

LaPlacita Park Neighborhood News



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May 2005

Notes From Our Last Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Linda Matney, President. The March minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Amanda Bartel with a balance of \$78.61. Officer Kyle reported car windows were being broken with BB guns. The Scat Team officers are again patrolling our area. There has been some gang activity noted. Officer Zamorano is trying to get an area near Orchard Park approved for use by skate boarders. Greg Boyajian gave a report on the gang summit meeting he attended. Retta reported preliminary work has begun on the paving project in her area. She also requested a "Thinking of you" card shower for Louise Neff. Her address is 3618 W. 13th Street. Apt. 316, Wichita, KS 67203.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM followed by social time.

Respectfully submitted by *Joyce Lutz*

We Need You!!

We would like to start writing some articles about the history of our neighborhood. We would love for anyone who knows about the past of the area to submit their stories and if you have or know any one who has photos of the area we would also like to publish them. Many of our residents have lived here for a long time and I'm sure you could tell us some really interesting things about the neighborhood.

Call Linda at 942-0001 or email ljmatney@yahoo.com and we will get your story in the newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

May 3, 2005

Morris Restaurant

1014 N. West St. - 7:00 pm

Come, learn and enjoy.

Our Neighborhood Cleanup
is scheduled for Saturday, June 25,
starting at 8:30 am.

Get Well Soon!

We would also ask that you
send get well cards to Ann Wilbert,

District 6 Advisory Board Meetings

Please remember to call Linda Matney, 250-7656 or Terri Dozal, 303-8042 regarding neighborhood problems or information. The District Advisory Board meetings are held the 1st Monday at 7:00 pm and if necessary the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:05 PM at the Evergreen Park Recreation Center at 25th and Arkansas Avenue.

Important Phone Numbers

Central Inspection.....268-4481
Community Policing.....941-0673
Health Department.....268-8351
Sharon Fearey, 6th District City Council 268-4331
Terri Dozal.....303-8042
Traffic Department268-4131
West Patrol Substation.....337-9400
Towne West Substation.....945-3478
Neighborhood Action Line..... 529-9999*
Officer Zamorano.... email: pzamorano@wichita.gov
Officer Kyle email: gxyle@wichita.gov
WIN (Mon, Tues, Thurs 8:00 - 12:00).....685-6300
WIN Fax.....685-6335

*Call the Neighborhood Action Line when
you don't know who else to call.

Neighborhood Officers:

Linda Matney..... *Interim president*.....**942-0001**
Susan Bessey... *vice president*.....**944-0677**
Joyce Lutz..... *recording secretary*.....**942-3106**
Amanda Bartel..... *treasurer*.....**943-0936**
Greg Boyajian.... *Membership Coordinator*....**942-0831**
Paul Keck..... *At Large Member***946-5722**
Peter Bartel..... *At Large Member*.....**943-0936**
Jean Keefer..... *At Large Member*.....**943-5961**

These are your officers for the 2004-2005 year.

Free Mulch for Your Landscaping Needs

April 15, 2005 Contact: Jessica Johnson, Marketing Services Director: JJJohnson@wichita.gov: (316) 268-4351

The January storm clean up brought many Wichita trees to the Brooks Landfill site. Wondering what happened to all of those trees? It was made into mulch, of course! Citizens can pick up FREE mulch at Brooks Landfill just in time for spring plantings! Brooks Landfill is located at 4100 N. West Street. It is open 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Saturdays and 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Mondays through Fridays. Mulch is available while supplies last, and there is currently plenty of it! For more information, call Brooks Landfill during regular hours at 722-0601.

Telemarketing Charges on your Cell Phone

In a few weeks, cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls. You will be charged for these calls. You can call this number from your cell phone 888-382-1222. It is the national DO NOT CALL LIST. It only takes a minute of your time and it blocks your number for 5 years.

Thought for the Day

“Champions do not become champions when they win the event, but in the hours, weeks, months and years that they spend preparing for it. The victorious performance is merely the demonstration of their championship character.” – T. Alan Armstrong

Any Ideas?

