



The Neighborhood Bridge

November
2025

T y l e r P a r k N e i g h b o r h o o d A s s o c i a t i o n

Winter 2025 Newsletter

Deer Park joins TPNA's Winter Festival of Hope



WHEN: Friday, December 5, 2025, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Tyler Park Bridge

Come join your neighbors for Tyler Park Neighborhood's Winter Festival of Hope. This year we are collaborating with the Deer Park Neighborhood Association and are super excited to have them join in. There will be live music. Food will be available for purchase from Get It On a Bun at Booty's, famous for their State Fair winning burgers and potato bowls, with vegan options available. There will be hot chocolate provided by Heine Brothers as well as adult libations for purchase from Hop Atomica. Write down your hopes and place them in luminaries to line the walkway under the bridge (supplies provided). Our friends at Deer Park will have games and prizes for kids as well as a S'mores station. There will be special visitors throughout the evening. To kick off the holiday season, we will have our ceremony lighting both sides of the bridge at 6 p.m. Come join the fun and enter the holiday season full of hope! The event is free to attend.

-Mike Neal





View from the Bridge

2025 goes down as the year the Mid-City Mall officially went up for sale. It ends with much debate about nothing. With only one application to the city that reportedly went nowhere, it's just as well. You may recall an Atlanta-area attorney representing an unidentified client who wanted to build a 50,000+ square foot supermarket with about the same amount of additional retail space. Your Tyler Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors was, to say the least, underwhelmed. And several of us thought the mystery developer floated a big miss by not including housing to make the property a mixed-use development. Time to put a pin in that trial balloon to hurry up and wait for the next one.

We did get a small piece of good Mid-City Mall news this year. Our library's lease has been extended to June of 2026 and Sunday hours are back. The bad news is that June 2026 will be here before you know it. As of this writing, there are nothing but questions. If no buyer emerges, will the city be able to re-renew its lease? If there is a buyer, will the library be part of the master plan? If so, will a temporary location be needed during construction? If not, where will the Highlands-Shelby Park Library go? Add to the mix, our Shelby Park neighbors are working hard to get their neighborhood library back. TPNA will continue monitoring this fluid situation closely.

Looking ahead to 2026:

- **Saturday, March 14** put on your Irish green best and march with us in the iconic *St. Patrick's Parade*.
- **Saturday, April 4** bring your kiddos with bunny ears blazing for our *Annual Tyler Park Easter Egg Hunt*.
- **Sunday 13, 20 & 27** our *Sundays in September Jazz Festival* returns for its 17th year.

And don't forget to join us in Tyler Park for our upcoming *Festival of Hope*. Chair Mike Neal has details in our cover story.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season,

Helene Kramer Longton
President, Tyler Park Neighborhood Association
president@tylerpark.org



TPNA is on FaceBook and the Internet!

- <https://www.facebook.com/TylerParkNeighborhoodAssociation>
- <http://www.tylerpark.org/>

TPNA Contacts

President@tylerpark.org

President - Helene Kramer Longton

First Vice President - Will Morgan

Second Vice President - Mike Neal

Treasurer - Manny Carralero

Secretary - Ray Brundige

secretary@tylerpark.org

Newsletter Editor - Marie Dever

editorTPNL@gmail.com

TPNA meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month (except November and December) at 6:30 pm at the Highlands/Shelby Park branch of the Louisville Free Public Library inside the Mid City Mall. All neighborhood residents and business neighbors are welcome to attend.

In addition to the officers, Tyler Park Neighborhood Association Board Members are Kyle Geele, Paula Head, Forrest Land, Sheila Levy, Traci McAlister, Taylor McGovern-U'Sellis, Kristen Millwood, Shawn Reilly, Rebecca Watson, Jeanette Westbrook, and Greg Zahradnik.

Annual Meeting Recap

The Tyler Park Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting was held at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library on Saturday, October 18 at 10:00 a.m. Along with regular agenda items, the focus of the Annual Meeting was:

1. The election of the 2026 board of directors
2. Review of TPNA's 2025 accomplishments and high-level glance into 2026
3. Speaker Series - Listening and discussion session of important local topics

Elected to serve for the 2026 directorship are: Ray Brundige, Manny Carralero, Forrest Land, Kyle Geele, Paula Head, Helene Kramer Longton, Sheila Levy, Traci McAlister, Taylor McGovern-U'Sellis, Kristen Millwood, Will Morgan, Mike Neal, Shawn Reilly, Rebecca Watson, Jeanette Westbrook and Greg Zahradnik.

