



WESTWOOD PARK NEWS

Home Security

Second article in a series

Apparently, I was wrong. In the last article here, I stated that no one wants to talk about security. It seems everyone is not only concerned, they want ways to lower the crime rate in our neighborhood. I've received several e-mails. All were regarding security.

Yes, crime is up everywhere even in Westwood Park. Vandalism of our islands, car break-ins, it's all very discouraging.

So far, no one has been personally attacked and that's good. However, all of us must do everything we can to make our neighborhood completely unattractive to criminals. Once it gets around that there's easy pickings in Westwood Park, crime will increase in both

frequency and severity. Remember, break-ins are "crimes of opportunity" committed by persons whom could never be called masterminds. Masterminds empty your home, banks, and businesses. Our criminals are punks that are not too bright. So, they should not be too difficult to outsmart.

What can you do? How can you help?

Keep Outside Lights On All Night. If you're concerned about energy use. Get LED lamps and/or motion sensors.

Park Off Street. Parked cars on the street, make good hiding places. An empty street is completely uninviting to criminals.



Keeping your home secure is more important than ever.

How about parking in the garage? Too many people leave thirty thousand dollar cars in the street to keep a bunch of junk warm and dry in the garage. If you have to park on the street, remove anything from sight. I've seen car break-ins for a pair of
(see safe & secure on page 3)

Inside this issue:

Mounted Police at WP	2
Editor's Desk	2
Get Alarmed	2
Park Progress	3
New Neighbors	3
Homes of the Month	3
Events Calendar	4

HOA Dues

The board is concerned that several homeowners are significantly past due on their HOA dues. Please, if you are past due, call Aryn Roth 816.753.1134 and make arrangements to get caught up. Westwood Park relies on those funds to keep your community the jewel that it is. Remember, we get what we give.

Summer Tune Up

If you put off having your air conditioner serviced and it's not working, guess what? You're in for a wait. Service companies are buried in work and all they can do is ask you to be patient.

There are things you can do to help your home air conditioner work more efficiently and last longer.

Clean The Fins On The Coil—those fins on the condenser coil trap dust seeds and debris as they pull air into the coils. This causes your air conditioner to lose its cooling power. Gently, and I mean G-E-N-T-L-Y flush the fins at least twice during the season.

Do NOT use high pressure. This will bend the cooling fins and

Clean These



reduce cooling capability significantly and could damage the unit.

Change Your Filter Every Month.

Your air will be cooler and your cooling bill will be lower.

CLEAN IS GREEN!



OLD WORLD CHARM...NEW WORLD SAFETY

The Kansas City Police Department’s Mounted Patrol is now present in Westwood Park. Police presence always adds an additional level of safety. However, having the mounted patrol is way more desirable than having squad cars and helicopters prowling the neighborhood. Very few communities in Kansas City are graced with their presence, so next time you see one of our “Mounties”, make sure you take the time to acknowledge them and give them an encouraging thumbs up for their attention to our neighborhood.

One thing is to resist feeding the horses. I’m told that they are on a regimented diet and too many snacks can upset their diet and their training. Besides, who wants a horse that can’t run fast enough to chase down the crooks?



Editor, Bob Pfeiffer

From the Desk of.....

Thanks to the readers that submitted ideas about articles to appear in this newsletter. Thanks a lot to those that wrote articles . I really enjoy being your humble editor, but I think different views and opinions make for far more interesting reading. Please submit all correspondence to my e-mail address:

pfeidough@att.net

Now, more about security. During our last board meeting, I mentioned that I do business with several local

security / alarm companies. These are companies that I know to have integrity and really know what it takes to secure a home from crime. One of those companies volunteered to come to our July meeting and made a presentation about how residential alarms are beneficial and how to decide which alarm system is best for you. We learned a lot. I’ll tell you, those alarm ads on TV are misleading. That entry level system will do little more than lull you into a false sense of security. Although anything is better than nothing. Be aware,

you’ll be surprised at how fast the price rises on those bargain systems as you add the components you really need. You are far better off by working with a professional with the experience to design a system that will maximize your security investment.

See “Get Alarmed” below.

