

# Waldo Homes Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Waldo Homes/Neighborhood Association – October 2011 Issue

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## **Meetings Changes** (by Simon Moeller)

The September regular meeting included a membership vote to change the frequency of the regular membership meetings. Since the frequency of the regular membership meetings is in the WHA by-laws, making this change required a membership vote on the change to the by-laws. This change was approved by the membership with a vote of 12 Yea and 2 Nay.

The new frequency of regular membership meetings is every other month, with the next meeting being the November meeting. The regular membership meetings are now held in the odd numbered months of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The intention of this change is to allow the even numbered months to be used for committee meetings. This provides a more structured schedule to help promote active committees, and to provide for more committee progress to report at the regular membership meetings.

With this change the annual meeting and elections also had to be moved. Previously the annual meeting and elections were held in April. Since there is no longer a meeting in April, the annual meeting and elections have been moved to January to coincide with the calendar year.

## **South Oak Park Event** (by Connie Ferro)

It was a beautiful crisp fall Saturday morning, October 15, when Waldo Homes Association sponsored the Honeysuckle Attack and Nurturing Natives Project at South Oak Park. Over twenty volunteers from the community assisted with completing the honeysuckle removal from the ridge near Hope Care Center.

At the same time, Christine Caseres, in partnership with KC Wildlands, led a work group planting squaw weed and sowing river oats near the parking lot area which was previously cleared. These plants have proven successful in blocking the regrowth of bush honeysuckle after it was cleared by Kansas City's EarthRiders Mountain Bike Club to develop the Rocky Ridge Trail in Swope Park:

[http://www.kcwildlands.org/full\\_content.php?id=234&article\\_id=625&full=yes](http://www.kcwildlands.org/full_content.php?id=234&article_id=625&full=yes)

Following the event, a BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all who attended. Several members contributed dessert items which completed a perfect picnic in the park! Thanks to all who participated.

## **Committees** (by Simon Moeller)

### *Agenda for the November Meeting*

Saturday, November 19, 2011, 10:00 AM

**Welcome** – Simon Moeller  
**Minutes** – Connie Ferro  
**Treasurer's Report** – Colleen Durkin  
**Old Business**

- CPAC report

**Committee Reports**  
**New Business**  
**Adjourn**

As part of the change to every other month meetings, we would love to see some renewed activity around committees! Below are listed some of the committees we either have or would like to have. If you would like to be on any of these committees, or have any ideas for other committees you think would be good, please let us know!

#### Committees:

ABOP - Household hazardous and/or bulky waste drop off

Farmer's Market - Ways to improve our booth and ideas for improving the volunteer experience

Banner - Maintaining our wonderful WHA banners around our neighborhood

Honeysuckle Attack - Helping to beautify South Oak Park

PIAC - City funding for neighborhood improvement projects

Welcome Bags - A great way to introduce ourselves to new neighbors

Neighborhood Beautification - Neighborhood cleanup and trash pickup

Newsletter - Helping with articles, delivery, and everything else for this great publication

Picnic - Our annual social gathering

Bingham School - Help determine what will become of this school building

If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please contact Simon at [president@waldohomes.org](mailto:president@waldohomes.org) or 816-301-7990.

## **WHA Meeting Minutes - September 20, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by President Moeller.

Members were referred to the monthly newsletter for minutes from the last meeting.

Simon introduced guest speaker: Christine Caesares from KC Wildlands.

Christine announced that KC Parks & Rec had completed spraying the area of South Oak Park which will be used as the test site for the Nurturing Natives project scheduled for Oct. 15. Christine reported she would be researching available sources for appropriate seeds and plants to introduce. Christine cautioned that MO law prohibits the collection of wildflower seeds or plants from conservation areas and roadways. However, members are free to contribute plants or seeds from private land, or with permission of the landowner. Christine's goal is to have a variety of flowering plants throughout the growing season. A picnic lunch will follow the event, catered by CC's BBQ. Members are invited to contribute a dessert.

Colleen Durkin gave the Treasurer's Report and Stephanie Daugherty gave a CPAC report, both of which will be reprinted in the newsletter, in their entirety.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Waldo Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, from 10 AM to 5 PM. Thanks to all who have volunteered to assist at our booth to help promote the organization.

