

President's Message

by Lindsay Wood

By nearly every measure, the Westwood Park neighborhood is thriving. Based on available information, crime in the neighborhood is down significantly over last year. Whether this is due to the security patrols hired and paid for by some of you is uncertain; what is clear, however, is that fewer homes and vehicles are being broken into than was previously the case (more on this issue later.) For a graphic depiction of current crime incidents in this or any other Kansas City, Missouri neighborhood, see <http://www.crimereports.com>. Despite the constant drumbeat of dismal economic news focused on housing woes, homes in Westwood Park continue to sell and property values remain high. Our islands and monuments continue to look good and we continue to have one of the most desirable neighborhoods in the city. Life is good in Westwood Park. Not everything, however, is perfect. Not everyone has paid the neighborhood association dues. Even fewer (less than half) have contributed to the cost of the security patrols. The public schools remain an embarrassment to this city, with no end to that in sight. City Hall continues to lumber from one mishandled event to another, with huge financial issues related to water and stormwater management looming on the horizon like gigantic funnel clouds—but with far less randomness and far broader implications. The stretch of Brush Creek running at the front door of our neighborhood is the only portion of that stream from State Line to Van Brunt that has not been modernized and beautified; Tom Pendergast would recognize it if he returned. Conventions are moving away from Kansas City, despite the shiny new Sprint Center and Power and Light District, because there are not enough hotel rooms nearby. Light rail remains a hazy concept on the distant horizon. That's life in the city, though. Some things good, some bad, lots in-between. How can we all work together to increase the good things, reduce the bad things and improve the things in-between? Excellent question (even if I must say so myself). Several things spring to mind immediately. First, make sure your homeowners' association dues are paid. Your dues fund the neighborhood beautification projects, the new monuments, the maintenance of the islands, and all of the little things that support property values in the neighborhood. If your dues remain unpaid, you are in jeopardy of losing your home and, at the very least, having a lien filed against your home. Your homeowners' association has undertaken a program to lien all homes where the dues have not been paid for two years. The homeowner will be responsible, upon eventual sale of the home, for payment of all delinquent dues, along with the costs of recording and releasing the lien. If you've let your dues payments slip, you can send them in to HACCD, 222 W. Gregory, Suite 201, Kansas City, MO 64114. Please mark "Westwood Park Association dues" in the memo section of your check. If you are unsure what you owe, you can call them at (816) 523-2440 and friendly people will give you the required information. Second, pay your fair share of the security patrol costs. Right now, less than half of the homes in this neighborhood are paying for the security patrol, at a rate of \$75 per home every six months, or \$12.50 a month (how much is digital cable now?). We have marked patrol cars in our neighborhood a minimum of twenty hours a week.

(continued inside)

WESTWOOD PARK HOMES ASSOCIATION NEWS



NEWS + VIEWS

Lindsay's Letter

Homes of the Month

WPHA Board &
Contact Info

Neighborhood Party

About the Park

Dumpster Day

Security Updates



President's Message (continued from front page)

by Lindsay Wood

WSC Services, our security company, routinely investigates and makes contact with suspicious persons and watches them until they have left our neighborhood. The security patrol will specifically check your house while you are on vacation-even walking around the back of the house to check for any signs of forced entry. All you need to do is call them at (913) 660-0454 and they take care of everything. WSC Services will respond to your calls about suspicious persons or other issues, probably faster than Kansas City Police will, even at times they are not on patrol in our neighborhood. If more people paid their share of the security patrol, the cost to each household will go down (or the number of hours of patrol could go up). I imagine that most of us have a \$500 (or higher) deductible on our homeowner's insurance. For the cost of paying one deductible at the low end of that range, you could pay for more than three years of security deductible on our homeowner's insurance. Seems like cost-effective plan to me. You can send in your security fund payment to HACCD, 222 W. Gregory, Suite 201, Kansas City, MO 64114. Please mark "Westwood Park Security" in the memo section of your check.

Third, and this may be the most important way of improving things of all, GET INVOLVED IN YOUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION!! In the few years since I've come onto the board, and the year that I've been president, I've learned more about this neighborhood than in the ten years before that I've lived here. I feel like I've made a difference and I've gotten tremendous satisfaction in doing something positive for my community. You too can get involved. There will soon be another vacancy on the board: my position. Due to my family's needs, I will soon be moving to Lee's Summit, in a neighborhood with a very active homeowners association. Will I get involved there? Probably, in a few years. Will I miss Westwood Park? No question about it. Will I be back to visit and will I drive through the 'hood' every time I'm around? Without a doubt.

All the best,
Lindsay



WESTWOOD PARK NEWSLETTER



Westwood Park neighbors this is your neighborhood newsletter, please email your news & views to: arynroth1@kc.rr.com
Otherwise you will be reading whatever comes across the editorial desk; fact or fiction.
The paper for this news will be on recycled paper.
After reading all of this vital information, please add to your recycling box. Thanx!

WESTWOOD PARK NEWS



NEW NEIGHBORS

Grant & Elizabeth Trimble
4953 Bell

Patty Von Arb & Randy Weidman
4804 Westwood Rd.

