

Your Neighborhood News  
From the “Neighbors of Winner Road Association”  
[www.winnerneighbors.org](http://www.winnerneighbors.org)

Issue #5  
7/29/2007

*Delivered to over 200 homes by hand!*



## Getting us out of the KCMO School District!

In the three months since our last issue, there has been significant progress on the issue of moving Western Independence and Sugar Creek out of the KCMO School District and into the Independence School District! Senator Callahan’s bill requesting that voters get the opportunity to vote for such a transfer was passed. And Governor Blunt signed it.

So, what’s next? Come find out! There will be a community meeting THIS NEXT WEEK to inform the public about the future steps of this process. :

**Tuesday, July 31st at 7 PM**  
**in the Auditorium of Maywood Baptist Church**  
**(10505 E. Winner Road)**

The following people will be there to describe what we have to do next:

**Dr. Jim Hinson** – Superintendent of the Independence School District. Dr. Hinson will detail plans that the Independence School District has for the area schools in question.

**Mr. Steve Mauer** – Attorney and Chairman of the Board of the Independence Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Mauer will present a legal picture of what must happen for the changes to take place.

**Elected Officials** – Senator Victor Callahan, Representative Ray Salva, Mayors Don Reimal and Stan Salva, and Councilperson Marcie Gragg. Our elected officials will be present to share the process that citizens must take to insure a victory for this cause.

There will also be two other community forums on this topic in September. The non-profit organization “Progress Independence” will be sponsoring these two meetings:

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**September 25th at the Englewood Theater, 6-8 PM**  
and  
**September 27th at Noland Road Baptist Church, 6-8 PM**

There are many people, myself included, who now truly believe that this change of school districts WILL HAPPEN! But we must be careful that, in our enthusiasm, we don't make any mistakes in how we go about this. I urge you to please attend these meetings and ask questions!

(Of course, if you can't make it to any of THOSE meetings, we will, no doubt, have neighbors attending them and reporting back to us at our monthly "Neighbors of Winner Road Association" meetings. Those meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month, at 7 PM, at Sovereign Grace Church, 9901 E. Winner Road.)

## **What a terrific Neighborhood Garage Sale !**

Back on Saturday, June 9th, we held our annual Neighborhood Garage Sale. Sixteen households committed up-front to participating in the sale. This allowed us to place a special ad in the Independence Examiner for the week before the sale: The ad contained a link that people could use on the Internet to get to a Google Map showing all the houses and addresses participating in the sale!

Plus, on the day of the sale, each house received a stack of 25 copies of this Google Map to hand out to customers, so that we all could benefit from the sale.

At times, foot-traffic and car-parking in the area became quite congested! It was a rather impressive turn-out, but we were graced with fantastic weather on that particular Saturday!

We agreed to split the cost of the Examiner ad among each household. This came to just \$2.50 each !! I had asked participants to consider donating some of the profits they made from their sales to the "Neighbors of Winner Road Association". Here is a quick-list of families who "went above and beyond", together donating \$146.50 to our humble organization!:

**Marvin & Joyce Schemmer**  
**Ron & Joyce Lust**  
**Michael & Jessica Schmidt**  
**David & Terry Raasch**  
**Mickey Pace**  
**Peter & Helen Bishop**  
**Mark & Francine Wild**  
**Fred & Leah Burton**  
**Matt & Holly Leighton-Floyd**  
**Tim & Anne Verhulst**

And a big "THANKS!" to **Mr. Carlisle**, who sent us another donation after our last newsletter issue! Clearly, this was our most popular event so far for the year! We will definitely plan on doing this again next year.

If you have ideas on other activities that we could do together as a neighborhood, I'd like to hear them. Please give me (Dave) a call at 461-3563!

