

South Plaza Neighborhood Association 2021 Spring Newsletter

South Plaza Neighborhood Association Website

President's Message



In my day job, I am part of a software development team. Since Information Technology is always evolving, I have learned to adapt and be an agent of change. Well, the whole world has had to adapt to a very different environment over the past year, and we have all learned to adapt to the changes. More change is coming, but I pray it is for the better! I see the rainbow after the storm.

As people get the vaccine, schools and businesses are safely reopening, sporting events are resuming, nursing homes are allowing for safe visits, we all can hope for our lives to get back to some form of normalcy.

Our South Plaza neighborhood is also experiencing change. Expect bus stops to be moved and closures of parts of Main Street and Brookside Blvd as utility companies replace underground lines, in preparation for installation of the light rail extension right to our very neighborhood, currently scheduled for completion in 2024. Our stretch of Main Street is changing as new restaurants and other businesses open and developer VanTrust works toward a new streetscape plan for our Main Street corridor.

Let's all embrace the change, pay attention to construction detours and be sure to patronize all our neighborhood businesses and restaurants while continuing to follow safety protocols.

I am inviting everyone to get together again for our Quarterly General meeting at Osteria Il Centro on April 17th at 6 p.m. Zoom call in will also be available. Please attend if you are able (please wear a mask) and share a meal with your neighbors (\$5 for Minsky's pizza), and hear what's happening in our neighborhood. Our speakers are from the Streetcar Authority, so it should prove interesting.

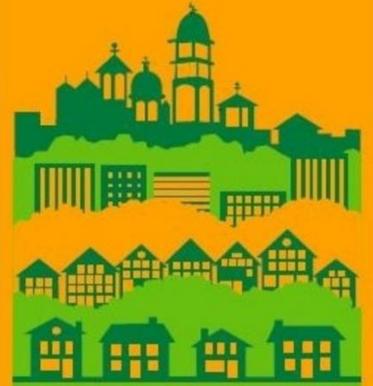
Get involved, In the words of Sheryl Crow, a change would do you good!

~ Cliff Couty

Not a SPNA Member?

SPNA annual membership runs from July through June of each year, with most members paying at the July quarterly meeting. If you'd like to join SPNA or renew your membership, see bottom of this newsletter for more information. Thanks!

**SOUTH
PLAZA
NEIGHBORHOOD**



LIVE * EAT * WORK * PLAY * LOVE

**Next SPNA
General
Meeting third
Sunday of
April 18th at
6PM ONLINE**

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 863 1734 0951

Or dial into (312) 626-6799
86317340951#

SAVE THE DATES:

