

*“Building a  
Better  
Neighborhood  
Since 1927”*

**Special Interest  
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- Google Fiber installation set for next summer in WPHA
- Holiday season is loaded with fun events

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## Annual WPHA Meeting Set for October 9th

A full program featuring special guests and elections for board positions will be some of the highlights for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors for the Ward Parkway Homes Association. It will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9 at the Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church at 74<sup>th</sup> Street and Ward Parkway.

The program will feature representatives from the Friends of Hale Cook and the WPHA security patrol.

The Friends of Hale Cook are trying to reopen the former

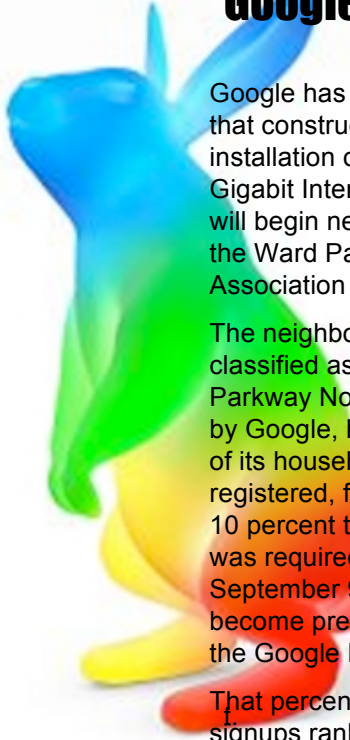
public school at 73<sup>rd</sup> Street between Pennsylvania and Jefferson that once served the neighborhood's primary grades. The meeting also will cover any updates from Google, which has announced a summer 2013 installation within WPHA boundaries.

Brent Parsons, a KCMO police officer who heads our private security patrol, will give a briefing on the patrol's role in our neighborhood.

Elections will be held for all board positions – president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

Opinions of our neighbors are welcome. Light snacks will be provided.

## Google Fiber Installation Set for Summer in WPHA



Google has announced that construction and installation of its TV and Gigabit Internet service will begin next summer in the Ward Parkway Homes Association neighborhood.

The neighborhood, classified as the Ward Parkway North fiberhood by Google, has 36 percent of its households registered, far above the 10 percent threshold that was required by the September 9 deadline to become pre-qualified for the Google Fiber service.

That percentage of signups ranks the WPHA neighborhood 28<sup>th</sup> highest out of 111 fiberhoods in Kansas City, Mo. Google has stipulated that the areas with the highest percentage of signups will get priority in installation.

Google, which claims that its Gigabit speed runs 100 times faster than what most Americans use today, also has extended the sign-up deadline to next summer.

According to a staffer at the Google Store on Westport Road, however, there are at present no plans for Google to return to a neighborhood after initial installation.

But a new resident would be able to sign up for service if it was installed for the previous resident.

Anyone who has paid the \$10 registration fee for Google service will be asked before installation to specify the desired service package. Anyone who pays the fee, but later declines to buy Google service, forfeits the deposit, but bears no further obligation.

Google also has cleared a major hurdle to completing its TV package by securing ESPN and other Disney cable channels.

However, the package does not currently include such cable networks as HBO, Turner Classic Movies, Fox News and National Geographic.

Google is offering three

packages: Gigabit and TV for \$120 a month, Gigabit Internet only for \$70 a month and basic Internet service for a flat \$300, which provides that service for at least seven years. That \$300 fee can be paid in \$25 installments over the first year or with a flat fee.

When Google is ready to start constructing its network in a neighborhood, residents will be asked to pick a package and sign a contract.

Installers will spend a few hours in each house setting up service and delivering hardware. That hardware includes an Android tablet that can serve as a remote control, a conventional remote, a router, TV box and storage box for those who record their TV programs.

Internet users will be able to connect to Ethernet ports or use wireless service. For more details: [google.com/fiber](http://google.com/fiber)

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*"The Google rabbit is the popular logo for Google Fiber, the new high-speed Internet service in Kansas City.-- Image courtesy of Google*

## Tips for choosing your Internet service

Many WPHA residents will have to decide whether to keep their current TV and Internet providers or switch to Google. For a satisfactory outcome, all households should do their own research.

