

THE Volker News

January-February 2016

www.volkerkcmo.org

Volker Neighborhood Meetings

Jan. 14 - Neighborhood Safety

Feb. 11 - Traffic and Parking

March 10 - Gardens and Yards

April 14 - KU Construction Update

Meetings at:

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Westport Road
(Enter from Bell Street)
6:30 pm Social; 7 pm Program*

Information and Opportunities for Volker Residents

NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

January 14 - Chili Night! and Neighborhood Safety, 6:30/7:00 pm

Warm up with a cup of chili and hear from KCPD Officer Hamil on Volker community safety, tips for keeping safe, and home security audits. Also hear about upcoming disruptions to 39th Street traffic from a KU representative, Crossroads Academy school, and Jacobs Well expansion.

February 11 - Traffic and Parking - Brownie Night! 6:30/7:00 pm

Bring your concerns about traffic issues all over Volker and the permit parking process. We will discuss traffic calming options and the process to make it happen. Where do you see a need? Is parking a problem on your street? Discuss permit parking.

Bring seeds for the seed exchange. Bring brownies or cookies to share (optional).

March 10 - Gardens! 6:30/7:00 pm

Community gardens, vegetable gardens, beautiful yards and flowers, rain gardens. Come share your best tips and learn! If you have expertise in one of these areas and you would like to participate as a presenter, please email Susan (info on back of newsletter).

April 14 - KU Construction Update

6:30/7:00 pm A representative of KU Medical Center will join us to discuss construction underway on the new education center and hospital tower, both on 39th Street. Bring your questions and concerns.

Are you a VNA Member?

It's time to join or renew your VNA membership for the 2016 calendar year. 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. Members are eligible for gift certificate drawings at VNA meetings.

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

We appreciate your support!

VNA TRAFFIC AND PARKING ISSUES

Where Are Your Concerns?

“Volker Neighborhood was a trailblazer!” So says Jerry Nelson, Engineering Section Head with Kansas City Public Works, who worked with Volker residents to establish the permit parking program back in 1995. Use of this program to preserve on-street parking for residents and limit commuter parking is being used more and more on streets in Volker Neighborhood. Establishment of permit parking on a specific street is a resident process. For more information check the VNA website under Resources, Traffic and Parking. *This will be a subject of discussion at the February 11th VNA meeting.*

Another concern voiced by residents over the past year has been traffic problems including speeding and reckless driving in various parts of the neighborhood. Although he admits that speed bumps are not popular, Nelson says without hesitation, “Speed bumps are the most effective tool we have for traffic calming.” That’s what it’s called when you slow traffic to a reasonable speed. The good news is that it is a neighborhood process with funding available through the City’s PIAC program. Stop signs are another way to calm traffic, but it is a different process, requiring a much higher traffic volume. *Please bring your traffic concerns and be ready to join with your neighbors to discuss action at the February 11th Volker Neighborhood (VNA) meeting.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Serve as a Renters’ Advocate - Represent the interests of Volker’s renters to better address their needs. Work with Kathleen Brock on the Housing Committee.

Serve on the Volker Banner Committee - You may have noticed that all the Volker banners have been removed. Help maintain pride in Volker identity. Be involved in selecting a new Volker logo and raising funds to install new banners.

Serve on a Volker Cleanup Committee - Establish a schedule of regular neighborhood cleanups. Contact Steve Davis.

Serve on the Traffic and Parking Committee - Contact Patrick Faltico.

Serve on the Housing Committee - Contact Kathleen Brock to join this committee.

Serve Volker Residents in Need - Contact Pastor Tom Hall at thall@roanokebaptist.org or call the church at 816-561-4392 if you have needs or to help others.

Contact info is on the back of this newsletter.

LOOKING FOR SCHOOLS?

Options for Volker Families

If you need to find a school for your kids for next fall, check out information on the two schools below. In addition to these two schools, KCMO Public Schools (www.kcpublicschools.org) and other charter schools are also available to Volker families.

At the January 14th VNA meeting, families can visit with a representative of Crossroads Academy, a public K-8 charter school with high academic standards. It is opening a second school this year and expanding its priority enrollment area to 39th Street. So if you live in North Volker (north of 39th Street), this could be your school. Web address: www.crossroadsacademykc.org.

Citizens of the World Charter School, an innovative school with high academic standards, is opening a new school in Kansas City for the 2016-2017 school year. It is accepting applications for enrollment in kindergarten and First Grade with a February 26 deadline. All Volker families are eligible to apply for enrollment online or by downloadable application at www.cwckansascity.org.

