

Waldo Homes Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Waldo Homes/Neighborhood Association – February 2010 Issue

P.O. Box 8573 ♦ Kansas City, MO ♦ 64114 ♦ www.waldohomes.org

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Proposed Changes in WHA Bylaws

At the January meeting, President Larry Arnold noted a proposal being discussed by the WHA officers to change the official meeting schedule, enhance the newsletter content by reducing delivery frequency, and update the WHA bylaws to reflect these changes.

The change in meeting schedule is to an every-other month meeting at the Waldo Library to coincide with the annual meeting in April. This means the meetings would be on the third Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December. The newsletter would be distributed during the months of January, March, May, July, September and November.

As noted at the January meeting, most of the newsletters are distributed by email now so cost savings is not the primary reason for the proposed change. The bylaws state that the newsletter would be distributed to each occupied residence in the WHA boundaries prior to the April annual meeting.

A bylaws amendment can occur at any meeting of the association but would require two-thirds of those members in attendance to approve.

CPAC Report – December Crime Activities

3 Robberies

26 Burglaries – 1 business

4 burglaries in WHA area

25 Stealings – 4 stealings in WHA area

3 Cars stolen

The stolen cars had been started to warm up and left running. Two were recovered.

Issues: There has been an increase in drive-by shootings and robberies in the Westport and Midtown neighborhoods. Police suggest when walking alone be aware of where you are and what is around you. Walk with your head up and look active and alert.

Suspected Serial Rapist in Waldo Area

Please exercise caution and safety to avoid becoming a victim of this criminal. A description and sketch of this man has been publicized. Police urge anyone with information about the suspect to come forward by calling police or the TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS.

Non-binding Opinion Poll Concerning Dog Parks

For several months and numerous meetings, the subject of a Dog Park in South Kansas City has made the headlines of the newspaper and TV-news shows. As a board of the Waldo Homes Association, we have urged

Agenda for the February meeting

Feb. 20, 2010 10:15 AM – Waldo Library Room A

Opening – Larry Arnold

- Announcements

Minutes – Peggy Hulett

Treasurer's Report – Colleen Durkin

Old Business

- Resume discussion of proposed bylaws changes

New Business

- Next WHA meeting – March 20, 10:15 AM – Room A
- Review responses to Dog Park questionnaire

Committee Reports

President's Report – L. Arnold

- Current Issues

Vice President's Report – Dowe Harris

- CPAC Meeting

- Waldo Business Association

Secretary's Report – P. Hulett

Treasurer's Report – C. Durkin

Adjourn

Chat 'n Chew – You are invited to stay after the meeting to visit and have refreshments.

Guest Speaker - TBD

each of you to make your opinions known to the Parks & Recreation Board, to the City Council, to those who have the authority and money to make it happen (or not).

After several discussions, the officers are concerned that we should be ready with an answer IF we have opportunity to speak AND if we have a consensus of the larger membership, not just those who happen to be at a meeting.

So, with this article we begin a series of opinion "polls" that we would like you to share your opinions and feelings with us as we try to keep a thumb on the pulse of the WHA community and to gauge what are the issues causing you the most concern. These non-legally-binding opinion poll results will be announced at the meetings and in the newsletter.

Watch for an email containing the poll so you can respond. If you receive the newsletter by mail, circle your answers on the poll below and bring them to the next meeting when we will count them. Of course, you also can support the US Post Office by using a stamp and envelope to mail your reply to P.O. Box 8573, Kansas City, MO 64114.

We will try to keep the questions simple and usually ask for a “yes” or “no” answer. If you have a suggestion for a poll, send that suggestion to the president or newsletter editor.

Dog Park Poll

I want the officers to take a stand on Dog Parks representing WHA.	YES	NO
I want a Dog Park in South Kansas City.	YES	NO
I want a Dog Park in South Oak Park.	YES	NO
I would use a Dog Park in South Oak Park on a regular basis.	YES	NO

Off-leash Dog Park Locations

According to a recent article in the Kansas City Star, the park board has rejected Sunnyside Park as a location for an off-leash dog park. The park commissioners endorsed the west side of South Oak Park as a location. Five other locations across the city were also named as suitable: Englewood Park, Tiffany Springs Park, Swope Park, Minor Park and West Terrace Park. The park department has money available for one off-leash area to be located in Swope Park, possibly this year. A city allocation of sales tax revenue would be required for other areas.

Safety

Sergeant John Trainor made a Crime Prevention speech at Shepherd Center on Jan. 15, 2010.

