

What's Up Westmont?

August 2015 Newsletter

Summer is here and the "heat is on". The heat can be stressful for people, pets and our yards. Although we have been getting a lot of rain lately, it doesn't take long for it dry up. Please be sure to water your lawn as often as possible. Water the grass early in the morning to avoid fungus and excessive evaporation. You may choose to use a root feeder or hose that will slowly water the roots of the trees and shrubs.

Don't forget about you. Drink lots of fluids. We can become dehydrated quickly in this heat, even if you are indoors. If you feel dizzy, light headed, short of breath, fatigued or have a feeling of weakness, you may be dehydrated. Be proactive....drink non-sugary, non-caffeinated fluids frequently during the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Commercial sports drinks are designed for quick absorption and rehydration by the body. Keep some handy. And like the lawns, water can be your best friend.

The heat can take a toll on our pets as well. Hot sidewalks and pavement can burn a dog's paws, especially puppies. Walk your dog early in the morning and after the sun sets. Also, our pets can easily become dehydrated just like us, so give them plenty of fresh water. Your pet will need double the amount of water during the warmer months of the year because water will help them cool down and dispel heat through panting. Take care of your furry family members.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

Grass Cutting: Grass cutting will take place on Thursdays each week, weather permitting. Please be sure to keep your gates unlocked so the crew can cut the lawn in your back yards. Remember...please do not run your sprinklers on grass cutting day. If it rains on Thursday, grass cutting will take place on the next appropriate day.

Weeds, Weeds, Weeds: Neither the flower beds or spaces between the driveways is treated for weeds by Spectrum. Just a reminder, residents must tend to those areas themselves. Weed them and perhaps apply commercial spray or granules to prevent weeds. It's a violation of city ordinance when the weeds are more than eight inches in height or more than eight inches in length if matted down. A violation also exists if there is poisonous vegetation, such as poison ivy, poison oak or poison sumac. If you would like to hire Spectrum to do some weeding or spraying, please contact Ken Knese. Help to keep Westmont beautiful!

Approved Trees for Overland Park: The storm that came through a couple of weeks ago took down part of a large Bradford Pear tree in our neighborhood. Fortunately, there was not much damage to property. The Bradford Pear, although a beautiful tree, is not on the list of approved trees for Overland Park. They are structurally weak, often breaking in the wind, ice and snow - definitely not suited for Kansas weather conditions. If you are planning to plant a tree, go to the www.opkansas.org website and look for the list of "Approved Trees for Planting" or contact a board member for suggestions and/or assistance selecting just the right tree.

PROPERTY VALUES:

Inspections: We are starting to see a lot of activity in the neighborhood with residents taking care of items identified during the inspection. Thank you for making Westmont a beautiful place to live. If you have any questions regarding your inspection results, please contact Hans Johansson at 913-451-4972 or Mike Perry at 816-210-4455.

And speaking of post-inspection maintenance activities - just a reminder that as you start planning your remodeling and maintenance activities, be sure to check the Westmont Exterior Materials and Colors guide for information on materials and colors for exterior walls, roofs and decks before starting any exterior construction, reconstruction, maintenance or remodeling. Homeowners need to obtain written approval from the Westmont Board of Directors prior to beginning work by submitting an Architectural Review Committee Application (ARC) to the Board between the 1st and 15th of the month. ARC applications can be sent USPS, e-mail, or hand-delivered to the Board President or Vice-president. The Board will review and respond in writing by the last day of the month in which the ARC application was submitted. Both the Materials and Colors guide and the ARC form are available for download from the Westmont Website on the Homes Association of Kansas City website: www.ha-kc.org. If you don't have access to the website, feel free to contact Hans Johansson for a copy of the ARC form.

OUR NEIGHBORS:

Welcome to Our New Neighbor! We're happy you chose Westmont!

- Thilakavathy Subramanian, 8319 West 120th Street

SOCIAL NEWS

Tea at Three: Second Tuesday each month – For additional information, contact Brenda Flagler (913)498-1617 for the **April through December** gatherings and Peg Levitt (913) 491-2966 for the **January through March** gatherings.

Bunko: Second Wednesday each month – For additional information, contact Ginger Burns at (913) 491-1353.

Bridge: Last Wednesday each month – For additional information, contact Margaret Dack at (913) 345-2610.

OTHER INFORMATION

August 2015 Westmont Board Meeting: Monday, August 17th at 6:30 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 12251 Antioch, Overland Park, KS 66213.

Homes Association of Kansas City: The Homeowners Association of Kansas City (HAKC) maintains the Westmont website. The website can be found at: www.ha-kc.org, search for Westmont. The website gives you access to:

- Westmont newsletters, Board meeting minutes, and general information about the Board and Westmont Homes Association
- Bylaws and Restrictions
- Westmont exterior materials and color guide
- ARC Application for exterior home changes

Do you have a Westmont suggestion or concern you want to share? Topic ideas for the newsletter?

Contact our Board members 8am-5pm.

- ▶ **President** – Mike Perry, 816-210-4455, mkpkc@yahoo.com
- ▶ **Vice President /Property Values** – Hans Johansson, 913-451-4972, hans.ingemar.johansson@gmail.com
- ▶ **Secretary** – Audrey Smith, 913-787-7816, ahs432@aol.com
- ▶ **Treasurer** – Don Niemackl, 913-451-3985, deniemackl@sbcglobal.net
- ▶ **Grounds Chairman** – Ken Knese, 913-481-1123, kenknese@aol.com
- ▶ **Social Chair** – Don Roth, 913-661-0036, donroth@sbcglobal.net
- ▶ **Newsletter Editor** – Carol Barlau, 913-491-1449, sunnydaz232323@yahoo.com