

THE Volker News

March-April 2016

www.volkerkcmo.org

Volker Neighborhood Meetings

March 10 - Gardens and Yards

April 14 - KU Construction Update

May 12 - Going Solar

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

June 9 - Neighborhood Picnic
in Roanoke Park
6:30 pm

Information and Opportunities for Volker Residents

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

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

Have a piece of pizza...and ask our panel your yard and gardening questions. If they don't know the answer, another resident may. Community gardens, vegetable gardens, yards and flowers, rain gardens, maybe even bee keeping. Share your best tips and learn! Seed exchange. Win the MONTHLY VOLKER GARDEN AWARD.

April 14 - KU Construction Update and William Volker Birthday Party!

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

May 12 - Going Solar! 6:30/7:00 pm

June 9 - Picnic in Roanoke Park

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

April 30 - Volker Garage Sale

VNA runs the KC Star ad, Craig's List and places signs around Volker. Early season sales sell better! Something doesn't sell? Dumpsters May 7.

May 7 - Spring Dumpster Day

8 am - noon (or until dumpsters are full) Dumpsters for trash and yard waste. Surplus Exchange will be there to take your electronics, anything with a plug, metal and batteries.

June 25 - Volkerfest Now gearing up for its second year! Info at Volkerfest.com. To volunteer, showcase your talent, or sponsor the event, email KCVolkerfest@gmail.com.

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!

TRAFFIC, PARKING, CURBS

Your Concerns

At the February neighborhood meeting, residents detailed their concerns about traffic, parking, and missing curbs on handouts. Responses highlighted the following:

- 1) On-street parking issues due to commuter parking in Southwest Volker, predominantly on Terrace and Wyoming.
- 2) Speeding issues with most complaints centered on south Wyoming and south Roanoke between 39th Street and 43rd Street. Individual complaints were also received for speeding on 42nd Street between Holly and Roanoke, north Terrace Street (3800 block), north Genessee (3500 block), and north State Line (37th to 39th Streets).
- 3) Curbs were never installed on Bell Street from 35th Terrace to 32nd Street, nor on 35th Terrace between State Line and Genessee.

The City's solution to commuter parking is the Resident Permit Parking Program. Establishing permit parking is a petition process requiring approval signatures of most residents on the street and other steps. Information about the process is posted on the VNA website under Resources (www.volkerkcmo.org). If you would like to help with the effort on your block, please contact SW Area Rep Patrick Faltico (rep1-SW@volkerna.org) to avoid duplication of effort and work with others.

KCMO Public Works has a number of solutions for traffic calming. Speed humps are generally recommended as most effective, especially on narrow residential streets. Volker resident John Pearse, is working with the city to determine whether Roanoke meets street specifications for speed humps. The process for speed humps is also a petition process with additional steps and requires a neighborhood volunteer to act as liaison to the City. John has offered to act as liaison for Roanoke. SW Area Rep Patrick Faltico will be liaison for Wyoming.

Addressing speeding issues with speed humps on these and other streets and getting curbs and sidewalks on streets where they have never existed both require funding, so addressing these issues is a long term process involving application for City PIAC funds. Approval is not guaranteed, so persistence will be required.

Did you notice? "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" add-on signs have been installed at 41st and Roanoke.

IN THE MEANTIME, please use the KCPD online reporting form for speeding, stop sign running and other traffic violations whenever you observe them. KCPD resources are focused on areas of frequent violations.

<http://kcmo.gov/police/traffic-complaints>.

Jacob's Well Church/City Church

Church Plans/Resident Concerns

At Volker's January neighborhood meeting, Jacob's Well Church (JWC) presented preliminary plans for an addition to provide accessibility, restrooms, gathering space, and classrooms for their church along with plans to redesign the parking lot area and landscaping on City Church property across the street which they had purchased in 2012. At that time, they had reluctantly concluded that they could not rehab both churches and were considering demolition of City Church. They are now open to other ideas.

Residents have raised concerns about the potential loss of City Church and other impacts of the project. To facilitate a hearing of concerns and possible solutions, VNA set up an open house opportunity for input.

On February 24th, about 35 neighborhood residents including the nearest neighbors attended the open house at Jacob's Well Church, along with Pastors Jim Gum and Tim Keel and the BNIM architects. In addition to the discussion, residents were able to view the interior of both churches.

