



Our Next Meeting:

May 13th

6:30 pm Social Time

7:00 pm Meeting

at

**Immanuel
Lutheran Church**

1700 Westport Rd at Bell

VNA meets on the SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 7pm (except August and December).

New Name, Venue for 39th Street Community Farmer's Market

At the March meeting time, the fate of the popular Wednesday organic farmers' market was uncertain. But as of March 23rd, it's official: a source for fresh organically-grown produce and meats will return again this year to a place in Volker. As a result of discussions involving the VNA Board and Immanuel Lutheran Church's Organizing Committee, agreement has been reached with the organic farmers group. The market will open May 5th as the Midtown Midweek Farmers' Market on church-owned property at the corner of Westport Road and Wyoming Street. That's also the site for the VNA community garden.

For the past three years, there has been a farmer's market on 39th Street from spring through early fall months. But businesses adjacent to the off-street site decided that because of concerns about traffic flow and parking, they would no longer make that site available to the vendors.

Dave Bennett, spokesman for the farmers' group, said that the vendors are excited about the available space and potential to attract customers to the new site. The market will operate Wednesdays from 4:30-7:30 PM from May 5th through October 6th. Bennett will speak about the market at the next VNA meeting on April 8th.

Meantime, the group's Web site, <http://www.39thstreetmarket.com> offers visitors an opportunity to learn more about urban farming as well as personal health and ecology. You can also subscribe to the group's weekly e-mail updates

A new market in the Kansas City, Kan. Rosedale neighborhood will be opening May 16th at Southwest Boulevard and 7th Street, sponsored by the Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative. The latest community market start-up is a response to the lack of grocery stores in the neighborhood as well as growing incidence of childhood obesity and diabetes.

-Rick Leidig

Gearing Up for Tearing Out Invasive Plant Species

At the March meeting, Park Ranger Forrest Decker gave some background on invasive plant species like Japanese honeysuckle which is prevalent in the city's park system, including how to identify this thick-stemmed, woody pest and current chemical methods of control. Volunteer Coordinator Bill Fessler talked about his job of training volunteers to assist the department's employees in caring for the city's parks. He noted that volunteers are fast becoming essential partners in the maintenance of city parks as budget and staff are trimmed. A date of Tuesday, March 23 was set for a training and orientation session in Roanoke Park to begin clearing out the honeysuckle, which has made substantial inroads around the park's perimeters.

Interest in this project also drew several guests from Coleman Highlands which borders Roanoke Park on the north and whose residents share with Volker a deep affection for the lovely park and its recreational resources (see back page article about the March 23rd work session). On the subject of the park's recreational resources, Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) funding has been approved for upgrades to the popular volleyball courts including bleachers for spectators.

-Rick Leidig

VNA Volker Watch/ Safety Chair

We are pleased to announce that Kara Werner is the Volker Watch/ Safety Chair for VNA! Kara has been organizing neighborhood safety meetings the past few months, and we are excited to have her as the chair for the safety committee. Below is some information about the safety committee, and about upcoming events that Kara has put together.

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Volker Watch

In an effort to curb crime in our community, we have proactively come together to be the change we want to see. We need you! We meet once a month. There are regular email and safety information updates, as well as information on crime activity in our neighborhood. Don't panic. Be the solution. Now meeting our neighbors, forming block watches, citizen patrols and much, much more!

Upcoming Volker Watch Events:

April 11th - Volker Watch Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Boozefish Wine Bar
1511 Westport Road

May 16th - Light Up Volker (LUV)

8:00-8:30 p.m.
Your sidewalk

We LUV Volker! You can show your LUV too, by leaving your porch light on through the night-time hours. As part of being proactive in keeping Volker safe, several residents have begun impromptu "patrols" when leaving and coming home, keeping an eye out for suspicious activity. The verdict? Many areas of Volker are too dark to see much of anything. This is a breeding ground for all types of crime.

