

THE Volker News

Jan. — Feb. 2020 • Volker Neighborhood Association • VolkerKCMO.org

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS/EVENTS

Jan. 9 - Neighborhood Meeting & Chili Night

Feb. 13 -Neighborhood Meeting

Mar. 12 -Neighborhood Meeting



Renew Your VNA Membership for 2020! Details p. 3

Neighborhood Meeting & Chili Night

Thursday, Jan. 9, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road (enter from Bell Street).

6:30 pm Social, Chili Supper;

7:00-8:00 pm Program

Meet Community Interaction Officer, Holly Sticken, and her Captain to discuss neighborhood safety and security issues. Also hear from the Kansas City Streetcar Authority (KCSA) with an update on the Main Street Extension project.

Sample chilis contributed by you and your neighbors! Please bring a pot of your best, a side dish, or dessert to share. *Please bring your own drink and tableware.* Text Amy Cook for more information at 913-306-4334.

Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 13, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road (enter from Bell Street).

6:30 pm Social & Snacks;

7:00-8:00 pm Program

Valentine treats. Your contributions welcome!

Come hear about KC Parks' new Park Ranger Program and how they can help us make Roanoke Park a cleaner and safer space for recreation. We will also hear from the Roanoke Park Conservancy about their past and current mission to improve Roanoke Park.

Neighborhood Cleanup—March date TBA.

Plan ahead to join your neighbors for Volker's spring cleaning litter pick-up event in late March, Watch the next newsletter or email notices/ Facebook for date/time/details.

Please subscribe to VNA email notices via www.volkerna.org or follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/volkerna). Stay up-to-date between newsletters!



Good Neighbor Lauren Massoth clearing the sidewalks on her block of Terrace Street.

See p. 2 for info on snow shoveling and other cold weather resources from the KCMO.gov website.

Photo: Susan Kysela

VNA Seeks Your Input

The VNA board has been discussing various ideas we'd like your input on in coming months with member votes in the spring. Details will be listed in the March/April newsletter, sent out via VNA email updates and posted on our Facebook page. We strongly encourage you to sign up for email updates now at www.volkerna.org

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VNA Seeks your Input (Continued from p. 1)

One of the changes under consideration is a \$5 increase in annual VNA member dues. We are currently running a deficit and a bit more revenue would allow the VNA to maintain our current activities and hopefully promote a few additional community events throughout the year. It has been a very long time since the last dues increase and with a rise in newsletter printing costs and donations to events like Dance in the Park (to cover City funding shortfalls), we simply do not bring in enough revenue.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

—Patrick Faltico

Snow Shoveling & Winter Resources

Both residents and businesses are required by law to clear sidewalks of snow and ice in a reasonable time after winter storms have passed. This [City ordinance](#) is for the safety of residents.

Volker residents unable to shovel snow may contact Patrick Faltico (info on p.4) for help, to volunteer or to offer your snow shoveling services.

The KCPD advises:

Do not leave your vehicle [running unattended](#). That is an invitation for thieves to steal it, and City Ordinance prohibits it.

Call 911 if you are worried about the welfare of someone in cold weather and have been unable to reach them.

Residents, including those who are homeless, needing refuge from the frigid weather are welcome to warm up in public buildings, such as the City's ten [community centers](#), during regular business hours. Please call the center first as it may be closed due to snow emergencies. For a complete list of warming centers in Kansas City, please call the United Way at 211 or visit the [State of Missouri's comprehensive map](#). RideKC provides a warming bus on cold weather days. Check the [RideKC Twitter](#) feed for times and locations.

KC Adopts Tenants Bill of Rights

On December 12, 2019 city council passed a resolution and ordinance, referred to collectively as the "KC Tenants Bill of Rights." With multiple opportunities for public input, both were negotiated among the city, landlords, and KC Tenants, a grassroots advocacy group formed in Feb. 2019.

The ordinance creates a tenant center for dispute resolution, and establishes a ban-the-box style policy whereby landlords may not reject applicants based solely on affirmative answers to questions of whether the applicant has a criminal or eviction

history. Landlords must also provide prospective tenants contact information for all utilities so they can access estimates for the property, and written notice of any property deficiencies or citations discovered within the last two years. KC Tenants conceded a provision to which landlords largely objected, that would have required all landlords to accept housing vouchers.

Mayor Lucas supported the package to help address the need for safe, quality and affordable housing in Kansas City. Fourth District councilmembers, Katheryn Shields and Eric Bunch, voted for the resolution, with ten others, and for the ordinance, with eight others.

Sources estimate a range of 45-50 percent of Kansas Citians live in rental property. This package, the result of months of prior input and negotiation, was introduced to city council on October 31, 2019 and passed in less than 6 weeks. KC Tenants hopes the new tenant center will be open by June.

—Stephanie Anderson

4th District Community Meeting

On October 29th, Councilwoman Katheryn Shields and newly elected Councilman Eric Bunch hosted a 4th District Community Meeting to give residents a chance to discuss community issues with elected city officials and city staff from various departments.