The Google Store at 1814

Westport Road has laptops set up with Google Fiber service. Its high speed is most evident when downloading streaming videos, such as those from YouTube, or video games.

Internet users who mainly

check email, download non-video websites and use social media may not notice a significant difference.

Current providers may cut better deals for existing customers who tell them they might switch.

## Friends of Hale Cook keep pushing to reopen neighborhood school

By Sara Wiercinski.

Perhaps you have noticed the butterfly garden on the campus of Hale Cook Elementary School on 73<sup>rd</sup> Street between Pennsylvania and Jefferson. With the help of generously donated materials, Friends of Hale Cook volunteers built the garden to beautify the school grounds and promote the vision of a neighborhood school.

The garden is just the first step in the beautification of this neighborhood landmark. Friends of Hale Cook, along with the Greater Kansas City Community Gardens and Giving Grove, has been awarded the Legacy Grant from the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Centurions Leadership Program to create an edible forest on the campus. The edible forest will serve as an educational green space with harvested food donated to local food pantries. Work on the project will begin this fall.

These efforts are just part of the ultimate goal to reopen Hale Cook Elementary as a neighborhood public school, and the Friends of Hale Cook are seeking support from Ward Parkway Homes Association residents. The recruiting effort encompasses the school's traditional boundaries, in the 64112, 64113 and 64114 zip codes.

The vision for Hale Cook is based on the reinvigorated Nettlehorst School, a high-performing Chicago public school. The neighborhood school model guarantees admission to children residing within local boundaries. This encourages a community feeling as children can walk, bike or carpool to school, saving the cost of school-financed transportation.

The Friends of Hale Cook board of directors recently met with the Superintendent Stephen Green of the Kansas City Missouri School District. He asked for a feasibility study to assess support for the initiative, and examine how the school might be populated in the coming years. This data will help establish boundaries for the school.

Friends of Hale Cook will complete the feasibility study this fall. \_\_\_\_\_

Here are some of the ways neighbors can get involved with this effort:

**Take the on-line survey at Hale Cook.org:** The group wants to know what neighbors think – even if they don't have school-aged children or their children attend school elsewhere.

**Volunteer:** Activities include participating in focus groups to get feedback from residents and research for the feasibility study. The group also is seeking people with ideas or contacts who could help remove the unsightly temporary classroom on the west side of the school.

**Help fundraise:** The Friends are seeking people with fund-raising skills and those willing to make a donation. The group can be contacted at [friendsofhalecook@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhalecook@gmail.com)

*Sara Wiercinski is a WPHA resident and a Friends of Hale Cook board member*

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## eNeighbors keeps gathering steam

Over the past few years, your Homeowners Association has wrestled with the issue of how to best communicate with our members in a rapidly changing technological

environment. We have recently gone on line with eNeighbors, a combination website, newsletter, email vehicle and community forum.

We currently have 225 subscribers and

counting. We hope to eventually sign up as many of our 843 households as possible. And, remember, an eNeighbors subscription does not require WPHA membership.

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*"ENeighbors is a combination website, newsletter, email vehicle and community forum"*

## How to Sign up for eNeighbors

1. Log on to: [www.eneighbors.com](http://www.eneighbors.com)
2. Select your neighborhood, either "Ward Parkway" or "6114."
3. Click on to "Join Neighborhood"
4. Enter your six-digit PIN, which should have arrived by email. One PIN is good for as many as 10 household members.
5. Complete the signup form, as instructed. Once you have registered, you will get a weekly newsletter, as well as a quarterly six-page newsletter, in your inbox.

to log on to this site to get your newsletters. But you can log on to learn more about neighborhood events, post news articles, promote your neighborhood groups, post or read classified ads, and take advantage of many other features.

This website was created by Dan Stock, an Overland Park City Councilman and a long-time board member of his own Homes Association. Frustrated with a poor turnout for an annual Easter Egg Hunt, he sought a better way to communicate with his neighbors. The site includes an RSVP option.

WPHA also has a Facebook page. Check out the Ward Parkway Homes Association page and become friends with many of your neighbors.

