



# Westwood Park News

September-October 2010

## A Word from the President

Time to meet and greet at the Westwood Park Fountain at our annual picnic. Hope you are as excited as I am about exchanging news and views and dining on our neighborhood Spin Pizza. Let us all repeat a positive mantra: "The weather will be rain-free and cool from 5:30 to 9:00 pm." Bring your children and encourage your neighbors to join in the fun. How often can you dine fountain-side with good food and company and bid on those ever-popular auction items? Let the good times begin. See you there! . . . Aryn Roth

## Westwood Park Annual Picnic "A Second Spin on Our New Tradition" Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Westwood Park Fountain



Our annual picnic is always a great time to get together and see new and old Westwood Park friends. You should have already received an invitation in the mail. There will be lots of fun, great food from Spin Pizza, games, and super items in our Silent Auction, including the ever-popular wine basket. Other items include gift certificates for beauty packages, coffee shop treats, floral items, 5B candles, and much more. Plan to bid on your favorites!

5:30	Social Hour, Children's Games, Silent Auction
6:30	Dinner: Pizza, Salad and Dessert
7:30	Auction Closes
Adults	\$15
Children 6-12	\$10
Children under 6	Free

Call 913-385-2440 to confirm your reservation; be sure to mention that you are responding for the Westwood Park Picnic. ☺

## Westwood Park Updates

Come on down! It's time to enjoy the park! The drinking fountain is working, much pruning and landscaping has been done, and the sign at 47th and State Line has been repainted. You can follow the park progress on Facebook, and you can also send pictures of your cat or dog to the Facebook "Pets of Westwood Park" section. Other park news includes:

- Several cracks in the sidewalks have been reported to the city on the 3-1-1 action line and will be fixed soon. They were caused by a large tractor operated by a contractor, not a city employee.
- The roof on the old shelter still needs to be fixed. The Homes Association is looking into fixing it, and our West Plaza neighbors have submitted a PIAC request to the city for this repair.
- Jimmi Lossing is our contact at the Parks Department. She can be reached by calling the Parks & Rec department number, 816-513-7500. To request a service regarding the Park, call 3-1-1. The request will be directed to Ms. Lossing. ☺

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## Homes of the Month

The June 2010 Home of the Month belongs to Warren Stark, 1203 West 50th Street. Our July 2010 Home of the Month belongs to Vi Pherigo, 4960 Westwood Road. Andrea Heldt and Matt Coates own the August Home of the Month at 4930 Holly. Congratulations to all of the homeowners. Your hard work makes our neighborhood look good! ☺



*June 2010 Home of the Month*



*July 2010 Home of the Month*



*August 2010 Home of the Month*

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## Security in Westwood Park

Did you know that Westwood Park has a Block Rep program? Every single block is covered by a volunteer who passes on information about security and any incidents in our neighborhood. In order to do this effectively, it's helpful to have the email or phone number of everyone on the block. Please notify your block rep if you have not been receiving email alerts from them. The Block Rep list is on page 3.

Joan Gastinger heads up the Block Rep effort and sends information often so that reps

can distribute it. She can also answer any questions about the program. She can be reached at 816-931-8819 or [jgastinger@gmail.com](mailto:jgastinger@gmail.com).

Several instances of theft have been reported this summer, including the theft of four tires from a car parked in a driveway and the theft of a catalytic converter from a car. A neighbor also reported that someone came up on her porch in broad daylight while she was sleeping and took her cell phone.

Crime can happen at any hour

of the day, so it is vital to be aware of strangers in the neighborhood, and quickly report anything that seems amiss. The car-related thefts took time and effort to pull off and illustrate the fact that these thieves were pretty bold.

You can also contact Theresa Larson with any security questions or concerns at [larson@umkc.edu](mailto:larson@umkc.edu) or 816-561-3246 or 816-210-0196. ☺

Editors' Note: See page 4 for a listing of current block representatives and page 5 for a map detailing the area covered by each representative.

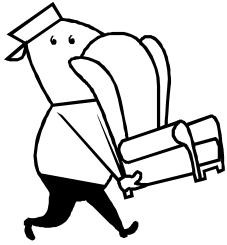
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**TIPS Hotline:** The Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers Hotline is a vital resource to help reduce crime in our community. If you have information about a crime, please call the TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477). Callers can remain anonymous and are eligible to receive a cash reward if the information given leads to an arrest or grand jury indictment of the felony offender.

**Email Safety Tips:** To receive safety tips, crime reports, and up-to-date information on current scams and criminal activity in the Kansas City metro area, join the email list of Master Patrol Officer James Schriever, the Kansas City Missouri Police Department Community Liaison. Email him at: [James.Schriever@kcpd.org](mailto:James.Schriever@kcpd.org) ☺

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## Welcome to Our New Neighbors!



