



# KANAWHA CITY

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

CURRENT RESIDENT OR...

# The Kanawha City Villager



KANAWHA CITY  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SPRING EDITION 2021



## 2021 GOALS

### Public Art

Beginning this spring the side wall of Risk's Fast Check will showcase the first installation of public art in KC. Thank you for the donations from our citizens & businesses to make this possible. We are still seeking donations and a spot for a second mural.

### Bike Trail

We continue to work with the City of Charleston to secure assistance and funding to improve amenities along our Bike Path. This is a popular area for biking, and walking but the path could use modernization to make it more attractive.

### Beautification

In January we submitted a proposal to the Charleston Beautification Committee to complete the landscaping along the fence on Route 61, above the Yeager Bridge. The wrought iron fence and trees will complement the new colorful plantings and hide the dilapidated building known as Mimi's, while providing folks exiting the interstate a pleasing visual.

### Dilapidated Buildings

We continue to work with the City to identify homes and businesses that bring blight to KC. If you know of a dilapidated structure let us know by contacting us or calling the City directly at 304-348-6833.

### Pocket Parks

KCCA is looking for vacant lots that an owner might be willing to donate for a pocket park. These are great additions to communities where they can be used by residents when they're looking for an outdoor retreat, a place to rest on a walk, as well as a green addition to a residential area. Some areas of Kanawha City have small parks, such as Hunter Park on 57th St. We are looking for places that lack a this type of amenity. If you would like to see a park in your area, please reach out to KCCA.

## 2021 EVENTS

**Coffee With Cops**  
Thursday April 22nd - Location and time TBA  
Thursday September 16th - Location and time TBA

**Kanawha City Yard Sale and Vintage Flea Market**  
September 2021

**Kanawha City Bike A Boo**  
October 2021

**Holiday Series Decorating Contest**  
Halloween  
Fall/Thanksgiving  
Winter Holidays

**Yard of the Month**  
April—September

**KC Community Trash Cleanups**  
March 14th and March 28th  
April 11th and April 25th  
May 9th and May 23rd  
June 13th and June 27th  
July 11th and July 25th  
August 8th and August 22nd  
September 12th and September 26th  
October 10th and October 24th  
November 14th and November 28th

## Kanawha City Easter Egg Hunt

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Meet to hide eggs:  
57th St. Bike Park  
March 27  
11:00 am

Thank you to all our sponsors!

Fun & Games for the whole family!

SOCIAL DISTANCE

YOU'RE INVITED

## Easter Egg HUNT

03.27.21

50th-57th Streets of Staunton Ave.

Hunt begins at 12PM

COME MEET THE EASTER BUNNY FOR PICTURES AND FIND THE EGGS FOR TREATS!

[facebook.com/kanawhacitycommunityassociation](https://facebook.com/kanawhacitycommunityassociation)  
[kanawhacitycommunity@gmail.com](mailto:kanawhacitycommunity@gmail.com)

**ISLAND RHYTHM  
JAMAICAN CUISINE &  
CATERING**  
Taste the Rhythm of the Island  
**681.205.8214**  
3624 MacCorkle Avenue S.E.,  
Charleston, WV 25304



Bar-b-fried Chicken /Mac n Cheese

**CATERING IS  
AVAILABLE!**

# JAMAICAN CUISINE IN KC!

There is a fabulous Jamaican Restaurant in Kanawha City and it is bringing the authentic flavors of this Caribbean island to life! Island Rhythm, owned by Tamoya Tennent, serves dishes that you could only experience in Jamaica. Stewed Oxtail, Jerk Chicken, Beef, Pork, Patties and Pastas, Curried Goat, Chicken and Shrimp dishes are just some of the offerings of Island Rhythm. Some of the delectables are cooked to order and therefore need some extra time to prepare. Curried Coconut Shrimp, Escoveitched Fish and Vegan Stew are just some of the items that need to be ordered an hour ahead. Along with the island delights you will find friendly people, warm smiles and a genuine passion for Jamaican cuisine. Their tag line, Taste the Rhythm of the Island is spot on. Eat-in or call for takeout. 681-205-8214



Tamoya's Crab Pot Sat. Special

## Island Rhythm Hours

Monday—Closed  
 Tuesday 11:00am—8:00pm  
 Wednesday 11:00am—8:00 pm  
 Thursday 11:00 am—8:00 pm  
 Friday 11:00 am—9:00pm  
 Saturday 1:00pm—10:00pm  
 Sunday 1:00pm—6:00pm

## KCCA 2020-2021 Board of Directors & Officers

Please feel free to contact any one to discuss ideas and needs you may have as a resident or business owner in Kanawha City – we are here to serve!

