

WARD PARKWAY WORD



WWW.WPHAKC.ORG • THE PUBLICATION OF WARD PARKWAY HOMES ASSOCIATION • JUNE 2010

CPR/AED TRAINING

Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church is offering a CPR/AED TRAINING, **Saturday, June 26th from 9am to noon** in the Fellowship Hall. The class will include training in basic CPR, infant/child CPR and AED. Participants will receive a 2-year certification through the American Heart Association. Class cost is \$10 and pre-registration is requested. Please contact Bethany Merrigan at 913-908-4799 or bmerrigan1@yahoo.com

J.E.T.

(Just Everyone Together)

Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church is hosting J.E.T. (Just Everyone Together) VBS **June 23, 24 and 25 from 5:30 to 8pm**. The program is open to all ages; Adult, youth, children and nursery care will be provided for children up to the age of 3.

5:30 Fellowship & Dinner
6:00 Parables of Jesus
6:30 Study Groups
7:30 Traditional & Contemporary Music



**7pm Friday Night—
Ice Cream Social
& Live Music**

For more information,
call 816-361-2200 or visit
www.wardparkway.org.

HOME OF THE MONTH

7237 WARD PARKWAY



TANNER WENDELL AND REBECCA SELINGER became the proud owners of their lovely home just over a year ago, in March 2009. Their home was nominated for WPHA Home of the Month by their neighbors, Margaret and Chris Karczewski. Rebecca and Tanner will no doubt make good use of their \$50 gift certificate to Soil Service on Troost, WPHA's recognition of their contribution to the beautification of our neighborhood.

One of Tanner and Rebecca's many favorite things about their home is the landscaping, which includes 10 gardens, a waterfall, and Koi pond. Each garden contains a variety of flowers and foliage, their most beloved being the rose garden, which features long-stemmed roses in six vibrant colors. During the spring and summer months, Rebecca and Tanner may be found outside improving their green thumbs (as well as grilling out back, on their newly-improved deck)!

Rebecca and Tanner have an even more exciting home improvement they are currently working on: the addition of a nursery in shades of lavender and green. They will welcome their first baby during the month of August.

Tanner and Rebecca: congratulations on all accounts. Best wishes as you continue to add to the beauty, individuality (and population!) of our community.

SORRY! UPCOMING EVENTS CANCELLED

The Spring Garden Tour 2010 had to be cancelled despite Brenda Kumm's heroic efforts to find enough great gardens for us to tour this spring. She found willing homeowners, but due to schedule conflicts and other logistical problems, they were unable to participate this year, but are on board for the 2011 Garden Tour. We'll see you next year with a great group of gardens to tour.



OUR FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION IS ALSO CANCELLED.

Thanks to Betsy Lynch who put in a lot of work to get this event organized and planned. Unfortunately she had to be out of town that weekend and we were unable to find someone to step in to take her place and finish this event. The holiday falls on a Sunday this year and normally attendance is very low due to people out of town and schedule conflicts in the cooler parts of the day, with church dinners/fireworks in the evenings.



SOUTHWEST HIGH GOES TO COLLEGE

BY PAUL BARTEL

FOR MANY YEARS RESIDENTS OF KANSAS CITY HAVE WATCHED SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS COME AND GO, AND SAW MANY ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE THE ONCE PROUD REPUTATION OF THE SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS. THE BUILDING AT 65TH AND WORNALL IS ONE REMINDER OF OUR RICH HISTORY AND THE CHANGES OUR SCHOOLS HAVE SEEN. SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL CLOSED IN '98 AFTER MORE THAN 70 YEARS, THEN REOPENED AS SOUTHWEST CHARTER FROM '98-'03, AND NOW OPERATES AS SOUTHWEST EARLY COLLEGE CAMPUS. RECENTLY, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIT DOWN WITH MR. STEVEN SCRAGGS, SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SCHOOL.