President Helene Kramer Longton reviewed 2025 accomplishments and acknowledged the leadership of Rebecca Watson for chairing our participation in the *St. Patrick's Parade* and the *Easter Egg Hunt*, Manny Carralero for chairing the 16th edition of *Sundays in September* and Mike Neal for chairing the *Festival of Hope*. TPNA is proud to offer these signature events to our community year after year. Looking forward to 2026, Helene reiterated our commitment to these major events and reminded everyone that TPNA would like to see new faces march with TPNA in the upcoming St Patrick's Parade in March.

Our keynote speaker was the dynamic Bridgette Johnson, President and CEO of New Directions Housing Corp., a local non-profit that works to develop and maintain affordable housing and builds vital communities in partnership with neighbors and other stakeholders.

Ms. Johnson shared her inspiring career story. More than 20 years ago, she joined New Directions in a clerical position, advanced her education, rose through the ranks, and was appointed President & CEO about six months ago. She now leads a highly respected organization that owns or manages 913 units housing for over 1,800 people across the city. New Directions has new housing in the works on vacant land it owns in West Louisville. The organization is perhaps best known for its *Repair Affair* program that arranges home repairs for low-income seniors and disabled individuals.

The work of New Directions doesn't stop at housing. *I Rise*, the brainchild of Ms. Johnson, is an innovative program that enables its residents to break the cycle of poverty and achieve financial stability. Whenever a resident gets a raise, their rent goes up. The amount of that rent increase goes into an interest-bearing savings account. If the resident's goals are met after 5 years, the money is theirs to pay for education, job training, or even a down payment on home ownership. New Directions receives support from major corporations, Louisville Metro and HUD. Learn more at www.ndhc.org.

We also welcomed our second guest speaker, Alisha Jones, founder of the [Duck Duck Goose Bike Bus](http://www.duckducklou.com) in Louisville. A bike bus is an alternative to riding the school bus that came together in 2024 when JCPS cut back on transportation for magnet students. It started with 20 families whose children go to Hawthorne, Lincoln and Bloom Elementary Schools. Groups of children travel with parents on safe fixed bicycle routes to and from school. Her organization offers route planning, safety-practice training for route leaders, bike equipment services through a partnership with the nonprofit [Falls City Community Bike Works](http://www.falls-city-community-bike-works.org), and vetting for the volunteers. Find out more at www.duckducklou.com.

As is customary with prior annual meetings, freshly brewed coffee, juice and yummy donuts were provided.



JOSH LAUGHLIN
REALTOR | FOUNDING MEMBER

502-777-8904
josh@louisvilleportfolio.com
louisvilleportfolio.com

BPG BLUEGRASS PORTFOLIO GROUP
KELLER WILLIAMS LUXURY INTERNATIONAL
KELLER WILLIAMS LOUISVILLE EAST



Sundays In September Recap

The 16th edition of the *Sundays in September Jazz Festival* was our best attended series ever. The weather was mostly friendly except for a threat of rain on our third Sunday, which kept us on our toes for much of that afternoon. But even the chance of rain didn't scare away the music lovers that have become our devoted regulars.

What is the recipe for such a great run? The phenomenal jazz of course! This year we enjoyed four different styles starting with the young, inspiring, Phenex Irie Sextet, whose original compositions opened our first concert, followed by the second concert with the angelic voice of local icon Carly Johnson, accompanied by a great pianist and Tyler Park resident, Winton Reynolds. The third concert featured the Ron Jones Quartet whose uplifting style brought the house down with talent and energy that precipitation in the forecast could not derail. Our closing offering was an old favorite, the Brazilian-themed Hora Certa, featuring Mike Tracy on the sax, also a Tyler Park resident and immediate past Chair of UofL Jazz.

In addition to the magnificent music, the food and beverage offerings were outstanding to say the least. This year we want to thank Red Top Gourmet Dogs, Longshot Lobsta, Celtic Pig, Zoop Scoop Ice Cream, the ever-popular Nut Lady and our wonderful benefactor, West Sixth Brewery, whose cold beers were much appreciated on those warm, sunny afternoons.

The raffle prizes this year were amazing. I want to thank the local businesses whose donations we depend on. Please support them whenever possible. They are: ValuMarket, Mid-City Barbell, Yoga on Baxter, Kizito's, Surprise Lilly, Discoveries Jewelry, Middle of Town Cycling, The Fish House, Edenside Gallery, Pinch Spice, Carmichael's, Clay and Cotton, Parkside Cycling, Comedy Caravan, PNC Bank Highlands Branch, Dot Fox, The Eagle, and Going Nuts. The funds we earn from the raffle help us defray some of our festival costs.