Waldo Farmer's Market will conclude on September 28. Simon has heard from the majority of vendors who participated and they report having a successful season and they plan to return next year. Simon shared that participation at the Market has been a beneficial venture for WHA as well. Additional revenues were gained for the Treasury with the sellout of all bottled water, and participation also presents additional fund raising opportunities. The market also increases our visibility in the WHA community, as we added four new members who found us at the Market to our roles. Members discussed participating again next year. Members shared additional fund raising ideas, such as, re-usable shopping bags with WHA logo. Bags could also be used as welcome gifts for new members. Colleen Durkin will research costs of promotional items for future consideration.

Butterfly Garden – Forest Phelps reported the appearance of red and black beetles at the garden recently. Colleen offered to contact a master gardener to determine how to combat the infestation without endangering the butterfly caterpillars that the garden attracts.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A former WHA area neighbor, Ashley, proposed an idea of having speed bumps installed on Oak Street from 83<sup>rd</sup> to 85<sup>th</sup> St. Ashley expressed a concern of excessive speeding in this area. Ashley presented a log of signatures from residents along Oak Street in support of this idea. This proposal would be eligible for PIAC funds, but Ashley reported she was not aware of the Aug. 31 deadline for application. She no longer resides within WHA boundaries (a requirement for submitting a

localized PIAC request). Ashley requested WHA support in carrying the proposal forward. Members debated the benefits/drawbacks, plus perceived need for speed bumps, but no consensus was made. Any members interested in continuing Ashley's efforts are encouraged to contact a WHA officer for more information.

Construction on Wornall Road continues, but is expected to be completed by mid-October.

By-Laws Proposal: A vote was taken regarding a proposed change in the by-laws to alter the meeting schedule of Waldo Homes Association from monthly, to every other month to allow time for further development of work in ad hoc committees. The motion was passed. WHA meetings will resume with the fall/winter schedule on the third Saturday of the month, 10 AM at Waldo Library. In consideration of the approved schedule, Simon will confirm availability with the Library.

ABOP – Laurie Hines proposed WHA sponsor a hazardous material pick-up day for the neighborhood in the near future. Laurie is familiar with the process for setting this up and volunteered to head a committee for this effort. Motion was approved. Further information will follow, as well as volunteer opportunities.

School Buildings – Colleen Durkin announced that she attended a meeting regarding possible uses for the currently vacant Bingham School Building. Colleen stressed that input from neighborhood associations is highly considered in making these decisions and members are asked to express their ideas to be presented to the city for consideration. Several members reported they attended the school when it was operating.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Ferro

#### Waldo Farmer's Market (by Simon Moeller)

The Waldo Farmer's Market has wrapped up for the season, but what a great season it was! There was plenty of local produce, health & beauty items, bread, and lots of other delicious goodies. And that doesn't even include the delicious food truck and snow cone camper. The WHA booth was also a success, getting our name out there and raising about \$140 for the banner fund! We are already brainstorming ideas to make the WHA booth even better next year. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact Simon ([president@waldohomes.org](mailto:president@waldohomes.org) or 816-301-7990) to join the Farmer's Market Committee.

If you weren't able to get enough of the market before the end of the season, never fear! There is a mini-Waldo Farmer's Market that will be held every 3rd Wednesday of the month inside of the Habitat Restore. These mini-markets will continue through April of next year, and the regular outdoor market will start again in May of next year.

**CPAC Report – September/October Meetings (by Stephanie Daugherty)**

**September Crime Activity**

- 5 Non-residential Burglaries
- 7 Residential Burglaries
- 60 Stealings (8 from buildings, 16 shoplifting, 22 from autos, 8 auto parts, and 5 other
- 8 Auto Thefts – two were recovered

- A vacant house issue on Kenwood AV has been resolved.
- Armour Hills reported that the latest disruptive at Southwest High School was somewhat resolved by a possible ban on the use of cell phones. Nothing about this issue was really resolved.
- Waldo Road Runners saw an increase in the number of homeless individuals.
- In the Tower Homes area, an undercover policeman apprehended a burglar who was being chased.

