, no one was injured. The explosions caused by the fire shook homes as far as a quarter mile away and people as far away as Country Club Hills reported hearing the booms. As neighbors gathered to watch this incident, I couldn't help but think to myself "I can't get this many people to show up for an HOA meeting". Over time, we've eliminated the annual summer picnic to focus funds on beautification efforts and our annual HOA holiday party grew to become a village wide event that is now hosted by others. We need to come together to get to know our neighbors and discuss ways of improving our community.

For those of you who availed yourself of the discounts offered by some local businesses to our HOA members, I must regrettably inform you that the program is ending. We have not been able to get the cooperation of the businesses that used to participate nor have we been able to enroll other businesses.

Since the onset of Covid, we have been holding our regular monthly meetings virtually using Zoom. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm. The meeting information can be located on our website, www.ofeha.org. Everyone is always welcome to join the meetings if you wish to volunteer to help OFEHA accomplish the goal of improving our part of the village. If you are interested in having a greater role with OFEHA you can reach out to me directly at ofeha.president@gmail.com

If you would like to be added to our email database, please send your email address to ofeha.news@gmail.com. Be sure to add ofeha.news@gmail.com and ofeha.president@gmail.com to your safe sender list.

As always, feel free to contact me directly with any questions, comments or concerns at ofeha.president@gmail.com. You can also contact our Vice President, Steve Jackson, at sjackson629@sbcglobal.net.

Carlando Owens

Carlando Owens
President
Olympia Fields East
Homeowners' Association



14¢ a Day!

The OFEHA wishes to remind our members that it is time to renew your membership for another great year. If you're new to the community and haven't joined yet, you're invited to do so. In the past we have been able to complete several projects thanks to the support of our members. We're not done yet. There's still much to do and it can't be done without you. With your support, we will continue to focus on our mission of **Improving and Maintaining the Common Areas**. So please take the time to pay your 2023 dues. The dues are still just \$50 a year, a bargain compared to other costs that have been rising. You can mail your check to:

OFEHA
P.O. Box 152
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

You can also pay online at ofeha.org. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on **OFEHA Membership Dues** [Scan QR code to go to website]

Thank you for your support and contributing to the growth of the OFEHA. We look forward to serving you again this year.



Dear fellow members of the OFEHA Homeowners Association,

We are excited to invite you to our annual meeting, which will take place at the Park Forest Library on **Saturday, May 20, 2023, at 10:00 AM**. This is a great opportunity for us to come together and discuss important issues related to our community, and we hope that you will be able to join us.

At the meeting, we will be discussing a variety of topics that are relevant to our neighborhood. This includes updates on recent projects and initiatives, financial reports, and the election of new officers for the coming year. Additionally, we will be discussing any concerns or suggestions that members may have in order to improve our community.

We encourage all members to attend this meeting, as it is a chance for us to strengthen our community and work together towards common goals. This is also an excellent opportunity to meet your neighbors and make new connections within the neighborhood.

Please mark your calendars for May 20, 2023, at 10:00 AM, and plan to join us at the Park Forest Library. We look forward to seeing you there!



Spotlight on OFEHA community activities

My fellow Olympia Fields East Community, my name is Steven Jackson and I am the Vice President for Olympia Fields East Homeowner Association (OFEHA). It's getting close to that time of year when we are all trying to enjoy the summer, sunshine, and warm weather along with trying to stay fit and healthy. COVID no longer has the strong hold that it once did, which means we can come together as a community again without as much caution and uncertainty.

As many of you know, in 2018 we had set a goal to host a community walk the second Saturday of every month. Now I make a pledge to walk every Saturday morning at 8:00 am. Starting May 13th, it will be a "Meet and Greet" Community Walk.

The goals:

- 1) Exercise (at your own pace)
- 2) Meet your neighbors
- 3) Discuss concerns about our community
- 4) Come up with solutions
- 5) Participate in the discussion about the direction in which our community wants to go
- 6) Offer your talents and skills in accomplishing that direction
- 7) Gain greater participation in the OFEHA meetings

There is a saying, "It takes a village to raise a child". I now take that a little further, I say it takes all of us (a village) to maintain our community; we all play a role in our community's growth and maintenance.

