

The Kanawha City Villager

News from the Kanawha City Community Association

Fall 2017



Volume 12, Issue 3

Important KCCA Meeting Will Be Held September 28 at 7 p.m.

You might have noticed this newsletter is mostly devoted to community involvement. Most often it is for something good and fun like our recent Bike Appreciation Event or our upcoming Kanawha City Yard Sale. Nonetheless, there is still much happening in Kanawha City that is troubling.

Crime, our growing homeless population (which potentially contributes to both crime and violence), and our neglected or abandoned business and residential properties have become a negative part of our current reality. Each one of us, a part of this community, needs to OWN and correct these challenges.

Your property values, your safety and the desirability of our community depend on us finding creative ways to keep Kanawha City the Charleston neighborhood of choice and not a neighborhood to avoid. That is the topic of our upcoming Community Meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 28 at City National Bank conference room. (Enter through the door on the Wendy's side of the bank's building.)

Unlike past meetings, there will be no featured speaker*. You and your neighbors will be the speakers and the main focus of the meeting. Come to express your opinions, your concerns, your hopes, and your willingness to take action for Kanawha City, your neighborhood. We can all complain and yell at someone about deterioration but practically speaking, no one person can correct it all.

First of all, the police are right. If you see something, say something. Get to know your neighborhood watch volunteer and let them know your concerns. They are in touch with the police daily.

Second, take a cell phone picture of what looks good and what you think we should replicate more of in Kanawha City. Share those photos with us. Take cell phone pictures of what really looks bad and needs corrected - shopping carts not on store grounds, unsightly overgrowth or neglect on commercial, state, city or private property. Share those photos with us too - guthrien4@gmail.com.

We need to identify the issues and then figure out together how to bring in the resources necessary to expand on or newly create what's GOOD and correct what's BAD and eliminate what's REALLY BAD.

So, get involved. OWN YOUR COMMUNITY.

*The meeting will include election of board members. If you are interested in serving on the KCCA board and helping shape the future in Kanawha City, let us know ASAP or get nominated from the floor. All KCCA members are invited and encouraged to participate in KCCA committees, which include: Beautification, Business, Crime & Housing, Planning & Zoning, Communication, and MacCorkle Redevelopment. For more information contact KCCA or any board member.

Third Annual Kanawha City Yard Sale Set for September 30!

Join your neighbors on September 30 for the Third Annual Kanawha City Yard Sale Day! Clean out the closets and empty your garage, basement and storage building! Folks from all over will be prowling the streets of KC looking for deals at this increasingly popular event.

It is a great neighborhood event with lots of participants. It's also a fun day, and a chance to visit with friends and neighbors while welcoming bargain hunters to our neighborhoods.

Contact KCCAYardSale@aol.com to get registered early and have your location featured on a yard sales map. Then, you can concentrate just on what you want to sell this year. For more information, check the flier in this newsletter.

Kanawha City Man Has Quietly Taken Neighborhood Ownership

By Martina Huson

A few years ago I realized someone was picking up the trash along MacCorkle Avenue from 65th St. (K-Mart area) down to Krogers. I was grateful for whomever it was.

Since then I have become more aware of him as he has worked to improve the area by picking up litter (in all kinds of weather) and pushing abandoned carts back to Lowe's, K-Mart or Krogers'.

His name is Johnny. He is a quiet, unassuming man with family ties to Kanawha City and Libby Owens, who simply decided MacCorkle "looks better" when he keeps it picked up.

He makes a difference.

His personal contribution set an example for me and I now pick up some areas in my neighborhood. And, it continues with other neighbors carrying bags for litter when they walk.

Will you join us? Will you OWN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



Kanawha City Bike Day Was Filled with Lots of Sunshine, Smiles and Fun







KCCA is pleased to announce the

ANNUAL
VILLAGE YARD SALE

Saturday, September 30th

8am till 2pm

REGISTER NOW!!!

Email KCCAyardsale@aol.com to let us know how
you would like to be involved!

**EMAIL THIS FLYER TO YOUR FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBORS!**

**Participating homes will be marked with a
RED BALLOON!**

Scouts' Community Service Makes Horace Mann Middle School Shine

As part of their community service requirements, Boy Scouts from the 2017 National Jamboree worked five days helping spruce up Horace Mann Middle School.

According to Shandon Tweedy, Principal, on Thursday, July 20, forty youth and adults, National Jamboree Troop 2343, traveled to the school from Summit Bechtel Reserve, near Mt. Hope. They were from Lake County, IL and were one of four Boy Scout troops and a Venture Crew from the Northeast Illinois Council, Boy Scouts of America. They arrived in West Virginia on July 19 and left July 28.

