



PINCKNEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 125 Lawrence Kansas 66044

February 2013 Newsletter

Pinckney Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

President – Vice President – Treasurer

The annual PNA meeting and election of officers will be held on February 16th at 10:00 am in Meeting Room D-South of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital. This year, the President and Treasurer are up for elections and we will seek to fill the post of Vice President, which has been vacant for several months. We will also continue our planning for events, projects and priorities for 2013. This is a perfect time to attend a PNA meeting to voice your concerns and/or seek information about issues affecting the neighborhood. We won't draft you involuntarily into service, but we will ask your opinions and collect your ideas.

We'll have light refreshments and try to leave time for a little social visit following the business meeting. Please bring your thoughts and ideas about what PNA can do for you and your Pinckney neighbors as well as ideas on how you can join with others to make Pinckney an even better place to live.

Pinckney Tunnel Project

Pinckney students have been working for years on getting their tunnel some new lighting and artwork - and it's about to pay off! Next week, members of the Pinckney Tunnel Project will sign papers and hand over a check to Van Go Inc., then the design phase will begin. Members of the Old West Lawrence and Pinckney neighborhoods will meet with Van Go's amazing young artists to begin designing the 10 panels of mural art to be installed in the tunnel. We're also working with the city to improve lighting and drainage. Our supportive city partners are also taking care of sand blasting and painting the walls white - WHICH WILL REQUIRE A FEW DAYS OF TUNNEL CLOSURE! Please check the Pinckney Neighborhood Association website and Facebook pages for dates the tunnel will be closed, and please help spread word to any neighbors that rely on the tunnel. Special thank you to our largest donors: Lawrence Schools Foundation, City of Lawrence, and Old West Lawrence Neighborhood Association. Everyone in both neighborhoods will be updated on when the mural will be installed and opened - and you are all invited! If you have any questions, please call Melinda at 785-979-2477 or email her at melindatoumi@gmail.com.

USD 497 No-Tax-Increase School Bond Meeting

On Monday, Feb. 4th, the Pinckney Elementary School library was standing room only while residents learned more about the school bond issue that will be put to a vote on April 2nd. Dr. Rick Doll, the USD 497 School District Superintendent, shared how the \$92.5M bond would be spent. The elementary schools would receive their long delayed repairs (\$80.3M), all schools will receive wireless technology (\$6.5M) the high schools will get a couple of changes to ensure equity between the two, and the rest will be used to build Lawrence's new vocational/technical training space. The new space will house health labs, construction science, computer networking, and machine design/technology labs, to develop a stronger work force for Lawrence. USD 497 will partner with local community colleges for these programs, and adult education can occur in the spaces at night.

For Pinckney Elementary School, the plans include \$6.9M worth of work, including desperately needed HVAC, electrical, and plumbing repairs, secure school entrances, safe drop off traffic flow, additional classrooms so children aren't taught in hallways and tiny make-shift offices, enlargement of 11 classrooms, and construction of a new gymnasium that is separate from the current cafeteria. This bond will mean that no matter where you live in Lawrence, students will have the same opportunity, technology, and space. All trailer classrooms will finally be eliminated as well.

The work will take about 3-4 years to complete, and the bond is a 20 year bond. Note, this is money that can only be used for infrastructure. Funding for teachers, staff and training can only come from the "General Fund", which is controlled by the Kansas Legislature, not locally. (\$10M has been cut from USD 497's General Fund in about 3 years.) A "NO" vote would result in taxes for a \$150,000 dollar home going down by \$8.53 per month; a "YES" vote would keep the tax rate steady and fund these important school improvements.

Please don't forget to vote on April 2nd, 2013!

If you need more information about the bond or want to help share information in support of the bond, you can contact: yesforlawrencevolunteers@gmail.com

Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings

February 16 – PNA Monthly Meeting

10:00 a.m. - Lawrence Memorial Hospital - Room D-South
Main Topic: Election of new PNA officers & 2013 planning

March 16 – PNA Monthly Meeting

10:00 a.m. - Lawrence Memorial Hospital - Room D-South
Main Topic: Open invitation for candidate discussions re: City Commission, School Board & pro/con School Bond
(watch the PNA website & FB page for a list of participants)

April 20 – PNA Monthly Meeting

10:00 a.m. - Lawrence Memorial Hospital - Room D-South
Main Topic: Fundraising & PNA event planning

Additional agenda items may also be discussed at each meeting. If you have a question or a discussion topic, please attend a PNA meeting or send an e-mail to pinckney.Neighborhood@gmail.com

PNA Contact Information

Website: www.pinckneyneighborhood.org
Subscribe to a periodic news bulletin on the PNA website

E-mail: Pinckney.Neighborhood@gmail.com

Facebook: "Pinckney Neighborhood Association"

Officers:

Linda Bush – President
(785) 856-6435 LCBush@gmail.com

Harry Miller – Secretary
(785) 832-2443 wheresharry@sunflower.com

Kristen Fellows Walker – Treasurer
(785) 331-6585 kristenfellowswalker@live.com

Newsletter:

Pat Miller – Editor
(785) 550-6958 pgmiller@sunflower.com

KU Students Volunteer for **THE BIG EVENT**

You can benefit from their generosity!

The Big Event at KU is a student run organization whose goal is to provide volunteers to Lawrence residents as a way to say "thank you" to the people of Lawrence. The volunteers can perform various tasks which include, but are not limited to, yard work, painting, and washing windows. Last year, on The Big Event day of service, they had around 2,000 student volunteers. This year, on April 13th, they project around 4,000 students to volunteer. The applications are not need-based and anyone is welcome to sign up. If you would like students to volunteer at your residence you can fill out an application at the bigeventku.com or call **(785-864-7469)** if you would like a paper application. If you have further questions please contact The Big Event Outreach Coordinators listed below. They hope to see all of you April 13th.

Rock Chalk, Marie Schmitz and Lizzy Watson
2012-2013 Big Event Outreach coordinators
bigeventku.outreach@gmail.com



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PO Box 125
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Yes, You Can Help! -just a little or a lot-

Even a small commitment of your time could provide big benefits for the Pinckney Neighborhood. We're looking for volunteers who can spare just a few hours to work on a single project or a few hours each month to work on one of several ongoing PNA projects. These projects would be perfect for a stay-at-home parent, a retired person, a student or anyone else who wants to be involved in a community service project but only has a little bit of time to offer. Our projects are interesting and diverse, and can generally be completed on whatever schedule works best for you. They include:

- Assistance with Newsletter preparation
- Research of Pinckney history
- Photography (amateur or pro)
- Communications with local businesses
- Coordinating and helping run events

As always, student volunteers may receive community service certificates – these come in handy for college and scholarship applications! To learn more about any of these projects or to volunteer, please email Pinckney.Neighborhood@gmail.com, attend a PNA meeting or call Pat Miller at 785-550-6958. Thank you!

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Please support these fine local businesses that have sponsored Pinckney Neighborhood Association's work in and for the Neighborhood. Visit www.PinckneyNeighborhood.org for a link to their websites.



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