Personal Safety

- When leaving the house only carry what is necessary – no checkbook, credit cards you don’t use, extra money and papers containing your social security number.
- Don’t show a lot of money when purchasing items in stores.
- If possible, carry a cell phone in case of emergency.
- When walking away from a store, look alert with your head up. Pay attention to where you are. If possible, know your surroundings and the neighborhood. If possible, walk with other people.
- Don’t wear a lot of jewelry unless you are going to be around a lot of people. Statistics show most of the robbery victims knew the robber.
- In parking your car, look for the best lighted area of the parking lot. Don’t park by trucks or vans where nobody can see you. The more visible your car is, the safer you are.

- Robbers are more dangerous than burglars and stealers because they need the money now and are willing to take a risk. Usually they are on drugs and need the money to buy them.

Home Life Safety

- Police say the best deterrent against burglars is to get to know your neighbors. Watching out for each other makes a safer neighborhood.
- Burglars usually knock first to see if anyone is home. Reply to the knock showing someone is home, but don’t open the door unless you are sure you know the person.
- Burglaries take only 3 minutes or 6 minutes if you don’t have an alarm. Burglars break in through the front door 50% of the time, the back door 30% and a window 20%. They are looking for expensive items – the newest TVs, computers, jewelry, electronic items, guns and money. They are after items they can pick up easily and get out. They usually go to the bedroom first because that is where most people keep their valuables. Police suggest hiding your most valued items so burglars cannot find them. If you have large windows, keep curtains closed as burglars can see TVs and other items from outside.
- If possible, have important items in your house stamped with serial numbers. If stolen, they may show up at a police station or pawn shop and they can be identified.
- Burglars and stealers are not usually armed with guns because, if caught, this would be a higher crime and more jail time.
- After you leave an ATM, if you notice someone following you, don’t go home. Drive to a place where there are a lot of people.

Budget Hearings Coming Up

Even the City of Kansas City is starting to believe the economy has bottomed out and there is “growth coming” according to Mark Thoma-Perry from the Office of Management & Budget.

Thoma-Perry was a guest speaker at a meeting of neighborhood association Presidents of the 4th District, sponsored by Councilwomen Jan Marcason and Beth Gottstein. He noted that this year’s proposed budget is \$1.3 billion, a 1.2% increase over last year’s total budget. The city’s fiscal year is not a calendar year but rather runs from May 1 to April 30.

The gap between “needs and resources” is about \$65 million this year, which makes it \$150 million over the past two years. Thoma-Perry discussed the proposed adjustments to meet the gap such as the second year in a row for no employee raises, no training, no paid holidays and perhaps a reduction in force beyond eliminating unfilled positions. He added that there are some program expansions such as the \$250,000 for snow removal and \$400,000 for the nuisance abatement program.

The lengthy details are available on the city website www.kcmo.org under the mayor's link on the right side of the home page. City Council members, including Finance and Audit Committee Chairwoman Deb Hermann, 1st District at large, and City staff will present information and listen to public input on the budget.

The public budget meeting for our District 4 is scheduled at the same time as our February WHA meeting (Feb. 20, 10:15 a.m. at the Waldo Library) but you are welcome to attend any of the following sessions (in date order):

DISTRICT 3: Saturday, Feb. 13, 2 to 4 p.m. Gregg/Klice Community Center, 1600 John "Buck" O'Neil Way, KCMO

DISTRICT 5: Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. to noon, Southeast Community Center, 4201 E. 63rd St., KCMO

DISTRICT 4: Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 11 E. 40th St., KCMO

DISTRICT 2: Thursday, Feb. 25, 6 to 8 p.m., Plaza Middle School, 6501 N.W. 72nd St., KCMO

DISTRICT 1: Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to noon, Shoal Creek Police Academy, 6885 N.E. Pleasant Valley Road, KCMO

DISTRICT 6: Wednesday, March 3, 7 to 9 p.m., Hillcrest Community Center, 10401 Hillcrest Road, KCMO

Other important budget dates include:


March 4 Budget Ordinance Introduction


March 10 & 17 Finance and Audit Committee hearings (8:15 a.m. at City Hall)

March 25 Budget Ordinance Adoption

Resident's Guide to Online Property Research

WHA has received an electronic copy of this guide which was prepared by Legal Aid of Western Missouri. It gives you information on how to research online to find out who owns a property, if there are any open codes cases against it, if the taxes are current, etc. This is a six page document. If you would like to receive a copy, please email your request to Newsletter@waldohomes.org.

February 2010 – Waldo Homes Association						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Ground Hog Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 CPAC 4 PM 	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20 WHA 10:15 AM - Library
21	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25	26 Newsletter Articles due	27
28 Purim (begins at sundown Sat.)						

March 2010 – Waldo Homes Association						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins	15	16 CPAC 4 PM 	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 WHA 10:15 AM - Library First Day of Spring
21	22	23	24	25	26 Newsletter Articles due	27
28 Palm Sunday	29	30 First Day of Passover (begins at sundown Mon.)	31			