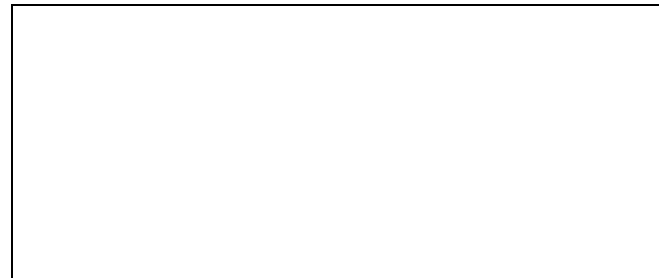




Olympia Fields East Homeowners Association
PO Box 152
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

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OFEHA Board/Committee Members:

- President—Carlando Owens
- Vice President—Steven Jackson
- Treasurer—Arthur Byrd
- Membership—Monica Plaid
- Beautification—Meli Marquez
- Events—Larry Mullins
- Communications—Sam Cosentino
- Secretary—(Vacant)

OFEHA 2026 Dues - \$50

Support OFEHA, if you haven't paid this year's dues, please link to the QR code, or send your payment by check to:

OFEHA
PO Box 152
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

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

I am interested in helping with these committees:

- Beautification
- Membership
- Social Events
- Communications

OFEHA meetings

OFEHA board meetings will be held at the old Village Hall at 207th and Governors Hwy on selected dates and times to be announced.

Typically, meetings are held on Saturday mornings.

Please check the OFEHA website for meeting announcements.
www.ofeha.org

OFEHA
2026 OFEHA Dues
\$50.00



Scan to Pay

Visit OFEHA on Facebook
Olympia Fields-East

OFEHA

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



OLYMPIA FIELDS EAST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Spring / Summer 2026

Athenia Park - Fairway Estates
Olympia Woods - Parkside Estates

OFEHA

The President's Message

Greetings Neighbors!



This is our first newsletter in over several years, due in part to increasing costs and budget constraints which influenced priorities. In that time, OFEHA has completed numerous projects over the years. Most recently, two projects were completed; one at Brookwood Terrace 3 and the other at the Oakwood Triangle. The Brookwood Terrace 3 project represents the start of projects focused on native landscaping. Native landscaping reduces the long-term cost of ground maintenance, absorbs more stormwater, increases diverse plant and wildlife habitat, captures carbon, and it provides natural beauty. The Oakwood Triangle incorporates both natural landscaping and a utilitarian purpose; addition of a dog waste station. Future projects will continue to embrace natural landscaping.

2026 Plans

In addition to the landscaping projects planned for this year, OFEHA plans for this year include several gatherings including a meet & greet cook-out event planned for August 29. Be on the lookout for more information regarding these events.

Get Involved

Above all, OFEHA needs YOU. Not only do we need your continued financial support but we also need participation on the various committees that keep OFEHA functioning.

Keep in the Know

If you would like to be added to our email database, have changed your email address and/or have not been receiving emails from us and want to receive them, 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.

Carlando Owens

Carlando Owens
President
Olympia Fields East
Homeowners' Association



14¢ a Day!

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 2026 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

Get in Where You Fit In

Membership is gearing up to start small groups in the spring. The purpose of small groups in any setting, whether it is in a school setting, religious setting, work setting, or community setting, is to bring people together in a more personal and interactive environment. Small groups can create a sense of belonging and connection. This type of environment will foster growth of new and deeper relationships among our neighbors.

So, whether you join a small group to create friendships, get out of the house, grow your leadership skills by being a small group leader, or just wanting to share on a topic you are passionate about, there is a small group for you!

If you are interested in any of the following starter groups below, please email us at ofeha.membership@gmail.com. Let us know which group you are interested in, if you have a desire to be the leader of the group, and any suggestions you may have for future groups.

Pet Owners, Gardening, Arts & Crafts, and Walking.



Spotlight on OFEHA Future Plans

The OFEHA Beautification Committee is in the process of applying for grants intended to be used for community beautification projects. Two particular areas of interest are the western end of 207th Street and the Cul de Sac on Brookwood Terrace 5.

We are currently visualizing the spaces in question, and what they could look like after the project has been completed.



207th Street at Corinth

- ★ Create a formal, naturalistic garden featuring native prairie plants and trees.
- ★ Incorporate local species as applicable.
- ★ Repurpose existing boulders for a rock garden feature.
- ★ Remove invasive Bradford Pear.
- ★ Manage stormwater through native plants that thrive in rain garden conditions.
- ★ Design with future streetlights and pathways in mind.



