

South Plaza Neighborhood Association 2021 Summer Newsletter

[South Plaza Neighborhood Association Website](#)

President's Message



My wife and I just got back from a relaxing week on Siesta Key. Nothing but sunny days and gorgeous sunsets over the Gulf. We got back right before tropical storm Elsa blew in - sometimes life is all about good timing!

It is also good timing to be living here in our beloved South Plaza neighborhood. I imagine most neighborhoods would be envious of the buzz of change and development going on all around us.

Construction continues along Brookside/Main all the way to Union Station. Construction will soon spread west along 47th and along Ward Parkway as water, sewer and gas pipes are installed or replaced, in addition to electric, cable and phone lines buried - all in anticipation of the rail lines ending at our very own South Plaza/UMKC terminus.

In addition Van Trust is prepared to present their recommendation for redevelopment/streetscape of Main Street around 49th and 50th Streets (but I will let them share that story).

Please continue to shop and dine at all our neighborhood businesses, and welcome the new ones including Blu Hwy and Third Street Social.

I can't wait for all the exciting progress around us, and to see students return to classes and businesses return to some semblance of normal.

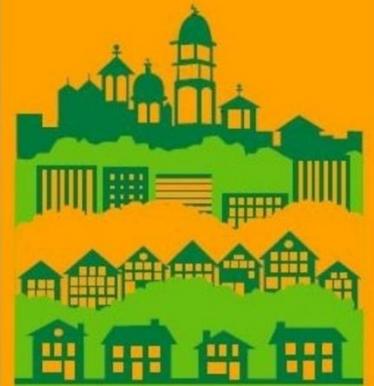
SPNA will continue to keep you informed - Get involved and be part of our vibrant, diverse community! See you at the meeting!

~ 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
July 18th at
6PM at II'
Centro or
ONLINE**

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 890 7880 0072

Or dial into (312) 626-6799
89078800072#

SAVE THE DATES:

Sun October 17, 6PM

This is our fourth 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.

Alerts/Community messages from KCMO:

If you have been receiving [text message alerts via the Nixle system from Kansas City, Missouri \(AlertKC\)](#), you will need to resubscribe to the new system, Everbridge. Through Everbridge, the City will send text and/or email messages about severe weather, water main breaks, news releases, etc. Go to the [kcmo.gov](#) website and search for AlertKC to find the link to the form or download the Everbridge App from the App Store or Google Play.



Main Street Max Bus Route Changes October 3, 2021:

RideKC

The Route will offer service to Waldo on all trips. At the Plaza, the route will remain on Main/Brookside south of 47th. Service to South Plaza will be covered by a new route 40 (revised 47 Broadway route). [Main MAX](#) will run from 5 a.m. to midnight every day, with service every 15 minutes from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Service will otherwise run every 30 minutes. Additionally, Main

MAX will feature a long trip that serves Martin City, replacing the 57 Wornall route to 135th and State Line. These trips south of 75th Street will operate hourly on all days. The Main MAX will serve Ward Parkway Center and follow the same route as the existing 57 Wornall route south of the shopping center.

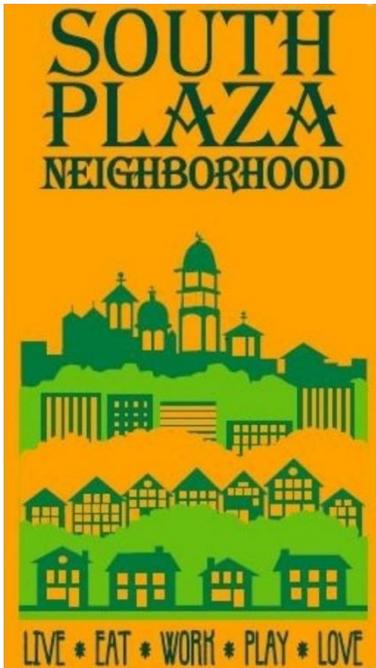
Catalytic converter thefts:



Several anecdotal reports of catalytic converter thefts from vehicles in our neighborhood and the surrounding neighborhoods have been posted on the Nextdoor social media site. The devices in the exhaust system of vehicles contain precious metals and are attractive to thieves for resale to an auto repair shop or scrap dealer. A cordless saw makes the theft quick. They do not have a VIN number. The converter of a larger and/or newer vehicle is more attractive to steal than an older and smaller one. At minimum, parking in a closed garage or well lighted area may help. But the thefts occur in the daylight too.

