

HEY, NEIGHBOR!



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Building Connection

As we enter 2026 you will see a lot of New Year, New You kind of messages. We don't have to fall into the pressure of always reinventing ourselves. What if instead we looked for ways to intentionally build community and more solid relationships with those around us?

Recently the word Meliorism, along with its definition, (the belief that we can contribute to positive change and improve the world through acts of love, creativity, compassion, and kindness) has been shared on social media sites. This is a fitting attitude for people who are engaged in making contributions to their neighborhood and community.

Building connections does not always have to be hard, costly or time consuming. Little steps make a difference. Here are some ideas:

- Start a traveling neighborhood plate, which brings a treat for a neighbor and a note asking that they pass it on.
- Driveway get-togethers: hot cocoa and s'mores around firepits in the cold weather months or happy hours in the warm months.
- Share a favorite recipe with a neighbor and ask them about their favorite dish.
- Invite a neighbor over for dinner! Eating together brings connection and belonging right where you live.
- Write and deliver a short, simple note with a neighbor. Bonus if you can share appreciation for their positive contribution(s) to life on your block.
- Welcome a newcomer! We have welcome bags stuffed and ready for your distribution at OHN.
- Read a book, journal, or drink coffee on your front porch/yard! It's surprising how helpful it is to meet neighbors by spending more time in the front yard, as it provides a natural point of connection and easy way to say hi to folks!
- Visit the closest bus stop to say Hi! - most people live within a block or two of the stop. Wish them a good day and offer a smile.
- Invite a neighbor to go on a walk!
- Chalk the Block! Use sidewalk chalk to write encouraging messages.
- Clear the Snow/mow the lawn/rake/weed for a neighbor.
- Host a neighborhood dog parade.
- Take treats to a neighbor for their pet!
- Ask a neighbor if you can take their dog for a walk.

If you try one of these ideas, let us know how it goes. What are other ideas you have? Share them with us.

News & Upcoming Events

NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT AT THE HERD GAME
HERD VS BOOM
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 7 PM
 PURCHASE TICKETS BY JAN 3

OSHKOSH HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

Neighborhood Night at the Herd

Saturday, January 24, 7 pm

Oshkosh Arena, 1212 S. Main Street, Oshkosh

Get your neighborhood, friends, &/or family together at an upcoming Herd game. A small portion of ticket sales will come back to OHN to support CB&E funds. Tickets must be purchased by **January 3**, so please get yours today:

<https://www27.gofevo.com/event/OHN>

Thinking about the discussion from page 1, reach out to someone and invite them to attend with you!

OSHKOSH HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Beautiful one-bedroom units, each with private kitchen, living room and bathroom in well-maintained, historic home. One block away from Main Street, Farmers Market, restaurants, etc.

RENT INCLUDES:
HEAT, WATER, WIFI

PROPERTY FEATURES

- 1 Bedroom Units (3)
- On-Site Parking
- On-Site Laundry
- On-Site Storage
- On-Site Management

135 CHURCH AVE, OSHKOSH, WI

450-550 SQUARE FEET

Contact us today for more information! rent@gohni.org

We are looking for one more renter!

We are pleased to report that two of our units are occupied. We now only have the third floor unit available. [There is a virtual tour here.](#) If you know anyone who might be interested, please refer them to us. We are committed to providing excellent housing options and being an engaged and responsive landlord. Inquires may be sent to rent@gohni.org. Thank you!

OSHKOSH HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

Spring RALLY

3RD ANNUAL KICK-OFF TO CURB APPEAL SEASON!

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH
 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m.
 LAKESHORE PAVILION
 1875 Punhoqua Street, Oshkosh

\$25 cost includes
 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.
 Vendor Showcase & Continental Breakfast
 10:00 A.M. - 11:15 A.M.
 Melinda Myers Presentation
 11:15 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
 Vendor Showcase & Book Signing

Featuring:
MELINDA MYERS
 Gardening Expert, Columnist, Author & More!
 Presentation with Q & A:
 Create a Stunning Front Yard & Entry for All to Enjoy!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OSHKOSH HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

gohni.org/events/SpringRally26
 920-250-2717

Spring Rally

Saturday, April 18, 9 am - 12 noon

Lakeshore Pavilion

Cost \$25

We are excited to announce that Melinda Myers will be returning to Oshkosh to talk about ways to *Create a Stunning Front Yard and Entryway for All to Enjoy!* No matter the size of your yard or your budget she will have ideas for you. She will also have her newest book available for sale and signing. Get your tickets here:

<https://gohni.org/events/springrally26/>



The Spring Rally is the kick-off to the **Good Neighbor Grant** season. Applications will be accepted on Monday, April 20, until we have reached capacity or Wednesday, May 20, whatever comes first. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The grant is for improvements made to the exterior, street-facing, portion of a property. The owner is responsible for the first \$250 of the project and is able to submit paid receipts to receive up to \$750 in reimbursement for the remaining expenses.