Though the lack of vehicles and activity around the school lead many to believe the school is still closed, SWECC in fact serves 500 students and next year will pick up students from closed schools swelling the student body to 1200 pupils in grades 6-12. Students are not allowed to drive to school and many have classes off campus at various colleges. The school is open and it's thriving!

SWECC partners with the Kansas City Life Sciences Institute, the Gates Foundation, and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, which helps shape the school's scope and sequence. Its primary partnerships are with UMKC and Donnelly College, who supply 6 teachers to support their current staff of 28, plus other forms of support and guidance.

Most students are not from our area but from all over the city, the vast majority receiving free or

reduced lunches as family income is near poverty level. Many come without adequate elementary education, yet work hard to become high level learners and prepare for college. Accelerated classes move through one grade and half of the next grade's curriculum in just one school year helping narrow the gap. Donnelly College's 2 reading specialists provide remedial assistance to students in need of it. SWECC's aim is that by grade 11, most students are taking college courses, earning college credit. The administration is working to better improve ACT scores too. KC's average score of 16 is below the score of 21 required at most state schools for admission and scholarship qualification. SWECC boasts a 94% attendance rate (highest in the school district) plus excellent attendance at parent-teacher conferences.

Mr. Scraggs wants to see the school and our neighborhood connect and plans to communicate with us about their events so WPHA can spread the word in newsletters and emails. SWECC wants to be a good neighbor and improve the school's appearance. Mr. Scraggs is working diligently to ensure the grass is mowed regularly and that the landscaping and beauty of the exterior reflects the neighborhood that surrounds it. He hopes to see a new track installed in the back of the school, to benefit the school and the community.

We can be good neighbors too by supporting SWECC's concerts, chili suppers, and plant sales or by volunteering through Youth Friends (www.youthfriends.org). The success of SWECC and KCMO schools benefits us all whether or not our we send our children there. After decades of troubling statistics and downward trends, positive things are happening. SWECC's success gives hope that Kansas City's schools can be turned around.

P.S. If you can help organize a 'paint day' to go in and paint a few classrooms at SWECC, please contact Paul Bartel (paul.m.bartel@gmail.com).

BLOCK PARTY SEASON IS HERE



THE FIRST WPHA BLOCK PARTY was held recently where the 7300 and 7400 blocks of Summit partied together. The two blocks pooled their party money provided by WPHA and purchased fried chicken, then contributed side dishes and desserts to round out the menu. WPHA rebates part of your dues to fund block parties as these are a great way for neighbors to get to know one another and work together for the good of the neighborhood, such as starting a block watch group.

Each block of 12 or more homes gets \$50 to spend on food, drinks, decorations etc. Blocks with fewer than 12 homes can join with another adjacent block. More

money can be earned (up to \$100) if your block has a high percentage of folks who've paid dues for the year.

WPHA must be notified ahead of time to make the security patrol aware of streets that will be blocked hampering patrol efforts. Receipts for all block parties plus 3 party photos must be submitted by Sept. 30th, 2010 to claim your rebate. Submit receipts and photos by snail mail to WPHA, PO Box 140083 KCMO 64114 or by email to president@wphakc.org. Call Alison Baker 822.2006 or Michelle Cour 444.2159 if you have further questions about how to throw a great party.

Any Martha Stewarts Out There?

Do you love a great party? Are you the one everyone looks to for organizing things and making them happen? Boy, could we use you! WPHA sponsors a lot of events throughout the year, but most people don't realize how much time and effort goes into planning and carrying them out, or realize these are all done by volunteers. Sometimes the same person or team does an event for a few years, but family circumstances change and coordinators burn out or get bored. Fresh ideas perk these up and we're open to new ideas or a new twist on things.

The following events are at risk of being cancelled unless someone steps up to take a turn helping plan them. Do you have some neighbors who you'd enjoy doing one with? Can you help with one?