Sun April 18, 6PM

Sun July 18, 6PM

Sun October 17, 6PM

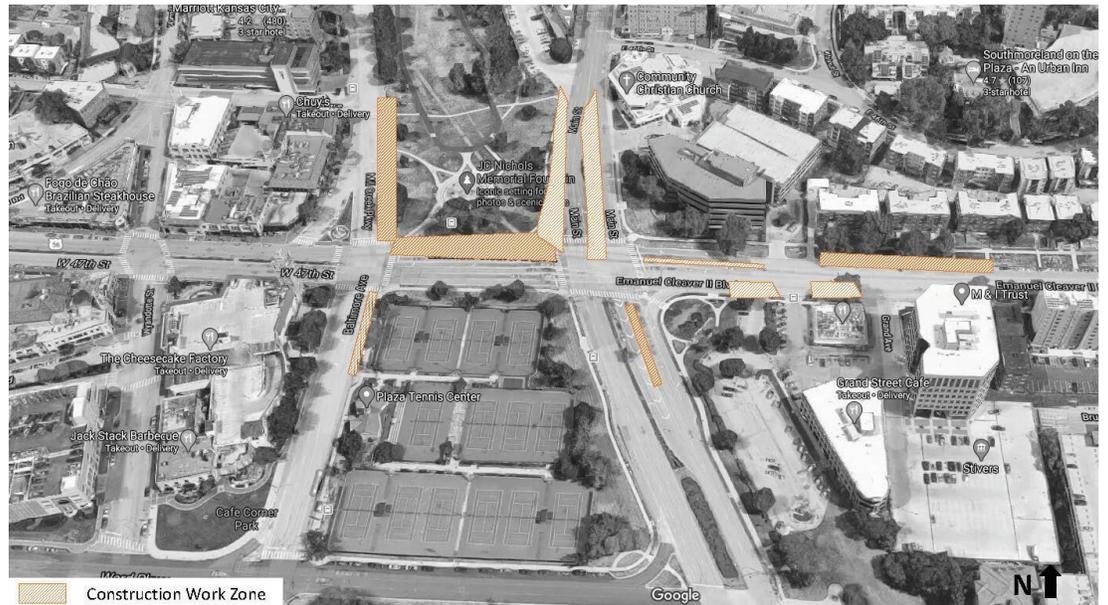
Dumpster Day Scheduled for June 26th

South Plaza's Dumpster Day will be held on Saturday, June 26th, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. In addition to the dumpster provided by KCMO, we are pleased to announce that Cornerstones of Care will have a truck on-site on June 26th to accept donations of gently used clothing, furniture & household items. The goods collected are donated directly to those in need in our community. So clean out those closets & cupboards, then bring them to 51st Terrace & Brookside on South Plaza's Dumpster Day! Tax receipts for donations will be available on request. See you Saturday June 26th.



Utility Upgrades Keeping Cleaver II and Main Busy.

Thanks for your continued patience while KC Water and other utilities contractors upgrade the underground utility infrastructure along Main Street. Here is your weekly construction status update. Weather may alter projected work completion times. Follow marked detours, and please slow down around work crews.



- Everygy and Google Fiber are upgrading and relocating power and fiberoptic lines in the area of Main Street and Emanuel Cleaver II Boulevard from Mill Creek Parkway to just east of Winstead's Restaurant. Traffic control may change based on construction progress. The 47th Street bus stop has been temporarily moved to 46th Terrace and Mill Creek Parkway. See map for construction zones in place for the next several weeks.
- Kissick Construction has temporarily closed eastbound Pershing Road from Main Street to upgrade water mains for the next 1-2 weeks.
- Kissick Construction continues water main construction on the east side of Main between Pershing and 27th Street. Traffic lanes reduced both directions on Main.
- Spectrum is locating underground utilities at 30th Street and Main for one week. The east side sidewalk will be closed. Northbound traffic lanes reduced.
- Google Fiber will be removing fiberoptic lines between Pershing and 27th for one week.
- AT&T will be working on Main from Armour Road to East 34th Street for one week. 34th will be closed from Main.

- Spire is relocating natural gas lines on the east side of Main from Linwood Boulevard to 34th for one to two weeks. Sidewalks will be closed on the east side of Main. Exit the Home Depot parking lot via Linwood.
- Spire is digging trenches and relocating natural gas lines on the east side of 31st Street at Main. Portions of 31st and Walnut Street and Grand Avenue at 31st will be temporarily closed. Local traffic only in the area. Follow detours on East 30th Street, Linwood, Gillham Plaza and Main.
- Google Fiber is relocating fiberoptic lines at the intersection of Warwick Boulevard and 39th Street for 1-2 weeks. Northbound traffic lanes reduced on Main.
- T-Mobile will be working on underground utilities at 39th and Main.



- Consolidated Communications will begin relocating fiberoptic lines near 39th and Main for 2-3 weeks.
- AT&T is locating lines on the east side of Main between 45th and 43rd streets. Traffic lanes reduced both directions on Main. • Kissick Construction continues upgrading water infrastructure on the west side of Main between 45th and 43rd streets. Traffic lanes on Main reduced both ways.
- Evergy is relocating power lines on the west side of Main between 45th and Emanuel Cleaver II Boulevard. Southbound traffic lanes on Main reduced.

