



**SUMMER**

# Uptown Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Uptown Neighborhood Association, Inc.

August, 2004

[www.simplyneighbors.com/Kansas/Wichita/Uptown](http://www.simplyneighbors.com/Kansas/Wichita/Uptown)

## Your UNA Officers

### President

Paul Oberg 687-0949  
chancyo@earthlink.net

### Vice President

David Franks 685-2030  
david.franks@cox.net

### Recording Secretary

Katie Murdock 685-2030  
chautauqua@cox.net

### Treasurer

Lynn Wasinger 618-4945  
dalyntra@prodigy.net

### Director of Communications

Lori Lawrence 688-1484  
lorilawrence@cox.net

### Uptown boundaries

**Central, Douglas,  
Grove and Hillside**

*If you live, work or own property  
in Uptown, you are a member!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**August 5**, 7 pm Monthly meeting  
with guest speaker

**August 7**, 8 am Breakfast with  
Councilmaan Brewer

**September 2**, 7 pm Nominations for  
officers

**October 7**, 7 pm Election of officers

**October 17**, Sunday, 1 pm Park  
Clean up and Cook out

**October 31**, Sunday, Uptown  
Halloween Party

Call for more information:  
**688-1484**

## SHARE your thoughts on PUBLIC HEALTH in SEDGWICK COUNTY at the NEXT UNA MEETING on AUGUST 5th.

Informational speaker from the **Sedgwick County Public Health Services** to dialogue with Uptown Neighborhood Association members at the next meeting on August 5th in the basement of College Hill United Methodist Church at 1st and Chautauqua. Come prepared to hear about future plans and to discuss and share your concerns about health care for the uninsured, water quality, solid waste and recycling, West Nile Virus, the overall quality of life and much more in the great Wichita area.



## October 17

Put this date on your calendar. We will have our fall clean up of Chautauqua Park at 1 p.m. on that Sunday. After we're done cleaning up, we will have a cook out in the park and roast marshmallows! Be sure to come! But remember, you can't eat if you don't help first. The more there are the faster the work goes.

Watch this newsletter for more information as it gets closer.

## Breakfast With Councilman Brewer

### Special Announcement!!

On Saturday, August 7th, the regular breakfast at Cisro's will be devoted to meeting and getting to know our new **City Manager George Kolb**. Police Chief Norman Williams and Sedgwick County Sheriff Gary Steed are also expected to be there. Anyone who lives in District One as we all do in Uptown is invited. Please plan to attend.

Breakfast starts at 8 a.m. and costs \$6 or \$7, can't remember for sure how much, and it is a delicious buffet. Cisro's is located at 4910 E. 21st Street at Oliver. Don't miss this one!! If you don't want to eat and want to just come to hear the speaker that's fine too.



## **Excitement at the September Meeting!!**

We may be inviting Lorrie Beck from the Great Plains Nature Center to come and show us some wildlife! She may bring a hawk, an owl or some crawling creature. Put it on your calendar for Thursday, September 2nd at 7 p.m. Look for more information in the September newsletter.

See you there!!

*Deadline for Uptown Newsletter  
Information August 11*

**Next meeting Thursday August 5, at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss it!  
College Hill United Methodist Church**

## Minutes of the Meeting, July 1, 2004

This meeting took place at College Hill United Methodist Church.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting on May 6, 2004 were approved. There was no June meeting, due to the annual Neighborhood Picnic.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beginning Balance = \$638.56. Credits = \$7.25 (cookie sales), \$755.30 (garage sale profit), and \$450 (picnic donations, including a \$350.00 WIN grant), totaling \$1212.55. Debits = \$49.56 (park clean-up chemicals), \$40.00 (port-a-potty for picnic), \$5.50 (park clean-up), \$56.40 (park clean-up), and \$86.87 (picnic), totaling \$238.33. Ending Balance = \$1851.11.

The **Neighborhood Picnic** on June 5, 2004, was a great success. Gross picnic income was \$1,309.46, mostly from the raffle and the \$350.00 "Bloom Where You're Planted" grant from WIN. Other donations were from College Hill Liquor, Rip Gooch, Hancock Automotive, Design Studio Ltd., Dr. Larry Davis, and Cummings Pharmacy. Expenses were \$1146.56, resulting in a net income of \$162.90.

