



Upcoming Meetings:

**January 12**  
**February 9**

6:30 pm Social Time  
7:00 pm Meeting  
at

**Immanuel**  
**Lutheran Church**

1700 Westport Rd at Bell

*VNA meets EVERY 2nd THURSDAY at 7pm ( except Aug and Dec ).*

## **Join or Renew *Today!***

**All current VNA members' names will be placed in a drawing for prizes at the January 12, 2012 meeting**

Your membership dues support the following benefits and more:

**Spring and fall dumpster days.** VNA provides 2 dumpsters twice a year--one for yard waste and one for bulky items.

**Dance in the Park.** Your VNA board takes an active part in supporting this wonderful annual event in Roanoke Park.

**Graffiti Days.** Board members provide materials and labor to remove graffiti from street signs, etc. a couple of times a year.

**Banners.** The colorful banners seen on West 39<sup>th</sup> Street and other streets in Volker are funded in part by VNA along with the merchants of 39<sup>th</sup> Street West.

**Monthly meetings** Get to know your neighbors and hear speakers on important neighborhood issues and topics of interest.

**PLUS**—you'll be eligible to win gift certificates from Volker merchants!! See inside for a list of merchants who have donated.

*Join online or use the application on the back of this newsletter*



Spearheader Curt Watkins (on right) with award.

### **Roanoke Park Workers Receive Award from Historic KC Foundation**

The Roanoke Park Conservancy Project received an excellence award in the *Community Catalyst* category at an annual awards presentation on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The Historic Kansas City Foundation recognized the crew of workers from Volker, Roanoke, Coleman-Highlands and Valentine neighborhoods who--for over a year--have been clearing the park of invasive Honeysuckle and other overgrown vegetation. There is now a Master Plan in place to improve the park in numerous ways.

To follow the progress of this dedicated group of people and the park's transformation go to [www.RoanokeParkKC.org](http://www.RoanokeParkKC.org). —Diane Capps

### **Free Tax Prep Offered Again in 2012**

After the rush of holiday celebrations comes the downer of tax season. But for lower-income taxpayers, free help will be available through the KC CASH (Creating Assets, Savings & Hope) Coalition at a number of sites throughout the KC metro.

Under the IRS –sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VISTA) program, volunteers are trained and certified to help with preparation and electronic filing of 2011 federal and state income tax returns. For Volker residents, the most convenient site will be Penn Valley Community College, 3201 Southwest Trafficway, January 31-April 17. (cont'd on p.3)

## **VNA Meeting Highlights / November 10, 2011**

### **Great Potluck!**

Roast turkey, ham, great potluck sides, and desserts to-die-for were on the table for the Thanksgiving potluck. This is a VNA annual tradition, so make a mental note not to miss it next year!

### **Opportunity to Comment on 2012 City Budget**

Next was a chance for citizen input on the 2012 city budget! Representing the City Budget Director, Mark Thomasperry presented an overview of the proposed budget with easy-to-understand handouts showing city revenues and their apportionment to all departments. This was part of an effort to encourage input from ordinary citizens on the city budget BEFORE it is finalized. The next chance for citizen input will be in February when City Councilwoman, Jan Marcason, will hold the budget hearing for the 4th District (that's us). Watch for further info on that hearing.

### **Get informed about the City**

**Budget!** The City of Kansas City, Mo., Finance Department's recently released Popular Annual Financial Report is now available online. This new report provides residents and other interested parties with an easy-to-understand overview of the City's finances. To view this report or the Fiscal Year 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, please visit the City's Finance Department Web page at [www.kcmo.org/finance](http://www.kcmo.org/finance)

To give your input on other city issues when they are open for comment, check the city website, [www.kcmo.org](http://www.kcmo.org) and click on KC Momentum.

