

SOUTHMORELAND Voice

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHMORELAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2022

CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES ON WESTPORT HIGH SCHOOL

A 52 million dollar renovation is underway, to adapt the school into 138 workforce housing apartments.

By Katie Sowder

The loss of the track and football field at Westport High School has led to a lot of understandable disappointment and aggravation in recent weeks. Those facilities had the neighborhood in an uproar once before – nearly 30 years ago, when they were built.

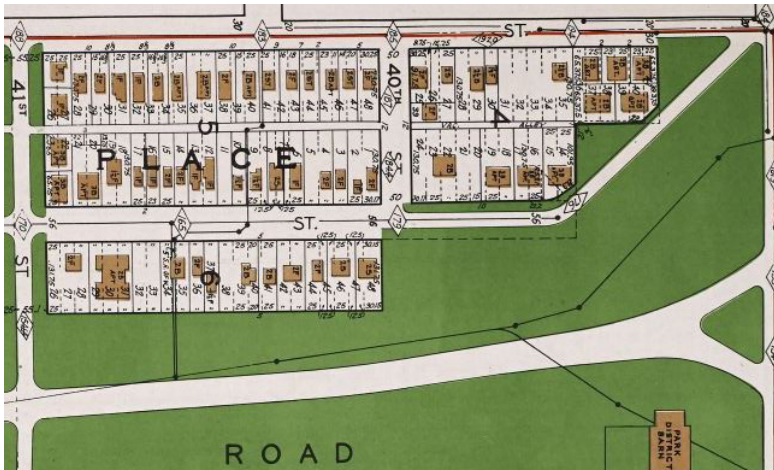
The high school, built in 1908, and the middle school across 39th Street, built in 1924, had suffered decades of declining enrollment by the early 1990s. To remedy that, and as part of the court-ordered district desegregation effort, additional parking and major additions to both

schools' outdoor athletics amenities were proposed. Previously, both schools used Gillham Park for sports programs, gym classes, and recreation.

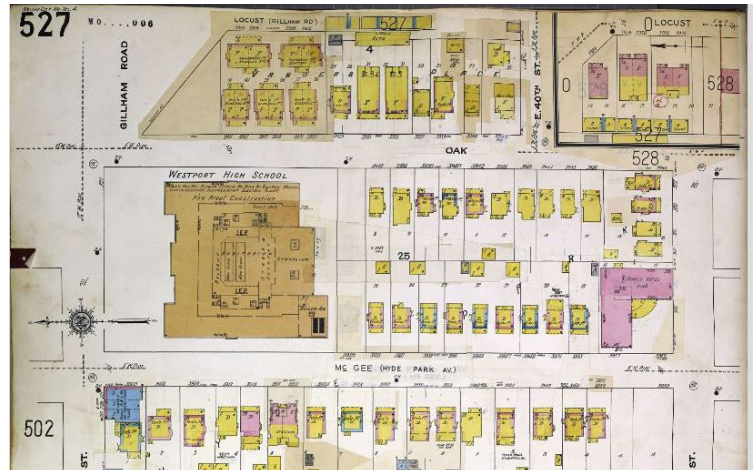
Residents expressed frustration that homes were being lost to athletics and parking, and not education, and urged the district to consider halving the expansion by creating shared facilities at one school. Evalyn Lee, Southmoreland Neighborhood Association president, was quoted in the Star: "We see them taking all these homes and a few years from now not accomplishing their desegregation goals." The district's plan was approved by a federal judge in 1990, and a total of 54

houses, 7 duplexes, 12 apartment buildings, and 5 businesses were acquired and demolished. Oak Street closed between 39th and 40th Streets, McGee Street closed between 38th and 39th, 40th Street east of Oak shifted half a block south, and hundreds of neighbors were displaced.

The new facilities were completed several years later. Unfortunately, these efforts did little to stem ongoing declines in enrollment. When the district elected in 2010 to consolidate into fewer buildings to cut costs, both Westport schools were among those selected for closure and marketed for redevelopment.