I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday mornings.

SPREAD THE WORD PLEASE!!

Steven Jackson

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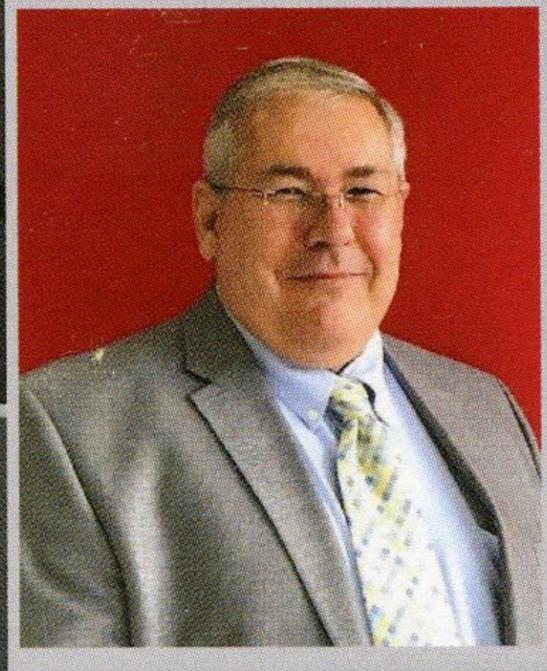
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Melissa@TheCrackedGlass.com
Facebook.com/TheCrackedGlass

EPA Helpful Hints—Composting

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is one of the most powerful actions we can take to reduce our trash, address climate change, and build healthy soil. By turning our food scraps and yard trim into compost, we can transform our waste streams into a beneficial, value-added soil amendment and use it to protect the environment and create resilient communities.

- Composting is a resourceful way to recycle the food scraps and yard trim you generate at home all year and manage your waste more sustainably.
 - You reduce the volume of materials that might otherwise be disposed in landfills or trash incinerators - leaves, grass clippings, yard trim, and food scraps - and prevent powerful greenhouse gases from being emitted into the atmosphere.
 - Composting involves minimal effort, equipment, expense, and expertise, and can be fun.
 - You save money by producing a free, high quality soil amendment - compost, which reduces your use of fertilizer and pesticides.
- You can use your compost to build healthier soil, prevent soil erosion, conserve water, and improve plant growth in your garden and yard.

See also:

<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste.html>

For information about household hazardous waste collections.

Village of Olympia Fields – holiday decorations award program – December 2022



OFEHA area homes nominated for awards during the 2022 Holiday decoration season include:

815 Tenuta

816 Tenuta

717 Brookwood Terrace 5

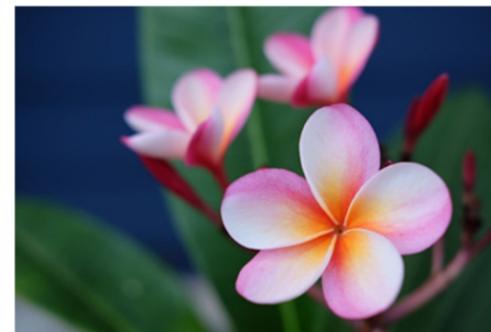
The top winners for 2022 Village-wide Holiday awards:

1st place: 601 Wysteria (Wysteria)

2nd place: 20213 St. Andrews (The Greens)

3rd place: 2521 Glen Eagles (The Greens)

Submit Your Beautification Project Ideas



The Beautification Committee has responsibility for the implementation and maintenance of projects in the common areas of OFEHA that enhance our lovely community. As you may be aware from previous communications, OFEHA has a very limited budget with which to implement these projects. Therefore, the Beautification Committee is seeking your input in identifying low-cost projects that will have a high aesthetic impact. Take a few minutes to submit your ideas for any or all cul-de-sacs, the parkway on 207th Street, and the entrances at Lincoln Highway and Brookwood, Western and Athens, and Western and Country Club Drive. Submit your suggestions by completing the Contact Us Form at the bottom of the OFEHA website: www.OFEHA.org by April 30th if possible, and please let us know if you are available to assist with the planning. Your participation is appreciated.