Let's Light Up Volker (LUV)! From 8:00-8:30 p.m., We'll join our neighbors on the sidewalks where we live with candles to send a message that we are unified in our desire to keep our community safe - and show that we are paying attention. The media will be invited to this event. (Special thanks to Jesse Kates for coming up with such a perfect and LUVly name!) West Plaza will be joining us. Valentine and Coleman Heights may as well!

FOR MORE INFORMATION and to be added to the email list, please contact Kara Werner at volkeraware@gmail.com.

- Kara Werner

Rainfall Can Be Windfall for Backyard Gardens

As the growing season gets underway, achieving a harvest of your favorite salad fixings will take regular watering—lots of it. In turn, that could mean high water bills -unless you generate some of that moisture requirement from a natural source - rainfall.

So far this year, the region including Kansas City has received above average precipitation and that could continue. It makes sense to harness some of what otherwise is lost to runoff. Rain barrels are the answer and local recycling organization Bridging the Gap is working to help community gardeners with supplies and instruction for utilizing these basic water conservation tools .

The barrels start out as 55-gallon plastic containers for the syrup base of Pepsi-Cola. PepsiCo donates the empties to Bridging the Gap. It takes just a couple of common power tools and a few accessory bits to make a functional rain barrel. The basic barrel, which is 23 inches in diameter and three feet tall, costs \$20. Add \$30 for pieces needed to complete the project. If you don't trust your construction skills, you can buy a completely assembled barrel for \$65. The organization also conducts periodic how-to workshops at its Three Trails Community Recycling Center and the \$45 sign-up fee includes a rain barrel.

Incorporating a rain barrel or two in your home gardening plan can help to reduce the load on storm water drainage systems which can result in dumping pesticides and sewage into downstream bodies of water. And you can feel good about saving on your bi-monthly water bill and becoming more self-sufficient not just in raising those lovely green specimens of a gardener's pride, but in providing them the moisture they can't live without.

For more information about Bridging the Gap's rain barrel program go to their Web site, www.bridgingthegap.org.

-Rick Leidig

*If you have questions about
real estate taxes, personal property taxes,
or any issue related to Jackson County
government, call*

Scott Burnett
Your Jackson County Legislator
881-3076
scott@s.gbcommunications.com

Litter in Volker is an Eyesore

It's finally spring! But with it, unfortunately, comes a lot of litter that has collected over the winter months that had been covered up by dead leaves and snow!

With everything greening up right now wouldn't it be great if all that unsightly litter would just disappear? Well, with very little effort on our part—if each of us participated by just picking up the litter in front of our own homes—in the street and on the sidewalk and grassy strip—it could become a reality!

If you take walks around Volker you might want to consider taking a plastic grocery bag with you and pick up litter while you're getting your exercise!

As Bridging the Gap says, "If we all do a little we all do a lot!"

-Diane Capps

Clean Sidewalks

As of this July, I will have lived on the corner of 41st and Genessee for 48 years. My 1921 house used to look a lot better than it does now but due mainly to my arthritic knee, the upkeep has suffered. Thanks to my doctor's aggressive pain management program, I think I will be able to make it look better this season than it looked last year. But what I really want to say is, I wonder if we all could do a better job of cleaning our sidewalks. I'm not talking about ice and snow, which this year was a monumental job, but I am talking about mud, leftover leaves and especially those odious sweet gum balls. I asked the City to clean some of the sidewalks but it is the responsibility of the homeowner. I also asked for street cleaning and was told it was scheduled for May so maybe it will look better after that time. I was especially concerned about the 39th to 40th block of Bell which is a gateway to our neighborhood. It presents a terrible picture for many visitors parking there to eat on 39th Street. And as my fellow dog walkers know, it is hard to dodge those pesky droppings and they are also hard on our dogs' paws. Some sidewalks just have a small path down the middle.

And speaking of dog walkers - there is a very easy- to-use form on the City website where we can report burned out streetlights or day burners (that's streetlight talk for lights that burn all day, too) since we tend to be walking at all hours of the day and night and see these streetlight problems. It is <http://www.kcmo.org> if you don't know.

And everybody get your candles ready for May 16th.