I am grateful for the support of Ben Reno-Weber's office, the Louisville Federation of Musicians Local 11-637, Jack Fry's and Yoga on Baxter. And of course, I want to send infinite thanks to our title sponsor, Tyler Park resident, and successful realtor Joshua Laughlin, who has graciously supported this event for 3 consecutive years. His contact information is at the bottom of page 3.

We are also indebted to our dedicated volunteers whose time and sweat make this all come together. This year I want to give a special shoutout to Tyler Park residents Pete Longton and Raffle Chair, Jennifer White, whose unrelenting help was a godsend. We are in dire need of volunteers. So, if you love our jazz concerts and want to get involved, please reach out to any of our officers whose contact information can be found on page 2 or fill out and return the form on the back of this newsletter.

Manny Carralero

Sundays in September Chair and TPNA Treasurer





Community Service Announcement

As the colder months approach, vacant properties in our neighborhoods face a higher risk of crime, fires, break-ins, and other safety hazards. Unsecured buildings can threaten the safety of our entire community. The Department of Codes and Regulations urges residents and property owners to act now so we can protect our community together.

Property owners are required to keep vacant properties clean and secure to prevent emergencies and stay compliant with city codes. Taking proactive steps now helps avoid costly incidents and keeps everyone safer as temperatures drop.

If you have concerns regarding a vacant or abandoned property, or require guidance in securing your own, please contact our office at (502) 574-2508. Your help plays a vital role in maintaining safe and healthy neighborhoods throughout the winter season.

Let us join forces to freeze out fire risk and protect our community—your action matters!

Devron K. Abrams

Marketing Communications Coordinator
Department of Codes & Regulations



Do You Have a ValuMarket Card?

Do you shop at ValuMarket? If you do, you can support both our civic-minded neighborhood grocer and Tyler Park by using a TPNA ValuMarket Gift Card. At no cost to you, ValuMarket donates four percent of your purchases to the Tyler Park Master Plan when you use your gift card. If you aren't using the card now and you ever shop at ValuMarket, call or email Lary at 456-1474, worker@bellsouth.net and a \$5 starter card will be delivered to your door. Simply refill the card as needed. All your ValuMarket purchases will add cash to the Tyler Park Master Plan. Tyler Park will look even more beautiful with the help of ValuMarket and you.-- *Lary Saltzman*

Add Value to Your Home

By Ray Brundige, TPNA Secretary

Here's the process:

1. Send an email to secretary@tylerpark.org with your name and the address of the property.
2. We will verify your ownership, the location, and the age as shown on the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator's website, <https://jeffersonpva.ky.gov/>, and will notify you if your property qualifies.
3. Send a check for \$100 made to TPNA, at our mailbox: PO Box 4452, Louisville, KY 40204, or go to our website, <https://www.tylerpark.org/> and select the green button and complete the CENTURY MARKER dialog.
4. A TPNA volunteer will deliver the Century Marker to you.



2012 Bugle History of the Tyler Park Bridge

A bridge usually connects two places, but the Tyler Park bridge connects two eras. In the era before the bridge, our neighborhood was a suburban area just starting to grow. Once the bridge was in place, the neighborhood quickly took the form we recognize today.

Before the bridge, most of today's major roads were in place and subdivisions had started populating the streets with new homes, but the movement toward the suburbs was not yet in full force. Most of the land south and southeast of St. Louis Cemetery was still undeveloped. The site of the park in the first years of the Twentieth Century was "a hole in the ground, an unsightly yawning pit", according to a 1913 article in the *Courier-Journal*, adding that "refuse and debris had been dumped there for years".

The Parks Commission, headed by General John Castleman, wanted to fix that and to realize a vision of parks and parkways throughout the city. Property owners supported the parks plan, as well as expansion of the city sewer systems and streets. One key piece was a road called Von Borries Avenue that ran east and south from Highland Avenue to Newburg Road. It needed paving, its steep slopes needed grading, and its path through the "unsightly yawning pit" at the Tyler Park site certainly needed cleaning.