HOMEOWNER/TENANT/BUSINESS AWARENESS - When It SNOWS

Please remember that all homeowners and tenants including businesses in Kansas City are legally responsible to clear snow from the city sidewalks adjacent to property they occupy or own within a reasonable time. These are the sidewalks along the street that help make Volker a walkable neighborhood. For reference, see Kansas City Municipal Code of Ordinances Section 64-246, available online at : <https://www.municode.com/library/mo/kansas-city/codes/code-of-ordinances> This ordinance can be enforced with fines of up to \$100. Complaints can be submitted as a 311 report.

Do your part to keep Volker as walkable in winter as it is in the summer.

When the sidewalk for your whole block is shoveled, go ahead...show off... post a photo for all to see! “Volker Neighborhood Association” Facebook page.

🎉 Vintage Volker 🎉



This issue's 1940 tax photo shows 1411 and 1413 West 39th Street. Back then, Manhattan Tavern resided at 1411 (note the Schlitz sign) and Gil's Barber and Beauty Shop was next door at 1413. The barber pole is partially visible behind the car. Currently, Hi Dive is at 1411 and LOA occupies 1413.

This photo also shows the vacant storefront of 1409--with a For Rent sign in the window. There is no 1409 address now. Is that Altman's (Dancing?) studio at the far left of the photo? Find out in our next issue.
--Diane Capps

Volker Residents Will Miss These Destinations

Record Bar, a mainstay of midtown in the Westport Shopping Center in southeast Volker is closing on January 2 after 10 years of great food and music. A cool hangout, it will be missed!

Vinyl Renaissance, 1415 W. 39th, is consolidating to one location, moving all 39th Street operations to the downtown Overland Park location at 7932 Santa Fe.

39TH STREET TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS

KU Hospital Construction Impacts

Starting January 9th, 39th Street traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction between Rainbow and State Line. Pedestrian traffic will also be affected. Detours will be clearly posted.

The KU Hospital Emergency Department will still be accessible from 39th Street, and southbound Cambridge Drive will remain open. Cambridge Drive northbound from Olathe Boulevard will be open only to the Cambridge Garage entrance.

On weekends beginning in mid February, 39th Street will be completely shut down between Rainbow and State Line for about six weekends from Friday noon to 6 am Monday for installation of the pedestrian bridge. The exact dates will be announced two weeks in advance at <http://www.kumc.edu/construction.html> and on "Volker Neighborhood Association" Facebook page.

A representative from KU Hospital will be present to answer questions about street closings at the January 14th Volker Neighborhood meeting.

RECYCLING TIP

Christmas Lights for a Good Cause

For locations where you can recycle working or nonworking Christmas lights, check out www.KCrecyclelights.com. Collection at many locations is thru the middle or end of January.

Not only will you be keeping lights out of the landfill, but you will be part of a community effort. The Holiday Light Recycling Drive, was launched in 2011 by Southeast Enterprises to provide work opportunities for its employees with developmental disabilities and divert solid waste from local landfills. The community response has produced over 124,000 pounds or 62 tons of lights from over 165 different locations in the last four years.

The project is in collaboration with Jimmy's Trees, founded in 2012 to provide Christmas trees and decorations to those needing help to bring in the holiday spirit and put smiles on children's faces. They wanted to honor their brother who passed away at a very young age on Christmas Eve.

Please turn the page for more news!

VOLKER SECURITY

KCPD Officer Andrew Hamil will be at the January 14th Volker Neighborhood meeting to address your concerns. For timely information and safety tips, subscribe to Hamil's email list, Andrew.Hamil@kcpd.org

The KCPD recommends using 911 for all reports of suspicious or criminal activity underway even if it is not "an emergency." The 911 call center prioritizes calls.

For as-it-happens information about crime in the area, join Volker Watch Facebook page.

*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

VNA'S NEW WEBSITE IS UP! We apologize for any inconvenience while it was down.

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

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

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816-457-7801
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All are volunteers!

VNA Membership Application

⇒ Membership is based on the calendar year ⇐

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

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

*EMAIL _____

*PLEASE ADD ME TO THE VNA E-BLAST LIST

I AM INTERESTED IN WORKING ON VOLKER PROJECTS

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

**PLEASE SELECT
MEMBERSHIP TYPE**

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

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:
\$ _____

**PLEASE MAKE
CHECKS PAYABLE TO
V. N. A.**