

What's Up Westmont?

September 2015 Newsletter

***** Important Announcement – Westmont Homeowner's Annual Meeting – See page 2 for more info! *****

With all the news on home invasions, we thought it worthwhile to share a safety tip and garage door security tips:

- 1) This tip was shared by our good neighbor, Harold Raasch. Take your car key fob with you to bed each night and place it on your nightstand in easy reach. If you hear some unusual noises or glass breaking, press the panic button. This will set off your car alarm. The last thing a burglar wants to hear is a lot of noise, so this will certainly send them running.
- 2) Don't leave your garage door open. It doesn't matter how safe you think the neighborhood is, good neighborhoods are the first place criminals like to drive through to case houses. It's amazing how many people leave their garage door open all the time. It's just inviting someone to pop their heads in and grab something
- 3) If you park a vehicle outside, don't leave the garage door remote in your vehicle. If a thief breaks in to your car and steals the remote, he now has a way into your home. Consider a keychain remote opener.
- 4) Secure your garage door emergency release. The safety release mechanism can be tripped from outside your garage door with nothing more than a coat hanger. Use two or three "bread bag ties" (inserted and tied individually) to lock the disengaging arm on the automatic opener. While this will prevent the bypass technique employed by thieves, the safety pull handle can still be yanked hard to break the thin wire ties in an emergency.
- 5) Make sure the entry door from the garage is a strong, sturdy door made out of solid-core wood or reinforced steel like your front door. Install a dead-bolt lock and Anti-Kick device like the "Door Devil" on it!
- 6) Install a wide-angle peephole in the door between your house and your garage. You'll at least be able to see what's going on if you hear a strange noise rather than opening the door to find out. If someone is out there, press the panic button on your car key fob then call 911.
- 7) Frost or cover your garage windows. Don't do thieves any favors by enabling them to see when your vehicle is gone. A better idea would be to replace the door with one that lacks windows.
- 8) When you plan to leave town, padlock the throw latch on your garage door. If you don't have a manual lock on your garage door, you can use a vice grip on each side of the door track to effectively "lock" down the door.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

Grass Cutting: Beginning the first of September, the grass cutting schedule is changing. **Grass cutting will be done on Friday's for the remainder of the cutting season.** 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 Friday, grass cutting will take place on the next appropriate day.

Spot Seeding: We're getting to that time of year where you may want to take care of those bare spots or areas of the lawn that didn't survive the heat. Over-seeding or spot seeding now will give you a step forward toward a great looking lawn next spring.

PROPERTY VALUES:

Inspections: We are seeing 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. Just a reminder, if you received a "poor" rating for any item, you should be taking immediate action. Items rated as "fair" need repair/improvements within 6 to 12 months.

NEIGHBORS:

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

- Steven & Denise Mason, 12038 Hemlock
- Carol Searcy, 8320 West 119th Terrace

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 **January through March**.

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

Westmont Homeowner's Annual Meeting: The annual Homeowner's meeting will be held Monday, October 26th, at the St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church, 12251 Antioch Rd. This year's dinner will be catered by the well-known Kansas City eatery - Stroud's, famous for their pan-fried chicken. To ensure a seat, those wishing to attend, please contact Don Roth at email donroth@sbcglobal.net or phone # 913-661-0036, or Carol Barlau at email sunnydaz232323@yahoo.com or phone # 913-491-1449. Deadline for responding is Sunday, October 18th.

Driveway / Address Painting: Having the address painted on the curb has been documented to help emergency responders such as Police or medical responders find the address of a building or residence in much less time than an unpainted residence. House address numbers painted on the curb are visible during the day and much easier find at night. Anyone interested in having their address painted on the curb in front of their home, contact Ken Knese at 913-481-1123. Ken's functional design is \$12.00 and is comprised of yellow numbers on a black rectangle background.

Large Item Trash Pickup: The dates of Overland Park's highly popular large item trash pickup of unwanted items will be September 26th for homes from College Boulevard to south city limits. More information can be found on the city's website, www.opkansas.org.

September 2015 Westmont Board Meeting: Monday, September 21st 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, to access:

- 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 between 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