**October Crime Activity**

- 2 Armed robberies
- 4 Strong-armed robberies, all at SW High School
- 6 Non-residential burglaries
- 12 Residential burglaries
- 31 Stealings (12 from autos, 8 auto parts, 1 bicycle, 1 pickpocket, and 9 other)

- Sgt. Pearce stated that these numbers were alarmingly higher than usual neighborhood reports.
- Sgt. Pearce shared information on a meeting with Southwest HS in which they learned that Southwest HS was not willing at this time to restrict the use of cell phones like other schools do. They are continuing to manage the issues of a daily basis.
- Waldo Road Runners reported a robbery at Walgreen. Robbers used a knife and stole approximately \$140.
- Ward Parkway Mall said Trader Joe's has been a great asset to the shops. Many positive improvements are in the works. They will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Oct. 22.
- Nov. 8 is the election regarding the 1/8 cent sales tax for the Zoo.
- The man convicted of the 1980s rapes was sentenced to 18 consecutive life terms.
- Chief Forte has been chosen as the new police chief.
- As Nov. 8 is Election Day, the next CPAC meeting will be on Nov. 15 a 4:00 PM.

**Kansas City Area Transit Authority (KCATA) Quarterly Meeting - (by Colleen Durkin)**

On September 26, 2011, I attended my first Country Club Right-Of-Way Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Second Presbyterian Church. Items on the agenda included the KC Track Club's inquiry into a drinking fountain at 75<sup>th</sup> and Wornall, crosswalk striping completion along Trolley Trail crossings, maintenance issues, park and ride expansion for bus passengers, and Sutherland's presentation of a proposed development of the Bingham School Site (not yet purchased from the KC School District) and redevelopment of their current site into retail and residential use. Sutherland's wants direct access off of Wornall to make the project feasible. They

proposed opening 77<sup>th</sup> Street through to Wornall and making the entrance to their new proposed store off of 77<sup>th</sup> St.

Laurie Hines commented on the maintenance issues in our area including a damaged fence and poorly maintained landscaped areas particularly at the end of each section of the trail where streets cross. I commented that the original plantings of spirea and blue rug juniper were all but dead and gone! The retort was the limited budget, but that it would be looked into.

As a frequent Trolley Trail user, both on foot and on bike, I am opposed to any additional cuts across the Trolley Trail. There are too many already. They interrupt the flow of my walk or bike and vehicle traffic is always a concern for safety. Another traffic light would have to be installed at 77<sup>th</sup> Street and the wait and traffic back up would cause congestion and long waits at the light. What do you all think? Anyone having thoughts or ideas please give me a call 361-6682. I think our homes association should weigh in on whoever and whatever is proposed for the Bingham School site. It will definitely affect our lives.

**Biking In South Oak Park by Colleen Durkin**

My sister and I took a walk in the park Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>. I wanted to show off our latest honey suckle attack efforts on the west side of the park's wooded area. She remarked how surprised she was that the trails existed through the woods and found it very beautiful! As we wound along the trails we came upon a Webelos Scout Leader from St. Elizabeth's School posting markers on trees and further clearing the trails for a beginning level trail bike class. I was pleased to have this healthy activity taking place in our woods and asked him to let me know how it went. He said the kids had fun and learned some skills. Some quotes: "It was awesome." "I think I was the only one that didn't crash." "Oh my gosh!" "I never knew this was back here."

The scout leader (an avid trail bike rider) thought our park has great potential for some bike trails. He was curious about the "creek" and the potential of sewer overflow. He also asked whether we were going after the winter creeper in the woods, the next most threatening invasive.

**Editor's Notes:**

Several students from Barstow School volunteered their services to our October 15 event. They earned credit toward their scholastic community service requirement, and we really appreciated their help. If any of you have students or scouts who have community service requirements, please keep this annual event in mind.

With the change to every other month WHA meetings, we plan to issue the newsletter every other month also.

November 2011 – Waldo Homes Association						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends	7	8 Election Day CPAC 4 PM	9	10	11 Veterans Day 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday Forum Trailside Center 7:30 AM	12
13	14	15	16 Waldo Wednesday	17 Fall Leaf & Brush Pick-up	18	19 WHA 10:00 AM
20	21	22	23	24Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			