Liveable Neighborhoods Neighborhood News

Your neighborhood group information can be placed here.
If you would like newsletters made, contact our office at (913) 573-8737 or email us at liveableneighbor@wycokck.org. (NOTE: Email address change)

Mark Holland, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government (UG) of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, will kick off a Listening Tour next week consisting of stops in each of the eight Commission Districts across the county. In 2017, the STAR bonds used to finance the Village West area will pay off and the UG will receive a windfall of sales tax revenue totaling around $12 million. Holland intends to use the Listening Tour to ask residents for their input on how to spend the new revenue.

“These additional funds provide us an opportunity that doesn’t come around often, and we need to work collaboratively to make sure we put these resources to use thoughtfully and efficiently,” said Holland. “We are experiencing a growth in our population after 40 years of decline, and in 2014, all the new jobs created in the Greater KC Metro area, 40% of them were in Wyandotte County. But, there is a lot of work to be done and our residents should have a say on how we continue this progress.”

Each meeting will begin at 5:30p with a brief update from Mayor Holland and the UG Commissioners who represent the district. Then attendees will break into facilitator-led discussion groups to give feedback on the budget. Facilitators will be available to lead discussions in Spanish. The first stop on the Tour will be next Tuesday, and the Mayor will be joined by 1st District Commissioner Gayle Townsend and At-Large Commissioner Melissa Bynum.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations.

The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. Each year hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused. Many victims are people who are older, frail, vulnerable and depend on others to meet their most basic needs. Abuse happens to people of all ethnicities and income levels and can be physical, sexual or emotional in nature. In general, elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes them harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. If you suspect is being abused, neglected or exploited, call the hotline at 1-800-922-5330.
June Calendar of Events

**June 2, 2015 ~ Next Chapter KC Book Group - About Schmidt—** 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Kansas City, Kansas Main Library, 625 Minnesota, KCKS. Contact Karen Hostetler to RSVP at karenh@sckck.org or call the office at 913-281-8908 and leave a message for Karen at ext. 5103.

**June 13, 2015 ~ Kids Fishing Derby ~ Wyandotte County Lake & Park** 91st & Leavenworth Road Kansas City, KS 66109  [http://www.wycokck.org/parks](http://www.wycokck.org/parks) Registration begins at 7:00 a.m.; derby begins at 8:00 a.m. and is over at 11:00 a.m. The event is limited to Wyandotte County residents 15 years old or younger. An adult must accompany kids under age 10. Call 913-573-8358 with questions.

**June 25, 2015 ~ Liveable Neighborhoods Meeting Free— Everyone Welcome**
Neighborhood Resource Center at 4953 State Avenue
8:30am-10:00am  For more information contact:  913-573-8737 or liveableNeigbor@wycokck.org

**June 27, 2015 ~ FREE KC United Dotte Camp**
Hosted By Darrell Stuckey  (Lunch provided)
Bishop Ward Field - 16th & Armstrong
Registration: 8:00-9am  Clinic: 9:00am-1:00pm  Ages: 4-18
Register on-line at www.usafootball.com/fun
For more information contact : info@living4one.com

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**BPU Hosts Free Summer Energy Efficiency Workshop**

(KANSAS CITY, Kan.) — The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) will present an Energy Efficiency Workshop on Monday, June 8. This free event will feature discussions about home improvement solutions that reduce home energy costs. Industry experts will also be participating to showcase displays, conduct demonstrations, and offer environmental upgrade advice for homes.

The public is welcome to attend at the West Wyandotte Public Library at 1737 N. 82nd Street in Kansas City, KS. Two sessions will be held from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., and again from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

“This will be the first time we’ve offered two in the same day at the same location,” said BPU Development Coordinator, David Allen. “We are trying to accommodate more of our customers’ schedules.”