The goal of the program is to encourage exterior improvements on the street-facing side of homes in Oshkosh neighborhoods to enhance curb appeal. Examples of projects include:

- Window/door improvement/replacement
- Step and railing replacement/porch repairs
- Painting the exterior front of your home/garage
- Landscaping improvements (trimming of bushes and trees, new plants, removing dead tree stumps, new rock/mulch, borders)
- Garage and fence repairs (only to the portion that is in your front yard)
- Other site improvements may be considered
- Use of local contractors is encouraged, but the work may be done by the owner

Good Neighbor Grant
"Curb Appeal" Grant
Final Report
December 1, 2025

- Grants Awarded:** 42 Properties
- Projects Completed:** 38 properties
- Amount Granted:** \$27,936.35 Resulted in:
- Total Investment:** \$171,537.75! Resulted in:
- Largest Project:** \$31,900.00 Siding & Windows
- Smallest Project:** \$540.22 Painted porch railings

We wrapped up the 2025 Good Neighbor Grant season on December 1. The graphic to the right shows the results. We are very pleased with the results. Thank you to our grantees for their investment in their properties.

Thank you to our sponsors of this program as well as the City of Oshkosh for their assistance.

More details about the 2026 grant program will be available in March.

Thank you to our sponsors of Good Neighbor Grants

JEK
CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF JOHN E. KUENZL

State Farm
Shawn Dockry

The Theda & Tamblin Clark Smith
 Family Foundation

Holiday Hours

The OHN office will be closed on December 31, January 1, and 2. Have a safe and happy New Year with your family, friends, and neighbors.

We will also be closed on Monday, January 19, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



Neighborhood Alliance

The Neighborhood Alliance is made up of a leader or two from each neighborhood. We meet on the second Monday of the month to share resources and information and to allow for peer to peer exchange. Our next regular meeting is Monday, January 12, 2026, in the lower level of the Library.

Each Neighborhood has the opportunity to have up to \$1,000 to use for [Community Building & Engagement](#) funds to help support the social connectedness in your neighborhood.

Volunteer Hours & Reimbursements: We created a new form to capture all of the information from an event/project in one place. You can record volunteer hours, upload event pictures and sign-in sheets, plus your receipts for reimbursement - [HERE](#).

Meet Your Neighbors

OHN supports 26 recognized neighborhood associations. This month we feature a unique Neighborhood that is just one street - Historic Jackson Neighborhood Association.



MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE MEETING



2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH
6 - 7 PM
OSHKOSH PUBLIC LIBRARY (LL)

New Neighborhoods

We have one or two people in the following areas, looking to start a neighborhood association. They are looking for other contacts in those neighborhoods. If you know someone residing in one or more of these areas, please have them contact julie@gohni.org or ask if we may contact them. We appreciate your support of emerging Neighborhoods.

- Rugby (Knapp, 9th, Ohio, South Park);
- Franklin (Koeller, Witzel, Sawyer, 9th);
- Jefferson (Ohio, 9th, S Park, Oregon?);
- Vel Phillips (Irving, back of Jackson, Nevada, Main/Harrison)



Neighborhood Spotlight

OSHKOSH HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

Historic Jackson NEIGHBORHOOD

Established: 2016

Households: 171 parcels

Boundaries: Murdock, Church, and Jackson Street on the east and west

Amenities: Historic Jackson Street District (Church to Irving), East Hall Athletic Field, Vel Phillips Middle School

Favorite Project: Redesign of a safe two-lane Jackson St. Joint efforts with Congress Field & Bent Woods NAs & American Legion for Halloween and Christmas celebrations

Contact: shirleybrabendermattox@gmail.com

Mer *Mer* *Mer*

Santa says, "This group is on the nice list!"



Thank you to our volunteers pictured here and all who serve

Oshkosh Neighborhoods.



OSHKOSH HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

