

THE Volker News

September-October 2011

www.volkerkcmo.org

Upcoming Meetings:

October 13th

November 10th

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

**Immanuel
Lutheran Church**

1700 Westport Road
at Bell

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

Dance in the Park

The 13th annual *Dance in the Park* took place on Saturday, September 10, 2011 in the tranquil setting of Roanoke Park. *Dance in the Park* showcased the exciting performances of a host of the Kansas City region's unique dance companies. This free event invites neighbors to gather and build a sense of community. The event started at 6:30 PM as audience members of all ages were invited onstage for a free dance lesson with professional dancers and continued with performances starting at 7:00 PM.



Dance in the Park is produced by City in Motion Dance Theater in conjunction with the Volker, Roanoke, Valentine, Coleman Highlands, and West Plaza neighborhood associations. Support from the City of Kansas City's Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund (NTDF) provides the financial underpinning for the event and spurs fundraising in the community.

Save the Date!

**Neighborhood-wide yard sale
Saturday, September 17th**

**Fall Dumpster Day
Saturday, September 24th**

***Both events at Westport-Roanoke
Community Center***

Westport Plaza Farmers' Market

Every Wednesday afternoon

4:30-7:30pm through October

BEESZ IN THE 'HOOD

*The moan of doves in immemorial elms
And murmuring of innumerable bees- Tennyson*

A beehive these late summer days may well resonate with the sounds of industrious inmates; but it's more likely that their free-ranging midtown counterparts will conduct their pollen-collecting business in virtual silence.

There is much to occupy them, as backyard gardens sprout their seed-bearing plumage. Look closely to see a microcosmic diversity among the winged visitors who hover, land fleetingly and then move on to the next target—tiny sweat bees, burly bumblebees, and sinister wasps giving off a hint of lethality. And butterflies in their patterned glory.

But where are the honey bees--the guys who pollinate as much as 80% of the fruits and vegetables in our food supply? Their dwindling presence was mysterious, unexplained, like the collapse of a thriving, sophisticated race whose deserted pyramids and causeways have crumbled into obscurity.

Researchers tracking declines in the honey bee population have some answers, starting with a name for the phenomenon: Colony Collapse Disorder. "Bees leave the hive when they're distressed," according to local beekeeper Rick Drake. "Like many animals, they go into deep cover when they're in a near-death situation."

The threats are varied—anything from beekeepers who move their hives from southern to northern states in a seasonal pattern to pollinate crops to a virus transmitted by a mite that feeds on bee larvae. Another is pesticides. And finally there is what might be called the "not in my backyard (or attic or underneath my deck)" factor—deliberate extermination by humans. "Honeybees are normally quite docile, but if you accidentally tweak one while gardening, it will sting," Rick says. But fear of being stung can motivate people to get out the "bee-be-gone" spray.

So how do we learn to live with our winged allies? One way is to use (if you must spray) organic pesticides. Another is to work with, and not against, local ecology. Wasps and hornets, for example, like

to lunch on a number of common garden pests. And since bees prefer to nest in cavities roughly 15-20 feet above ground, if they're not in the way of something like a home remodeling project, put out a virtual Do Not Disturb sign and leave them alone. The benefit will come in sustainability of the diverse foods we have come to enjoy.

-Rick Leidig

Many thanks to Rick Drake of Drake's Beekeeping for sharing his knowledge.

TO GET A PARKING PERMIT

Long-time VNA board member Manuel Lopez journeyed to City Hall to straighten out the parking permit conundrum on our neighborhood's west side & get the scoop on how to obtain a permit.

Manny reports:

If you live on a street which has posted "2 Hour Limit" parking, you may apply for a permit. Housing Committee members have those permit applications. You need to fill out the form and send in \$10.00 to:

Streets Traffic Division, 5th Floor, City Hall
414 East 12th St., KCMO, 64106
816-513-2646

If you have visitors, you may obtain a one-day pass for them. This one day pass is at no cost to you. Housing Committee members do have the permits, also.

Housing Committee :
Manuel Lopez, Jose Pecina, Lisa Garrison

Maintaining Property Values

The Housing Committee has been working with Ms. Stephanie Bowman, Code Enforcement Officer Neighborhood Preservation Division, City of KCMO. She makes sure that city residents keep up on the maintenance of properties.

Do you have any issues with your property? Do you have any uncut weeds taller than a foot? Is your vehicle parked in the yard? Are there dead trees or limbs on your property? Do you have problems with hanging gutters? Damaged shingles or holes in
(more on page 4)

The True Value of Trees in Greater Kansas City

I never before knew the full value of trees. Under them I breakfast, dine, write, read and receive my company.

-Thomas Jefferson

Living in the heart of the city, as we do, affords us the benefits of the wonderful tree density we have in our midst, unlike the outlying areas of the metro. Most of us probably take this canopy of vegetation for granted. Attending a symposium this past spring at the Kansas City Public Library, presented by Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), provided a wealth of information about the true value of trees in an urban setting.

Top ten urban vegetation benefits:

1. Cooler air temperatures—energy effects
2. Social/physiological benefits/aesthetics
3. Air quality improvement
4. Water quality improvement
5. Greenhouse gas reduction (trees remove carbon through growth)
6. UV radiation production (leaves absorb 95% of UV radiation)
7. Wildlife habitat
8. Noise reduction
9. Provide timber, food, fiber, ethanol
10. Oxygen production – 67 million tons



Oddly enough, property values was not included in the above list.

Trees also provide privacy and improve recreational areas such as playgrounds and outdoor sports fields.

Tree tags show the value of our urban forest ▶

While driving around town, you may notice several prominent trees sporting large “price tags” with dollar values on them. The purpose of the **tree price tag project** in the KC area is to make people aware of the many benefits that trees provide to cities in terms of storm water reduction, improved air quality, higher real estate values, carbon storage, and energy savings. While trees are beautiful, they are also a vital part of the metro’s infrastructure, providing numerous benefits.



Our urban forest (KC metro area) by the numbers:

Number of trees:	249,450,000
Trees pollution removal:	32,000 tons/year (\$229 million/year)
Building energy reduction:	\$14.0 million/year
Reduced carbon emissions:	\$500,800/year
Structural value:	\$93.4 million

When planting trees it’s always best to plant native trees, the best value for your money. To learn more about trees and their importance, and how you can get involved in community projects, including projects for youth groups, see the list below.

Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)

USDA Forest Service’s i-Tree program

www.marc.org/Environment/itree.htm

www.itreetools.org

kshelton@marc.org or 816-701-8233/8234

Missouri Department of Conservation

www.mdc.mo.gov/ Also: www.grownative.org

USDA Forest Service’s i-Tree program

www.itreetools.org

Heartland Tree Alliance (Division of Bridging the Gap)

www.heartlandtreealliance.org

-Dianne Capps

Property values....

Them? Does your house need painting? The Housing Committee is in the process of identifying properties in Volker which have these problems. The plan is to issue a notice to the owner, stating that if nothing is done or there is no communication within 30 days, a letter will be send to Code Enforcement. City Code Enforcement will conduct their own inspection and may issue a ticket.

Let's get together to keep Volker neighborhood well-maintained and property values up.
-Manuel Lopez

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 & events.

VNA 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

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CITY OF FOUNTAINS
 HEART OF THE NATION



KANSAS CITY
 MISSOURI

**Printing provided by
 the Neighborhood &
 Community Services**

Membership Application - Volker Neighborhood Association

Support your neighborhood by joining today. Take part in shaping Volker's future.

Name (s)				Please Check Membership Type
Address				Individual, \$15
City		State	Zip	Business, \$25
				Senior Adult, \$10
Phone				Household, \$10 per VOTING member (min \$20)
E-mail				Total enclosed: \$
	I am interested in working on Volker projects			Make Check payable to: VNA
MAIL TO:	Susan Kysela 3809 Terrace St, KCMO 64111			