Brookwood Terrace 5—Traffic Circle

- ★ Create a vibrant garden featuring native perennials, shrubs, and trees.
- ★ Incorporate requested species as applicable.
- ★ Repurpose existing boulders for a rock garden feature.
- ★ Remove invasive Buckthorn.
- ★ Manage stormwater through soil grading and native plants that thrive in rain garden conditions.

Wildlife & Environmental Value

Here are just a few ways that native plants contribute to our local environment.



Butterflies use native plants as essential food sources, with many requiring specific species of native plants to reproduce.



Hummingbirds feed on the nectar of many native plants, while **songbirds** eat both plant seeds and insects attracted to native plants.

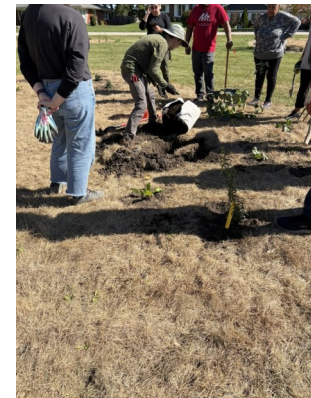


Deep-rooted native plants soak up rainwater, drastically helping to reduce runoff and flooding compared to shallow-rooted, non-native turf grass.



Planting Party __ 2025

OFEHA's community spirit in action—contributing to the beautification of our area. People getting together to make Olympia Fields East a better place to call your home!



OFEHA – Social Events

The first event of 2026 will be the Spring Stepping Dance and Line Dance on May 29, 2026 from 7p.m. to 11p.m. The location is at Sgt Means Park in the Bradford Barn, 20712 Western Ave. Olympia Fields, IL 60461. Ticket price is \$35.00 per person. Tickets can be purchased online by using the QR CODE below. Refreshments and food are included, and we will have a dance instructor on site. Our goal is to sell 100 tickets.

Contact number for more details is: (773)-269-8845.



Scan to Pay

Steppin' for OFEHA

May 29, 2026
7pm – 11pm
Bradford Barn | 20712 Western Ave.
\$35 for tickets

For Tickets call: 773.269.8845 or use this QR Code

Join your fellow Olympia Fields East neighbors for fun, food, line dancing and stepping!

Meet & Greet—August 29, 2026

A Meet & Greet social gathering is being planned for August 29, 2026 at Sgt Means Park. The location is expected to be at the Southwest corner near the tennis courts. Some seats and tables are available, but it's advised to bring your own folding chairs and/or folding tables for yourselves. We expect to provide BBQ grills and some food, so it would be appreciated if you respond with the anticipated number of people that will arrive. You are welcome to bring your own food, and soft drinks if desired. Park District rules prohibit consumption of alcoholic beverages on the Park grounds.

As we get closer to the date, more details will be posted on the OFEHA website. Check frequently for up-to-date information about this event and any others that might come up.

Check Website for updates: OFEHA.ORG

OFEHA Beautification Committee__Annual Synopsis

Over the past year, the Beautification Committee made significant strides in maintaining and enhancing the appearance of our community. The committee sourced professional landscape support to carry out general maintenance throughout the neighborhood, with a primary focus on pruning plants and trees to promote healthy growth and curb appeal. In addition to pruning, efforts included thorough de-weeding of planters and cul-de-sacs, as well as targeted herbicide application and fertilization to keep common areas looking their best. These ongoing maintenance initiatives helped ensure that the community’s shared green spaces remained clean, healthy, and visually welcoming for all residents throughout the year. Looking forward, the committee’s approach to general landscaping will intentionally shift toward native and indigenous gardens. This direction reflects our commitment to environmental health, celebrates nature-based beauty that is authentic to our region, and carries the added practical benefit of requiring less regular upkeep – making it a smart, cost-effective choice for the long-term sustainability of our landscaping efforts.

