

# The Westwood Parker

WESTWOOD PARK HOMES ASSOCIATION

KANSAS CITY, MO.

SPRING 2007



## Security issues front and center at HA meeting

In the wake of recent crimes, security was the main topic of discussion at the April 4 annual meeting of the Westwood Park Homes Association.

Since winter, several burglaries and even a few armed robberies have been reported in the area. At April's meeting two residents related details of being robbed at gunpoint on separate evenings in front of their homes on Westwood Road and on Mercier.

In response to the criminal activity the WPHA board has been researching the possibility of hiring private security to patrol the neighborhood. At the meeting Board President Kirby Upjohn reported that it might be possible to join with three other Country Club District neighborhood associations – Stratford Park, Greenway Fields and Romanelli West – to share costs of hiring off-duty KCMO police officers to patrol each evening. Possible drawbacks are that only one officer patrols all four neighborhoods and for only four hours each evening.

Cost is another factor. Kirby estimated that half of Westwood Park households would voluntarily pay a share of the cost. That would mean about \$90 per year for those who pay.

Although strong support was shown at the meeting for the possibility of

## Speed bumps: A calming possibility

Tired of lead-footed drivers speeding down your quiet, leafy streets?

At any given time, especially during rush hours, 50<sup>th</sup> Street and Westwood Road can do cheap imitations of the Kansas Speedway. Drivers frequently exceed the 25 mph limit. And much appears to be "cut-through" traffic between Ward Parkway and State Line Road. Some residents think the recent criminal activity in the neighborhood and the eventual completion of the nearby West Edge office/hotel project give a sense of urgency to the issue of traffic control.

One solution could be the installation of speed bumps on one or more of our busiest streets. Speed bumps are low-rise, paved berms that span a street, curb to curb, requiring motorists to slow down in order to cross them. Examples can be seen in Westwood Hills, Kansas, just across State Line from our Westwood Park neighborhood.

Speed bumps, or "traffic-calming devices," are one of the "most successful and commonly used techniques for reducing speeds," according to the Street and Traffic Division of the KCMO Public Works Department. But such devices are not installed indiscriminately. Public Works follows a set of published criteria for determining whether speed bumps are warranted, considering a street's location and its posted speed limit, among other things.

(See BUMPS on page 2.)

(See MEETING on page 2.)

**MEETING** (from page 1)

hiring private security, other approaches were discussed. Among them were urging the KCMO Police Department to improve on-duty service and urging residents to take greater responsibility for looking out for each other and improving neighborhood communication.

Since April, WPHA board members have met with city officials about hiring private security. At press time no decision had been reached.

Other highlights of the April meeting:

- Kirk Gastinger explained a petition effort for the city to begin a study of the neighborhood's busiest streets for the possibility of installing speed bumps (see story on page 1).

- Kirby Upjohn announced that the KCMO Public Investment Advisory Committee has approved two grants for the revitalization of the Westwood Park. One, for \$200,000, will pay for two new park shelters, to be completed this year, and removal of the old shelter. The other, for \$250,000, will go toward construction of new park trails and other land improvements sometime in 2008.

- Ann Nixon announced that another stone neighborhood marker will be built this year at 49<sup>th</sup> and Mercier streets. Three smaller signs are planned for 48<sup>th</sup> Street.

- Joan Gastinger reported that there are now 18 representatives in the Block Captain program. Some blocks are still unrepresented. Volunteers can call Joan at 931-8819.

- A directory of residents' names and contact information is being produced.

## New Neighbors



### People who have purchased homes in Westwood Park since our last issue ...

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Tom Patterson and Wynne Begun<br>4966 Westwood Road | • Paul and Lorrie Kueffer<br>1320 W. 50th  |
| • Carl and Elizabeth Mahoney<br>4957 Mercier          | • George and Tamara Taylor<br>5022 Wyoming |
| • Jeff Hansen<br>4821 Westwood Road                   | • Lori Light<br>4934 Wyoming               |
| • Phillip Gayter<br>1620 W. 51st                      |  |

**BUMPS** (from page 1)

The process begins when a neighborhood association asks the Street and Traffic Division to begin a study. A substantial percentage of residents in proximity to streets in question must support the proposed study by signing a petition. If the study finds a need, city staff and neighborhood association work together to determine a suitable plan. All this, of course, takes time.

Watch for Westwood Park block captains, who will be petitioning residents on the issue of speed bumps. For more information call Susan Hard, 531-1950.

**Seasons greetings, revisited**

Like jingle bells in springtime, here are the winners of the 2006 Westwood Park Holiday Lighting Contest:

- Holiday Hall of Fame – Sharon Romine, 1406 W. 50<sup>th</sup>. and Michael and Shari Kearns, 4904 Holly.
- Best of the Season (Best in Show) – Jack and Amy Pawsat, 4938 Holly.
- Traditional – Sara Huerter, 4819 Fairmount, and Britt Butcher, 4943 State Line.
- High-Wattage Award – Anthony Lipari Family, 4911 State Line.
- Winter Wonderland Corner – Susan and Steve Drake, 4901 Bell, and David and Pat Evans, 4900 Bell.
- Far-Better-Than-Your-Average Wreath – Sean Myers, 4926 Holly.
- Carrying-On-The-Tradition Award (in a nod to his home's previous owners, Jim and Chris Psaras) – Bob Pfeiffer, 1615 W. 50<sup>th</sup>.

Homes  
of the Month

April  
4914 Holly  
Kathryn Curry



May  
1615 W. 50th Street  
Bob Pfeiffer



**WPHA BOARD**

**PRESIDENT**

Lindsay Wood  
4950 Westwood Terrace  
816-756-5956  
lindsaywood@kc.rr.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Susan Hard  
5000 Wyoming  
816-531-1950  
sehard@earthlink.net

**SECRETARY/  
SECURITY**

Ann Schleis  
4804 Bell  
816-561-6340  
aschle1@hallmark.com

**TREASURER**

Kirby Upjohn  
1400 W. 50th  
816-931-8959  
kirbyup@aol.com

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Chuck Stewart  
2714 W. 48th Terrace  
913-384-1600  
hebdenbridge@aol.com

**CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENTS/  
LANDSCAPING**

Ann Nixon  
1301 W. 50th  
816-561-6125  
anixon3030@aol.com

**DIRECTORY**

open

**NEWSLETTER**

open

Mark your  
calendar:

**Neighborhood  
Garage Sale**

Saturday, June 2

9 a.m. - 3p.m.

rain date: June 9

**Annual Barbecue**

Saturday, September 13