

# THE Volker News

January-February 2015

[www.volkerkcmo.org](http://www.volkerkcmo.org)

## Volker General Meetings

January 8 - KCPD on  
Neighborhood Safety/  
Security

February 12 - Midtown Commu-  
nity School Initiative

March 12 - KCMO Codes Offi-  
cer Answers Your Questions

-  
*Immanuel Lutheran Church  
(Westport Road and Bell St.  
Enter from Bell.)*

## Safety and Security, New Schools, City Code Standards Neighborhood Meetings Have It Covered!

### January - KCPD Officer's Update

What's been happening in the neighborhood that affects your safety and security? How can you avoid weather related problems when driving? What can you do to stay safe and avoid becoming a victim of crime in 2015? What new initiatives does KCPD have in the works? This is your chance for direct conversation with our neighborhood officers.

Dont' miss it on January 8th.

### February - High Performing Schools Coming to Midtown

The Midtown Community School Initiative (MCSI) is a group of our neighbors throughout midtown who have organized to do something about the need for more and better school options for the families of midtown.

After meetings last year with community leaders and parents, including a town hall meeting they hosted in May, they concluded an agreement with Citizens of the World Charter Schools (CWC Schools) to open two new elementary schools by 2016 with middle and high schools to follow.

"CWC Schools are free, high-performing public schools that serve students of all backgrounds in communities across the country. 'Our parents and teachers believe that peaceful, prosperous communities start with richly diverse classrooms...that value critical thinking, creativity and human connection,'" From the MCSI website.

Come with your questions and learn more about these highly respected schools and the effort needed to bring them to Kansas City on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### March - Ask the Codes Officer

This meeting is not just for property owners. Renters may want to know more about what they can and can't expect from their landlord. Code Enforcement Officer Ryan Kasper-Cushman will answer your questions. He recently succeeded in a case that resulted in connection of a Volker property to the sewer line and stopped overflow from an inadequate septic system. We all want to be responsible property owners. Make sure you know the city standards. It's much more than peeling paint! March 12th.

*Gordon Parks Rocks!*

**A "Rags to Riches" Story**

After losing accreditation a couple of years ago and being forced to close its doors Gordon Parks Elementary School has come back with a big positive roar!

To showcase their successful comeback the school held "Gordon's Gathering" on November 18th in the school's multi-purpose room. About 70 educators and other community residents attended the buffet luncheon.

An impressive young woman named Kahtea Murrell Bobo was the guest speaker. Born into poverty, Kahtea overcame a series of struggles to reach her current position. Today she is a marketing consultant, and helps others who feel they don't have a voice attain their goals.

Student work in visual art and writing were displayed throughout the school.



The third grade class sang two selections and were received enthusiastically.

I left that day with nothing but positive feelings about this school that strives to serve "at risk" and underserved children.

Under the leadership of Steve Fleming, executive director and president Doug Curry, Gordon Parks' staff and faculty is truly working miracles!

Check out their website for volunteer and donation opportunities: [www.GordonParks.org](http://www.GordonParks.org)

--Diane Capps

*When it snows...*

Help keep Volker as walkable in winter as it is in the rest of the year. Please clear your sidewalks.

Kansas City's municipal code actually requires anyone owning or occupying property along a sidewalk to remove all snow and ice from the sidewalks within a reasonable time after a storm. This applies to both residential and commercial properties. You'll probably never be fined, but do it anyway, out of the goodness of your heart!

Your neighbors will appreciate it.

**On-Street Parking Near KU Med Center**

Are you concerned about a potential increase in parking when the new KU Hospital tower is completed a couple of years from now? Even though more parking structures are planned, it always seems there is not enough and it spills over into Volker. At least one Volkerite would like to limit on-street parking to permit only on his block. If you are interested in joining others to do this on your block, please come to the January 8th Volker Neighborhood meeting for more information.

**Construction is underway at 3616 Bell Street.**



It takes ideas and people to accomplish anything...Tell us what neighborhood concerns are important to you and what kinds of projects you'd be interested in being a part of. Talk to your area rep or any of the board members listed on the back of the newsletter or bring ideas to a meeting.