Amanda Joslin & Luca Steiner
4921 Wyoming

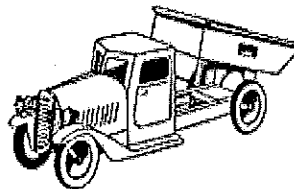
Michael & Kristyn Jones
4814 Liberty St.

James & Cady Pembroke
4907 Wyoming

Lowell Swindler, Jr Julie Metzler
4824 Westwood Road 1638 W. 51

Neighborhood Island Party & Silent Auction

Let's eat! Back by popular demand another neighborhood BBQ is being planned for Saturday, September 13. So save room for food, fun and those ever popular auction items.

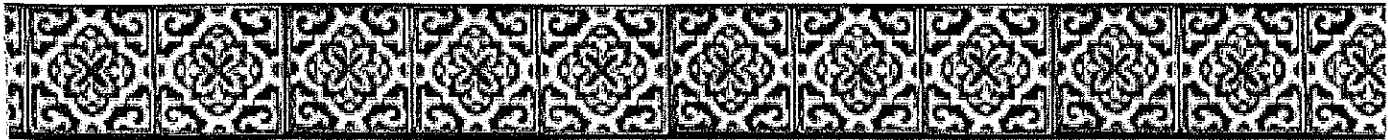


Dumpster Day

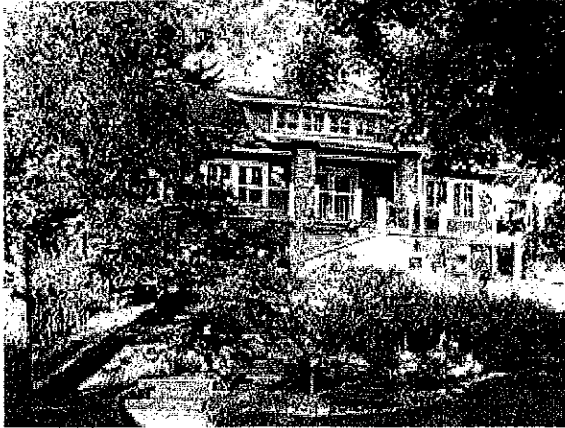
Kirby Upjohn will coordinate our dumpster day Saturday, August 16, 8 a.m.-noon. We get another shot at cleaning up the ever present yard collection of fallen leaves & branches as well as non recyclable house items.

Summer Movie Parkside

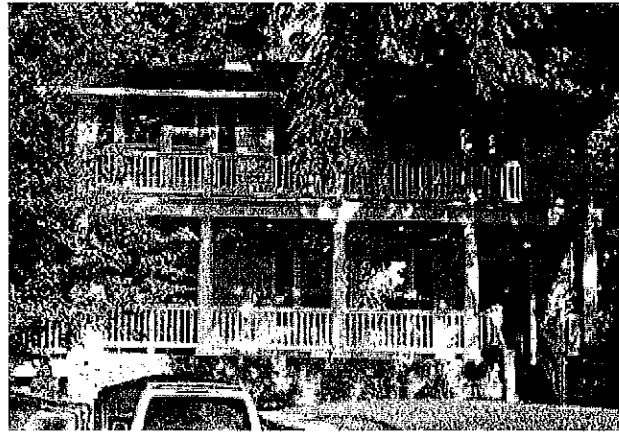
Matthew Stevens reports that Frontyard Features will provide a big screen and movie for movie night in the park. Sunday, August 31, at sundown. Save room for the ever required theater snacks. We will stock the goodies, this is the one time to let yourself splurge on junk food; help a good cause, your Westwood Park Homes Association!



Homes of the Month



April: Michael Payne
4944 Westwood Rd.



May: Dosie Duffy
4930 Wyoming



June: Tom Patterson & Winn Begun
4966 Westwood Rd.



July: Susan Hard & John Simonson
5000 Wyoming

FYI

Neighbor Jan Weiner can help freshen or stage your home, porch or garden. Thinking about an update or need design inspiration?

If so schedule an appointment with professional Designer Jan Weiner 931-8755.

3-1-1 is the City Manager's Action Center.

Your request for Kansas City service is directed to the proper department to resolve the service needed. (Remember this is city related not personal problems!)

Visit your local urban farmers; good healthy fun!

Walk, bike or bus over to any of our local growers markets:
Tuesday: Merriam Organic Market, 4-8pm 5740 Merriam Dr.
Wednesday: 39th st. Organic Market, 5-8pm 39th & Genessee
Thursday: Green Acre's Local Night, 3-7pm Briarcliff Village
Friday: Bad Seed Organic Market, 4:30- 9pm 1909 McGee
Saturday: Brookside Organic Market, 8-11am

About the Park



Yes, it is true, the little orange flags dancing through Westwood Park are an indication things have started to happen with the new walking paths, shelters and drinking fountain. The projected startup of actual construction is in the Park Department locked vault, where all other similar top secret information is held until further notice. The Off-Leash Task Force met for the last public forum, central division, 6/11/08. Westwood Park will remain a neighborhood green space, probably not an official city authorized off-leash site.

WESTWOOD PARK HOMES ASSOCIATION

c/o Homes Associations
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Westwood Park Board members taking care of business.