

MPNA GRAPEVINE
JUN/JULY, 2012 EDITION
BI-MONTHLY
MAPLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
4937 N. FREMONT
KANSAS CITY, MO 64119
VOLUME 18, ISSUE 4

The MPNA meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm. The June 19 and July 17 meetings are at Maplewood Elementary School and the Board of Directors meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Tower View Baptist Church.

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THE MPNA GRAPEVINE

Local Businesses

The businesses you see advertising in our newsletter pay the postage to make mailing our publication possible. Support their business and mention you saw their ad in our Neighborhood Newsletter. Their support is important to us and our support is important to them. They provide excellent products and services. We encourage you to support these businesses near Maple Park. We want them to be successful and to stay with us. It really does make a difference where you spend your money.

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The Maple Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA)

Your Maple Park Neighborhood Association is beginning its 17th year in 2012. The neighborhood association was started at the home of one of our residents who wanted to improve our neighborhood. Actually, Frances Yanez, who still lives in Maple Park, was one of the original founders of the MPNA. Our general meetings are in the Maplewood Elementary School cafeteria every third Tuesday. Our board of directors meetings are at the Tower View Baptist Church on the fourth Tuesday of every month. We want to thank both Maplewood Elementary School and Tower View Baptist Church staff for providing us a place in Maple Park to meet.

Both the general membership meetings and the board meetings are public. All residents of Maple Park are not only invited but encouraged to come these meetings. You are always welcome. Over the seventeen years the MPNA has provided clean-up opportunities for its residents. The clean-ups are usually held twice a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The clean-up events are provided in hopes of improving our neighborhood and preventing neighborhood deterioration as the area ages. Two dumpsters are provided for your use at no charge to the MPNA residents. Once upon a time MPNA received funds from the Kansas City Neighborhood Association. (KCNA) once a year by completing grants they provided from the greater Kansas City community. KCNA is no longer in existence (as many organizations in these times). For the last few years the MPNA has operated on fund-raisers and donations. Our newsletter is supported solely by the contributions of the advertisers in the newsletters each issue. You may want to thank them by shopping their services.

But over the years, the MPNA has provided many other services to our community. In recent years, your MPNA has provided Christmas food boxes to neighborhood families who were having difficult times. Last year we handed out thirty Christmas boxes. While the number of boxes never seem to be enough, your organization does a lot and this program has grown every year for the last

MPNA Meetings

Our Maple Park Neighborhood Association really needs your help by attending our monthly meetings. They are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Maplewood Elementary School.

If we don't get more people at our meetings, our association will cease to exist. If this happens we will lose our 501C3, our summer picnics/auctions, our many dinners and our bi-monthly newsletter. We will also lose our spring and fall neighborhood clean-ups and our many food boxes that we provide for our neighbors in need at Christmas. There are many other services that we also provide and many more we would like to start. We need your new ideas and help to put them into play.

Our monthly meetings are very informative, interesting and fun. We have different speakers and organizations come and share information on different topics. We have a representative from the Kansas City Police Department who comes regularly and shares reports with us. He gives a lot of helpful advice for helping keep us and our neighborhood safe.

After our meetings, there is a time for refreshments and visiting with friends and making new friends. Please come to our next meeting on June 19 and bring your ideas and input. Betty Latimer, MPNA Director

MPNA continued

five years. When the elementary school playground equipment was vandalized, the MPNA helped raise funding to replace the equipment. The Maple Park Neighborhood entrance sign on 48th street also sponsored by KCNA and built by your neighbors in the MPNA. What a great sign. The MPNA has two media publications, this newsletter and the MPNA website, www.maplepark.org. Feel free to contact us with information about your neighborhood if you feel it should be in the newsletter or the website. Lets make this the best year ever for your MPNA. Richard Taylor, MPNA Director and Leslie Knudson MPNA Treasurer

City Council cracks down on illegal signs

The City of Kansas City, Mo., City Council has unanimously supported an ordinance to create a penalty for illegal signs in the public right of way. The ordinance was co-sponsored by Sixth District At-Large Councilman Scott Taylor and First District At-Large Councilman Scott Wagner.

"This will give neighborhood leaders another tool to keep neighborhoods clean," said Councilman Taylor.

"The beauty of our neighborhoods is critical to their vitality," added Councilman Wagner. "The removal of these illegal signs is an important part of any strategy to remove blight from our community."

The City will perform a sweep of illegal signs on Tuesday April 17. Neighborhoods and residents are welcome to participate by canvassing their areas and removing illegal signs in the public right-of-way or on utility poles, such as old yard sale, garage sale, promotional and political signs. Residents unaware of the location of right-of-way boundaries are advised to not remove signs.