Guests can look forward to learning about these informative topics:

- A Home Energy Audit, Why Do I Need One? – Star Energy Consultants’ Ben Meyer
- Getting and Installing Your Home Solar Power System – Kansas City, KS, Homeowner, Marion Strick
- Ground Zero: Basement to Roof Energy Efficiency – BPU’s David Allen

Space is limited; please RSVP to 913-573-9922 or dallen@bpu.com before Thursday, June 4, for the afternoon or evening session.
Going Green Corner

Proper Handling of Pet Waste

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” often contains materials such as pet waste. Runoff then washes down storm drains, eventually reaching local rivers and streams where it can pose significant risks to people and wildlife. Every time it rains, thousands of pounds of pet waste wash down storm drains into streams, rivers, and lakes.

A recent United States Geological Survey study of streams and creeks in the Kansas City region showed that bacteria associated with pet waste is the source of approximately 25% of the bacteria in samples collected from local waterways. When pet waste is disposed of improperly, water quality is not the only thing that suffers—your health may be at risk also. Adults working in their gardens, children playing outside and family pets are the most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste.

Many residents don’t realize how their everyday habits impact our region’s water quality. Even small amounts of pollution can add up to big problems when it comes from an area the size of the Kansas City region. Leaving pet waste in yards and on streets can be hazardous for our neighborhoods and the environment. Remember: if it’s on the ground, it’s in our water.

What can I do?

- Pickup pet waste from your yard. It is not a fertilizer.
- Carry disposable bags while walking your dog to pickup and dispose of pet waste properly. When you dispose of pet waste in the trash, wrap it carefully to avoid spilling during collection.
- If you bury pet waste in your yard, bury it at least 12 inches deep and cover with at least eight inches of soil to let it decompose slowly. Bury the waste in several different locations and keep it away from vegetable gardens and water sources. Do not bury in clay soils.

Contact your local homeowners association about educating residents of picking up pet waste in their yards as well as when they walk their dogs in the subdivision.

Source: Mid America Regional Council website on Water Quality

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

Household Hazardous Waste Collection days for Wyandotte County residents includes the following Saturdays: June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, and October 17. The site will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on these collection Saturdays. The site is located at 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)

When bringing items to the collection site please label or identify all items. Items accepted include tires (limit of 10 tires and rims need to be removed), motor oil, batteries, antifreeze, degreasers, paints, varnishes, solvents, lawn & garden insecticides/pesticides, and household cleaning products.

For additional information call 573-5400.
Reusing and Not Disposing

You often hear that we are living in a throwaway society. There are many items which could be reused that are thrown away into the trash every day. A study conducted in Berkley California and Leverett, Massachusetts has estimated that between 2% to 5% of trash is potentially reusable. For example, things you can do include:

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<tr>
<th>Consider Reusing Products:</th>
<th>Reuse Bags and other items:</th>
<th>Borrow, Rent, or Share Items used infrequently:</th>
<th>Sell or Donate Goods instead of throwing them away:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use a washable coffee cup and drinking glass.</td>
<td>Reuse a canvas or tote bag when shopping for groceries.</td>
<td>Borrow or rent seldom used power tools.</td>
<td>Sell your used items at fairs, swap meets, garage sales, or on the internet.</td>
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<td>Use washable plates and utensils.</td>
<td>Reuse colored paper, egg cartons and other items for arts &amp; crafts projects.</td>
<td>Borrow or rent ladders, rug cleaners and floor buffers.</td>
<td>Give hand-me-down clothes and items to the needy.</td>
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<td>Use cloth napkins, sponges, and dish cloths.</td>
<td>Reuse newspaper, boxes, and bubble wrap to ship packages.</td>
<td>Borrow or rent seldom used party supplies and decorations.</td>
<td>Donate clothes and items to nonprofit thrift stores.</td>
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<td>Maintain and Repair Durable Products:</td>
<td>Reuse used lumber for birdhouses, compost bins, and other projects.</td>
<td>Consider setting up a neighborhood tool lending library.</td>
<td>Consider acquiring used clothing and products at thrift or consignment stores. The condition of used clothing in these stores is screened. In addition, many nonprofit organizations use these stores to help them raise needed funds.</td>
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Consider setting up a neighborhood tool lending library.

Information provided By Kirk Suther, Operation Brightside