August 2019

Livable Neighborhood News

Mission of Livable Neighborhoods

To improve the quality of life in our community through organized neighborhood and government partnerships that provide information, training, resources, and a forum for open discussion

Office: Neighborhood Resource Center, 4953 State Ave
Hours: 8-5 pm Monday through Friday
Contact: livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org or 913-573-8737

x MARK YOUR CALENDARS x

KCK NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

TUESDAY
AUGUST 6th, 2019
5:00PM TO 8:30PM

POLICE ● COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
BRINGING WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS CITY KANSAS TOGETHER

Good Neighbor Training
LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

August 19, 2019
Light Meal provided
Please RSVP at 913-573-8737 or livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org
Neighborhood Resource Center
Conference Room
4953 State Avenue

Good Neighbor Trainings are held the fourth Monday of every month. Everyone is welcome to attend. There a new topic each month featuring different areas of the Unified Government.

Next
Livable Neighborhood Meeting
August 22nd @ 8:30 AM
Neighborhood Resource Center
Conference Room
4953 State Avenue

Stay connected with us via Facebook or
Receive our weekly e-news by emailing livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org

Copies provided by the Community Development Block Grant
During a rainfall, water runs across rooftops, down driveways, streets and across parking lots and yards, picking up substances along the way. This stormwater “runoff” may contain materials like septic system wastewater, soil, chemical fertilizer, pet waste, litter, automotive fluids and yard waste such as leaves and grass clippings. Runoff then washes down storm drains, eventually reaching local rivers and streams where it can pose significant risks to people and wildlife.

Since this stormwater runoff is not treated before flowing into local streams, rivers and lakes; most people never think about this stormwater runoff causing water pollution. But as the water flows; this stormwater runoff may collect and transport septic system wastewater.

The EPA estimates 25% of homes use septic systems. Over 4 billion gallons of wastewater per day is dispersed below ground into septic systems. As well as polluting the ground and ground water; an improper septic system can overflow onto the ground & can flow into storm drains.

What can residents do to help to prevent their septic systems from causing this pollution?

1) If you have a septic system have it inspected and pumped by a licensed contractor on a routine schedule, generally 3 years or less.

2) If necessary, fix or replace your faulty septic system with a licensed contractor.

3) Fix faulty toilets as you can waste 200 gallons of water that goes to your septic system each day.

4) Wash loads of clothes over several days so you don’t run so much water thru your septic system at one time.

5) Don’t plant trees and shrubs over or near your septic system.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection days for Wyandotte County residents include the following Saturdays: August 17, September 21, and October 19, 2019. The site will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on those Saturdays.

Wyandotte County residents need to take their household hazardous products to 2443 South 88th Street in Kansas City, Kansas. (South on 88th Street from K-32) or (East of I-435 using Woodend exit near Kaw River) The HHW Days are not for business or nonprofit groups.

When bringing items to the collection site please label or identify all items. Items accepted include automotive products, home improvement products, household items, as well as lawn and garden products.

Automotive products accepted include auto batteries, brake fluid, carburetor cleaner, degreasers, gasoline & fuels, and used motor oil. In addition, residents can bring 10 car and/or pickup tires if the rims are removed from the tires.

Home improvement products accepted include concrete cleaner, driveway sealer, furniture stripper, glue with solvents, latex & oil based paints, paint thinner, putty, grout, caulk & spackle, roofing tar, stain varnish & lacquer, turpentine, water-based glues, and wood preservatives.

Household items include aerosol products, drain & oven cleaners, mothballs, nail polish remover, polishes with solvents, spot remover, and propane cylinders.

Lawn and garden products include fertilizer with weed killer, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, and rodent bait.

For additional information call 913-573-8318 or 913-573-5400.
Fresh Produce, Food Waste and You

A vicious cycle has been created by consumers and grocery distributors that has led to millions of pounds of food waste every year: the valuation of appearance over quality. Because of our agricultural industry’s cosmetic standards, about half of our fruits and vegetables get thrown away or sent to feed livestock.[i] There is nothing wrong with this produce, but because it does not fit our idea of what a carrot, potato, or strawberry should look like, it is deemed unfit to grace the shelves of your local grocery store.

This practice is truly unacceptable since it wastes the resources put into growing these crops, such as water, oil, fertilizer, and not to mention time. Plus more often than not, these “ugly” fruits and vegetables go to landfills rather than to hungry people who could still be taking advantage of this perfectly fresh and nutritious food. This “cult of perfection”[ii] also harms farmers because they cannot sell half their produce and some shipments are rejected by grocers, and the farmers are never compensated even though the produce they offer is still fresh.

Several companies have popped up to start changing this culture around the appearance of our food. Imperfect Produce operates in the Bay area in California to deliver ugly fruits and vegetables at a discount of 30-50% to local consumers. Similarly, Raley’s supermarkets in California and Nevada are adding sections for “Real Good” produce which does not conform to typical cosmetic standards, and accompanying these new additions with in store education. A Massachusetts nonprofit called Daily Table, founded by former president of Trader Joe’s, Doug Rauch, takes rejected produce and sells it at a discounted price along with surplus goods and to-go meals. There are international efforts surrounding non-conformist produce as well.

There are also several organizations around the Kansas City metro area that are working hard to rescue produce that would otherwise go to waste. After the Harvest is a gleaning organization that harvests crops from local farms too small or undesirable for commercial sale and donates them to local food pantries and warehouses, like Harvesters, as a way of providing fresh produce to food insecure families. NourishKC also partners with several area grocery stores and other organizations to rescue food to turn into delicious meals at one of their community kitchens.

With a quickly rising population, estimated to reach 7 billion by the year 2050, these efforts regarding food waste and hunger can seem like too little too late. However, many experts believe that if we manage to shift our cultural view to consume less meat and dairy, along with reducing our waste, we will not have to destroy more wild lands than we already have. It’s true that we can have it all, less food waste, less hunger, and more environmental conservation, but only by making the vital changes necessary to our relationship with food. Being less picky about pretty produce and making an effort to divert as much food as possible from the landfill, be it either from composting, or buying less in the first place, or any other number of practices to reduce our waste are...
The KCK Farmers' Market

We accept cash, debit, SNAP (food stamps), Kansas Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers.

The KCK Farmers' Market operates THREE locations in Wyandotte County.

June 11th - October 7:30am- sellout

Tuesday
In front of Catholic Charities
2220 Central Ave, KCK 66102

Wednesday
Behind the Health Department
6th & Tauromee, KCK 66101

Thursday
At KCK Community College
Campus Blvd & Argentine Lane, KCK 66112

SUNDAYS
10am- 2:00 pm
Commerce Bank
4020 Rainbow Blvd. KCK

www.rosedalefarmersmarket.com
A network of farmers' markets in Wyandotte County featuring local producers!