The City will provide up to five blue trash bags per requestor at three locations, available Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. These locations are: Northland Neighborhoods Inc., 3015 Vivion Road; the City's Neighborhood Preservation Division, 4900

MOVIE NIGHT AT FESTIVAL FOODS

Jason Curtis from Festival Foods has agreed to have Friday night as movie this summer. I believe that he is furnishing popcorn and bottled water. Bring a comfortable chair and enjoy the outdoors as you watch a great movie. The movies are as follows:

FINDING NEMO June 22

INDEPENDENCE DAY July 20

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON August 24

As summer is almost upon us, this would be a great way to spend an evening with your family with very little cost to you. Everyone have a great summer. Be safe.

OATS – Older Americans Transportation Services

Missouri Rural Public Transportation makes life better for all kinds of people. It provides a safe and economical way to medical appointments, essential shopping, work, school, social activities, and much more, wherever people need or want to go.

The criteria and perimeter's are as follows: If OATS receives orders through Missouri Medicaid Services for Kansas City and Clay County, because there are different services for different cities. 18 – 59 disabled and 60 and over. To request a ride please call to see if you are eligible and/or qualify (816) 380-7433 or 1 – 800-480-6287 or visit the website's : www.oatstransit.org or MissouriRuralPublicTransportation.org Teresa Glynn

Meeting Door Prize Winners

We have door prizes every month at our membership meetings. In April the lucky winners were June Lowry, Andy Danawar, Mike Cooley, and Ruth Hunnicutt. Our May meeting our winners are Betty Dewey, Cindi Stock, Mike Ryan, and Frances Yanez. Please come enjoy your neighbors and see what goodies we are giving away. See you there.

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Swope Parkway, First Floor; and Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Road.

Residents can dispose of illegal signs in the blue bags and set them out on their regular trash day. Solid waste will pick up the blue bags at no additional charge. Please note that the blue bags are intended only for signs. Violation stickers will be placed on blue bags that contain items other than signs.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact Lisa Sturgeon, aide to Councilman Taylor, at 816-513-6523.

City reduces pet licensing fees to increase compliance

The City of Kansas City, Mo., Neighborhood and Community Services Department reduced City pet licensing fees in January 2012 in an effort to encourage residents to license their pet dogs, cats and ferrets, as is required by Chapter 14 of the City's Code of Ordinances.

"It is our hope that residents take advantage of the discounted pet license fee to reduce the number of owned pets that enter the animal shelter," said David Park, director of the Neighborhood and Community Services Department. "Many of the animals that enter the shelter are owned pets, but without a license tag, there is no way to contact the owner."

The changes in City ordinance related to pet licensing are:

- All one-year pet licenses are \$10 (altered or unaltered pets).
- All three-year pet licenses are \$27 (altered or unaltered pets).
- Free ride home program - "licensed" lost or stray pets will be taken home instead of to the shelter one time per year. No ticket will be issued for pets that run at large.
- No shelter fees will be assessed if the owner is home when the pet is returned; half fees will be assessed if the owner cannot be located, and the pet is reclaimed at the shelter.
- Amnesty granted on \$25 late fees until May 1, 2012.
- All funds generated from license sales support improved care and treatment of animals at the shelter. Pet owners can license their pet at the City's Animal Shelter at 4400 Raytown Road or electronically at www.petdata.com. They may also contact their

City Reduces Pet Fees Continued

veterinarian, who may be able to sell pet licenses directly. The pet license fee changes were recommended by a pet licensing task force convened to identify barriers to pet licensing and develop strategies to increase licensing compliance. In March, the task force launched a new Pet Licensing Campaign: "Lost Pets Can't Call Home." The campaign promotes the benefits of licensing pets and provides information on how to license a pet.

(816) 452-8226

Chinese Garden Restaurant

Dine In and Carry Out

405 NE 69 Highway
Claycomo, MO. 64119



Maple Park Garden - The Critter Catcher

I just learned that Jody Paul, "The Critter Catcher", was able to secure a permit from the City of Kansas City to plant a Community Garden in the open field across from Maple Park School. This is indeed good news. What an opportunity for neighbors to get to know each other AND grow our own FRESH vegetables. You all know how expensive vegetables are in the store plus they don't have any flavor. Store bought vegetables are force grown so fast that they have no time to develop any taste.

Jody is going to start by planting sweet potatoes, which he has. He has invited any and all of us who wish to participate to contact him at 452-7448 or on line at crittercatchers.com. Planting season is here.

Let's see how many neighbors we can get to participate in this project. I'm sure it will be rewarding for all those who make the effort to get involved. Leslie Knudson, MPNA Treasurer