The April 27, 2021 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners noted: “property and vehicle thefts are on the rise. The City has seen a large amount of catalytic converter thefts, and is working on ways to prevent this”. [The KCPD website noted the following](#): “Missouri State Statute prohibits selling a catalytic converter without documentation to prove where the catalytic converter came from and how it was obtained (e.g. salvage title, proof of totaled vehicle). This means charges can be brought against the seller of the converter as well as the purchaser”. KCPD suggest using a UV pen to mark the VIN number onto the converter. Auto part accessory stores sell items like CatClamps and CAT Defenders to secure catalytic converters. Under-car alarm systems also are available. A quick online search for “catalytic converter theft prevention” reveals a number of possible tools. Report the theft of the device immediately.

April Membership Meeting Highlights:



SPNA President Cliff Couty opened the meeting and introduced the board members. He reminded the members present to get a raffle ticket for the drawing of the prize coming later in the meeting. He noted our upcoming neighborhood “Dumpster Day” is Saturday, June 26th between 8am and noon and explained the type of items that can be accepted. The location is the same as before, 51 Terrace and Brookside. The Cornerstones of Care charity will also have a truck on site for the donation of usable home goods and clothes for people in need.

The northbound lanes of Brookside between 51st Street and Volker have been blocked off to traffic for underground utility work in advance of the streetcar route construction. The Water Services Department sends out emails weekly on the progress of construction upgrades.

Our South Plaza “Triangle Park” has seen the completion of the new concrete stairs. There are railings on the stepped course and metal seats or benches with arm rests on the two large concrete landings. SPNA’s Beautification Committee will meet in May to discuss the

landscape design that the Parks Department will allow for the space. We still have Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) funds to pay for landscaping there.

Some local business updates were mentioned: The restaurants Banksia and Duck and Roll have been here for about 1 year. Third Street Social, a local chain restaurant, will occupy the old Nick and Jake’s space. The restaurant Blue Hwy is working on opening in the old Black Dirt space. They are the same owners as La Bodega, but this restaurant concept seems to be American cuisine.

According to Francie Hall, the Main Street Max bus will eventually change its route in our neighborhood this fall. It will skip our section of Main and stay on Brookside. Another bus may pick up Main Street in our neighborhood.

Presentation of KCStreetcar:



Alex Miller representing [KCStreetcar](#) addressed our meeting over a Zoom link. Jason Waldron, Transportation Director for the city’s Public Works Department was present in person. Jason lives nearby and related some of his personal history. He stated that the existing downtown 2-mile-long

streetcar system has exceeded expectations. That area has seen a 40 percent increase in residential

density within 3 blocks of the route since its completion. There has been a 56 percent increase in Transportation Development District (TDD) sales taxes collected since the first year as well.

There will be elected representatives from the streetcar expansion area. The project was approved for 174 million dollars in Federal funding. There is work going on now, mostly underground, from 15 different utility entities to get ready for the extension to 51st Street. The infrastructure underground is 60 to 80 years old and must be improved, replaced or moved. There are daily and weekly coordination meetings between the utilities, the city and the KCStreetcar Authority to monitor and advance the project. Residents can contact the project hotline 816-337-1013 with any questions. About 4 miles of water and sewer lines are being replaced and 28 new or refurbished catch basins installed. The web site is KCwater.us/upgradesonmain for information on this phase. Alex and Jason are happy to come to community meetings for any group.

Alex related the project milestones and said this was one of four such projects in the nation that were approved last January. They will finish the final design this year. The construction phase for the 3 ½ mile extension runs through 2024. He reviewed the projected stops in 9 named zones. For example, 43rd Street is the “Southmoreland” stop, 45th is the “Museum” stop and 51st is the “UMKC” stop. A question was asked as to why they did not name the 51st Street stop the “South Plaza” stop or the “South Plaza/UMKC” stop. SPNA was a big supporter of the expansion.

A question was asked about the rail alignment in the road as it comes south of 47th. They explained how the rails on either side of Main will shift to have both northbound and southbound lanes aligned on the east side as it goes south to 47th and continue on the east side to 51st Street. The Plaza stop will be a big stop since the location is densely populated and bus lines adjoin it. It will be near the Grand Street Cafe. The parking lot there will be purchased by the project and resurfaced and maintained by the KCStreetcar Authority. The lot will be owned by the city. The intersection at 45th Street will have a “streetcar dedicated phase” of the traffic signal light to allow the streetcar to move across the lanes to the east side of Main. The intersection at 47th will also have a “streetcar dedicated” signal phase.

The bridge over Brush Creek is structurally sound but the railings, curbs and walkway are degraded. The city has been requested to fix that. The Volker Boulevard intersection will get a traffic signal enhancement to improve pedestrian movement.

The Trolley Track Trail will be modified between Volker and 51st Street. The public easement will have a wide sidewalk installed for that section and a new retaining wall installed by the Colonial Shops. To forward comments on the construction of the project go to buildkcitystreetcar.com web site. Another web site for general information on the existing streetcar system is kcitystreetcar.org and it is administered by the KCATA. It has information such as the speed of the streetcar. This system is pedestrian oriented and is not designed to be a rapid system.

