

MPNA GRAPEVINE
May Supplement EDITION
BI-MONTHLY
MAPLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
4937 N. FREMONT
KANSAS CITY, MO 64119
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The MPNA meets the third Tuesday of every month. The May 20 meeting is at Maplewood Elementary School and the Board of Directors meet first 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.


MAPLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday, May 3, 2008 - 8:00 AM - Noon - Maple Park Middle School, 5300 N. Bennington

The Maple Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) is providing dumpsters for your convenience to dispose of trash and leaves/brush. Keep in mind that the City's Bulky Item Pickup is scheduled for the week of May 5, so put out your **large items** for the bulky item collection rather than overloading the dumpsters.

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A new foreclosure prevention program and hotline is now available to Kansas City homeowners behind on their mortgages or facing foreclosure. Residents can access the 24-hour bilingual, non-profit resource at 1-888-995-4673. The hotline offers immediate help to homeowners, and has expert counselors available anytime to speak about options to avoid foreclosure. Calls are free and completely confidential.

1-888-995-HOPE

Don't Forget!

Saturday, May 3rd is the neighborhood clean-up, 8:00 am until 12 noon. There will be one trash and one brush dumpster. Location is the Maple Park Middle School parking lot.

Nelle Belle's Diner

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The May meeting is the annual election meeting!

The May 20th meeting of the Maple Park Neighborhood Association is a very important meeting for you members. At this meeting you will be electing a new Board of Directors. This board will then elect the officers whom will serve for the next year at the June 3rd board meeting. The new board takes over immediately. The election is especially exciting this year due to the fact that we have already lost two members who moved from Maple Park. In addition to those we have four current members who choose not to run for re-election. One of these is an officer. What this means is that you now have the responsibility and the opportunity to infuse some new blood into this organization. This can be a time of great inspiration for our organization with new ideas and new enthusiasm. Please join us at Maplewood Elementary school at 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 20th, 2008. Get involved. Call your friends and invite them. This is your association. This association speaks for you in all matters regarding Maple Park whether you agree with them or not. We raise money and spend it the way those of you who attend meetings choose. We want and need your input. All adults living in Maple Park are automatically members of MPNA. You might as well attend and speak for yourselves.

ROGER K. WALLER

DEAR FRIEND, HUSBAND, FATHER, GRANDFATHER, PATRIOT, NEIGHBOR: YOU HAVE ANSWERED YOUR CALL AND LEFT US BEHIND!

Roger Waller grew up in a time that is much different than most of us now know. It was a time before television. A time when many Americans had very little. Roger grew up in a family that was very financially poor, but rich in caring. He and his family lived on a farm where everyone seemed poor. There were few if any toys, not even a bicycle. There was no electricity.




There was only a radio that had batteries, and it was not used often. Instead, his family "neighbored" a lot. Back then there were lots of small farms and the folks played cards. Roger once said "we were all the same and we didn't know we had it bad. Overall it was good and everybody was your friend. We had lots of friends. I remember when the monopoly game first came out. We went over the Jones's and played it that night. The folks got home in time to milk the cows next morning."

If you knew Roger, that is very easy to believe. He was always very friendly and always had a kind word. He had many friends. It was a time rewarded by closer families. Roger said his parents never did anything embarrassing or illegal. And he lived by the standards of his parents and grandparents. Roger had a brother that passed away several years ago.

worked for Sunshine Biscuit and RK worked for a time at General Motors. Together, they moved to Maple Park in 1958. While they had no children, Geri and RK raised his brother's child from 19 months. Patricia was raised as their own. RK and Geri were married 51 years when Geri passed away in September of 2003.

RK spent several weeks in Liberty Hospital last April when he suffered from a ruptured colon. After a struggle that scared us all, RK pulled through and returned to us. He almost did not live through that experience. After that, he always told us guys to get a colonoscopy because it could save our lives. Good advice.