## 🌳🌳🌳 Vintage Volker 🌳🌳🌳



This issue's 1940 tax photo features Roanoke Sheet Metal Works at 1410 West 39th Street. Below that name in the front window it says Air Conditioning. Donna's Dress Shop now occupies this spot.

NOTE: The Midtown KC Post is showcasing various midtown neighborhoods via 1940 tax photos. If you'd like to receive the post 5 times a week via email please contact Mary Jo Draper to get on the e-list: [mjdraper@midtownkcpost.com](mailto:mjdraper@midtownkcpost.com).

--Diane Capps

### New Destinations for Volker Residents

NOUR Art and Oddities, 1609 West 39th Street - now open.

VIXEN Pin Up Photography, 1622 West 39th Street - now open.

ARTEGO Pizza, 900 West 39th Street - now open.

A sign on Metuka's door says "Coming soon YUM, A Boutique Bakery." 1614 West 39th Street.

*Get out and enjoy your neighborhood!*

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

#### **START THE NEW YEAR BY JOINING VNA! (OR RENEWING IF YOU'RE ALREADY A MEMBER)**

*Volker Neighborhood Association* provides residents with a number of services, whether they are members or not. Your support in sustaining these services would be awesome! The Volker News newsletter is delivered to single-family homes 6 times a year (available online to apartment dwellers), there are 2 Dumpster Days a year, a picnic and holiday potluck, informative monthly meetings and more!

Join us at our first meeting of 2015 and become a member there--OR go online to join at [www.VolkerKCMO.org](http://www.VolkerKCMO.org)

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

#### VNA General Meetings:

January 8                      February 12  
 March 12                      April 9

#### VNA Events:

Spring Dumpster Day - TBA

*Volker Neighborhood Association meets the SECOND THURSDAY of the month except in August and December when we don't meet.*

#### VNA Web Site

[www.volkerkcmo.org](http://www.volkerkcmo.org)

Join VNA online, sign up to receive VNA news and notices by email, read the newsletter, and find helpful links.

#### VNA on Facebook

Friend the VNA Facebook page for the latest info. Just search for "Volker Neighborhood Association"

If you have questions about real estate or personal property taxes, or an issue related to Jackson County gov't, call:

#### Scott Burnett

1st District Jackson County Legislator  
**816-365-6664 (cell)**

[burnett.scott@gmail.com](mailto:burnett.scott@gmail.com)

### Your VNA Volunteer Board

#### President

Susan Kysela  
 816 809-2557  
[president@volkerna.org](mailto:president@volkerna.org)

#### Vice President

Dan Martin  
 816 686-3959  
[vicepresident@volkerna.org](mailto:vicepresident@volkerna.org)

#### Treasurer

Steve Davis  
 816 753-6559  
[treasurer@volkerna.org](mailto:treasurer@volkerna.org)

#### Secretary

Rick Leidig  
 816 931-4293  
[secretary@volkerna.org](mailto:secretary@volkerna.org)

#### Membership

Diane Capps  
 816 753-0909  
[rep2-N@volkerna.org](mailto:rep2-N@volkerna.org)

#### Advertising Manager

Rodrigo Lazen  
 816 286-0304  
[ads@volkerna.org](mailto:ads@volkerna.org)

#### Social Media/Events

Melissa Martin  
 816 812-2822  
[social@volkerna.org](mailto:social@volkerna.org)

#### North Area Reps

Jim Peters  
 816 561-1492  
[rep1-N@volkerna.org](mailto:rep1-N@volkerna.org)

#### Diane Capps

816 753-0909  
[rep2-N@volkerna.org](mailto:rep2-N@volkerna.org)

#### Southeast Area Reps

Manuel Lopez  
 816 931-6192

Second rep position open

#### Southwest Area Reps

Dean Darnell  
 816 531-6548  
[rep1-SW@volkerna.org](mailto:rep1-SW@volkerna.org)

#### Christian Overgaard

816-457-7801  
[rep2-SW@volkerna.org](mailto:rep2-SW@volkerna.org)

CITY OF FOUNTAINS  
 HEART OF THE NATION



KANSAS CITY  
 MISSOURI

Printing provided by the  
 Neighborhood & Commu-  
 nity Services Department

### VNA Membership Application

We encourage residents and businesses in the community to join *in shaping Volker's future.*

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>	Diane Capps 3535 Genessee Street			