The Uptown Neighborhood **Non-Profit Status** application was returned to us (along with the \$180.00 check) because we need to submit treasurer's reports. Lynn Wasinger will try to track down that information.

**Neighborhood Police Officer's Report:** No neighborhood police officer was present. (Officer Shirkey's phone number is 688-9331. Her email address is [vshirkey@wichita.gov](mailto:vshirkey@wichita.gov), and she has a web page at [www.wichitapolice.com](http://www.wichitapolice.com).)

Paul Oberg presented an update on the **Rails-to-Trails** issue. He mentioned the idea, supported by Bill Ellington, of having a trolley on the abandoned railroad tracks. The District Advisory Board voted to promote the rail bed as a hike/bike trail. There was some discussion as to which railroad tracks were under consideration for what use.

Paul passed around pictures of graffiti, damage, and plant maintenance needs at **Chautauqua Park**. Paul removed most of the graffiti; he has the necessary chemicals, if anyone needs them. Barricades at Chautauqua and Estelle have been broken, and the bridge and retaining wall at Estelle have been defaced with magic marker. Four park benches were stolen. It was mentioned that it's a sad state of affairs when vandals can't spell their graffiti words correctly.

The **Fall Park Clean-Up** will be on Sunday, October 17th, at 1:00 pm. A hot dog roast will follow.

Paul brought up the article about free **Curbside Recycling** that appeared in last month's newsletter, saying that he didn't think that this pick-up applied to Uptown. He said the article misrepresented the recycling issue because it's impossible to make money at recycling, so it needs to be supported by donations. He suggested that Joel Rutledge of Heartland Recycling write an article for the newsletter regarding the state of recycling in Wichita and the associated problems.

This year's **National Night Out** will be on August 3rd. Neighbors are encouraged to turn on their porch lights and have block parties. Community police officers will drop by block parties, if requested. If you want to block off a street you need to contact the City Manager's Office. A petition must be signed by all of the people whose driveways will be blocked as a result.

The widening of **Hillside Avenue** was briefly discussed. Clifton's flower shop will be closing; Hancock Automotive will be expanding its parking space to the south.

Paul Oberg attended a President's Council meeting on **Grant Writing**. Maaskelah Chineyre-Jeng, Community Education Coordinator for the City of Wichita, is willing to help people with all kinds of grant writing.

Someone from **Environmental Health Services** would like to do a presentation on public health for us. The meeting would be informational, but our input would be requested.

Lori Lawrence announced that the next **District Coalition Breakfast** meeting will be on August 7th at Cisros. This is a particularly important meeting because the new City Manager George Kolb will attend, along with Chief of Police Norman Williams and County Sheriff Gary Steed. Lori encourages everyone to attend this breakfast meeting to support Carl Brewer.

Discussion took place regarding possible ways to encourage more people to attend UNA meetings. It was suggested that a **Survey** be taken to determine if there would be a better meeting time, etc. Lynn Wasinger volunteered to work out five questions for the survey. She will email them to UNA officers, and they will be presented at the next meeting, which will be August 5, 2004.

The idea of having **Block Captains** was also discussed. It was agreed that we need to define what constitutes a "block" and the duties of the Block Captain.

**Improvements** to the David Franks/Katie Murdock house on the corner of 2nd and Chautauqua were praised, particularly the paint job and new awnings.



## Crystal's Clubhouse

Crystal Winter - licensed daycare  
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**M - F 1st shift (flexible hours)**

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Foster ad

## Response to recycling price drops

July 11, 2004

Recent price drops for recycling service are eye-catching, but are really nothing more than attempts by a few companies struggling to attract new customers. However, these attempts to provide under-valued or free recycling service simply won't work: even if they could afford to sustain those rates for long, people who recycle want and deserve good service, and you can't get that from a trash company or a free service.

The simple facts about the market for recycling locally are this: a multi-national corporation controls the market here, artificially deflating prices because it 'sells' most of the materials it collects to another division of the same company. This huge conglomerate doesn't pay us for the materials we deliver, making it necessary to charge a low monthly fee.