RK worked for the United States Post Office until he retired from the Post Office on April 1, 1987. He attended Tower View Baptist Church here in Maple Park. He loved to help out with Angel Food Ministries at the Church. It was not uncom-




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When asked about his parents, Roger made the following comments: "They never argued around us and they were still married when they died. People back then tended to stay together. They worked together. Mom was tuff though. She did things for the house, took care of the chickens and back then you did a lot of canning to do a lot of preserving. She also helped milk and did a lot of necessary chores. They never did any hitting or banging each other around. Us boys they did! (Kidding). My grandparents may have argued but they were also married when they died. All my aunts and uncles, too."

Roger's dad quit school in the 10th grade and did not stress education in raising him. His brother also quit school in the 10th grade. But his mom stressed the importance of education because she had graduated high school, as did Roger. Roger spoke of getting ready to go to his high school reunion even as recent as last December. "There were 47 of us. There's only about half of us left."

Roger became an adult along with many young Americans when he joined the United States Navy as he turned 18 years old. In Roger's words: "I was in the Navy for 4 years. The only work out there was with my dad. That wasn't bad, but I was ready to go. I was glad I went. I never regretted it because I went to so many places. We Navy Boys would walk around real bug eyed too. At the age of 19, I went to London. I only went east, never west. I even went to Iceland, England, France and Cuba, of course, and Venezuela." Roger said that he would only change two things if there were "do-overs." First, he would have liked to be in the United States Air Force, and second, while in the Navy he would like to have gone into the Medical Corp. While serving at sea in the Navy, it was common to hear "roger" "roger" (confirmation of orders). Roger soon instructed everyone to call him by his initials, RK. That is the RK of our Maple Park Neighborhood.

Military service ends and romance strikes. Geri and RK actually met before military service ended. But RK knew so many service men who were miserable missing their wives at home. He decided that he would not get married until out of the service. Soon after being discharged from the Navy, Geri and RK got married. Geri



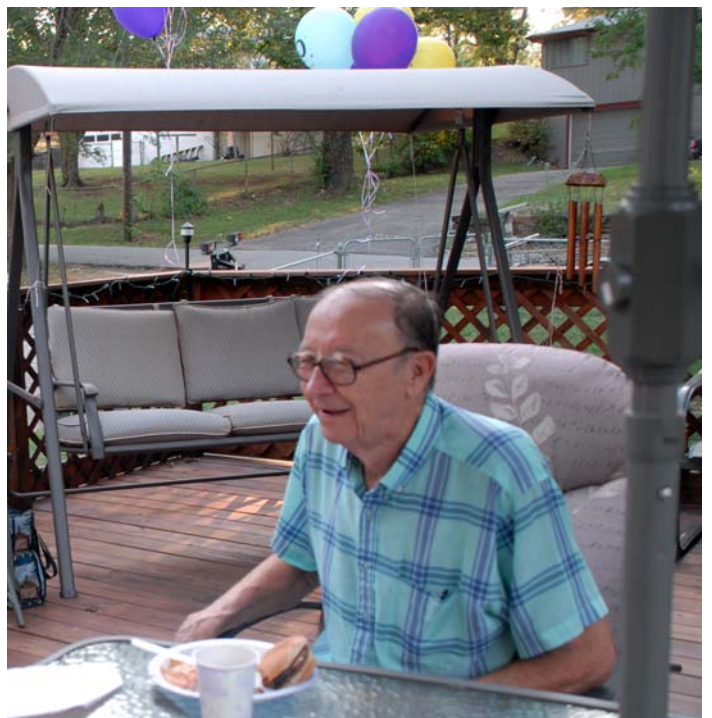
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mon to see him beside the street talking with neighbors, always a smile. He could always be found at the MPNA neighborhood meetings each month.



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The young world traveler who came to make his home with us in Maple Park, Roger K. Waller, left us just a few weeks ago. On March 5th, 2008, RK was taken to the hospital where he passed away only hours later. Roger Waller was born in Garden Grove, Iowa on September 15, 1929. Services were held at Tower View Baptist Church. Officiant: Reverend Dave Schanuel and Reverend



David Williams of Tower View Baptist Church.
You may be gone, but your footprints are with us and you will not be forgotten.
Happy Sailing, Old Friend. (Peg Simmons)

Information collected and provided by:
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