• Northbound lanes of Main from 45th to 46th remain closed for construction on the east side of Main that is unrelated to Upgrades on Main.

• Consolidated Communications will be working in the median near Brookside Boulevard and Ward Parkway. #FeaturedBusinessFriday: SERC Physical & Hand Therapy SERC Physical & Hand Therapy, 3355 Main St., provides in-clinic and telehealth physical and occupational therapy evaluations and visits.

Read more at www.kcwater.us/upgradesonmain/featured-businesses. For more information, visit www.kcwater.us/upgradesonmain. Sign up for the free weekly email newsletter, see fast facts, read about weekly featured businesses, and check out the project blog and videos. Still have questions or concerns? Send an email to water.upgradesonmain@kcmo.org or call 816-337-1013 during regular business hours. We're here to help. Thanks, again, for your patience as we improve aging underground infrastructure through the heart of the City of Fountains.

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline, starting July 16, 2022. Customers must continue to dial 1-800-273-TALK to reach the Lifeline until July 16, 2022. If you have any questions regarding information provided in this notice, please email Ooma, Inc. at 988@ooma.com for more information. You can also visit the FCC website at <https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline>.



This is our third all-digital SPNA newsletter, circulated by email, [our website](#), South Plaza Nextdoor, and our Facebook Page. Please pass it on to friends & neighbors in the area. SPNA is alive & well & digital, with the efforts of Board Members Sean & Kelly.

Business Spotlight: Minsky's Pizza and Sister Restaurants

Founder Gregg Johnson has been a long time SPNA sponsor opening his buildings on 51st and Main for many years of business meetings. We want to thank Gregg and his restaurants' staff for their amazing pizza and hospitality over many years of collaboration.

Osteria IL Centro Food and wine so good, it actually improves the conversation. This cozy casual-upscale Italian bistro presents a pleasing medley of pasta, meat, fish and vegetable dishes as well as the perfect wine to accompany. Repeatedly awarded Wine Spectator "Best of Award of Excellence." Open evenings at 4pm Monday through Saturday.

Minsky's Since 1976 we've used distinctive ingredients in our savory gourmet pizzas, hot sandwiches, pastas and salads...sure to please any palate. Repeatedly voted "Kansas City's Best Pizza," and recently selected by Zagat as one of the "Ultimate 23 Best Pizza Joints in the US!" We also offer carry out, delivery and catering.

eggtc. Enjoy the finest and freshest gourmet breakfasts and lunches in our richly delightful rooms. Treat yourself to coffee delicacies made with prime Costa Rican blends, plus our event room is the perfect gathering place for your celebration or meeting. Two locations, 51st & Main Streets and Shawnee.

Welcome to New SPNA Business Sponsor: EMC



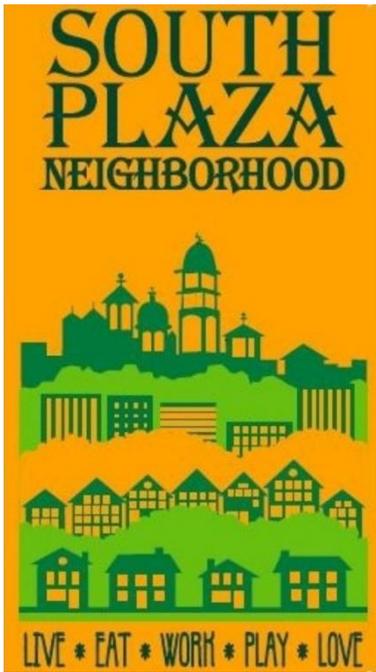
At SPNA October meeting, the Business Spotlight was on Tom & Yesenia LoScalzo, the owners of Environmental Mechanical Contractors, Inc. (EMC), founded in 1945. Tom LoScalzo grew up in Brookside. The company is local and services both commercial and residential customers of all sizes. Derrick Haynes, a 30-year employee of EMC, told us EMC can help with any HVAC installations, evaluations & repairs. Although the company headquarters is in Olathe, Tom & Yesenia live in South Plaza, love the neighborhood, & wish to be a good HVAC resource for the area in any new buildings & renovations. Yesenia stressed they have respect for the older historic residences and love the European-style restaurants in the neighborhood. EMC has joined forces with SPNA as a Business Sponsor. Bill Wasserman was the lucky winner of the door prize, a very generous gift card to Capitol Grill. The Wassermans plan to enjoy the gift when they can dine in safely.