## Other Upcoming Events:

**Saturday, August 4th — 9 AM — Volunteer Day at the Englewood Gardens, plus a Leaf Casting Class** is available for a \$25 per person fee. For more information, call Changing Seasons at 252-3372

**Tuesday, August 7th — 6-8 PM — The “National Night Out Against Crime”** will be hosted by the Fairmount Community Center (at 608 S. Ash). The event will be an ice cream social. Ice cream and toppings will be served. Please bring your own lawn chairs.

**Thursday, August 16th — 7 PM — Monthly meeting for the “Neighbors of Winner Road Association”** Held at Sovereign Grace Church, 9901 E. Winner Road.

## Street Project “Final Touches”

This week, Independence Power & Light began installing the old-fashioned-looking tear-drop street lights along Winner, from Northern to Truman!

What a beautiful “final touch” to the Winner Road street and median project!

Several of the old street lights will be uninstalled, which means that effectively, we’ll see several power lines buried as a result of this project. That makes the area safer, plus those buried lines won’t be affected by ice storms in the future!

Once these lights are installed, that effectively brings to an end the street and median project.

“What’s next?” you might ask. There are several goals and projects that we’ve talked about doing.



Burying more power lines is one thing we’d like to see happen. Since I’m convinced we will be in the Independence School District soon, I personally would like to see a park or playground for the little kids in the area. (I think of it as preparing for the young families that we’d like to see move here.) There are still many areas off of Winner Road that need sidewalk repair or have other issues.

We really need more neighbors like yourself to talk with us and occasionally do small tasks or projects to get things going.

We aren’t likely to win any more Community Block Development grants in the next few years, simply because the city tries to spread those out fairly across the city. So funds and fund-raising is an issue.

But we have to come to some agreement of what we want to see happen... and then approach the city about partnering again with us to make it happen. If there’s one thing that I think we’ve learned from this street and median project, it’s that we can’t sit back and expect city government to “just do something”. We have to show them that we are serious, that we are committed, and that we are willing to put some work and resources into it.



## Taking Pride!

I'd like to give a big "THANKS!" to the neighbors who together take care of emptying the two trash cans we provide in the neighborhood!

Yes, for one year now, the "Neighbors of Winner Road Association" has provided two trash cans (55 gallon barrels painted green... you can see one in the photo to the left) at key points in the neighborhood.

The bus shelter at 16th and Winner... and the bus stop at Winner and Truman... have both long been areas where people have tossed a lot of litter around. Your neighbors had performed many clean-ups of

these areas in the past.

It occurred to us that, perhaps, if we **give people a place to put the trash**, they'll help us keep the area clean! (You can't blame "everybody else" as being "bad"! The majority of people **do try to do the right thing**. Sometimes, a much-needed bit-of-help is what's missing!)

We have a monthly rotation list of family-volunteers who go out to each can about twice each month to collect the trash and replace the bags. If you'd like to "claim a month" on this rotation and help us out, please give me a call!: David Raasch 461-3563

## A brief message from the City

I asked Jay Leipzig, Neighborhood Services Manager for the City's Community Development Department, if there was anything he wanted to say to our neighbors / neighborhood. He said:

"I wanted to thank everyone for their participation during the Great Northwest Independence Neighborhood Initiative Process, and that the process is proceeding very well, and its a very exciting time for Western Independence. In a few weeks, the GNINI Blog should be operational as well, which will be a great time to disseminate neighborhood information. I will keep you posted."

## Our Neighborhood and the Police

A funny thing happened the last time my wife and I were delivering these newsletters to the neighborhood. My wife approached two young men on their front lawn. Handing them a newsletter, she invited them to the neighborhood picnic. One of them asked if this event (and our group) had anything to do with the police?

Now, granted, his comment seemed to imply that he didn't want to meet any police officers anytime soon. But still, it's a valid question that I'd like to briefly comment on:

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The “Neighbors of Winner Road Association” is a part of the city-wide Neighborhood Watch program. However, that’s just a small part of our identity. Neighborhood Watches don’t usually apply for grants to put in sidewalks, nor do they usually pick up trash.