Enter politics. The Board of Councilmen, a city legislative body similar to the house of representatives, recommended a set of improvements to Von Borries and Castlewood. The Board of Aldermen, similar to the Senate, referred the ordinances to a committee. The committee reported favorably on all the measures eleven days later, on August 6, 1901. By unanimous vote, the Aldermen then approved three jobs to improve Castlewood from Edenside to the city boundary and seven to improve Von Borries from Winter to the intersection with Castlewood and Edenside. Contracts were let and a Cincinnati firm gave the low bid. After some confusion and further review, a different bidder was awarded the contract for what was found to be a lower average cost, totaling \$74,000 for all of the improvements. Three years later, on December 9, 1904, the *Courier-Journal* announced that the last three jobs on Von Borries were complete and Chief Engineer J. B. F. Breed would be inspecting the work. His name is carved into the dedication plaque on the bridge, along with the name of Mayor Charles Grainger and five other notables.

With the bridge in place, the neighborhood was able to complete its growth. Property owners around the park's perimeter donated or sold land to the Parks Commission in 1906, with conditions that the land be used as a park and that a road be built along the eastern edge of the park. The Commissioners accepted, and finished Tyler Park Drive after acquiring the corner lots for the eastern half in 1910. The neighbors were already using the park by that time; it had acquired its name, and a playground, in 1907. With the new roads, a civic group called the Tyler Park Club began annual Fourth of July festivities that grew to a peak attendance of 75,000 people in 1928.

As the years passed the bridge gained and lost a companion structure. A combination rest station and band stand was built in 1924, with stone construction matching the bridge. It stood where the Tot Lot is now, between the arch and the tennis courts on the eastern side. Its roof served as the bandstand for the concerts and public meetings in the park until 1960. By then its use had dwindled enough that rest room maintenance had become an issue, and the city tore the old building down.

The revival of the park and the neighborhood came twenty years later. Almost eighty years after Mr. Breed completed his inspection, our era officially recognized his work. On July 3, 1984, the City of Louisville's Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission voted unanimously to designate the Tyler Park bridge as a local landmark.

Written by Ray Brundige in 2012 (pre park restoration)



MORE PHOTOS FROM SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER



Membership Report

By Ray Brundige, Secretary / Membership Committee Chair

As of October 31, 2025: We have 246 paid-to-date memberships, including 77 Lifetime memberships, the eleven business memberships listed below, and two Associate memberships. Six of the paid-to-date memberships are for households who have sold their properties in the neighborhood and moved.

Please support our business members: Arts & Crafts Dental; Clay and Cotton (Emilie Shapero); Edenside Gallery (Nancy Peterson); Gabor S Vargo D M D; Haifry (Tokiko Masubuchi); Highland Morning (Bruce Coe); Louisville Federation of Musicians Local No 11-637 Inc; Metts Company Real Estate; Pinch Spice Market (Thomas McGee); Twisted Images; and Zoop Scoops Ice Cream (Maria Jones).

If your dues are up to date, your mailing label has a paid-through date MM YYYY or LIFETIME.



2 2 488 *****AUTO**SCH 5-DIGIT 40202
07 2024
John T Member
1842 Neighborhood Ave
Louisville, KY 40204-1526
[Barcode]

Dues: Individual/Family, per year: \$ 25
Business, per year: \$ 50
Lifetime (while living in neighborhood): \$350

Donate to the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA) to support general operations; publicity; civic work; events like the *St. Patrick's Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, and Winterfest*; this newsletter, and other mailings.

Donate to the Jazz Account to support *Sundays in September* jazz concerts.

Donate to the Tyler Park Fund to support plantings and other improvements in Tyler Park and other public green spaces. The Tyler Park Fund is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Mail checks and membership forms to: Tyler Park Neighborhood Association
PO Box 4452
Louisville, KY 40204

For further information: president@tylerpark.org

Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ **St:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____

Ph 1: _____

Ph 2: _____

Volunteer Opportunities

Events: _____ Jazz Concerts _____ Easter Egg Hunter _____ Winterfest
_____ St. Patrick's Parade _____ Other - Specify _____

_____ Webmaster for tylerpark.org

_____ Join the Board

_____ Help with city and business issues

_____ Help with Tyler Park and green initiatives

Annual Tyler Park
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 4

St. Patrick's Parade
Saturday, March 14

Festival of Hope
Friday, December 5
5-8 pm
Tyler Park Bridge

**Join Your Neighbors
at These Events**

**Tyler Park
Neighborhood Association**
PO Box 4452
Louisville KY 40204

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LOUISVILLE, KY
PERMIT NO. 1549