If you know someone who would like to give a presentation at one of our meetings or there is someone or something you would like to hear, please call Susan Bessey 944-0677 or one of the other officers listed in the newsletter. We thank all of you for any future suggestions.

Tip!!

Remember to look at the label and buy US made products. The job and/or retirement you save could be your own.

Chuckle



A county traffic policeman recently stopped a woman for exceeding the posted speed limit. He asked the driver for her name. She said, "I'm Mrs. Ladislav Abdulkhashim Zybkcicraznovskaya from the Republic of Uzbekistan, visiting my daughter at Columbia."

The cop put away his summons book and pen and said, "Well... OK... but don't let me catch you speeding again."

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Breakfast with Sharon

Please join Sharon Fearey, 6th District City Council Representative for coffee or breakfast (Dutch Treat) for an update of 6th District and City issues.

When: The 4th Saturday of the month (except December)

Where: Morris Restaurant, 1014 N. West Street

Time: 9 am to 10 am

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Library**

Location: 2601 N. Arkansas,

Phone: 303-8181

Hours: Monday - Thursday,

10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Books, Films, Cameras and Scanners

May 2005 Programs for Adults - Wichita Public Library. All events are free and open to the public. With 48-hour notice, the Library can provide signed programs and meet other special needs; call 261-8590 for details.

Book Discussions

Registration is required; contact the hosting library for book titles and information.

Evergreen Branch Library Book Club (1st Tuesday), meets 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. on first Tuesday of each month.

Tuesday, May 3: "Founding Mothers" by Cokie Roberts.

Evergreen Branch Library Book Club (1st Thursday), Meets 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on first Thursday of each month.

Thursday, May 5: "Galileo's Daughter" by Dava Sobel.

Evergreen Branch Library Book Club (3rd Thursday), Meets 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. on third Thursday of each month.

Thursday, May 19: "The Bonesetter's Daughter" by Amy Tan.

Orchard Park Branch Library Book Club, 4808 W 9th, 337-9084 meets 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. on first Friday of each month Friday, May 6.

Matinee "Idles" Film Club

Newly formed group of film aficionados and view a newly released DVD each month, prior to its release into the Library collection. Afterwards, join in a lively discussion about the film. Westlink Branch Library, 8515 Bekemeyer, 337-9456. *Saturday, May 21, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.*

Using Digital Cameras and Scanners in Genealogy.

Learn how you can (and why you might!) use digital cameras and scanners to achieve your research goals at the quarterly meeting of the Wichita Genealogical Society. The meeting is open to the public. *Saturday, May 21, 1:00-3:00 p.m.* Evergreen Branch Library, **The Knitting Circle**

Evergreen Branch Library, *Tuesday, May 31, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.* If you are a beginning knitter who needs help getting started or an experienced knitter who wants to find a group of like-minded knitters, this group is for you. Ask your knitting questions in a friendly environment and meet others who share your interest.

Party in the Park!

Orchard Park Neighborhood Association will be having a Party in the Park. *Saturday, June 25, 2005 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.* Orchard Park - 4808 W. 9th St. North.

The Orchard Park Neighborhood Association would like to invite you to a Party in the Park. Come out and meet Mayor Carlos Mayans, City Councilwoman Sharon Fearey, members of the Board of Park Commissioners AND YOUR NEIGHBORS!!

There will be more information in our next newsletter. For further information please contact Donna Aldrich at 943-8622

World's Easiest Test!

Here's the world's easiest test. You should be able to get 100% on this one.

- 1) How long did the hundred year war last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From what animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In what month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is Camel's hair brush made from?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George IV's first name?
- 8) What color is a Purple Finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese Gooseberries from?
- 10) How long did the Thirty Years War last?

(Answers on the back page)



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316-655-7807 gamgeegardens@sbcglobal.net





Old Cowtown Museum Rolls Out 55TH Season with New Stagecoach

Old Cowtown Museum rolls out the 2005 season with 17 blockbuster events and 8 themed weekends designed for family fun, education and entertainment. Stagecoach rides, old-time photos, vintage base ball games, more animals on the grounds and a deputy program entitling kids ages 4 to 11 to free Museum admission all season long are a few of the highlights.