President: James Young 304-610-9695 youngjvw@gmail.com  
 Vice President: Nancy Guthrie 304-546-7905 guthrien4@gmail.com  
 Treasurer: Kayla Addison 304-926-3308 kayla.addison@bankatcity.com  
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Tony Thomas	304-545-4230	jat470@gmail.com
Jamie Tridico	304-552-0243	jamtrid@hotmail.com
Sarah Wright	304-542-1261	swright@oldcolony.com

## Easy Sit-to-Stand Exercise for Quad Strength

1. Sit on the front half of a stable, heavy chair that will not tip over backward (Photo A) or put the back of a lighter chair against a wall.
2. Stand up using a 1-2 count (Photos B and C).
3. Slowly lower yourself back down into a sitting position using a 1-2-3-4 count. It should take you longer to return to your seated position. Controlled movement is important. DO NOT plop down onto the seat. Repeat as many times as you feel matches your fitness level.

**Tip:** Work this exercise into your day. Every time you sit down to eat or watch TV or stand up from a chair to do something throughout the day, stop and complete this exercise three to five times before moving on.



Level 1 — Easy Sit to Stand for Quad Strength

## KANAWHA CITY BUSINESSES SCHEDULED TO MEET TUESDAY, MARCH 30

2021's first Business Committee meeting will be held at 8 am on Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at The Sam Bowling Conference Room located at City National Bank, 3601 MacCorkle Ave SE. The meeting will also be live streamed via Zoom for those who cannot gather in person.

We invite all business owners, managers, and anyone with a vested interest in Kanawha City businesses to join the discussion. Our goal is to make Kanawha City a destination place for visitors to stop by, enjoy a cup of coffee, shop at our unique stores and enjoy a meal at one of the many restaurants along MacCorkle Ave. SE.

Please join us to meet others in our area, learn how we can support each other, and share your suggestions for making Kanawha City the vibrant community we know it can be.

Please RSVP by Friday March 26 to [kanawhacityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:kanawhacityinfo@gmail.com) or 681-265-9254.



New mural coming to parking side of Risk's Fastcheck! A professional artist will be setting up shop this spring to begin work on a mural on the wall of Risk's Fastcheck. Thank you to the many individuals and businesses who made this possible through generous donations. KCCA is searching for a location and donations for a second mural in the KC area. If you have any suggestions or want to donate, contact a board member!



**MEMBERSHIP**

**KANAWHA CITY**  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**KANAWHA CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
 Yearly Dues – (For the period January 1, 2020 –December 31, 2020)

_____ Business	\$100
___ Non-Profit Organization	50
___ Family (2 voting members)	25
___ Individual	15
___ Additional Contribution	_____
Total enclosed for KCCA	\$_____

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:  
 Kanawha City Community Association  
 Mail to: P.O. Box 4423, Charleston, WV, 25364

All donations made to KCCA are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contact us at [www.kanawhacity.org](http://www.kanawhacity.org) or [kanawhacityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:kanawhacityinfo@gmail.com)

# More from 2020

## SURPRISE!!!!

### Charleston's First 'Pocket Parade'

When Tony Thomas' wife, Kelly, mentioned that he should put on his Santa Suit and drive around the neighborhood, neither had any idea the excitement they were about to create!

Four families, in one week, put together a 'Pocket Parade' that took Kanawha City residents by surprise! Liza Grogg was at home when the parade began, she had no idea a parade was coming! "I could hear Christmas music playing, and cars honking, and talking over a loud speaker. I kept hearing 'Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas!' and it was getting louder and louder! I walked outside and saw Santa coming down my street!"