We welcome our new neighbors who joined us over the summer:

Jay & Mary Brown, 4938 Holly  
Mark & Michah Schoegel, 1634 West 49th St.  
Haley Merrill, 4825 Fairmount  
Ryan Workman, 4923 Bell ☞

## New Ripple Glass Location

Look in the parking lot just to the south and east of the World Market in Westport. You'll find a new place to bring your glass for recycling! All colors are accepted. Bottles only, of course. ☞

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## Want to Find Out the History of Your House?

By Matt Nugent

Have you ever wondered who lived in your house before you? Perhaps you found some old tools in the basement, or there was something tucked away in the attic that piqued your interest, or perhaps you happen to love architecture and history and would be wondering about this stuff anyway. Fortunately, there are several local resources to help you in your quest.

If you do nothing else, get a copy of your house's tax photo. In 1940, Kansas City decided to photograph every building in the city for assessment purposes. In the process they created a time capsule of the city. After the city inexplicably tossed them in the trash some years later, most were rescued and now reside at the Kansas City Landmarks Commission, (816-513-2902, [landmarkcommission@kcmo.org](mailto:landmarkcommission@kcmo.org)). You'll

have to call and make an appointment to get a copy of your photo and it's best to go do it in person, because for some reason the photos aren't sorted by address. It requires a little sleuthing (the people from Landmarks are happy to help you with this), but it is well worth it. Cost: \$5.

While you're at Landmarks, have them look up the original building permit for the house. This may appeal mostly to the architecturally-inclined, but it will tell you the day the permit was issued. It's your house's birthday, so to speak. It's only about the size of a 3x5 note card and contains basic details of the house: size, number of stories, and building material.

Across downtown from Landmarks at the Central Library is the Missouri Valley Room. The

MVR is an amazing repository of local history where you will find the Criss-Cross City Directories for Kansas City, so named because they are sorted by address instead of last name. Kansas Citians of the early 20th century must have been a trusting lot, because in these directories you can find not only the name of the person living at your house but also their occupation and place of employment, whether they owned or rented the house, and if they had a telephone. The later directories contain less information, but they make it easy to create a list of the names and dates of everyone who has lived in your house.

With an inquisitive mind and just a little effort, you can find out what and who went before you. ☞

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## Do You Have Ideas for Future Newsletters?

We've come up with a few...History of Westwood Park • Swinney School Update: What is going to happen to the building? • Meet Your Neighbor column • Good Taste in Westwood Park (Did you know we have numerous restaurant owners and chefs in our neighborhood?) We'd also like to know your ideas. Please send them to Theresa Larson at [larsont@umkc.edu](mailto:larsont@umkc.edu) ☞

## Westwood Park Homes Association

Block Representatives  
20-Jun-10

For information or to volunteer to be a Block Representative, contact Joan Gastinger at 816-931-8819 or [jgastinger@gmail.com](mailto:jgastinger@gmail.com).

area	name	phone	email	address
A				
B	Ann Schleilhs	816-561-6340	<a href="mailto:SchleilhsOf.Life@hotmail.com">SchleilhsOf.Life@hotmail.com</a>	4804 Bell Street
C	Theresa Larson	816-561-3246	<a href="mailto:larsont@umkc.edu">larsont@umkc.edu</a>	4810 Wyoming Sreet
D	Carol Meunier	816-753-3223	<a href="mailto:Meuniercarol@yahoo.com">Meuniercarol@yahoo.com</a>	4827 Fairmount Street
E	Michael Jones		<a href="mailto:michaelivan5@gmail.com">michaelivan5@gmail.com</a>	4814 Liberty Street
F	Ken Geha	816-561-8826	<a href="mailto:kmc_3@yahoo.com">kmc_3@yahoo.com</a>	4905 State Line
G	Joan Gastinger	816-931-8819	<a href="mailto:jgastinger@gmail.com">jgastinger@gmail.com</a>	4955 Bell Street
G	Cathie Sullivan	816-931-6760	<a href="mailto:kcbell49@aol.com">kcbell49@aol.com</a>	4926 Bell Street
H	Elaine Wallis	816-931-8930	<a href="mailto:wallise@juno.com">wallise@juno.com</a>	4924 Wyoming Street
I	John Renshouse	816-561-1403	<a href="mailto:renhouse@sprynet.com">renhouse@sprynet.com</a>	4915 Westwood Road
I	Darren Sextro	816-561-1403	<a href="mailto:darrendseb@yahoo.com">darrendseb@yahoo.com</a>	4915 Westwood Road
J	Karen Weneck	816-914-1977	<a href="mailto:kjrogers11@yahoo.com">kjrogers11@yahoo.com</a>	4937 Mercier Street
K	Andrea Heldt	816-977-5582	<a href="mailto:andreaheldtusa@yahoo.com">andreaheldtusa@yahoo.com</a>	4930 Holly Street
L	Dosie Duffy	816-916-7010	<a href="mailto:dosieduffy@yahoo.com">dosieduffy@yahoo.com</a>	4930 Wyoming Street.
M	Betty Crumpton	816-531-6290	<a href="mailto:abdcrumpt@aol.com">abdcrumpt@aol.com</a>	4964 Westwood Terrace
N	Wynne Begun	816-298-6022	<a href="mailto:wbegun@aol.com">wbegun@aol.com</a>	4966 Westwood Road
O	Cynthia Kaufman	816-531-2922	<a href="mailto:cokaufman@kc.rr.com">cokaufman@kc.rr.com</a>	1617 W. 50th Street
P	Harriet Stawowy	816-753-7677	<a href="mailto:harriet.stawowy@gmail.com">harriet.stawowy@gmail.com</a>	1419 W. 50th Street
Q	Ann Nixon	816-561-6125	<a href="mailto:ANixon3030@aol.com">ANixon3030@aol.com</a>	1301 West 50th Street
R	Annie Alexander	816-561-4688	<a href="mailto:anniegoffinet@kc.rr.com">anniegoffinet@kc.rr.com</a>	1616 W. 51st Street
S				
T	Julie Tomasic	816-753-3661	<a href="mailto:tomasic@att.net">tomasic@att.net</a>	1400 W. 50th Terrace
U	Linda Parkinson	816-931-6044	<a href="mailto:KLRLparkinson@aol.com">KLRLparkinson@aol.com</a>	1315 W. 50th Terrace
V	Jessica Lanter	816-960-3673	<a href="mailto:Jessica.Lanter@gmail.com">Jessica.Lanter@gmail.com</a>	1436 W. 51st Street