Even if recycling pickup services were able to consistently sell the materials we carry, a pickup fee is likely to remain necessary: increases in fuel costs and insurance, along with the more costly handling of materials others won't accept, make every penny necessary. For instance, our company accepts materials other pickup services won't, such as office paper, junk mail, corrugated cardboard, and the colored plastics that the other companies aren't willing to handle.

PRoKS, a local nonprofit group, is developing a drop-off facility downtown at 2113 S. Mead. Watch the media for news about when they will open. If all you want is for your recycling to be free, then your best option is to support that nonprofit, not a trash hauler. If you want good service, more materials, and the convenience of curbside pickup, then you need to contact the only area-wide, full-service, professional, recycling-only company;

Heartland Recycling.

Responsible citizens recycle, and those who are even more responsible will use one of these two options, for the betterment of all citizens of this county and indeed of this great nation.

Joel and Tracy Rutledge  
Heartland Recycling, LLC  
Wichita, Kansas

*(Note from editor: If you would like to get breaking news about the new recycling center Joel spoke of, please email Lori at [lorilawrence@cox.net](mailto:lorilawrence@cox.net) and get your email address on her emailing list for news. You'll know it before the rest of Wichita and it is really exciting times right now!)*

## Thank You!

I would like to thank District One for the honor of the Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Professional Service on July 12th. Vice Mayor, Carl Brewer presented me with the plaque at the District Advisory Board Meeting that evening. It is so nice to know that District One is appreciative of the newsletters we produce here at Der Printing Haus for their District. But I have to add, I couldn't do it all without my trusty sidekick, Sharon Scrimager.

Lucy Burtnett



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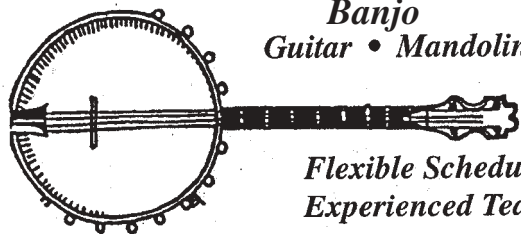
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## Mary Dewing's News from the Neighborhood

Gabe Rangel graduated from East High in May.

Chautauqua Street welcomes 3 sets of new neighbors – Michael and Vanessa Tyson and daughter Ashauntika “Shaun”, Patricia Wasinger and daughter Jessica and one other family that we will get the name for next month.

Dale and Lynn Wasinger will celebrate their 25th anniversary in August. Congratulations!

Lindsay Rangel’s soccer team at East High took 4th in State and Lindsay got Honorable Mention for soccer.

## Emergency Alert Uptowners

My name is Mindy and on Tuesday, June 8, 04 I came across a situation that must come to the attention of **EVERY SINGLE PERSON** in the neighborhood.

Tuesday evening while walking the family dogs with my daughter, we met a youngster from the neighborhood

who had just left Chautauqua Street Park and showed us his bloodied finger. He had found a syringe in our park and inadvertently stuck himself hard enough to draw blood

I found myself in a real dilemma. I first talked to the boy and instructed him to go home immediately and tell his parents so he could see a doctor. I ended up verbally ordering him to take me to his home. Once there, he brought me in and his mother was told of the incident and her reply was also disturbing, she said, “Oh well, you’re fine, go on.” I met their next door neighbor who informed me that after dark, the park is a gathering place for drug addicts who choose to shoot up.

I did report the whole incident to 911 and they are doing a welfare check on the boy.

I spoke with Mary Dewing and we learned that this was the second day in a row that this boy found a syringe in our park. I and I’m sure you all will find this most alarming.

### We must do all we can to:

1. By a show of “neighborhood watch” force these people to leave.
2. Ensure the safety of our children by telling them to **NEVER EVER** pick up a syringe, needle or anything sharp, tell an adult.
3. By becoming more aware of litter in our park or streets.
4. By calling as many people as needed to ensure the safety of our neighborhood.

We now can only pray that this boy was not exposed to AIDS, hepatitis, TB or anything that could harm his future health.

This is our neighborhood, our friends, our families, our future. We must not let it be taken over. We must take back our park, our streets and our neighborhood.