Leaf & Brush
Spring 2021 Curbside Set-out Dates
KCMO.GOV/LEAFANDBRUSH

YOUR TRASH DAY	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	REGION MAP
MONDAY	APRIL 26	APRIL 12	MARCH 29	
TUESDAY	APRIL 27	APRIL 13	MARCH 30	
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 28	APRIL 14	MARCH 31	
THURSDAY	APRIL 29	APRIL 15	APRIL 1	
FRIDAY	APRIL 30	APRIL 16	APRIL 2	

January Membership Meeting Highlights:



January's SPNA membership meeting was held via Zoom to encourage safe physical distancing. We did not have a speaker for the January meeting, but do have one scheduled for April. The attendance was low for our first meeting, with only 10 attendees. Here are a few highlights from the meeting:

Light Rail is a go. \$51 Million in Federal money is coming. The remainder of the funding will be coming from local resources.

Henry Leonard recognition. He was a long-time supporter of SPNA and recently passed away due to cancer. Martha Bells print shop was a long-time supporter, including printing our newsletters for several years. Wishing his mother well. There was a recognition in the most recent newsletter.

SPNA Newsletter is completely digital now. This is being distributed via website, email, and NextDoor app. We will continue to include our Business sponsors in each newsletter to promote their support.

SPNA Triangle Park: Nice to see some of the seats have been installed at the new stairs. We are waiting for a sign to be installed at 50th street. Keith is going to look and see if there is a missing banner on a light post next to the park. PIAC funds helped build the SPNA stone wall sign, as well as, the recent stair upgrade. We will work with the city to use the remaining PIAC funds to finish landscaping.

Affordable housing article recently in the KC Star newspaper. Keith reached out to the reporter to let her know that we have always supported efforts to create more affordable housing in Kansas City. (See LandTrust article Below)

VanTrust Main Plans: VanTrust came and spoke to our membership at the last membership meeting. All progress has been delayed due to the Pandemic. They are looking to build at the US Bank Building and Regency Apartments. They would also like to change the street layout and landscaping. Focused on a place of gathering. We are also waiting to hear what the plan was regarding the Community Investment District tax on the area businesses, in addition to, the naming of the area.

Several changes taking place in the neighborhood. Banksia and Duck and Roll Restaurants have been added. 3rd Street Social will take over the Nick and Jakes building. We are also waiting to hear about who will be moving into the old Black Dirt restaurant.

We have seen some car break-ins in the neighborhood, including open garages. Please be sure to keep doors locked and be aware of what is going on in the neighborhood.

Post office is open from 12:00 – 16:00 daily with no options for drop off mail in off hours. We have reached out to Senator Blunt to see if we can get a drop off box outside the office.

Snow clearance: the city is working to get more bodies and trucks available to clear snow for neighborhoods. This has recently affected trash pickup. More information was included in the most recent newsletters. Cliff has reminded membership to try managing trash and recycling to avoid critters and wind littering the neighborhood. Trash must be placed in bags, not bins to be picked up.

The Max Bus is said to be rerouting and no longer going through the South Plaza on Main later in spring. It will stay on Brookside Blvd. The 47 bus will replace the Max on Main through South Plaza. Jeannie Moore will continue tracking updates for membership on this change.

SPNA will continue to advocate to the City Planning department to change the stop signs on Main to streetlights to improve pedestrian safety. Cliff will reach out to the city to see who oversees our neighborhood planning and development.

Business owners in the neighborhood have started painting murals in the neighborhood. This was also a plan for VanTrust.