-Mary Byrne

Hazardous Waste

I'll make an appointment and a trip to Deramus in May or very early June. Since I have a station wagon, I'll take your pesticides or herbicides or even a battery. Please do not dispose of them in the regular trash. They pollute and are dangerous to the environment and to us (or folks downstream from us). The curlicue light bulbs contain mercury (CFL light bulbs). I'll take those also.

Facility accepts: automotive products, antifreeze, batteries, CFL light bulbs, fertilizers, flammables, fuels, hazardous cleaners, hazardous liquids, household cleaners, lawn and garden products, paint, pesticides, photographic chemicals, pool chemicals, solvents, thinners, used oil.

Facility does not accept: explosives, yard waste, commercial waste, pressurized gas cylinders, asbestos, tires, appliances. Dried latex paint cans may be disposed of in the trash and are not considered hazardous waste.

Email me at pjgilford@gmail.com or call me or after May 5 (816-931-3932).

-Pam Gilford

More Urban Farming News

Representative Jason Holsman's bill proposing that the state of Missouri set up an Urban Agriculture Task Force passed the House on March 22 with a unanimous vote. It was passed as a "Consent Bill" which means it is non-controversial and generally results in fast-tracking of the legislative process.

Learn more at:
<http://wednesdaysun.com/201003311660/news/house-approves-holsmans-urban-farming-bill.html>

We're hopeful that soon we'll have a task force figuring out how the state of Missouri might promote the growing of good food in city neighborhoods. Thanks again to Representative Holsman for his vision and leadership on this!

(Information submitted by Katherine Kelly, Executive Director, KC Center for Urban Agriculture, www.kccua.org).

2010 VNA Calendar

VNA Events

Upcoming:

Honeysuckle Cleanup—May 8
Spring Dumpster Day—May 15
Light Up Volker Night—May 16

Dates to be determined:

Spring Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale
 Dance in the Park
 Fall Dumpster Day
 Fall Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale

VNA Meeting Schedule

Meetings are 2nd Thursday of the month.

January 14	June 10
February 11	July 8
March 11	September 9
April 8	October 14
May 13	November 11

(No meeting in August or December.)

Honeysuckle Cleanup

A group from the neighborhoods surrounding Roanoke Park met for the first time with the support staff from KC Parks and Rec. We had a little training and practice cutting and applying herbicide carefully to the cut stem only. The back of the WRCC parking lot was quite filled in with Japanese honeysuckle and that's the area we went after first. We met on a Tuesday when the staff was available. Our next meeting will be **9:00 am, Saturday May 8** at the community center. Bring loppers or just yourself - we have the herbicide.

-Pam Gilford

VNA Web Site Adds New Services

The Volker Neighborhood Association web site has added two new services to better serve members and neighbors.

Online payments. First, we now offer online payments for VNA membership dues. Just go to www.volkerkcmo.org and click on "join/renew" to quickly and safely pay with a credit card or PayPal.

Mobile alerts. Second, VNA is starting a mobile alert system to notify neighbors ASAP about important safety and emergency news. Sign up online at www.volkerkcmo.org to get text message alerts sent directly to your cell phone.

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 Community Services
 Department**

Membership Application Volker Neighborhood Association

Name					Please Check Membership Type	
Address					Individual, \$15	
City					Business, \$25	
State					Senior Adult, \$10	
Zip					Household, \$10 per VOLKING member (minimum \$20)	
Phone					Total enclosed:	
E-mail					\$	
I am interested in working on Volker projects					Make Check payable to:	
					Volker Neighborhood Association	
MAIL TO:		Rick Leidig 945 W. 42 nd Street, Kansas City, MO 64111				
Support your neighborhood by joining today. Take part in shaping Volker's future.						

Become a member of VNA!

We would like to encourage residents and businesses in the community to join the Volker Neighborhood Association.

VNA Website

www.volkerkcmo.org

Register on the main page of the website to receive reminder emails about meetings.

VNA Facebook

VNA also has a Facebook page. Just search for "Volker Neighborhood Association". Become a fan!