“We are encouraging families to spend time together on a day vacation while experiencing life of a simpler time that is free from the worries of today’s modern society.

Stagecoach rides for visitors have become a reality after the Museum received a custom-made, reproduction Concord coach in January from supplier Latham Coach Works of Fortuna, Mo. The beautiful, new 8.5-foot tall coach is a replica of what would have been rolling through Wichita in the 1870’s. It seats six people and is completely made of wood compared to many that are created with fiberglass and/or tin. Leather seats and mailbags, time-period wheels and “Kansas Stage Company” painted on the side are a few highlights of its features. The two new Percheron-cross mares that

have been purchased to help pull the coach are named Josephine and Belle.

Located at 1371 Sim Park Drive.

Old Cowtown Museum Women of the West Fest

Saturday, May 7, 10:00am-5:00pm, Sunday, May 8, Noon -5:00pm. Travel back in time an meet distinguished women of the western frontier. Delight in 1870's wagon rides and crafts. Learn about Victorian customs, etiquette, fashion and much more. Festival button required.

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Do Gangs Show Their Colors Where You Live?

The Wichita Police Department's gang unit offers this quiz for residents who wonder whether their neighborhoods have a gang problem. Add the points assigned to each question you answer "Yes."

- 1) Is there graffiti on or near your neighborhood or community? (5 points)
- 2) Is the graffiti crossed out? (10 points)
- 3) Do the young people in your area wear gang-associated colors; jewelry or clothing; flash hand signs; or display other behavior that may be gang related? (10 points)
- 4) Are drugs available? (10 points)
- 5) Has there been a significant increase in the number of physical confrontations between young people within the past year? (5 points)
- 6) Is there an increasing presence of weapons? (5 points)
- 7) Do young people use pagers or cell phones? (10 points)
- 8) Has there been a drive-by shooting? (15 points)
- 9) Have you had a "show-by" display of weapons? (5 points)
- 10) Is the rate of school truancies or daytime burglaries increasing? (5 points)
- 11) Have racial incidents increased? (5 points)
- 12) Is there a history of gangs in your neighborhood? (10 points)
- 13) Is there an increasing presence of informal "social groups" bearing names like "kings," "disciples," "queens," "posse," or "crew"? (15 points)

Scoring: 0 – 20 points, no problem; 25 – 45 points, emerging problem; 50 – 65 points, you have problems; 70 points or more, there are serious problems.

The Wichita Police Department recommends development of a gang intervention and prevention program for neighborhoods with score of 50 or more. For more information, call 268- 4239.

Message to Citizens of 15 Beat Regarding Drugs and Gangs in YOUR Neighborhood:

The Wichita Police Department recognizes that we cannot win the war against gangs and drugs alone. Gangs and drugs affect all of us, and often destroy our community and families.

We need your help. Please DO NOT look the other way and say it is someone else's problem. We need the community to be our extra eyes and ears. Get involved!

Please report drug and gang activity in your neighborhood to the Special Community Action Team (S.C.A.T.).

S.C.A.T is the enforcement arm of community policing which specializes in street level drug and gang activity.

Any information received by you will be kept confidential, and you will be doing your community a service. YOU can make a difference!

Please Call Patrol West Bureau S.C.A.T at (316) 337-9400 or (316) 945-3478.

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter - Call 942-0001 before the 12th of the month.

Household Hint:

Wash windows on an overcast day rather than on a bright sunny day. There will be fewer streaks because the windows will dry more slowly.



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Patrol West Bureau
661 N. Elder, Wichita, KS
67212
Work: 337-9400/Fax 337-9470
email:
pzamorano@wichita.gov

Public Skateboard Area in Orchard Park

The Wichita Police Department 15 beat team and myself have been asked by some local skateboarders, parents, and members of the Orchard Park Neighborhood Association to write to you and ask for your support in placing an additional recreational amenity - a skateboard area in Orchard Park.