- 2010 Pumpkin Decorating Day
- 2011 Easter Egg Hunt
- 2011 Fourth of July Celebration

VOLUNTEER(S) WANTED:

Looking for one or two people to run the pumpkin decorating event this fall (Oct 2010). Current Coordinator can help you with setting arrangements for site and WPHA already has most supplies. Budget pays for expenses.

Duties: Need to pick up pumpkins and supplies ahead of time. Easy event to run. No carving... just overseeing families decorating pumpkins with common craft items. Usually held at Waldo Pizza on a Sunday afternoon.

Date TBA — in October. If interested or want more info, contact Alison Baker at acey518@juno.com



WPHA URNS



SPRING PLANTING has arrived as the dragon winged begonias were delivered last week to corner urn residents. They will grow and bloom all summer and brighten our neighborhood's stone posts. WPHA provides flowers annually and ask our home owners to plant and water them through the upcoming months. Homeowners can opt to plant the begonias, add other plants or plant their own selection. WPHA will be installing two urns this year (should be soon,



now that the rain has slowed down). Keep an eye out for all of the pretty flowers popping up.

If you have a corner stone post without an urn and would like to know more about the program, contact Mike Allmon or Alison Baker.

We are accepting requests for next year but would like to hear from you before October when we review our annual budget and goals.

DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITORS

SOME RESIDENTS OF WPHA ask us about door to door solicitors. Most say they're okay with children selling items on behalf of their schools, but are annoyed or concerned about adults who ring the doorbell or who leave advertising that blows around the neighborhood. Most dislike having dinner or bath time interrupted and some are concerned about these workers actually being burglars casing our houses.

The police suggest several things regarding those who ring the doorbells.

1. Always go to the door even if just for a few seconds to say to the people "please leave – we're busy right now and don't want any interruptions", or something similar.



If you don't, a burglar at your door may break in, thinking the house is empty.

2. If there are people soliciting after dark, it's much more likely your house is being cased than business being conducted, so call 911 to have the person checked out.
3. On any solicitor, you can call the police to come and make sure they have the proper license. If they don't the police will ask them to leave the area.
4. Put up a "no soliciting" sign or two. If they come to your door, you can call 911 and have them arrested if you're willing to sign a complaint and show up in court and testify against them.

DOING VEHICLE-RELATED CRIME

“IF I WERE A THIEF...

I could break into your vehicle and steal your things, or the vehicle itself, in about the time it would take me to put **this card under your** windshield wiper.”

“Your stuff could be gone that fast!”

“But you can do some things to stop me, or simply convince me to victimize someone else.”



ALWAYS LOCK YOUR VEHICLE WITH THE WINDOWS ROLLED UP.

“Almost half the thefts I pull are from an unlocked vehicle. If a target is too hard – I will move on.”

DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS OF VALUE IN PLAIN VIEW INSIDE YOUR VEHICLE.

“I look for things like cell phones, radios, briefcases, laptops, purses, packages, CDs, GPS devices, and other stuff that means quick cash for me. Even loose change could attract me. You better take anything that looks valuable with you.”

KNOW WHEN AND WHERE TO PLACE VALUABLES IN YOUR TRUNK.

“I could be watching you arrive at your parking destination – so if you use your trunk, do so well before you park here.”

IF YOU HAVE AN ANTI-THEFT DEVICE, USE IT.

“I like to work fast and quietly; so I do not like an alarm being set, or a steering wheel “flyer” being put in place correctly.”

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR KEYS IN YOUR UNOCCUPIED VEHICLE.

“Even in a second – I could hop in your ride and be gone. I like to hang at convenience stores and I do not care if your kids have to go for a ride too.”

REMOVE GPS UNITS/ELECTRONICS AS WELL AS THEIR INDICATORS (MOUNTS/CHARGERS ETC.)

“Knowing people will simply place the device in console or glove box, if I see indicators, I will still break in and take my chances. Once I have your GPS, I know where you live and frequent.”