A second group of scouts, from Boston, continued the work on Friday. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday included scouts from Kansas, Oklahoma, Japan, and New Hampshire.

In exchange, the school was required to provide water and a lunchtime educational component. Those educational components featured West Virginia State Auditor J.B. McCuskey, House of Delegates member Larry Rowe, former School Counselor Mary Dooley, and long-time resident Elston Canada, the principal reported.

The scouts painted, cleaned and did a lot of yard work, as evidenced by the very large number of trash bags that greeted refuse personnel outside the school.

The scouts also found a buried marker under the oak closest to the 44th street and MacCorkle intersection commemorating the planting of the oak trees along MacCorkle Avenue. The plaque was dedicated in 1958 by the Belmont Garden Club to honor George Nye Guthrie, a local community leader and gardener responsible for the placing of the trees. The area around the plaque was re-graded by the volunteers so it can now be seen.

KCCA Members Urged to Support Bike Event Sponsors

KCCA appreciates all of the participating area businesses for their generous contributions that made Bicycle Appreciation Day possible. Please visit these local businesses and be sure to thank them for supporting Kanawha City. They include Amanda's Glass Art, Danny's Service Center, Fusion Teriyaki Grille, Kanawha-Roxalana Company, Krogers, Lanyi Custom Golf, Leonard Johnson Funeral Home, Lowe's, M & M Mart, Max's Place, Pat Butner Interiors, Piggly Wiggly, Polished Salon, R & E Building Fund, Real Estate Resources, Spa Bliss, Syrra Salon, UPS Store and ZMM Architects and Engineers.

Addressing Kanawha City's Growing Homeless/Vagrant Population

By Rick Burka

Kanawha City, as well as many other parts of the city of Charleston, is seeing more and more homeless/vagrant folks wondering around at all hours of the day and night. Many residences and businesses have already been victimized. The 2017 city homeless/vagrant population has tripled over 2016 numbers. There are a couple of reasons why this is occurring in our town in particular.

First, our city is a welcoming and caring community. Word gets around that Charleston is a good place to come to. And they come from all parts of the country. Why? We are nice, we offer free meals, medical services, shelters, training if desired. Panhandling is permitted and we give it to them.

How do we stop or slow this migration to Charleston, KC?

Our community must change its attitude towards giving money or items that can be traded for alcohol or drugs. Only give food. Show them where the shelters and aid organizations are. It's a hard thing not to help these folks out with cash or things, but resist we must so they either move on or try to elevate their circumstances.

The folks who do not go to the available shelters go to the areas least maintained or traveled. Several such areas in KC have become havens for criminal activity and living, specifically including spots on the Kanawha River bank and along the WV Turnpike/Interstate 177/64 and MacCorkle Avenue intersection.

Overgrowth of vegetation in those areas is so dense and unmaintained it has become great protection from the elements and law enforcement. The solution is simple. Clear out the overgrowth in areas where homeless camp and hide and they will move on.

KCCA is working with the City of Charleston, business and property owners and the state to coordinate works crews to clear these areas and remove debris. The hope is to have these areas all cleared out by no later than Spring 2018.

But, we need volunteers for labor and equipment. This is a large undertaking and we won't fix overnight. If you would like to volunteer to help please send your contact information to us at; rburka111@gmail.com

We already have had success stories in KC where we have cleared areas. A section of Chesterfield Ave was a haven for folks living along there. Not anymore, after that property was cleared and there was no place to hide. Another problem location was above Galaxy Lanes. That area has been cleared to the interstate so there are now no folks there either.

In addition to the cleanups, Kanawha City must develop a plan to consistently maintain such areas and prevent them from becoming havens in the future. Your help is needed. Volunteer.



KANAWHA CITY

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHARLESTON, WV
PERMIT NO. 129

P.O. BOX 4423
CHARLESTON, WV 25364

CURRENT RESIDENT OR....

MEMBERSHIP FORM

KANAWHA CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Dues (For the period of July 1st to December 31st, 2017)

NOTE: Half-years dues are now in effect.

Name(s) _____ Date: _____

Business Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

___ Individual \$8 ___ Business \$50; ___ Family (2 voting members) \$13; ___ Non-profit \$ 25

Please consider an additional contribution: ___ (Tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.)

Please make check payable to KCCA and mail to P.O. Box 4423, Charleston, WV 25364.

Learn more at: www.kanawhacity.org



KanawhaCity