A particular highlight of the year was receiving two grants from the village, which were used to fund enhancement projects at two of our cul-de-sacs. Through these grants, the committee engaged the services of [Wild Plum Gardens](#) and sourced quality plants from [Possibility Place](#) to beautifully transform these spaces. One of the most memorable moments of the year was a **community planting party** held at the cul-de-sac at the intersections of Brookwood Drive and Brookwood Ter 3, and Brookwood Drive and Oakwood Drive, where we were thrilled by a wonderful turnout of resident volunteers who rolled up their sleeves to help plant new plants and tree! The event had a great neighborhood feel – we fired up the grill and treated volunteers to some delicious burgers as a thank-you for their time and enthusiasm. The project also included the installation of a dog waste station at that cul-de-sac, adding a practical and appreciated amenity for our pet-owning residents. Looking ahead to the coming year, the committee plans to continue many of the same maintenance efforts while also taking steps to inquire with the village about the removal of dead trees that pose concerns for safety and appearance. Additionally, the committee is excited to host a seedling event for homeowners, where donations will be welcomed to help support ongoing and future projects. Combined with annual dues, these contributions will play a vital role in sustaining the committee’s mission to keep our community beautiful.

The Beautification Chair would like to acknowledge everyone who participated, especially the following residents:

- Carlando Owens
 - Art Byrd
 - Thomas McNeal
 - Jamie Foley
 - Marcia Meggs
 - Steve Neely
 - Diane Bedrosian
 - And Susan Maroney
- IT TAKES A VILLAGE 



OFEHA ON Facebook!
Check for news and events



Did You Know__Village Highlights

- ✦ There are two 50/50 Village Tree Programs this season? This Village program pays for half the tree cost when you purchase a tree or two for planting on your property. To find out more about the program go to the Village Website ([Olympia-Fields.com](#)) and check under the Beautification Committee for details.
- ✦ That batteries should not be disposed of in your garbage? They are considered hazardous material and can cause a fire and therefore need to be disposed as such.
- ✦ Clippings or trimmings from bushes or trees are not considered “Storm Damage” and should be placed in your Yard Waste containers vs. putting them at the curb for Village pick up and disposal.
- ✦ Trash along Vollmer Rd. is being scheduled for clean-up? In conjunction with the Village of Olympia Fields, County Road Commissioner, and Flossmoor, the section of roadway between Western Avenue and Kedzie is being scheduled.
- ✦ That a Village Tree Removal Permit is required to approve a “dead” tree as well as a living tree? Additional information can be found on the Village Web site ([Olympia-fields.com](#)) There is no fee assessed for removal of a dead tree.

Olympia Fields Planning & Zoning Commission

The OFEHA organization, per our By-Laws continues to remain neutral on all Political topics. Therefore, OFEHA neither endorses nor opposes the development of the 81unit rental housing complex. Our Members individually maintain their rights to exercise their own individual preferences, regarding such developments. The following synopsis is presented as informational only. Any opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinion of any OFEHA board member.

Charles Durley, President of the Arcadia Homeowners Association (AHOA) has prepared a summary of the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on March 10, 2026. Olympia Fields homeowners attended the meeting, during which Vollmer Development & Real Estate Investment LLC presented their proposed project for our community.

The Hearing was in regard to proposed zoning variances to accommodate the development of a 81-unit Rental Apartment Complex on 3.03 acres, located at 3625 Vollmer Road. This meeting was attended by approximately 45 Residents, including several Olympia Fields Homeowners Association (HOA) presidents, residents from Arcadia and other Subdivisions, and members of the AHOA board.

After the meeting ended, most of the residents who attended stayed behind and generally agreed that the Planning & Zoning Commission’s premise that a Rental Apartment Complex would provide renters with an economic pathway to homeownership in Olympia Fields was faulty rationale and not likely to occur in most cases, especially given that the Median Price of a home in Olympia Fields is \$329,000 (25% above the Median Home Average for Illinois), and the Median Household Income in Olympia Fields is \$123,875. As one if the residents described it: Olympia Fields is an “aspirational” community, a place where you aspire to live, and where most homeowners living in our Village purchased homes in other communities prior to purchasing their homes here.

Most importantly, the residents attending the meeting collectively agreed that this Rental Apartment Complex is not a good fit for Olympia Fields for the key concerns cited above. Furthermore, the residents attending the meeting collectively agreed that a better fit for Olympia Fields would be to develop a suitable Condominium or Townhouse Complex, where the residents would be property owners instead of renters In the least case situation, if the issue to be addressed is “affordability” for younger adults to be able to purchase a residence in Olympia Fields, a better fit would be to develop a Co-op, because Co-ops have lower upfront costs while the residents buy ownership shares in the property and become joint owners of it, (use this link to see the differences between Condominium ownership and Co-op ownership: <https://www.rocketmortgage.com/learn/condo-vs-coop>).