Thank you and blessings,

*Mindy (last name withheld)*



Re-elect Judge

# Karen Langston

**Judge Karen Langston is Sedgwick County’s only Republican incumbent woman District Court Judge**

29 years of legal experience including  
 4 years as an elected judge  
 University of Kansas - 1972  
 Washburn Law School - 1975  
 Chief Attorney, Office of the District Attorney prior to serving as a Judge  
 Chairperson of the Sedgwick County Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board  
 Member of the Kansas Supreme Court Task Force for Children in Need of Care  
 Board of Directors of the United Way of the Plains  
 She and her husband David Langston have two sons - Marc and Bryan.

**District Court - Div. 26**

Adv. Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Judge Karen Langston, Frank Cobb, Treasurer

[judgekarenlangston.net](http://judgekarenlangston.net)

## Kate Mix

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## Chautauqua Park Grafitti

Now that school is out, so are the kids. Felt pen grafitti on the playground equipment at Chautauqua Park and on the pedestrian bridge over 3rd St. at Erie are two examples of unsupervised mischief caused by youth in the neighborhood. Regardless of the message, defacement of public property is a crime and should not be allowed. Parents, please let your children know that permanent markers are not to be used on anything that does not belong to you. Give them chalk.



## Chautauqua Park Chalk Drawing

Last month, some delightful chalk drawings appeared on the sidewalks at Chautauqua Park. Those who saw them surely appreciated the temporary splash of color, like flowers in bloom! Colored chalk is by far the best medium to use for personal expression. A big **THANK YOU** to the artists from everyone in the neighborhood!



*IF YOU SEE SOMEONE YOU SUSPECT IS UP  
TO NO GOOD IN UPTOWN,  
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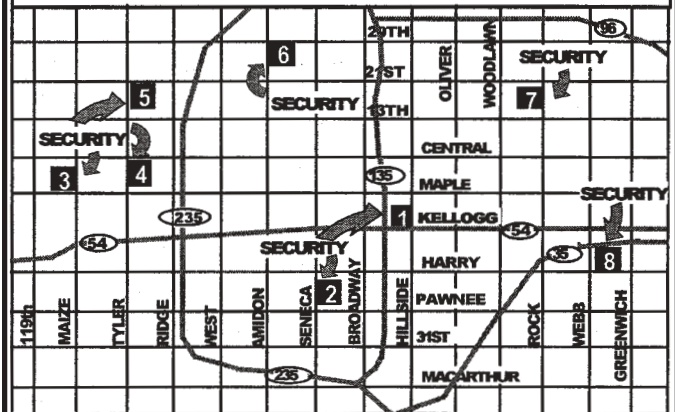
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3. Maize & Maple (111 N. Maize Rd.)\* **773-9303**
4. Central & Tyler (550 N. Tyler)..... **722-8330**
5. 21st & Tyler (8631 W. 21st) \* ..... **721-2666**
6. 29th & Amidon (2940 N. Amidon)..... **838-6811**
7. 17th & Rock (1701 N. Rock Rd.)\* ..... **634-0098**
8. Harry & Webb (9750 E. Harry)\* ..... **683-3390**

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### Uptown Trivia

In a near unanimous vote, the Uptown Trivia Stockholders Association (UTSA) has proclaimed its extreme disappointment that once again, no one even attempted to answer last month's trivia challenge. A majority decided that the only formidable solution to this dilemma is to ask the same question again, offer the same prize, but give another hint.

### Didjano...?

That if you'd read last month's Didjano UT can do this.

...nowUdo!



Where in Uptown is this interesting Art Deco detail?

Yes, it's the same building that bears last month's detail picture. Now we know one of you will answer quickly! You see it all the time! The first person to call 685-4850 with the correct answer wins.

**a \$ 5 gift certificate to  
WESTLAKE ACE HARDWARE  
At Douglas and Hillside**

### Park Benches

On Saturday June 26th, around 3:00 pm it was noted that the park benches along the 3rd St. drainage ditch were missing. All 4 aluminum park benches on both sides of the 3rd St. drainage ditch had been un-



bolted and carted off; probably to the west toward Grove, as evidenced by the bracket attachments nearby. Only the tubular bench supports remain. The Wichita police were notified and visited the scene of the crime the same day. If you have any information that may help to solve this crime, please notify the Wichita Police, Patrol East Bureau at 688-9331, Officer Valerie Shirkey; or call one of the Uptown Neighborhood Association Board members listed on the cover of this newsletter.

### Advertise in the Uptown Newsletter

Rates are \$7.00 per column inch  
*(So an ad this size would be just \$7.00!)*  
Advertising is what keeps your newsletter going!  
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681-1220

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773-0123

## Grove/1st Street Median Reconstruction Project

Plans to construct a left turn onto 1st Street for southbound traffic off Grove included in the 2004 Capital Improvement Plan for Wichita, were given unanimous approval at the District Advisory Board meeting on July 12th. Uptown Neighborhood Association, and DAB members, Lori Lawrence and Debby Moore moved and seconded the motion to accept the City's recommendation. This will not be a protected turn, just a turn lane and you go on green. No arrow. If they find the intersection to be dangerous they will consider putting in an arrow but for now they will not.

Construction is scheduled to begin some time in September or October and will be finished within a month and a half. Congratulations to all who persisted and gave of their time to achieve this goal.

## Tutor Training at Literacy Resources

Please contact Literacy Resources Metro Area at 973-5120, fax 973-5124 or email literacyresources@earthlink.net to register for Tutor Training. Classes are Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - noon, August 24, 31 and September 7, 2004. Included in \$40 registration fee are textbook, handouts and special speakers.

## News from the DAB

At the next Uptown meeting, come and see the Proposed Budget in Brief for the City of Wichita in 2005-06. I will have a couple of copies you can take and read. I will also have pictures and a drawing of what they will do next to Grove Park. Wow, they are going to have a great nature trail through 3 foot tall prairie grasses and other natural plantings! Sounds like a fun time and a good place for a school field trip.

Lucy Burnett of Der Printing Haus was also honored for her work with neighborhoods. In case you don't realize it, Lucy is the one who puts together our Uptown Neighborhood News and prints it AND delivers it to me each month. AND Uptown doesn't have to pay a cent for this service! Lucy was thrilled with the honor and said it felt great to be recognized for her years of work.

If you know where Calvary Towers are, at 2600 N. Grove at 26th, they will be remodeled and expanded for senior citizen housing in the next year or so. They hope to start construction in a few months. Mennonite Housing will be buying the property and taking care of the facility. It sounds like it will be NICE!

The District One Advisory Board meets the first Saturday of each month. Our next meeting will be August 2nd at 7 p.m. It is open to the public and all are welcome.

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now that's food for thought!

## Commonly Requested Numbers

|                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
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| Within 48 hours .....              | 268-4131              |
| Over 48 hours .....                | 268-4261              |
| Animal Control .....               | 268-8473              |
| Auto Tags/Title .....              | 383-7331              |
| Birth Certificates .....           | (913) 296-1414        |
| Bus information .....              | 265-7221              |
| City Council/Mayor/s Office .....  | 268-4331              |
| County Information .....           | 383-7400              |
| Driver's License .....             | 942-0723              |
| Election Commissioner .....        | 383-7101              |
| Employment Hotline .....           | 268-4537              |
| Garage Sales (license) .....       | 268-4553              |
| Property Taxes .....               | 383-7414              |
| Real Estate Ownership .....        | 383-7691              |
| Small Claims .....                 | 383-7761              |
| Street Maintenance (24 hours)..... | 268-4071              |
| Traffic Fines .....                | 268-4611              |
| Voter Registration .....           | 383-7101              |
| Weed Mowing:                       |                       |
| Private property .....             | 268-8422              |
| Public property.....               | 337-9225              |
| Zoo .....                          | 942-2212              |
| Commonly Requested Websites:       |                       |
| City of Wichita.....               | www.wichita.gov       |
| Sedgwick County.....               | www.sedgwick.ks.us    |
| Chamber of Commerce.....           | www.wichitakansas.org |
| Convention & Visitors Bureau,      |                       |
| .....                              | www.wichita-cvb.org   |