Land Bank of KCMO to Provide Low Income Housing Options

The Land Bank will soon be helping provide homes for those who are unhoused or at-risk of becoming homeless.



Properties would be sold for

\$1 provided that the new property owners fully rehabilitate the property, eliminate all blight, and provide housing to the homeless and to individuals who make \$18,000 annual income or less, or families who make 30% or less of the federal guide to annual median income.

“This is part of our work to provide long-term and affordable solutions for those experiencing homelessness and those in need of affordable housing,” said City Manager Brian Platt. “This initiative will dramatically increase our affordable housing supply and focuses on the most vulnerable families in our community.”

The next step in this process is community outreach to neighborhoods where current Land Bank properties exist and to finalize the specific details of the program with council and community input. This includes a community meeting on April 1 at 6 pm. Details are available on the Land Bank website at kcmolandbank.org The City owns over 100 vacant homes at the Land Bank.

The City is also seeking to build additional affordable housing units on the Barney Allis Plaza site. The significant reconstruction project for the parking facility provides an opportunity to include additional community benefits such as affordable apartments, ground floor retail, and a public plaza. The design phase of this project will soon be underway.

The City Council is debating legislation that would establish a Housing Department, which will create new staff positions to focus on affordable housing, homelessness, and tenants’ rights and advocacy.

“The imminent Land Bank sales of more than 100 vacant homes throughout Kansas City is one of many solutions Kansas City government is pursuing to increase Kansas City’s housing stock, so that

all families may have equitable access to safe and affordable housing, including those experiencing homelessness during this pandemic,” said Mayor Quinton Lucas. “Paired with several other initiatives — including our recently-passed housing set-aside ordinance, working to grow our Housing Trust Fund, standing up a new Kansas City Housing Department, and fully funding the Office of the Tenant Advocate — this is an important step to meet the housing needs of our community.

"I will continue working with my Council colleagues and the City Manager to ensure Kansas City is an affordable and attractive place to live for all."

Triangle Park Update

The retaining walls and chairs have all been completed and installed at South Plaza Triangle Park on Brookside Blvd. We are waiting to work with the Parks Department on some landscaping work and the reinstalment of a few missing signs.



Thank you to our Business Sponsors



Hungry in South Plaza?
Check out this great review by
SPNA Board Member Kelly
Hollowell:

<https://mikcexplore.com/home/2021/2/22/south-plaza-guide>

**SOUTH PLAZA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN. INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (July 2020)**

Name and address of director:	Term of Director:	Officer term, current year:
Cliff Couty , President 5036 Walnut Street Kansas City, Mo. 64112 Mobile phone: 816-686-2547 E-mail: cliffcouty@live.com	07/2020-07/2022	President, 07/2020-07/2021
Francie Hall , Vice President E-mail: francie416@gmail.com	07/2020-07/2022	Vice President, 07/20-07/21
Martha Hogerty , Treasurer E-mail: mhogerty47@gmail.com	07/2020-07/2022	Treasurer, 07/2020-07/2021
Sean Tucker , Secretary E-mail: smtucker@cmh.edu	07/2019-07/2021	Secretary, 07/2020-07/2021
Kelly Hollowell , Member E-mail: khollowell@gmail.com	07/2019-07/2021	
Kate Marshall , Member E-mail: katemarshall430@gmail.com	07/2020-07/2022	
Jeannie Moore , Member E-mail: beanwoman33@yahoo.com	07/2020-07/2021	Vacancy Appointee
Ex-officio: Keith Spare , President E-mail: keithspare@aol.com	Ex-officio: Donna Kerr E-mail: dmkkc210@gmail.com	

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN SOUTH PLAZA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

- Please indicate:
- Tenant \$15
 - Homeowner \$20
 - Small business/organization \$75 - \$100
 - Large business/organization \$100 - \$150 or more

Make check payable to: South Plaza Neighborhood Association
311 West 51st Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64112

Complete document and mail with payment