Thomas advertised the parade on Nextdoor, the neighborhood hub for sharing information, but for a lot of people it was an unexpected surprise. Tony recruited his neighbor Coach Kidd to drive the Electric 102 van and asked Sgt. Payne to lead the parade. Neighborhood kids recruited their friends and rode their holiday decorated bikes. The parade started at the bike park on 56th St. and went down Noyes Ave. to 50th St. It made the same six block route up Staunton Ave. and then down Virginia Ave. and finally, up Kanawha Ave. finishing back on 56th St. Thomas said he liked keeping it small and on the side streets because "people can come out in their yards and sit in lawn chairs and watch the parade go by." He even hinted that he has a few new ideas for this year.



### KCCA WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST OTHER AREAS OF KC IN PLANNING THEIR OWN 'POCKET PARADE' FOR 2021.

We can all take a lesson from Tony and create excitement with our neighbors. Pull your resources in your area and show your pride for Kanawha City living.

## Grant Money Available to Small Businesses

Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin announced the third grant cycle of the City's Small Business Investment Grants is open. This time applicants can receive up to \$10,000. Examples of projects that qualify for this grant funding include broadband connectivity, marketing, advertising, demolition projects, construction of exterior and interior surfaces including doors, windows, fences, stairs, ramps, painting and more. Project work must be started within six months of the grant award and must be completed within one year. The maximum annual grant award for any one business is \$10,000 and grant recipients must match any award amount by 25%.

The Small Business Investment Grant application can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3rsBWHN>.

For more information, contact Jane Bostic, Special Assistant to the Mayor, at 304-348-8174 or [jane.bostic@cityofcharleston.org](mailto:jane.bostic@cityofcharleston.org).



## People in your Neighborhood

If you live in Kanawha City, you may have taken your car through Handi-Man Car Wash at one time or another. If you have, you most likely met Julio, the down to earth, easy going, long haired attendant that takes your money. What most people don't know about Julio is that he probably took your mother or father's money too while you were in a car seat. Julio's employment at Handi-Man Car Wash spans 32 years.

Julio was born Darren Johnson in Ranger, WV. He came to Charleston for work. Little did he know his first job at Minute Man Carwash would be a foreshadowing of his life's career.

### How did you come to work at Handi-Man in KC?

I had quit Minute Man to move to PA and it just wasn't working out. I knew JD Marion was building a new car wash in KC, so I called him and asked if he was hiring. He knew who I was from Minute Man and he said he would put me to work. That was September of 1988.

### Your real name is Darren? Where did Julio come from?

When I started here one of the guys started calling me Julio and it just stuck. Everybody knows me by that.

### You've worked at Handi-Man for 32 years, have you met a lot of people?

I have and it will be 33 years in September. I've seen kids grow up and come through as adults now. They have their own kids. I've washed a lot of people's cars, including governors like Underwood, Wise, and Joe Manchin. Senator Manchin even helped me get my ID.

### How did he help you get your ID?

Well, I was born at home. That was common then. The only record of my birth was my birth certificate. No hospital records, you see. My birth certificate at the Court House burned up in a fire and I had lost/misplaced my copy over the years of moving or this or that. When I couldn't get one from the Court House, I was stuck. I couldn't get my ID

without a birth certificate and I couldn't get a birth certificate due to the fire so I had just lived without one because there was nothing I could do. When Senator Manchin found out he helped me straighten it out and personally went with me to the DMV. That's true, he did that for me.

### In the spring and summer there are flowers & vegetables growing in that little strip of dirt by the entrance. Who plants those?

I do. I plant all of that, the tomatoes, the green peppers, the flowers. I keep the seeds from the flowers and re-seed them every year. I have some customers that bring me vegetables. One fella brings me tomatoes and a lady brings me a pepper plant every year.

### Do customers bring you other things?

Oh yes! Donuts, pizzas, dinner, snacks, drinks, plants, clothing, you just never know. One of my favorite customers, a preacher, brings bibles sometimes. I have met some really good people over the years.

When asked about retirement, Julio laughed and said he would never be able to retire, retirement would probably wear him out. He's not in a hurry to go anywhere.

The next time you see Julio, as he greets you with his pleasant demeanor, join us in recognizing him for his dedication and longevity. He is an important fixture in Kanawha City, a part of our fabric and history. You could say that after 32 years the car wash is the place where everybody knows his name, or in this case, his nickname. Cheers to Julio!