Get Alarmed

During the Westwood Park Homeowners Association’s July board meeting, ArchiTronics owners John Kaye and Pete Stacey were invited to make a presentation regarding security and alarm systems. ArchiTronics designs and installs security and alarm systems in residential and commercial buildings.

The goal of this presentation was to get a clear, straightforward presentation of the differences, features and benefits of home security systems that better protect our homes and neighborhood. Their presentation provided valuable information that will help our neighbors make informed decisions about the best ways to protect their home against not only break-ins, but robbery, fire, vandalism, and incidental flooding.

ArchiTronics is a local provider with over fifteen years in business. They provide many other products and services as well. Visit their website www.architronicskc.com for more info. The board highly recommends ArchiTronics. You can contact Pete or John at 816.471.6385 for an in-home consultation. Even if you have an alarm system, you’ll want them to evaluate your home and your needs. ArchiTronics has a special offer for Westwood Park Homeowners: They are offering three months of system monitoring at no charge with any system purchase. Clip the coupon on the back page to redeem free monitoring.

Our Park Progress

Word has it that the Kansas City Parks Administration is going to pry that wallet open and start work on our wonderful park. We will get a perimeter walkway, repair to the southwest shelter, a fire pit on the sled hill, and a water fountain.

The other projects that were originally scheduled: plant beds, a Northeast shelter, and others are delayed due to budget cuts. Phone calls to park officials apparently will do nothing to accelerate the progress or get the other projects reinstated. We'll just have to find other means to make the improvements.

New Neighbors

Welcome!

Ryan Niestand—5022 Wyoming
James and Marybeth Patterson — 4831 Liberty
Warren Stark — 1203 West 50th



Homes Of The Month

June 2009



1436 West 51st Jessica and Todd Lanter

July 2009



4921 Wyoming Amanda Joslin

Safe & Secure

Cont. from page 1

gloves.

Be Pro Active— Anyone walking the street at 2:00am is likely up to no good. **Do not** approach or confront them. **Do** call the police.

Home Security — Have an alarm system? If not, get one. If you do have a system, don't keep it a secret. Security signs in the yard and decals on the windows make it clear that your home is likely too much

trouble and you'll be passed by. More signs in more yards, and crooks will just move on to another neighborhood.

Car Alarms—If you must park on the street, get a high quality security system installed by professionals. Correctly installed, they are reliable and don't go off



every time the wind blows. The \$29.00 special is nearly worthless and will cause most owners so much grief as to be unusable. Of course if your car is in the garage, this point is moot.

Mounted police, foot patrols, neighborhood watch, hired security, while comforting are, ancillary to active systems that belong to you.

Don't rely on outside resources to keep you and your property safe. It's your responsibility to keep you and yours safe.



WP EVENT CALENDAR



Dumpster Day

Saturday, August 15th

- Hours are 8:00am - Noon
- At The Fountain

Two dumpsters will be on site: one for general refuse and one for yard waste. Please! No chemicals of any kind.

We need volunteers to help at the site.

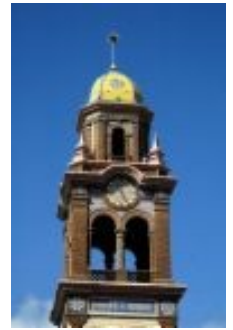
If you would like to pitch in—pun intended — Call Aryn Roth 816.753.1134. Any help will be welcome.



Plaza Art Fair

September 25-26-27

It's not a WP event, but you won't want to miss it. The Plaza Art Fair is ranked among the top five art festivals in the country.



Fall Picnic

Saturday, October 3rd

At the Fountain

6:00 Social — 6:30 Dinner

6:00— 8:00 Silent Auction. Lots of great items!

- We do need volunteers to help with the event .
- Please contact Aryn Roth 816.753.1134 to volunteer.

Mark Your Calendars!



Free Monitoring Coupon

Call 816.471.6385 for an in-home consultation. Present this coupon upon purchase of a security / alarm system. ArchiTronics will provide three months of system monitoring at no charge. Regular terms apply to each system sale.

Offer Valid Only To Residents of Westwood Park.

Expires 12/31/2009

Homes Associations of Kansas City

4200 Somerset Drive, Suite 216

Prairie Village, KS 66208

TO: