

THE 'GATE

Quarterly Newsletter Spotlighting the Westgate Community

Welcome to the SUMMER Edition of The Gate! Going forward we're trying something a little bit different. As most of you know, this newsletter has been put out by the Westgate Community Foundation up until now. However, in the last month we've been able to combine forces with the Westgate Neighborhood Association, and we feel the time is right to make this a joint venture of our two groups.

We'll get things started with a brief rundown of our two roles in the neighborhood. After that, please read on for an article from Terry Anderson on what the neighborhood association is, what it does, and how you can get involved.

Westgate Community Foundation - founded a couple years ago to fundraise for the neighborhood and champion all the great community work being done in Westgate by our area churches, pool and....the Westgate Neighborhood Association. We do this primarily through our newsletter and website.

Westgate Neighborhood Association - founded many years ago and committed to coordinating the residents of Westgate into improvement projects, community events, and keeping our neighborhood looking its best.

So, for those looking to get involved, here is some shorthand for you. If you're interested in fundraising, or maybe have a knack for writing - the foundation is for you. If you're looking to log some volunteer hours, or help plan a neighborhood cleanup - the association may be more your speed.

Having said all that, the foundation and association are both excited to promote the National Night Out event at the end of the summer this year. In the pages ahead, you can read more about this event, and also learn more about the association. We look forward to many more shared adventures ahead.

Brent Koster | Westgate Community Foundation | Board President

Come Meet Your Neighbors at National Night Out August 3rd, 2021

Hey, Hey – Westgate!

We are very excited to announce our first in-person community-wide event! We have been dreaming of events like this since our inception and then the COVID nightmare appeared and delayed all of it. But we are jumping on the national bandwagon with this one and hosting a community gathering on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm in the St. Joan of Arc parking lot.



National Night Out is an annual event where millions of neighbors gather – in individual communities, nationwide – to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. It's a get-to-know-your-neighbors-in-a-positive-way kind of event! And we think it is a perfect way to start reaching out and reconnecting with our Westgate neighbors!

Check it out; it's a real big thing: www.natw.org.

We've cleared all of our plans with our friendly neighbors at St. Joan of Arc. They are very graciously allowing us the use of their parking lot to meet outdoors, so folks can social distance as much as they are comfortable with, as well as providing tables and chairs to use for our event. Dinner is all taken care of – and by that, we mean that food trucks will be on-site for you to purchase your dinner! You don't have to plan or prepare; come down, mingle and get some food while being friendly with some new neighbors! Omaha Police and Fire Departments may make surprise visits with sirens, lights and stickers for the kids...Don't miss out!

WHO: YOU & your family & neighbors – All Westgate residents are invited!

WHEN: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 @ 5:00 – 8:00 PM

WHERE: St. Joan of Arc, 7430 Hascall St, Omaha

MORE INFO: Follow us on Facebook @WestgateCommunityFoundation or check in with the Westgate Neighborhood Association on Nextdoor

Westgate Neighborhood Association

By Terry Anderson - Board Member



The Westgate Neighborhood Association (WNA) was born in the last decade. In that time, the WNA board has looked at several avenues to involve Westgate. We have organized open meetings with election candidates, Nebraska Extension specialists, recycling officials and local business leaders.

We've found that the most interest has been when Omaha Police Department representatives come to speak on current safety and crime issues.

We have also organized events and activities of importance to the neighborhood. These have included the city's spring and fall clean-up days, distributing the "Drive 25, Keep Kids Alive" yard signs, painting the tunnel at Pipal Park, and planting trees.

WNA does not have members or collect dues, but we are registered as the neighborhood's official connection with the city. We function as volunteers hoping to organize other volunteers. WNA has been confused at times as a homeowners association, but it has no such legal status. Currently we have four individuals serving on the board besides me: Stephanie Elrod, Liz Koepp and James DAgata.

Both the association and the foundation exist for the betterment of Westgate. This summer, members of both boards met to see how we can best support the neighborhood without stepping on each other's toes. As a result, we plan to meet monthly to coordinate efforts. This is not a merger; both boards will continue to conduct business independently, but will work together on projects, activities, and grant applications.

We will continue to make every effort known to promote Westgate events. I serve as Westgate's lead person for the Nextdoor social media's page. There, I frequently make announcements of concern or important to residents of the neighborhood. We also communicate through emails, newsletters, signs posted at key neighborhood locations, and will continue to look for ways to keep our residents and neighbors informed.

Westgate continues to be a great place to live, mixed with residents who have lived in the same house since it was built in the 1950s to young families and singles who have recently arrived. And some grew up in Westgate and have now moved back to raise their own families. We welcome you all to be active with the Westgate Neighborhood Association and the Westgate Community Foundation.



Westgate Community Foundation

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westgatecommunityfoundation.org

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NEWS & EVENTS

JULY 24 & 31 **WESTGATE POOL** **EVENTS**

7/24 - Trivia Night is back -
Pool Fundraiser - 7pm to
Midnight - get your teams
together

7/31 - Adult Swim Night - 9pm
to Midnight - 21+

AUG 17 & 18 **BACK TO SCHOOL**

8/17 - Classes resume at St.
Joan of Arc and their new
Dual Language Academy.
School offices closed
through August 1.

8/18 - Classes resume at
Westgate Elementary and
the Westside School System.

SEPT 11 **SAUSAGEFEST**

Join St Joan of Arc in
celebrating the 53rd annual
Sausage Fest on September
11th. Games, music, dancing,
and of course...the beloved
sausage. It's a Westgate
Tradition.

WHERE TO FIND THE FOUNDATION

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FACEBOOK - FIND AND FOLLOW US

[Westgate Community Foundation](http://WestgateCommunityFoundation)

ONLINE

www.westgatecommunityfoundation.org