We are concerned about crime. I lived here just two weeks before my garage was broken into. And last year, my house was broken into in broad daylight. Frankly, crime is big problem here, one that (in my opinion) a lot of people seem to have “become numb” to. Garage and shed break-ins are common enough that we seem to accept it...unless it’s our garage or shed!

A recent third-party study of the police department says that we need more officers out on the streets. I’ve heard quite a few friends and residents tell of slow police responses to their 9-1-1 calls.

But before we get too critical of our “first responders”, think about this: How are things where **you** work? Are you overworked and under-staffed? Is that **your** fault?

I believe that this is the same situation with our police. The officers are out there, working hard to meet a huge volume of calls. There just **aren’t enough officers on the street** to meet the demand.

We need to support our policemen, but at the same time demand higher standards from our leadership, both within the police department and in city government. More funds need to be allocated to hiring more officers...and any wasteful spending within the department needs to be found and eliminated.

Meanwhile, we citizens must understand that we have to watch out for ourselves and each other. And that’s where a Neighborhood Watch team comes in. The more “eyes we have looking”, the easier it is to catch criminals in the act and even prevent crimes. This is a TEAM effort!

**If you see anything unusual happening out on the street or near your neighbors’ property, please call 9-1-1 !!**

## Northwest Independence Survey

Attached to the back-page of this newsletter issue, you will find a special survey. This survey was put together by the “Northwest Communities Development Corporation”. (If you’ve never heard of them, just know that they’re a non-profit organization that helps provide quality low-income housing.... Plus they’re the ONLY organization in all of Independence with a home repair assistance program!)

The Northwest CDC would like to find out about the interests and needs of people who live in NW Independence.

I’m asking that you fill out this form and return it as soon as possible, via one of the methods I will list here below. (If you need additional copies of this form, they are available at Maywood Baptist Church.)

You may return this survey by dropping it off at either:

- A) Maywood Baptist Church, 10101 E. Winner Road
- B) The Fairmount Community Center, 608 S. Ash
- C) Slipping it in the mail slot to the lower right of my front door: David Raasch, 9725 E. Winner Rd.

These people/groups will make sure that your completed survey gets back to the Northwest Communities Development Corporation.

## ABOUT US

The “**Neighbors of Winner Road Association**” is a voluntary group of your neighbors (homeowners, renters, and people who work in the area)...who are interested in improving life in our neighborhood.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month, at 7 PM, at Sovereign Grace Church, 9901 E. Winner Rd. There is no cost for membership. We do not charge any dues.

We invite you to visit your website at <http://www.winnerneighbors.org>.

This newsletter is currently being published 3 times per year. We might do 4. Maybe.

### What exactly is our Neighborhood ? Where are the Boundaries?

Our neighborhood makes up most, but not all, of the “Fairview Heights” neighborhood, as defined by the old “Neighborhood Council” system from the 1980’s. We are bordered by Truman Road on the North and 18th Street on the South. Our western border is Brookside. Our eastern border is the Railroad Bridge on Winner Road, which is the boundary line between us and Bristol #5 neighborhood. A nice map is available on our website, [www.winnerneighbors.org](http://www.winnerneighbors.org). (Sorry, we didn’t have enough space to put a decent-sized map in this issue.)

### GOT EMAIL?

You can receive alerts about our upcoming meetings and events by subscribing to our “**NEWS**” **email mailing list**.

To subscribe:

- 1) Go to our website ([www.winnerneighbors.org](http://www.winnerneighbors.org)).
- 2) Locate the small subscription form that sits on the left-hand-side of any page on that site.
- 3) Fill out that form and submit it!
- 4) Wait for confirmation email to arrive and then hit “Reply” and “Send”. This confirms your subscription.

### CONTACTS

Chairperson (plus Newsletter & Website-related concerns):	David Raasch	9725 E. Winner	461-3563
Treasurer:	Anne Verhulst	9755 E. Winner	337-3298
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