## Snow Brings Hardships for Pedestrians

By Eric Bunch

For fit and active people, this can be a wonderful time of the year. But winter storms can bring reduced mobility for many Kansas City residents. Snow or wintry mixes make it harder for everyone to get around, but it is especially difficult for pedestrians when businesses, property owners and residents fail to clear their sidewalks of snow. Elderly citizens and those with disabilities can be stuck indoors for weeks at a time as snow piles up in curb ramps and in front of homes. City crews plowing through streets or contractors clearing parking lots are known to dump snow cleared from the parking lots right onto sidewalks. This makes it harder for everyone, including those heading to stores, walking their dogs or visiting their neighbors.

BikeWalkKC urges residents and property owners to clear sidewalks of all snow and to refrain from dumping snow from driveways into the sidewalk space. These simple actions can help provide better mobility for all residents and could allow all of us to get out and enjoy the beautiful scenery. After all, it is the property owner or renter's (depending your lease agreement) responsibility to maintain sidewalks adjacent to your yard or apartment complex.

Here are a few tips and best practices that could help make this winter season less of a burden for the 2 million area residents who rely on sidewalks:

Clear all snow on the sidewalks surrounding your home immediately following a snow event. When clearing your driveway ensure that you or your snow removal contractors do not pile snow *anywhere* within the sidewalk

Work with VNA local improvement districts and public officials to adopt best snow removal practices Work with others to standardize snow removal best practices in Volker and adjacent areas frequented by pedestrians

The sidewalk is an extension of the street, which means many people rely on it to get to and from home and other destinations. So please, when winter weather strikes this season help ensure that sidewalks are clear of snow. It's the neighborly thing to do and it's the law.

*Volker resident Eric Bunch is Director of Education, Bike-WalkKC*

A Big "Thank You" to the following Volker merchants who donated gift cards to VNA's January drawing:

**D'Bronx Pizza**

**Fric 'N Frac**

**Mama's**

**Mud Pie Coffee House**

**Room 39**

**Starbucks (gift bag)**

**Twisted Sister**

**Please support  
these merchants!**

### ***Tax prep....***

Volunteers will be located in Room 204, Learning Resources Building, Tuesday evenings (except March 13<sup>th</sup>) 5:00-8:00PM. Last year the coalition assisted 6,000 metro residents with their federal and state taxes and secured \$6.7 million in federal refunds plus more than \$1 million in refunds from the state.

The service is part of KC Cash's aim to increase awareness and utilization of the Earned Income Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit through outreach activities. More information is available at their Web site, [www.kccash.org](http://www.kccash.org).

## 2012 VNA Calendar

Spring Dumpster Day	May
Summer Yard Sale	June
Dance in the Park	September 8
Graffiti Clean-up	September
Fall Garage Sale	September
Fall Dumpster Day	October

## VNA Meeting Schedule

January 12	February 9
March 8	April 12

(No meeting in August or December)

## VNA Web Site

Register at [www.volkerkcmo.org](http://www.volkerkcmo.org) to receive reminder e-mails about meetings and events.

## VNA on Facebook

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

## Your Volunteer VNA Board Members

### President

Pam Gilford  
931-3932  
president@volkerna.org

### Vice-President

Vacant

### Treasurer

Steve Davis  
753-6559  
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### Secretary

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### Membership

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### Diane Capps

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### Southeast Area Reps

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### Southwest Area Reps

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### Don Taylor

809-9681  
rep2-SW@volkerna.org

*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@sbgcommunications.com](mailto:scott@sbgcommunications.com)

CITY OF FOUNTAINS  
HEART OF THE NATION



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Department**

VNA Membership Application				
<i><b>Become a member!</b> Join fellow residents and businesses in supporting your neighborhood.</i>				
Name (s)				<b>Please Check Membership Type</b>
Address				Individual, \$15
				Business, \$25
City		State	Zip	Senior Adult, \$10
Phone				Household \$20
E-mail				Total enclosed: \$
				<b>Make Check payable to: VNA</b>
<b>I am interested in working on Volker projects</b>				
<b>MAIL TO:</b>	Susan Kysela 3809 Terrace St, KCMO 64111			