The meeting kicked off with the council members introducing themselves and the city departments that were present including the City Auditor, Communications, Health, Parks and Rec, Public Works, Neighborhoods, PIAC, KCPD, KCFD, 311 Action Center, Planning, and Municipal Court. The main purpose of the program was to allow residents to ask questions, gather info and network with city staff and officials.

VNA President Patrick Faltico and Southwest Area Representative John Meetz attended and spoke with City Auditor and representatives from City Planning and Development, PIAC, and Public Works to discuss ways the VNA can improve traffic calming, expedite city projects and successfully apply for PIAC grants. The city intends to hold these meetings annually in a "speed dating" format. City notification is often received on short notice, so Facebook or email notices are the best way to learn of next year's event. —John Meetz

Linwood Corridor Project in Early Stages—Connects to 39th Street

The Linwood Corridor Complete Streets and Bikeway Steering Committee has met twice. It's

Continued on p. 3.

Neighbor Dinner—A great way to meet neighbors!

Interested in meeting new people or just getting to know your neighbors better? We dine at a different area restaurant each month. Please join us at the Pressed Penny for our next neighbor dinner on January 23rd at 7 p.m. for delicious food and great company!



RSVPs are required for this event to get an accurate head count. Please join the Volker Neighbor Dinner Facebook group to RSVP or you may send your RSVP to vice-president@volkerna.org no later than Sunday 1/19. We look forward to seeing you there! -Erin Dolinich

Photo: Stephanie Anderson

Miss Vintage Volker? Please email Diane at rep2-N@volkerna.org with ideas for Vintage Volker articles.

Linwood Corridor (Continued from p.2)

an initiative of KC Planning Dept and MARC. They are evaluating transit, safety, urban density and various other demographics to help steer the development of this corridor to better serve citizens.

The Linwood Corridor is defined to include 39th Street between KU Med and Wyoming, then turns north down Wyoming/Karnes on up to 33rd Street. So it includes a busy section of Volker for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. There is even mention of a streetcar line that would follow this corridor!

Interested in getting involved? Contact lead KCMO Planner Gerald (Bo) Williams at gerald.williams@kcmo.org. —Patrick Faltico

Support VNA! Become a Member!

Have you ever participated in a Volker Dumpster Day? It's free to residents, but did you know VNA has to pay to rent those dumpsters from the city using your membership dues?

Dumpster Day (2 per year) is just one of the benefits the VNA provides to residents. Monthly meetings and newsletters plus social media to keep you up-to-date on news and events affecting your community, an annual picnic, and holiday potluck are some of the other community events and services provided.

So start the new year off right! Become a VNA member. It's easy!

Join online at www.VolkerKCMO.org, use the application on p.4, or join at a Volker meeting.

Meet neighbors over a bowl of chili at our

meeting on Thursday, January 9th! -Diane Capps

Call for Volunteers

Hey there neighbors, would you like to get more involved in your community, work with a great group of folks and make our neighborhood an even better place to work, live and play? The VNA is seeking volunteers to help with:

- Editing and/or writing articles for the Volker bimonthly Newsletter
- Managing VNA website content (built on Wix)
- Social media (Facebook, NextDoor, etc.)
- Providing digital illustration and/or desktop publishing skills for small projects
- Planning general meetings (arranging speakers, themes, etc.)

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, or want to suggest someone or some other way to help, please get in touch with your local VNA Area Rep or feel free to reach out to me directly at president@volkerna.org.

-Patrick Faltico

Thanks to Susie Cable!

With regret we note Susie's resignation as newsletter editor. She produced three engaging, well-crafted newsletters in the last half of 2019, but can't continue due to new job demands. She will be missed!

If you have untapped talents and an interest in editing the Volker newsletter, please contact president@volkerna.org.

Please turn the page for more news!

Volker's Neighborhood Thanksgiving Potluck

Photos by Stephanie Anderson.

Thanks to all the folks who attended our Thanksgiving Potluck last month, and a special thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up and break down after; to everyone who shared their wonderful entres, appetizers, desserts and libations; and most especially to Amy Cook who organized the event.

It was a wonderful evening with a great sense of community and fantastic food. We had to keep adding tables to accommodate everyone who showed up!

If you missed it, be sure to join us next year! -Patrick Faltico



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

If you have questions about real estate or personal property taxes, or an issue related to Jackson County government, contact

Scott Burnett
1st District Jackson County Legislator
816-365-6664 (cell)
burnett.scott@gmail.com

VNA Membership Application

Membership is based on the calendar year.

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

NAME: _____

Household _____

2nd Member: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

*EMAIL _____

*SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NOTICES AT: www.VolkerKCMO.org

I AM INTERESTED IN WORKING ON VOLKER PROJECTS

MAIL TO: DIANE CAPPS, 3535 GENESSEE ST.
KANSAS CITY, MO 64111

JOIN ONLINE: www.VolkerKCMO.org

PLEASE SELECT MEMBERSHIP TYPE

- INDIVIDUAL \$15
 SENIOR 60+ \$10
 HOUSEHOLD \$20
 BUSINESS \$25

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

\$ _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO V. N. A.

VNA Board

We're all volunteers!

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Newsletter Editor

Currently Seeking