The skateboard area in Orchard Park would provide the local skateboarders a centralized, safe area to participate in their chosen sport - skateboarding.

While patrolling the area around Orchard Park on numerous occasions I have seen local skateboarders in the middle of the city street on their makeshift ramps or sidewalks skateboarding with little or no regard for traffic, citizens, or their own personal safety.

Educating the local skateboarders and enforcing the applicable city ordinances pertaining to skateboarding within the city limits only solves the problem short-term, and I believe does not provide a positive viable solution to the problem.

Simply put...there is no area for these local skateboarders to skateboard without taking the chance of vio-

lating applicable city ordinances pertaining to skateboarding within the city limits of Wichita due to private parking lots, businesses, and schools being properly posted.

The funding for this skateboard area (i.e. - concrete slab and skateboard ramps etc.) would be achieved through the local skateboarders fundraising efforts by asking local businesses and citizens to donate their time, money, and materials in support of this skateboard area.

The Orchard Park Neighborhood Association members and owner and local businessman of "The Pusher" in Towne West Square, Jason Tewecke, are supporting these local skateboarders and the placement of the skateboard area in Orchard Park.

I would also like to invite you to join us for the "Party in the Park," which is hosted by the Orchard Park Neighborhood Association on Saturday, June 25, 2005 at 4808 W. 9th St. North - Orchard Park. The hours for the event will be 11am to 3 pm.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Stay Safe!

Private Property Vehicle Tows

The Wichita Police Department no longer responds to calls for vehicle tows from private property, unless it presents an environmental health issue.

Any private property owner who has a vehicle towed, without the knowledge and actual consent of the owner or the person in legal possession of the vehicle, is required by City Ordinance 11.99.030 to contact the Wichita Police Department Records Bureau within one hour of the tow. Failure to comply with this ordinance can result in a fine up to \$1000.

Individuals who have had a vehicle towed off their private property should contact the Wichita Police Department Records Bureau at 268-4186. Staff is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to take the information.

Callers should be prepared to provide the following information:

- Vehicle year
- Make
- Model
- VIN#
- Towing company name and address
- Location where is vehicle being towed
- Person ordering the tow
- Address from which the vehicle was towed

For more information on private tows you can visit the City of Wichita's website at www.wichita.gov. On the law page under general links you will find a section on ordinances, please refer to ordinance 11.99.030 for specific information. *City of Wichita, Wichita Police Department*

District 1
Carl Brewer
303-8020
cbrewer@wichita.gov

District 2
Sue Schlapp
268-4331
sschlapp@wichita.gov

District 3
Jim Skelton
303-8033
JSkelton@wichita.gov

District 4
Paul Gray
268-4331
pgray@wichita.gov

District 5
Bob Martz
268-4331
bmartz@wichita.gov

District 6
Sharon Fearey
268-4331
sfearey@wichita.gov

Mayor Carlos Mayans
268-4331
cmayans@wichita.gov

County Commissioner Update Lucy Burtnett, Fourth District

It has been awhile since I have updated you on what's going on with this new County Commissioner gig! The first couple of months were overwhelming with learning the courthouse, the departments, the division heads, setting up my office, etc. But now I'm heading into my fourth month and feel much more comfortable in my position. I have had to deal with some sticky issues regarding sand pits, some county/township road problems, occasional complaints about property tax and other county concerns. I attend meetings on a regular basis regarding many issues such as the health and well being of our elderly, children, disabled and homeless; jail overpopulation; Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, Northeast Redevelopment Task Force, Downtown Development, Visitors and Convention Bureau, workshops, ground breakings, staff meetings and of course our County Commission Meetings on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. (which you can watch live on channel 8!) I have not been able to attend as many neighborhood meetings as I would like, but my hope is to do a better job of scheduling my other evening events.

On top of all that, the arena bill was signed, so we now start our timeline of work to make it happen. I was able to go to Topeka, along with the other four commissioners, for the formal signing.

We are also starting the daunting task of the 2006 budget process now. This process will take quite a few months with the Commission finalizing the budget in early July.

