



March-April 2017

www.VolkerKCMO.org

Neighborhood Meetings

March 9 - Neighborhood Updates, KCMO Bond Issue

April 13 - William Volker Birthday and 2017 Yard of the Month Winners

6:30 pm Social; 7 pm Program

Meetings are at:
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Westport Road
Enter from Bell.

Help Make Volker a Better Place to Live! (p. 4)

NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

Mar. 9th - Updates, KCMO Infrastructure Bond Vote...Favorite Dips! 6:30 pm social/7:00 pm program.

What do you know about the \$800 million infrastructure bond issue that is up for a vote on April 4th? A mayor's office representative will answer your questions! We promise that updates will come earlier in the meeting this month, including parking and Jacob's Well construction.

Got a favorite dip? Bring one to share if you feel inclined. Join us!

April 13th - William Volker Birthday Party and Tips from 2016 Yard of the Month Winners 6:30 pm social/7:00pm program. Learn from the winners and you might be a winner, too!

William Volker whose home still stands on the 3700 block of Bell Street, built a business empire that extended to the West Coast. Then he became one of Kansas City's earliest philanthropists, generously donating land for the Volker campus of UMKC, and financially contributing to many area hospitals, other institutions, and individuals. Join us to celebrate his birthday!

Volkerfest

We are sad to announce that Volkerfest will be taking a year off. To all who attended, to the volunteers, the supporting businesses, and the musicians and artists who participated in our neighborhood festival over the last two years, we cannot thank you enough! Remember to shop local and go out for local music. We'll see you next year!

-Melissa Martin

It's School Enrollment Time!

Among many choices is one right here in Volker. *Gordon Parks Elementary School* is enrolling for 2017-2018 and has this message for you: We are different from other charter schools. Come check us out! We have a classroom ratio of 1 teacher per 10 students, two full-time teachers in each classroom, and free door-to-door bus transportation, uniforms and school supplies. Our approach to learning is also different...and it works! We are ranked 4th among charter schools in KCMO. Visit us at 3715 Wyoming or online at www.gordonparks.org

Resident Permit Parking Signs were installed on February 13th on Terrace and Wyoming Streets from 39th to 42nd Streets and on 40th between Terrace and Wyoming.

The difference was immediately apparent with turnover leaving openings here and there all day instead of the previous 100% all-day occupation by commuters with no turnover. People were seen parking and walking towards 39th Street to return an hour or two later and leave. Many residents expressed satisfaction with the outcome. We hope it is good for our neighborhood business friends as well. The restriction allows 2-hour parking during the hours 8 am-5 pm M-F. Parking continues to be totally unrestricted during happy hour, evenings, and weekends. In addition, it is essentially unrestricted for anyone who parks their car after 3 pm since the restriction ends at 5 pm. *Residents can park unlimited anytime, but they must have a resident permit or they may get a ticket. See www.VolkerKCMO.org > Resources on how to apply.*

Residents of nearby streets have experienced an increase in parking and may take action to establish parking restrictions on their own streets. It is not a difficult process, but it is resident driven, meaning that residents themselves must complete the application process including a petition signed by the majority of residents on each block. Usually people don't want restrictions until they are pushed by conditions on their own street. *Information can be found at www.VolkerKCMO.org under Resources, or contact Patrick Faltico (repl-SW@volkerna.org)*

KCMO city ordinance Section 70-537 was enacted during the 1990's to provide a means for residents to limit commuter parking, and Volker residents have been using it, as needed, ever since. If you support the recent restrictions, you may want to write Public Works and our Councilwomen to assure it is not removed. See the website for info.

Residents in two other areas of Volker have submitted applications for resident parking. Neither is adjacent to 39th Street. Heavy parking is occurring elsewhere in the neighborhood, but residents may choose to wait and see whether things improve without restrictions.

KU ACTION ON PARKING A new parking garage on the KU campus is set to open later this year with 1,100 new spaces for employees and 1,100 spaces for visitors. Additional offsite parking for KU commuters will soon also be available. The extent to which commuters will continue parking on Volker streets is unknown. The new hospital tower is expected to open in 2018 and hiring has already started. KU employees are required

to pay for parking. A more detailed statement by KU Hospital and Medical Center is expected soon.

Construction at Jacob's Well

Jim Gum, Executive Pastor, provided this update.