1925 Atlas map indicating neighborhood east of Oak Street. Gillham Road is shown on the bottom of the map.



1951 Sanborn map indicating neighborhood around the school (north is left). Oak Street extends to 39th Street.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 28TH: SPRING DUMPSTER DAY 8AM-NOON AT 42ND & OAK

Southmoreland Neighborhood Association members are invited to dump trash and yard waste in the dumpsters at 42nd and Oak. The event starts at 8:00am and runs until Noon on Saturday May 28th, or until the dumpsters are full. PC's for People will also be on site to collect electronics for recycling. New and renewal memberships will be accepted at this event. Cash, checks or credit cards will be accepted at this event! Individuals \$25 - Seniors (65+) \$10 - Students \$10 - Businesses \$55. Membership terms are for the calendar year, January to December 2022.

JUNE 11TH: ALL NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE Sign up by May 28, email us at sna.membership@gmail.com

JUNE 16TH: NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT AT SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK 6:00pm, RSVP at sna.membership@gmail.com

JUNE 25TH: NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEER NIGHT AT SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK, 5:00pm, RSVP at sna.membership@gmail.com

OCTOBER 22ND: FALL DUMPSTER DAY 8AM-NOON AT 42ND & OAK

SNA BOARD LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT: LAURA BURKHALTER

VICE-PRESIDENT: UNFILLED

SECRETARY: CHRIS QUINN

TREASURER: DAN SUDDARTH

CHAIR, SAFETY: JAKE WERNEL

CHAIR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: ANDY BATTMER

CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNITY LIASON: ANNA PECHENINA

CHAIR, PUBLIC INFORMATION: JESSICA KALMIKOFF

CHAIR, PROGRAM & EVENTS: STEPHANIE MCCULLOUGH

CHAIR, NEIGHBORHOOD CULTURE & PRESERVATION: KATIE SOWDER

BECOME A MEMBER

Join the Association by visiting southmoreland.org/join

Individuals \$25 - Seniors (65+) \$10 - Students \$10 - Businesses \$55.

Membership terms are for the calendar year, January to December 2022.

JOIN US!

The Southmoreland Neighborhood Association meets every second Monday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone in the neighborhood is welcome!

Sign up for our emails at southmoreland.org/connect to receive location info.
See you there!

Helpful Tips

for homeowners, landlords, and tenants



Safety

Keep Your Junk in Your Trunk Car break-ins are the #1 crime in the neighborhood. Reduce your risk of a break-in by keeping your car interior clean.

Lock Up Your Bike Remember to keep garages and sheds locked, too.

Notice Something Suspicious Call our private security provider, Chesley-Brown at 816-918-3652 for night service, or KCPD Non-emergency anytime at 816-234-5111 (store this in your phone's contact list).

In an Emergency Always call 911!

Trash & Recycling

Trash & Recycling pickup is Monday Unless posted otherwise by the City. Don't set out your trash before 3:00pm the day before pickup. View pickup schedule changes, rules, etc at kcmo.gov

Schedule a Bulky Item Pickup Big items like mattresses, couches, etc., will only be picked up if it is scheduled first. Schedule this no-cost service at kcmo.gov/city-hall/trash/bulky



Sidewalk Etiquette

Keep Sidewalks Clear It is the property owner's responsibility to keep sidewalks clear of snow, leaves, limbs, etc. Even on vacant lots.

Pick Up After Your Dog No one likes to step in poo. It's bad for the environment, other animals, and it's against the law.

Don't Park on the Sidewalk Maintain a clear path for folks using wheelchairs, pushing strollers, or have mobility challenges.

Mind the Zoning & Permitting

Get a Permit Be sure you have all necessary permits before you begin a project. Not sure if you need one?

Visit kcmo.gov/city-hall/city-planning-development/permits-division

Historic Districts Areas of Southmoreland are in Historic Districts. Check with the City's Historic Preservation Office before commencing any work in the Historic Districts. Not sure if your property is within the district? Check it out on Parcel Viewer at maps.kcmo.org/apps/parcelviewer

Long Term Rentals All long term rentals require a registration. Unregistered rentals will be reported to the City.

For more information, visit <https://city.kcmo.org/hd/healthyhomes>

Short Term Rentals All short term rentals (Airbnb, VRBO, etc) require a permit. Unpermitted short term rentals will be reported to the City.

Visit kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/city-planning-development/short-term-rental-application-process

