

**Millikin Heights**  
***Decatur's Original Neighborhood***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Decatur's Original Neighborhood has new Name  
Near Westside is now Millikin Heights as part of revitalization plan

DECATUR, MARCH 23, 2018 -- The Near Westside Restoration and Preservation Society (NWRAPS) has changed their neighborhood name to Millikin Heights. This is a part of the neighborhood's revitalization plan which is designed to position Millikin Heights as a neighborhood people desire to live, work, shop, and visit. Over the past six months the neighborhood association has been developing a revitalization plan for Millikin Heights. The name change is one of many opportunities included in the plan.

In addition to being a neighborhood association NWRAPS is a 501(c)3 community housing development corporation. NWRAPS will continue its mission of renovating and preserving homes in our neighborhood. Alan Duesterhaus, Millikin Heights neighborhood association president noted - "Everyone I have spoken with is excited about the energy that is emerging from our revitalization plan and the name change is just another example of positive changes in the neighborhood."

- Millikin Heights reflects our proud connection to James Millikin and our aspirations for the neighborhood's future.
- The new name will be less confusing and easier for people to understand where we are located.
- As the revitalization plan is implemented Millikin Heights will be the neighborhood to live, work, shop, and visit.

Millikin Heights neighborhood is bounded on the east by Church Street, on the west by Fairview Avenue, on the north by Eldorado Street, and on the south by Lincoln Park. In addition to the James Millikin Homestead the neighborhood is home to many educational and cultural organizations including French STEAM Academy, Millikin University, Staley Museum, African American Museum & Genealogical Society, Oglesby Mansion, and a few Frank Lloyd Wright homes.

Everyone who lives, works, worships, or owns property in Millikin Heights is encouraged to participate in the revitalization planning process. Other opportunities in the revitalization plan include:

- Take Monroe Street back to two lanes in the neighborhood.
- Repair and maintain brick streets.
- Eliminate train horn noise pollution
- Increase residential and commercial density around Oakwood Business Association
- Create incentives to encourage young professionals to live in the neighborhood.

**About Millikin Heights**

Millikin Heights is Decatur's original neighborhood centered around the homestead of James Millikin and anchored by Millikin University, Oakwood Business District, the Decatur Historic District, and Lincoln Park. Our previous neighborhood name was Near Westside Restoration and Preservation Society (NWRAPS). NWRAPS remains the name of our 501(c)3 Community Housing Development Corporation. More information is available at [www.millikinheights.org](http://www.millikinheights.org).

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