# 2020 You know the bad news... Here's some good news!

## SEASONAL DECORATION CONTEST BRIGHTENS KANAWHA CITY YARDS

KCCA had big plans for an active 2020 summer and fall. Then, there was the Car Show that had to be scratched due to Covid-19. That non-event was followed by the KC Yard Sale and Vintage Flea Market that were also cancelled. As October approached and the virus multiplied, it was clear that our plans for the Halloween Bike-a-Boo would have to be abandoned, as well.

Would KCCA let a little thing like a Pandemic bring our activities to a halt? Of course not! After much brain-storming, we came up with an idea that could involve the whole community and would also be safe: A YARD DECORATING CONTEST! For each of the final three months of the year, three yards and their decorators were selected to be recognized. Our judges, Nancy Cagle, Beverly Bisbee and Lynn Gunnoe, all resided in other parts of town. Although we wanted a little friendly competition, we didn't want it to get too spirited, so the winners weren't ranked.

### Halloween...

Our theme for October was Halloween, and the judges had many great entrants to choose from.

**Sheree Shaffer** of Venable Ave. decorated her yard, porch, and roof with some of the scariest things you would never want to meet in the dark. Sheree greeted our team completely decked out as a witch.

**Lee Ann Grogg's** Virginia Ave. yard turned into a delightfully ghoulish graveyard, complete with a skeleton bride and groom. Scary creatures peaked out from behind the curtains, and a 30 foot monster peaked in the window. The Family of CPD **Patrolman Foster** decorated a cute scene for the little ones with a neat display on their corner lot at 39<sup>th</sup> Street and Noyes Ave.

Kanawha City had some of the most 'spirited' decorations in Charleston!



KCCA plans to continue this tradition into 2021. If you have any ideas to contribute or want to volunteer in your area, let one of your board members know.

For 2021 we are adding 'Yard of the Month' for the months of April through September. To enter any of our community contests e-mail KCCA your name, address, and which contest you are entering. We want to showcase KC homes and yards throughout the year.

**E-mail KCCA to enter!**



### Thanksgiving...

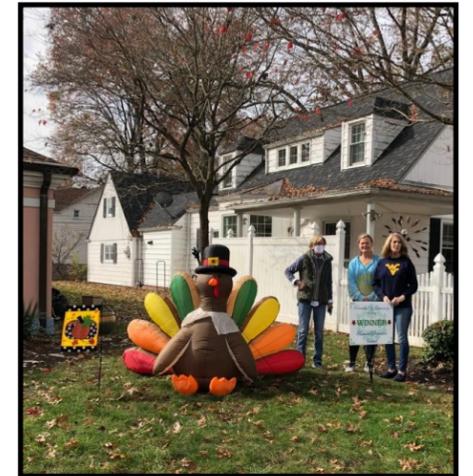
November's theme was Thanksgiving/Autumn.

**Lisa McNeeley's** cornstalk covered pillars and charming window boxes caught our judges' eye, as well as her arrangements of pumpkins and flowers scattered throughout her yard. Lisa is another Kanawha City girl who bought her late grandmother's (Ursula Garinser) home on Washington Ave.

The **Josh Johnson's** theme was a Farm Market in which he re-created a vintage vegetable, pumpkin, and chrysanthemum display, complete with the farmer.



**Cindy Hanna**, who bought her mom's (Sandra Wilkerson) home on Virginia Ave. continues her mother's love for decorating. Her winning yard featured a huge turkey, pilgrims, and lots of large metal pumpkins.



### WINTERTIME...

In December, we were hoping to see some celebrations of Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, in addition to the popular Christmas displays. Maybe next year?

**Steven and Tammy Epperley's** home on Virginia Ave. was a homemade delight! Steven used his DIY skills to create shining stars hanging from the tree (made out of coat hangers), plywood presents, stacked in front of the home, and a hundred more things. Santa made his way to the tip top of the very tall chimney without any broken bones. Neighbors who stopped to enjoy the display were entertained by Bing Crosby and pals singing old Christmas songs.

The final December winners, **Linda Moles** of Lower Donnelly and **Lori Young** of Carlton Drive used various greens, magnolia, and other natural items to decorate their homes and yards. Somewhat reminiscent of Colonial Williamsburg, their swags, garlands and wreaths were exquisite.

**kanawhacitycommunity@gmail.com**