OFEHA RESIDENT COMMENTS

Let us know what you would like to see in your newsletters

We hope this message finds you well. As we prepare for future newsletters, we are seeking your suggestions on topics to include. Whether it be updates on community events, tips for home maintenance, or important information about upcoming changes within our neighborhood, we want to hear from you. Our goal is to make sure our newsletter is informative and engaging for all members, and your input is essential in achieving this goal.

Please feel free to share your suggestions with us at ofeha.news@gmail.com. We appreciate your time and participation in helping to create a successful newsletter.

Residents can also submit any comments, positive or negative, via the comment submission form on the Olympia Fields Village website, or by email to ofeha.president@gmail.com or to sjackson629@sbcglobal.net.

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Did You Know....Coyote sightings are real

Coyotes are highly adaptable animals and have been able to successfully establish populations in urban environments. In fact, it's becoming increasingly common to see coyotes in suburban and even urban areas, particularly in North America.

Coyotes are attracted to urban areas for several reasons. One of the main factors is the availability of food. Urban environments often provide coyotes with a plentiful supply of food, including small mammals such as rodents, rabbits, and squirrels, as well as garbage and pet food left out by humans. Coyotes are also known to prey on domestic cats and small dogs, so it's important for pet owners to be aware of the potential risks.

Another reason coyotes are drawn to urban areas is the availability of habitat. Urban areas can provide coyotes with a variety of habitats, including green spaces, parks, and even abandoned lots.

Coyotes are generally shy and elusive animals, but they can become habituated to humans if they are regularly fed or encounter little human disturbance. In urban areas, this can lead to an increase in human-coyote interactions, which can be problematic.

To reduce the likelihood of conflicts with coyotes in urban areas, it's important for residents to take steps to minimize attractants such as garbage and pet food. It's also recommended that pet owners keep their pets on a leash and supervise them when outside. If encountering a coyote, it's important to make loud noises, wave your arms, and make yourself appear larger to discourage the animal from approaching.

Water bill too high? Try some of these water saving ideas:

- A bathtub filled half full holds about 50 gallons of water. Consider showering instead.
- While showering, turn off water after wetting your body and don't turn back on until you're ready to rinse off completely. Turn off water while soaping up or shampooing.
- Limit showers to 3-5 minutes.
- Install low flow aerators and showerheads.
- Collect water while adjusting shower water temperature and use for watering indoor plants or flushing toilet.
- Don't let the water run while brushing teeth, shaving, or washing hands/face. This can save more than 100 gallons a week.
- Reduce the use of furnace mounted humidifiers.
- Keep a container of water in the refrigerator to avoid running water for a cool drink. This also allows any chlorine taste to dissipate.
- Run the dishwasher only when you have a full load. Automatic dishwashers use about 15 gallons per load.
- Repair running toilets and leaking faucets.
- Replace older toilets and appliances with more efficient models.
- Never use the toilet to dispose of cleansing tissues, cigarette butts or other trash. This can waste a great deal of water and also places an unnecessary load on the sewage treatment process.
- If it's yellow, leave it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down.
- Cover your swimming pool, this helps to reduce evaporation. A pool cover can reduce water loss by 90%.
- Use a broom or blower to clean sidewalk/driveways, not gallons and gallons of water from a hose.
- Install rain barrels on all your gutter downspouts for all of your outdoor watering needs. How much rain-water comes off of your house's roof in a year? Consider a roof with a surface area of 1,000 square feet. One inch of rain, running off a 1,000 square foot surface, amounts to 625 gallons of rainwater.

Just remember, every drop counts, and every person can make a difference!