There is no need for you

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*ENeighbors is an exciting new tool to make our neighborhood better connected. We hope to reach as many of our 843 households as possible.*

## Harvesters annual food drive set for Nov. 3-10

The WPHA Annual Food drive for Harvesters helps the Kansas City community prevent hunger here at home.

We will be picking up donations the morning of Nov. 10 and need need volunteers to help create and distribute donation bags.

Volunteers drop off the bags between Nov. 3 and Nov. 8 and return Saturday morning to pick up the bags and bring them to a

Harvesters truck in the neighborhood.

This is a great way for students to get service hours while helping fill a vital need.

There are various ways to contribute to this extremely worthwhile project. Volunteers are needed to assemble food bags, drop them off and pick them up.

If you can help with any, or all, of these assignments, please call

drive organizer Julie Hull at 816-822-7535 or email her at: [juliejay7411@mac.com](mailto:juliejay7411@mac.com).

Also look for periodic updates on eNeighbors.

Harvesters is one of the most respected non-profit organizations in the Midwest. Our neighbors have given generously each and every year and we expect this year to be no different.

Volunteers generally get a two-block assignment.



*Youngsters pick out pantry items donated to Harvesters – Photo from Harvesters*

## Holiday Homes contest, caroling always big hits in the hood

Do you have that holiday spirit? Decorate your house or yard in time for the annual WPHA Holiday Homes Contest. Judging will be the weekend of December 14-16, so be sure to keep your lights turned on from dusk to at least 10 p.m. each night.

Last year's winners are this year's judges. The three winning houses each receive \$50 gift

certificates to Sutherlands on 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Wornall Road. To qualify to win, homeowners must have paid their dues for 2012-2013 by December 1.

Our WPHA carolers also add to our bright holiday atmosphere. Anyone who likes to sing or plays an instrument is welcome to join. Usually, one street is picked and 10 to 20 houses are serenaded

over a couple of blocks. Our intrepid carolers sing despite snow or cold, and get together for a post-caroling party with snacks, cocoa, coffee and wine.

Because this is a family event, strollers and older children are welcome, though they must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Date, time and location are to be announced.

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*For more information on these fun holiday events, or to participate in any of them, please contact WPHA vice president Alison Baker at 822-2006 or [acey518@kc.rr.com](mailto:acey518@kc.rr.com)*

## Ward Parkway Homes Association

P.O. Box 140083  
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President: Frank Haar

Vice President: Alison Baker

Treasurer: Gaye Tillotson

Secretary: Jon Rand

Editor: Jon Rand

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.eneighbors.com](http://www.eneighbors.com) and on  
Facebook site for Ward Parkway  
Homes Association

## Have a tip of a story for our newsletter?

Anyone who has a tip about a newsworthy development in our neighborhood, or who would like to write a story or a letter to the editor should feel free to contact the *WPHA News*. We are always looking for new writers and encourage residents to join in our neighborhood dialogue.

All we ask is that your story pertains to the boundaries of the Ward Parkway Homes Association (Gregory to 75<sup>th</sup> St. and State Line to Wornall) and that the story not be of a commercial nature. News stories should omit opinion.

Feel free to contact editor-

in-chief, Jon Rand, at [jonrand71047@aol.com](mailto:jonrand71047@aol.com) or 816-333-4784. .

Letters to the editor must be signed and include contact information so that we can verify the identity of the sender. They may be edited for considerations of length, clarity and good taste.

## Harris transformation earns September Home of the Month Award

We are all aware of the blight that a vacant home can bring to our neighborhood. Ryan and Amy Harris early last spring bought the house at 900 W. 75<sup>th</sup> Street, which had been in foreclosure, and quickly went to work on its rehabilitation.

Now the house sits as a great example of how much life is left in these gracious old homes. Fresh, bright new paint on the exterior is complemented by a new landscape in the front and side yards.

To look at this house, it is hard to believe it needed so much work just earlier this year. That explains the well-deserved Home of the Month for September sign now in the front yard.

**WARD PARKWAY  
HOMES ASSN.**  
P.O. Box 140083  
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**KCMO 64114**