

THE Volker News

Sept.-Oct. 2019 • Volker Neighborhood Association • VolkerKCMO.org

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS/EVENTS

- Sept. 7 - Dance in the Park
Sept. 12 - Neighborhood Meeting
Sept. 28 - Dumpster Day
Oct. 10 - Neighborhood Meeting
Nov. 14 - Thanksgiving Potluck



Not a VNA member? NOW is the BEST TIME to join! (see page 3)

21st Annual Dance in the Park

Sat., Sept. 7

6:30 pm Dance Lesson

7:00 pm Show

FREE (Donations Accepted)

In Roanoke Park on Karnes, next to the sand volleyball court. Enjoy performances by local dance groups in a beautiful outdoor setting. All are welcome to participate in the pre-show dance lesson. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, picnic food, family and friends!



Produced by City in Motion Dance Theater, Inc., in partnership with Volker, Coleman Highlands, Roanoke, Valentine, and West Plaza neighborhoods. **Volunteers needed** for many tasks. Email volunteer coordinator Joe Hall at hall.joe.a@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Meeting

Sept. 12, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road (enter from Bell Street).

6:30 pm Social Time and Homemade Brownie Competition. Bring your best batch for sharing and judging!

7:00-8:00 pm Presentations

- Volker resident Kelsey Lutz, historian and preservation consultant: Neighborhood architecture and tips for researching your home's history.
- Tom Esselman, CEO, Connecting for Good: How you can be involved in the nonprofit's digital literacy training and its work to increase internet access for all.

Dumpster Day

Sept. 28, 8 am until dumpsters are full

Westport Roanoke Community Center parking lot. Dumpsters for trash and yard waste (no bulky items). **Bring proof of Volker residency** (e.g., driver's license, utility bill or lease). Connecting for Good will accept electrical items for recycling. Please note there will be a \$20 per item fee for TVs, monitors and printers. *Check the VNA Facebook page for details not yet available.*

Neighborhood Meeting

Oct. 10, 6:30-8:30 pm, in the "Pre-Function Room" at The Loretto, 1111 W. 39th.

Learn about the history and revitalization of this neighborhood landmark. Tour renovated event spaces, including the ballroom and bride and groom suites.

VNA Works to Improve Traffic Safety

For the last two years, the Volker Neighborhood Association has been working with the City's Public Works Department to identify traffic safety hotspots with the intention of implementing traffic calming efforts to address them. Examples include speed tables, parking setback changes, restriped roads and crosswalks, improved traffic controls, and plastic bollards that constrict roadways. For W. 39th St. intersections with pedestrian safety issues, the VNA is working with the West 39th Street Community Improvement District (CID) to find mutually acceptable solutions.

The VNA and the CID both sought City Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) funds for this effort. PIAC enables residents to help steer capital budget spending on citywide and neighborhood projects. The VNA received two rounds of PIAC funding totaling \$180,000, of which approximately \$50,000 has been spent on a comprehensive traffic study. The remainder is earmarked for implementing traffic calming solutions. It is important to note that PIAC funds are not awarded directly to recipients; instead, recipient organizations are given a say in how the City spends funds on their behalf.

After several rounds of prioritization discussions with the City and the CID, the VNA is awaiting final clarification on the scope of calming solutions as well as the exact source and amount of funding (i.e., VNA's PIAC award, the CID's PIAC award, or Public Works funds).

Proposed solutions include:

- a raised crosswalk at W. 39th and Terrace;
- a raised intersection at W. 39th and Genessee;
- ADA ramp improvements at W. 39th and Wyoming;
- traffic calming on Wyoming between W. 39th and W. 41st, and on Roanoke between W.



City employees painting new crosswalk stripes at W. 39th St. and Wyoming St. on Aug. 28. Photo: Susie Cable.

- 39th and Southwest Trafficway;
- crosswalk improvements and traffic calming at W. 38th and Wyoming.
- better crosswalk markings throughout the W. 39th St. corridor. (This work has begun.)

There are many other hotspots in Volker, but these were highlighted by the traffic study.