- 1) Work on the East Parking Lot (between Wyoming and Terrace) began the week of Feb. 20. We are expanding the lot from 30ish to 44 spaces and adding an entrance and exit. This will take about a month.
- 2) The small house next to City Church at 1507 West 42nd Street will be demolished during the next few weeks. We are awaiting demolition permits.
- 3) We have coordinated with Volker Community Garden leaders and moved items to be saved. We are planning to build raised beds for this growing season.
- 4) The work on the church addition will begin after the completion of the east parking lot.
- 5) The JW staff will be parking behind Rudy's, and we've contracted with the lot at the NW corner of Wyoming and Westport Road as well.

Smart Home Maintenance Tips

John Konzak, Master Plumber since 1985, Volker resident since 1981, electrician, HVAC technician, boiler specialist, and master deck builder, spoke at the February neighborhood meeting. He offered these tips for smart home maintenance.

1. Always use a pleated furnace filter and change it with the seasons. Mark the date it was changed in a place that's visible so you can easily check to see if it's time to change it again.
2. Each year the city sends out information regarding sewer and water line insurance. I recommend that people take advantage of the sewer insurance without regard for the age of the pipe. Your need for insurance on your water line is as simple as, is it steel or copper? If it's steel, get the insurance. If it's copper, it's your choice. A copper line has a life expectancy of a couple hundred years. The only thing that goes bad is the curb valve.
3. If leaving your house for two or more days, be sure to turn off the water to the whole house or at least the washing machine. This will help to prevent damage caused by a busted water line or hose. This will also make you familiar with the location of your main shut off valve.

To contact John Konzak, see www.VolkerKCMO.org >> Resources >> Recommended Workmen

🌸 Vintage Volker 🌸



Jerry Schreiner was a long time Volker resident. Born in 1913 as Geraldine Mae Kahl at 1407 Valentine Road, she lived an incredible 103 years, doing it “my way”.

She frequently talked about playing tennis in Roanoke Park and searching for the Jessie James cave entrances. She had heard stories of an entrance on Valentine Road that had a pole one could slide down into the cave, but she never found it. When Jerry was 16 she won the KC women’s singles and mixed doubles championships.

The photo below shows her father’s roadster in front of the house on Valentine. On Sundays, he took the neighborhood children for rides through Swope Park. Everyone



wanted to sit in the rumble seat even though it was very uncomfortable.

She also told of trick-or-treating at William Volker’s house and going to the movie theater on 39th Street. The family dog frequently followed her younger sister to the theater, and eventually, the manager would let the dog inside. Can you imagine that happening today?



Jerry went to Westport High School (as did her 2 sons) and told us of riding the 39th Street streetcar they called “the Dinky”. It was so small, the school boys could stand together on one end and make the car bounce!

After her first husband died unexpectedly, Jerry moved back to Volker into the house at 3916 Mercier. She was the second owner of this charming house that was custom built in 1905. Jerry raised her two sons in the Mercier house and lived there until 2011.

Some of Jerry’s favorite stories were about her dog Bobby who knew when the mailman would arrive on Mercier and met him everyday. Bobby also went to the Safeway store (where Roca Salon is) and begged for bones. She would manage to get in the door, and then go sit by the butcher counter until she received her bone. Then she would take the bone and leave. Once, Bobby was brought home in a cab! Times were very different then.

Jerry loved this neighborhood, her house and garden. She received the 2004 Kansas City Beautiful “the George” Award for the most beautiful yard in the Volker neighborhood when she was 91 years old.

Jerry died in December 2016. She was the longtime neighbor and friend of Lisa Garrison and Steve Davis.

Guest contributor Lisa Garrison

Is Your Membership Expired?

Unless you’ve paid dues since September 1st of last year, your membership expired on December 31st. Please renew!

You can join or renew 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!

Help Make Volker a Better Place to Live!

- Come to a meeting and talk to us about these and other opportunities.
- Serve on a committee: Impacts of KU, Housing, Banners, Food, and more.
- Help get neighborhood news out on social media/newsletter.
- Help with meeting programming. Brainstorm ideas/logistics. Implement.
- Consider serving on the board. Elections in June.
- Safety and security. KCPD opportunities, classes, block watch training.
- Got your own ideas? Tell us.

Contact: info@volkerna.org

How Well-Informed Are You?

There's a lot going on in Volker these days that impacts your life in this neighborhood. VNA covers as much as possible in this newsletter, but there's more. Between 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 (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.

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

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CITY OF FOUNTAINS
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KANSAS CITY
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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

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

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All are volunteers!