



July-August 2016

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

### Volker Neighborhood Meetings

September 8 - Volker History  
6:30 pm Social; 7 pm Program

October 13 - Forward Volker  
6:30 pm Social; 7 pm Program

November 10 - Thanksgiving  
Potluck 6:30 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1700 Westport Road  
(Westport Road and Bell)  
Enter from Bell.

## Information and Opportunities for Volker Residents

### NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

#### **August—Enjoy the Summer!**

There is no VNA meeting in August. Please join us in September when we meet again on the SECOND THURSDAY of the month.

#### **September 8 - Volker History**

6:30 pm Social/7:00 pm Program

Learn and share stories about old Volker. Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share! Bring items for food pantry collection. Please email if you'd like to help research or plan this meeting. [Info@volkerna.org](mailto:Info@volkerna.org)

#### **October 13 - Forward Volker!**

6:30 pm Social/7:00 pm Program

Join us to review neighborhood projects undertaken. Progress, obstacles, and opportunities. Tell us your concerns. Vote on a new Volker banner design.

### NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

#### **September 10– Dance in the Park**

#### **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

The 18th annual Dance in the Park will be held on Saturday, September 10 in Roanoke Park.

Volunteers from Volker, partnering neighborhoods, and anyone who loves this event are welcome!

Needs include: parking, distribution of programs, putting up and collecting signs, stage set-up (Thursday before the event), stage tear-down (after event and the day after), guarding the stage, clean-up, recycling, and more.

If you can help, please send your name, contact info, and area of interest to Melissa Martin ([social@volkerna.org](mailto:social@volkerna.org)).

### *Remembering*

Dutch Newman, one of the founders of the Volker Neighborhood Association, passed away on July 26 at the age of 95. She was active in local politics from the 1940's on, well-respected and loved by people at all levels. She was always ready to help others. Dutch was running again for Democratic Committee-woman 5th Ward at the time of her death.

**Sidewalks** KCMO Citizen Satisfaction Surveys say sidewalks are a high priority but satisfaction is low. That would be no surprise to many Volker residents. Efforts are now underway to find new solutions to sidewalk repair. The current system puts the burden on the property owner to pay what can be thousands of dollars, leaving sidewalks in many areas to go unrepaired year after year. In some parts of the city, there are no sidewalks at all – including Bell Street north of 35<sup>th</sup> Terrace.

The good news is there is now a push inside City Hall led by Councilman/Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner to begin chipping away at the \$1 billion backlog with a proposed general obligation bond issue. But first the city has to adopt new policies and processes to make that possible. Midtown KC Post, BikeWalkKC, and Whole Person who together brought sidewalk issues to the attention of City Hall are now helping to gather stakeholder feedback and find new approaches.

TO MAP A BAD SIDEWALK go to:

<http://bikewalkkc.org/midtownmap/>

TO ATTEND A BRAINSTORMING SESSION, please RSVP at <https://bikewalkkc.org/event/sidewalkskc-action-planning-sessions/>.

**Volker Traffic** Continuing resident concerns about speeding, reckless driving, accidents, and violations at intersections in several parts of the neighborhood have prompted the Volker Neighborhood Association to submit an application for City PIAC funding for a comprehensive traffic study. Such a study would provide a solid basis for future applications on specific hotspots and help us avoid pushing problems from one area to another. This strategy has been successfully used in other neighborhoods. For more info, contact Patrick Faltico, [repl-sw@volkerna.org](mailto:repl-sw@volkerna.org).

YOU CAN HELP! Please come out and support Volker's request for a comprehensive traffic study at Citywide PIAC Hearings, Friday, August 19, 2016, Committee Room at City Hall, 414 E. 12th St., 10th Floor, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## Volkerfest 2016

Volker Neighborhood's 2nd annual festival of local music, art and food was better than ever.

Big thanks to Event Organizer Melissa Martin and the many volunteers who made it happen!

Did you attend?

Take the survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/t/X6WQ58X>



**The Loretto** A proposal to convert The Loretto into a boutique hotel was presented at the May 12<sup>th</sup> VNA General Meeting by developer Matthew Comfort of the Behringer Lodging Group. The meeting, in the chapel of The Loretto, included an extensive question and answer period to hear input and concerns.

The main concerns centered around possible impacts on traffic, noise and parking. With a proposed main lobby on the west side of the building, automobiles would enter from 39<sup>th</sup> Street and continue on the premises around to the west entrance. All parking would be on the hotel property.

Preliminary plans are for 120 rooms with a restaurant and lobby open to community residents. The historic exterior would be retained as well as the "front lawn" with possible landscaping to make it more park-like.

Beringer Lodging Group also owns the historic Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. They envision The Loretto as an upscale hotel uniquely reflecting Kansas City character and giving visitors a chance to interact with area residents. Sale of the property has not been completed. Construction would take another 18-24 months.