### The New NW Corner of Westwood Park

From the intersection of 47th and State Line Road, recent updates to Westwood Park are seen by drivers passing by each day. A freshly painted sign, landscaping, and trimmed trees give the corner great curb appeal. Many thanks to Ann Nixon and her crew for all their hard work.

### Newsletter by Email!

In order to save postage costs, the WPHA is initiating a Newsletter Email List. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email rather than U.S. mail, send an email to Theresa Larson at [larsont@umkc.edu](mailto:larsont@umkc.edu). ☺

### Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

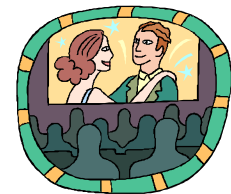
The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is going up fast, and you can see exciting changes everyday. The Development Director, Andrea Heldt Coates, is a Westwood Park resident and would be glad to offer you a tour. Just give her a call at 816-977-5582. ☺

The map below shows the area covered by each Block Representative in Westwood Park (see previous page for list of Representatives).



## Coming Attractions...Movie in the Park

Be on the lookout this fall for a fun-filled evening for all ages with a Movie in the Park. It's crisp, it's cool, the mosquitoes are gone. Let's gather for a free movie in the park. The movie has yet to be selected; if you have ideas for an "all ages" movie, please send them to Theresa Larson at [larsont@umkc.edu](mailto:larsont@umkc.edu). Popcorn, candy, and even some prizes will be provided. Bring a blanket, lawn chair, and cooler and then sit back and get ready to enjoy a movie with your family and neighbors. ☺



## Westwood Park Board of Directors

Aryn Roth, President	816-753-1134
Ann Nixon, Vice President, Islands	816-561-6125
Kirby Upjohn, Treasurer	816-931-8959
Ann Schleih, Secretary, Facebook	816-561-6340
Nina Kim, Communications	816-956-1066
Carl Mahoney, Code Enforcement	781-439-7740
Theresa Larson, Security, Newsletter	816-561-3246
Todd Bruce, Director	816-589-8616
Lorrie Kueffer, Director	816-518-0106



Jessie Pearce & Theresa Larson at 2009 Picnic

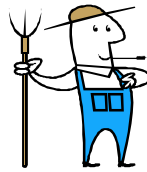
## Problem Property?

Homes and yards that are not maintained properly quickly become eyesores and create an opportunity for crime, not to mention bringing down property values. Problems could include overgrown lawns, peeling paint, roof problems, hoarding, and not obtaining permits for home construction.

To report a problem property, call the action 3-1-1 line or visit the Kansas City, Missouri website for online reporting instructions. Kansas City has recently toughened the fines on violators, and a housing court is set up for the sole purpose of hearing these cases. You can also contact Carl Mahoney, our Board Member for Code Enforcement, at 781-439-7740. ☞

## GreenSpace

**Mow Your Leaves.** As the leaves begin to fall, you can mow them in place in shallow batches. This provides a return to the soil of the nutrients the trees took up to make those leaves. Chopped leaves decompose quickly and lessen the need for fertilizer on lawns, flower beds, and gardens. Unchopped leaves tend to linger a long time and act like roofing shingles so rain has trouble penetrating to the soil below. So save raking time, save fertilizer costs, and enrich your soil by taking this on a few leaves at a time.



The **Westport Plaza Farmers Market**, offering local, sustainable food, is still in full swing every Wednesday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church Parking lot at Westport Road and Wyoming (three blocks east of State Line). The market will be open until Wednesday, October 6.

Don't forget to **dismantle your rain barrel** and replace the downspout before the weather gets cold. Although some rain barrels can withstand freezing temperatures, you might end up with a very large (and heavy) ice cube! ☞