

THE Volker News

June 2020 • Volker Neighborhood Association • VolkerKCMO.org

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS/EVENTS

June 11 — Online Neighborhood Meeting, via Zoom (see below)

Meeting Agenda:

- KCMO Comprehensive Plan
- Linwood Corridor Project
- Roanoke Park Conservancy
- Volker Traffic Calming



Inside: Dogs, Yards and Molly Balloons



Update From Eric Bunch

Midtown KC hosted a virtual luncheon featuring Volker's City Councilman, Eric Bunch last month.

Elaborating on Mayor Lucas' 10/10/10 Rule, since updated to the next phase of the emergency order, Bunch said bars and restaurants should observe the city's latest occupancy limits and be prepared to contact trace customers. Visit www.kcmo.gov/coronavirus for latest info.

The council has directed that block-party permits can be repurposed to close streets and provide added social distancing options for pedestrians, and recently voted to allow businesses to use adjacent parallel parking spaces to expand outdoor seating. Bunch added that a small-business relief fund is being organized using leftover money from the city's 2019 budget, to be administered by the Economic Development Council. Loans of up to \$25,000 would be available to businesses with fewer than 20 employees and \$750,000 in revenues.

Bunch said that sidewalk improvements had been delayed by a contracting setback but should be back on track now. Streetcar expansion project bonds have been sold, he said, and that project will continue as planned. Bunch touted the Vision Zero resolution to address traf-

fic fatalities and adapt infrastructure and policy to eliminate traffic deaths by 2030. He said the council had also updated the Climate Protection Plan to include new greenhouse-gas reduction goals.

The COVID-19 shutdown is likely to deliver a significant blow to the city's budget, Bunch warned. He cited a dramatic decrease in earnings tax revenue and convention and tourism tax revenue; sales tax revenues, he said, are expected to be relatively stable. But because PIAC projects are funded via sales tax, this is good news for neighborhood projects tied to that revenue source.

Neighborhood Meeting goes Virtual for June

To minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, we are holding our June meeting virtually using a Zoom web conference. Please visit www.volkerkcmo.org/zoom to RSVP and receive the Zoom meeting details.

Add Your Voice to KC's Comprehensive Plan

Kansas City, Missouri's Planning and Development Department is seeking public input as it begins an update of the city's Comprehensive Plan, which "sets priorities and guides land development decisions," according to the project's recently launched website, <http://playbook.kcmo.gov>. VNA encourages every resident to click "get involved" on the site and participate.

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



To kick off our search for the next Yard of the Month, here's a chronological list of previous winners. (A recent contender: 4161 Holly, pictured.) Nominate your own favorite outstanding yard by emailing Yards@volkerna.org. Please include the address, and a photo and owner's contact information if available.

Featured picture from front page:

Is This the Biggest Lilac Bush in Volker?

Tonya Round's is almost 16 feet across and 8 feet tall, with ample blossoms producing a wonderful scent. See it at 1401 Valentine.

Volker Yards of the Month, 2016 - 2019

Going Yard

One byproduct of this spring's unexpected isolation has been the sight of more yards reflecting time spent physically investing in them. Most of the 13 winners of Volker's Yard of the Month award over the past four years still look pretty inspired, and the results of that friendly inspiration are visible throughout the neighborhood now that the weather has warmed up.

4230 Terrace	1318 W. 40th St.
4105 Wyoming	4137 Wyoming
822 W. 40th St	3523 Bell
3816 Bell	4138 Bell
3817 State Line Rd.	3307 Bell
3827 Bell	824 W. 39th Terr.
4215 Bell	



Office and Commercial spaces available at the Historic Loretto

- 100 square feet and up.
- Plenty of parking, shared restrooms, kitchen, and conference room.
- Rent starts as low as \$300 per month.
- Minutes away from 39th Street entertainment district, Westport, Country Club Plaza, and KU Med.
- Beautiful and well-maintained property.
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- Central heat & A/C



Call, text, or email for a showing at 816-769-2866 or

Loretto@delpropertieskc.com



Blowing Up Isolation

Noticed anything funny breaking the early evening stillness in Volker on recent Sundays? Say, a balloon-festooned parade snaking up and down streets, with crazy costumes, antic prancing, and properly masked social distance? It's the work of Molly Balloons.

Neighborhood resident Molly Munyan founded her team of creatives, Molly Balloons Inc., in 2015. She'd made balloons in her parents' basement as a child and renewed the practice during her teenage years as a medium for visual and performing arts. Until the pandemic, she says, her business centered on event curation, large-scale art installations, balloon couture, and entertainment using balloons.

Last month, she started what she calls her "socially distant parade" as a way to safely rebuild community and restore a sense of fun during isolation. The idea was to deliver a dose of live entertainment without discouraging safety. So: Masks and six feet of separation between marchers are required, with costumes, silliness, and general buffoonery strongly encouraged for both parade participants and onlookers.

According to her Facebook page, the final parade will be this Sunday, June 14th, starting at 6:30 p.m. The parade route is also on her page: <https://www.facebook.com/themollyballoons/>. (Photo: Facebook)

In Memoriam: Jane Berkowitz

Volker recently lost a wonderful community member, Jane Berkowitz. Many residents will warmly recall her contributions to the neighborhood, especially her regular and colorful weather updates on Facebook. As one resident put it, "It felt like she was looking out for all of us *and* our plants."

Jane's friends say she fell in love with Volker (especially 39th Street) and relocated from Johnson County many years ago. Here, she found her identity, eventually purchasing a home and adopting her beloved pets. She was active in theater and literary circles; was a regular food critic for *The Pitch* and KCUR; and wrote many stories, columns, & poems. *The Kansas City Coffeehouse Cookbook — A Coffee Lover's Collection of Recipes*, which she published in 1996, can still be found on Amazon and elsewhere.

She is survived by her daughter, her sisters, and many friends. The neighborhood will dearly miss her.

VNA Voting and By-Laws Changes

The Board has decided to postpone our planned member-wide votes to change the VNA By Laws that define the voting process. Our overall goal is to make the association more inclusive and responsive to neighborhood issues. We have a By-Laws committee currently drafting the proposed changes. Please send any suggestions to: president@volkerna.org

Please turn the page for more news!

Volker on Six Legs a Day

If you've craved a sense of routine since March, you probably don't have a dog. Dogs encourage us to spend more time outside, to move and to interact with the environment and our neighbors — even if from a distance. And the regular walks they appreciate give us a sense of routine while allowing us to vary our routes and wander, discovering blocks we might never have traversed.



Need a dog to walk with? You're not alone: KC Pet Project has received some 900 foster-home applications since the pandemic began,

and it has continued adoptions during the lockdown, resulting in a decrease of animals needing shelter compared with this time last year. Pet adoption is a serious commitment, but the past few months are a reminder that the choice brings serious benefits, too: including added physical activity and a new vantage through which to view Volker.

Do you share your home with an adopted or fostered pet? Send your favorite photos to vice-president@volkerna.org.

Interested in fostering or adopting? Visit kcpetproject.org. KC Pet Project also recently founded the Keep 'Em Together, KC program to offer assistance in keeping pets with families experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. Learn more at <https://kcpetproject.org/programs/together-kc>

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

Questions about real estate or personal property taxes, or an issue related to Jackson County government?

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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