They intend to keep the streetcar free to use but will analyze operations over time and hope to keep it that way. They currently have six rail cars and will get six more. A question was asked about further expansion. A different funding mechanism would be needed since the neighborhoods south or east are not dense enough.

The meeting raffle ticket was won by Sandy Mayer. It is a gift certificate for Minsky’s Pizza.

SPNA Supports KC Pride Alliance:



Due to the pandemic we are planning our [Pride Celebration in Theis Park event later this year, August 21 and 22](#). We are including August 20 and August 23 as part of our celebration, however these days will be for set up and take down. The actual event will only be on the 21 and 22. Our plan includes Craft vendors,

business vendors, Food vendors, entertainment and a Family day on Sunday. The entertainment will include bands. Our Family day will include games footraces and general social gatherings. If the City allows, our event will run from 10 am to 12 am on Saturday August 21 and 12pm to 5 pm on Sunday August 22. We are planning a parade on Saturday from 10 am to 12 pm. Since this is the first parade in many years we are asking everyone to be flexible on the time. As you are aware a Parade will cause temporary street closures. We welcome and invite anyone from your neighborhood to be a part of the planning of the event.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns at 816-516-2706 or email me at emcity.clint@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration.
Clint Hylton
Kansas City Community Pride Alliance

New Business Spotlight: The Blu Hwy Restaurant on 51st and Main



Blu Hwy

Snacks

House buttermilk-yogurt: **BISCUITS**, Chile de árbol honey butter 7

Hatch chile and sweet corn **CROWDER** 7/pint or 14/quart

SUMMER SALAD of baby romaine lettuces, heirloom tomato, Nicoise olives, string beans, albacore tuna, coddled egg*, red wine vinaigrette dressing 14

Blu Hwy **HOUSE SALAD** of baby gem lettuce, Maytag blue cheese, bacon lardons, heirloom tomato, sourdough croutons, buttermilk dressing 9

CRAB LOUIE with tomato, horseradish, cured egg yolk*, avocado toast 16

Chilled **GULF SHRIMP***, chipotle cocktail sauce, charred lemon 15

JW chicken **DRUMSTICKS**, salsa verde 9

PIMENTO CHEESE bites, tomato jam 9

Please Hold Me

Sandwiches served with house potato chips and pickled vegetables

THE BIG RED house ground beef, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickle, onion, sesame seed bun 14

LITTLE PIG... LITTLE PIG tempura fried pork tenderloin, cabbage slaw, Thai chili mayonnaise, brioche bun 12

THE CRUSTACEAN SENSATION Maine lobster*, roll, lemon, mayonnaise, chervil, brioche 22

Family Meals Serves 4. Includes: buttermilk-yogurt biscuits, Blu Hwy house salad, black walnut chocolate chip cookies.

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| BLU HWY ROAST CHICKEN 65 soy butter roasted mushrooms, duck fat braised collard greens, smashed fingerling potatoes | SALMON 95 side of apple wood smoked salmon*, cucumber and potato salad, baby artichokes, grilled asparagus |
|---|---|

New Municipal Court program helps those leaving jail with services to rejoin the community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 22, 2021

The Kansas City Municipal Court is looking to help people leaving jail who have both substance abuse and mental illness challenges successfully return to the community with its new KC Second Chance Reentry program.



April also is national Second Chance Month, and Reentry week is April 26 through April 30. During this time, KC Second Chance program is asking the public to answer the question, “What does reentry mean to you?” using City and Municipal Court social media.

People returning to their communities after jail have complex challenges and needs that contribute to the likelihood of them being re-incarcerated, but successful reentry means so much more than not returning to jail. To the KC Second Chance program it means making rehabilitation and reentry a core responsibility of corrections. The program’s vision is to reduce recidivism, homelessness, and unemployment by improving access to and delivery of services prior to offenders leaving jail.

“A second chance is an opportunity not present in many parts of the world outside of our nation,” said Municipal Court Judge Corey Carter, who presides over the KC Second Chance program. “As such, within our system of justice, we should take care to afford those that have been incarcerated a meaningful opportunity to make the most of a second chance upon release should they decide it is time for a change.”

The KC Second Chance program is funded by a \$750,000 grant from the U.S Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and is for individuals with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health challenges. The KC Second Chance program has partnered with Truman Medical Center to provide integrated treatment services and its goals are to improve the mental health of ex-offenders by keeping them engaged in services, to provide transitional housing and assist with employment opportunities and applying for available and needed community resources.

We want your feedback so please follow us on [Facebook](#).

For more information, contact [Benita Jones](#), public information officer for the Municipal Court, at 816-513-6711.

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