Recently we learned the City plans to resurface W. 39th Street this year. This will likely delay some projects, but we were told that some W. 39th Street calming solutions will be installed during resurfacing. While we are disappointed to not be further along, we are optimistic that work will be done in the near future and that it will result in a safer neighborhood for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike. — *Patrick Faltico*

Short-Term Rental Regulations

According to *The Pitch*, as of June 2019, over a year after the City of Kansas City, Mo., passed comprehensive short-term rental reform, only 250 applications were on file. The Department of City Planning and Development reported enforcement is forthcoming. But how do you, as a property owner, navigate the legal maze to determine whether you are required to register?

Generally, this depends on three factors:

1. Does the property owner live in the residence most of the year?
2. How many of the rooms or units are available for rent and for how long?
3. How many people are allowed to stay at once and are they related?

Under no circumstance may multifamily housing contain more than 25% short-term rentals. In other words, a building with eight units must have at least six units for tenants whose leases are 30 days or more. And, when the property owner does not live there for most of the year, their short-term rental must be approved by 55% of neighbors.

Even if a property isn't a short-term rental, it may meet the definition of another use that is subject to regulation, for example, bed and breakfasts. Volker Neighborhood Association is creating a housing resources section of its website at <https://www.volkerkcmo.org/housing-resources>. Please visit for more information.

— *Stephanie Anderson*

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3615 Genessee

In 1910, the house at 3615 Genessee (above left in a 1940 tax photo) belonged to Isaac Levy, a retired butcher. He was a French immigrant who was new to Kansas City in 1859. His meat market was first located at 1324 Main, but later moved to the northeast corner of 31st and Gillham.

His home was one of the first to be built on the 3600 block of Genessee. The block was platted as Isaac Levy's Addition. A road, called Levy's



3617 Genessee

Court, cut through the block on the south side of the house, where 3617 Genessee later stood (above right). At some point after this 1940 tax photo was taken, the house was destroyed. Currently, a house that was built in 2005 occupies that space.

— Diane Capps (Thanks to Mary Jo Draper's "Midtown KC Post.")

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

Now Is the Best Time to Join VNA

Annual membership in the Volker Neighborhood Association (VNA) is based on the calendar year. BUT, "newbies" who join after Sept. 1 will receive membership for the rest of this year and all of next year. That's FREE membership for the rest of 2019!

VNA is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides services for Volker residents, whether they are members or not. Monthly informative meetings (usually with snacks), two dumpster days per year, newsletters, an annual picnic and an annual holiday potluck are some of the benefits of living in our great Midtown neighborhood!

Joining is easy! Join online through PayPal at www.VolkerKCMO.org, use the application on the back of this newsletter or join at any Volker meeting. Come and meet your neighbors and get involved!

— Diane Capps

Volker Folks



On July 13, Volker neighbors gathered in Roanoke Park at the annual VNA picnic to share food, socialize and enjoy live music. A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to organizer Amy Cook, bluegrass duo

The Matchsellers, guitarist Charles Dixon Jr., chefs Chris & Emily Taylor, Andy's Frozen Custard, and the many others who cooked, donated, set up and cleaned up!



Photos: Susie Cable.

Please turn the page for more news!

Volker Yard of the Month

Congratulations to Jonathan Still, owner of Volker's August Yard of the Month at 824 West 39th Terrace in Southeast Volker. His yard is a richly planted well-cared-for garden with lots of variety.

While growing up, Jonathan worked with his dad, who kept a heavily planted, landscaped yard in Independence that once won an award. Later, Jonathan lived for several years at Roselawn (William Volker's home), where he helped maintain the grounds.

Since moving to his current home in 2005, Jonathan has been rebuilding his house inside and out and adding more to his yard every year. In fact, when I dropped off the Yard of the Month sign, he was just getting home with a six-pack of impatiens flowers to fill in a gap! Stop by to be inspired and chat! — *Susan Kysela*



Photo: Susan Kysela.

Is there a yard on your block that deserves recognition? Residents of Southwest Volker, we haven't had one in your area this year. Please tell us if there's an outstanding yard near you! Preferably one that hasn't been recognized before. Email susan.kysela@gmail.com.

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 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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