The discussion produced a list of ideas and concerns that were addressed individually, as well as the following action points:

- JWC is still open to ideas for City Church, so if you've got one, please use the contact below.
- There was consensus that the small vacant house next to City Church is a problem to neighbors and should be demolished.
- Suggestions for the community garden (already on City Church property) led to the idea of an edible landscape including a garden and fruit trees along 42nd Street.
- JWC will work directly with the nearest neighbors on impacts of the addition.
- The church will work with VNA's SW Area Rep Patrick Faltico on traffic calming strategies for south Wyoming.
- The church is currently looking for satellite parking areas to alleviate parking pressure during its three services on Sundays at 9 am, 11 am, and at 5 pm. If you have problems with improper parking, please contact the church (including the license plate number).

Several facts about the congregation itself were clarified. Although the project has been called an expansion, this does not refer to the size of the congregation. The sanctuary capacity is not being changed. The two morning services are already at capacity. The 5 pm service may grow, but not beyond the capacity of the sanctuary. This project is about providing facilities needed by the current congregation. Members of the congregation are from midtown and scattered widely from there.

If you have additional ideas, concerns, or church parking issues please contact Jim Gum at info@jacobswellchurch.

🌳🌳🌳 Vintage Volker 🌳🌳🌳



This photo shows the Orphan Boys Home and School that stood at the corner of Westport Road and Southwest Trafficway where the Westport Shopping Center now stands. Established before the turn of the century (1900) on what had been the 5-acre Roger homestead, it provided a home and education in a trade for boys who otherwise might have gotten off to a bad start.

The shopping center was built in the 1960s.

Photo and info provided by Bill Day

New Destinations for Volker Residents

Meatball District, 1806 1/2 W 39th St., now open. Gourmet meatballs, happy hour specials 4-6 pm.
Meshuggah Bagels, 1208 W. 39th St. Grand opening March 18.

Get out and enjoy your neighborhood!

CITY EARNINGS TAX VOTE APRIL 5th

On April 5, 2016, Missouri voters in Kansas City and St. Louis will decide whether to retain the earnings tax currently levied on city residents and non-residents who work in the city. Revenue from the tax accounts for 40% of the Kansas City's budget, largely for basic services such as police and fire protection and trash pickup. Also impacted would be quality of life issues like parks maintenance and the waste recycling program.

City officials have stated that a "no" vote would "devastate" funding for those services. Increases in sales and property taxes could be imposed to compensate for the funding shortfall. These taxes would fall more heavily on KCMO residents including retirees.

In 2011 a state-wide ballot initiative to continue the tax while also requiring a vote for renewal every five years passed with a 78% majority. So this April voters in Volker will again need to show their support for the city services they need and expect. -Rick Leidig

Volker Neighborhood benefits from the easy accessibility of city staff and a city that makes it possible to address our needs. Please support this important funding source with your vote! Thanks!

DANCE IN THE PARK NEEDS YOU!

Neighborhood Tourism Development Grant

Thanks to Volker resident John Pearse who has stepped forward to take on the grant process that funds stage rental and program printing for Dance in the Park. A SECOND VOLUNTEER IS STILL NEEDED to share this task. If you are interested in attending monthly meetings throughout the summer to help coordinate the actual event, please email John (john.pearse@live.com).

A Volunteer Coordinator is also needed for recruiting and organizing volunteers to help setup, breakdown, and guard the stage, usher, direct parking, and cleanup. If you are interested, contact Andrea Skowronek (andreaskowronek@yahoo.com). There is a \$300 stipend for that position.

39TH STREET WEEKEND CLOSINGS

KU Hospital Construction Impacts

Beginning in mid March, 39th Street will be completely shut down between Cambridge and State Line for six weekends from Friday noon to 6 am Monday for installation of the pedestrian bridge. Dates will be announced two weeks in advance at <http://www.kumc.edu/construction.html>.

Please turn the page for more news!

VOLKER SECURITY

For timely information and safety tips, subscribe to KCPD Officer Andrew 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 group.

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

Check the VNA website for membership info or to join online, read the newsletter and more.

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 & Community
Services Department**

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816-457-7801
rep2-SW@volkerna.org

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.**