The Loretto, built by the Sisters of Loretto in 1904 as a school for girls, is a historic landmark of the Volker Neighborhood. This project would assure it is well-maintained and serves the area for a longtime to come.



## Volker Yard of the Month

The August Yard of the Month award goes to Matthew Bertalott whose south facing yard at 822 W. 40th looks great even after a scorching week of near 100 F. temps. Matthew experiments to find plants that do well in a specific location without a lot of work, and he'd be happy to consult with you about your yard.

Congratulations, Matthew!

To nominate a yard, please submit the address to [info@volkerna.org](mailto:info@volkerna.org).

## Vintage Volker



These 1940 tax photos are of the church at 3931-3933 Genessee and the affiliated pastor's residence next door. The congregation and pastor moved away several years ago, and the properties had seriously deteriorated.

These two buildings are now being razed. The project architect contacted the VNA Board to present plans for a single-family house and a duplex to replace these buildings. The plans called for both to have prominent front-facing garage doors (six in a row!) with a large expanse of concrete for the driveways facing the street. The project is now being redesigned. No further information is available at this time, but the VNA board made clear that front porches with garage doors in the back or at least on the side is preferable in this neighborhood.

Stained glass windows and other materials are being salvaged during the demolition process. —Diane Capps

### New Destinations for Volker Residents

A.J. JEWELRY DESIGN AND REPAIR/CELL PHONE REPAIR, 1415 W. 39th St. Now Open. Custom jewelry design, watch repair, ring sizing, cleaning and polishing, setting stones, etc.

TRIED AND TRUE TATTOO, 1413 W. 39th St. Now Open. Walk-ins welcomed. Also piercings.

*Get out and enjoy your neighborhood!*

### **New Volker Banners are Coming!**

William Volker, our neighborhood's namesake was an impressive entrepreneur who put himself in the right place at the right time to make a lot of money on the residential building boom in the American West, and then he gave it all away to Kansas City hospitals, universities, individuals, and numerous organizations. His home was in our neighborhood and he helped create the Kansas City we know today. It's a name to be proud of!

The beautiful banners that graced our streets for 15 years proclaiming this as Volker Neighborhood have been gone since early this year. New Volker banners are now needed!

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Purchase an old banner to display on your front porch or living room wall. They look great! \$50 donation. Fund the cost of a new banner and tell us where you want it hung. If the city approves, we'll do it! \$300 donation. Any amount donations accepted!

Submit a banner design. It should look good vertical on a 28x60 inch banner or horizontal on letterhead.

Vote for a new design. The design will be selected by a vote at the October 13th VNA general meeting.

For more info, to donate or see those old banners where they are now displayed: [www.volkerkcmo.org](http://www.volkerkcmo.org). Questions? Contact [John.Pearse@live.com](mailto:John.Pearse@live.com) or 816 547-6669

### ***Are you a VNA Member?***

The Volker Neighborhood Association's all volunteer board meets monthly to organize programs and projects contributing to quality of life in Volker and keeping you informed.

Memberships received after September 1st are good to the end of 2017!

Please join online, at a meeting, or mail the membership application on the back of this newsletter.

*We appreciate your support!*

**Please turn the page for more news!**

### How Well-Informed Are You?

There's a lot going on in Volker these days, and a lot going on in the City that impacts your life in this neighborhood. VNA covers as much as possible in this newsletter, but there's more. Between our bi-monthly newsletters things happen that you may want to know right away. For timely updates try one or both options below.

1. Friend us on Facebook: VOLKER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (You'll get the most information and most timely updates this way.)
2. Sign Up at the VNA website for email Shoutouts:  
[www.VolkerKCMO.org](http://www.VolkerKCMO.org) (Occasional updates between newsletters.)

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

#### VNA Web Site

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

Check the VNA website for membership info, to join online, read the newsletter, and more. SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

#### VNA on Facebook

Friend us for frequent updates and reminders! "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)

**Printing provided by the  
Neighborhood & Commu-  
nity Services Department**

## VNA Membership Application

⇒ Membership is based on the calendar year ⇐

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

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I AM INTERESTED IN WORKING ON VOLKER PROJECTS ☐

MAIL TO:

**DIANE CAPPS, 3535 GENESSEE ST., KC MO 64111**

**Or join online > [www.VolkerKCMO.org](http://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

#### 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

Angela Lupton  
[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)

#### Housing Committee Chair

Kathleen Brock  
816 853-3277  
[housing@volkerna.org](mailto:housing@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  
816 416-9798

John (Coach) Comstock  
816 674-5646  
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#### Southwest Area Reps

Patrick Faltico  
816 379-6119  
[rep1-SW@volkerna.org](mailto:rep1-SW@volkerna.org)

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

*All are volunteers!*