Right now I am involved with the Sedgwick County Block Party in association with the Wichita River Festival. The block party will be Friday, May 13, and most of the commissioners will be at the Sedgwick County tent located at the Kennedy Plaza downtown (by Century II) around 5:00 p.m. until about 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. Please come by and say hello to us, and register for some prizes that the county is giving away! There will be plenty of entertainment for your enjoyment that evening and I look forward to seeing you there. If you attend the River Festival Parade on Friday, May 6, you can wave to us there too! We'll be walking by the County vehicles that will be in the parade.

I am proud to be serving you as your county commissioner and if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me at 660-9300 or email me at lburnet@sedgwick.gov. (there is just one "t" at the end of my name on the email...it's kind of confusing!)

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Burglary Tips to Keep Your Home and Property Safe

In 2004 there were approximately 4000 home and business burglaries reported in the City of Wichita. Burglars take a variety of items such as but not limited to cash, electronics, lawn mowers, game systems and computers. They particularly like tools and jewelry because they are easy to pawn but difficult to track. Here are some helpful tips to reduce the chance of you becoming a victim and if you are a victim these tips will help detectives to possibly recover your property.

- If you have ever locked yourself out of the house, you may have found yourself walking around the exterior of your home looking for the easiest way in. Burglars do the same thing.

- Overhead garage doors are usually a problem only when they are left open. It only takes a few seconds for a burglar to walk in off the street and take some valuable item from your garage. It also gives them easy access to get inside your home. Keep your overhead door closed at all times. If you see your neighbor's overhead garage door open, call and let them know.

- Please take the time to record the model and serial numbers on game systems, electronics, camera and computers. Place these numbers in a secure place. If your home is burglarized and you have not recorded these numbers it will be very difficult for the police to find and return your property. A large majority of all property taken in home burglaries ends up in pawn shops who have to record these serial numbers and report them to the police

- Sometimes serial numbers are removed or hard to read so it is a good idea to engrave your property. You can borrow an engraver from and Wichita Police Department Substation. Hand tools such as wrenches

and sockets do not usually have serial numbers. They are easy to pawn at pawnshops and one wrench pretty much looks like another unless you engrave it. This will help you get your property back and help your burglary detectives catch the bad guys.

- Expensive jewelry should be appraised and photographed. If you can, take a close-up picture of any jewelry you value.

- You know your neighborhood best. If you see something suspicious please call 911 and report the suspicious activity right away. If you see a car drive around the block several times watching houses or kids, someone peeking inside your neighbors windows, someone going door to door asking for money or someone knocking on the front door, looking around and then going to the back door, you should call 911 and advise them of this activity.

- Some citizens have watched their neighbor's front door get kicked open and watched the burglar carry the property to the suspect car and drive away. The neighbor did not call the police but did tell their neighbor when they got home. Please call 911 as soon as you know something is wrong

- Contact Community Affairs, 268-4101 for a free home survey, they will come out and check your locks, lighting and give you an Operation Identification pamphlet to record serial numbers of all your electronic items. They can also assist you in establishing a Neighborhood Watch on your block.

There is a Crime Trend complaint reference graffiti in the Riverside area. During the last several months unknown person(s) have spray painted the neighborhood. 1 Beat team members have stepped up the patrols in the area. Since we have increased presents there have not been any other incidents.

Answers to World's Easiest Test.

- 1) 116 years, from 1337 to 1453
 - 2) Equador
 - 3) From sheep and horses
 - 4) November. The Russian calendar was 13 days behind ours.
 - 5) Squirrel fur
 - 6) The Latin name was Insularia Carnaria – Island of the Dogs.
 - 7) Albert. In 1936 he respected the wish of Queen Victoria that no future king should ever be called Albert.
 - 8) Distinctively crimson
 - 9) New Zealand
 - 10) 30 years of course. 1618 to 1648
- How well did you score??

Want to Submit an Article?

If you would like to submit an article for the LaPlacita Neighborhood newsletter please call 942-0001 before the 12th. Thank you for reading the newsletter.