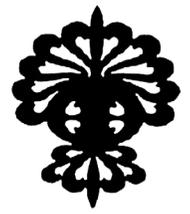


The Hyde Parker



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December 2020

Hyde Park Values Education

There have been schools for the children of settlers in the Hyde Park area since they first arrived. In 1906, the newspaper interviewed 82-year-old William Mulkey, the oldest living early settler of the area. He recalled his family settling in the area when he was four years old in 1828.

The Mormons, headed by Joseph Smith, established a settlement in the general area of Troost Avenue and Armour Boulevard in 1831. A log cabin school was built that Mr. Mulkey and the children of twelve families attended. Mr. Mulkey remembered bringing his dinner to school and storing it in the nearby Cave Springs, located about 100 yards southwest of the rustic school in Harrison Parkway at the end of Charlotte Street, just south of Glead Terrace.

In 1897, the Westport School Board built Hyde Park Elementary School to replace the eight-room Knickerbocker School that was becoming too full. Designed by architect Mr. F. Middaugh, the new 4-story brick building cost \$24,000 and opened near the intersection of Cherry and 34th Street. The first principal was Mr. Charles S. Parker. In 1899, the school was annexed to Kansas City. Despite protests by alumni and neighborhood residents, the name of the school was changed in 1932 to George B. Longan School, in honor of the Kansas City School District assistant superintendent. The building was later replaced by a modern structure in 1954 on the South side of the same lot. That structure has been enlarged and has been in use by charter school Académie Lafayette since 2012.

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The neighborhood elementary school currently zoned for families living in Hyde Park is Longfellow Elementary, located at the corner of 29th Street and Holmes Street. In 1890, Longfellow Elementary School was built and designed by Kansas City School District Board architect William F. Hackney. Following his death in 1899, his partner Charles A. Smith became Board architect, and over Smith's 35+ year tenure he designed over 50 schools as well as many additions and expansions. Smith toured schools throughout the country to observe building trends and educational programs in action. He then used modern technology to design his buildings to be adaptable to the latest educational philosophies and to have the best and safest designs possible. The original Longfellow Elementary building was replaced in 1914 by a building designed by Smith, with additions coming later in 1927 and 1957. After Kansas City Public Schools rezoned attendance boundaries, Longfellow Elementary became Hyde Park's designated neighborhood elementary school in 2017.



The auditorium of Longfellow Elementary.

The first school in the area recognized under state law as a high school was Westport High School in 1885. It was originally located at 706 West 42nd Street and was later moved into a brick building at 37th and Warwick Boulevard in 1891. The Westport High School located at 39th and Locust was built after a fire destroyed the previous high school on April 15, 1907. The new brick and stone building, built by Swenson Construction Co. and costing nearly \$500,000, opened in the fall of 1908. Charles R. Smith also designed this building which included 60 classrooms, a 1,400-seat auditorium, a gymnasium with showers, a cafeteria, mechanical and domestic science laboratories, and broad stairways. News stories of the day boasted that the school was equipped to teach skills such as blacksmithing, cooking and sewing, but also offer lessons in Greek and the classics. In 1910, ex-President Theodore Roosevelt spoke to a student assembly, advising them to "Face life as those of you who play football ought to play football — don't shirk, don't foul and hit the line hard." A junior high school was added in 1924, and by 1925 Westport High School had over 2,000 students. Due to declining enrollment, both the junior and senior high schools were closed in 2010 and sold to private developers in 2014.

In 1925, Henry C. Flower exchanged his large Hyde Park mansion and grounds with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion for another property the sisters owned. In 1927, the Sisters moved their school for daughters of the area's elite families to the 3823 Locust Street address. A new brick building housed pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. The building contained a swimming pool and gymnasium. History, science, and math were taught in English, but everything else, including fine needlework, penmanship, and playtime, were taught in French. The new building was placed in front of Flower's mansion and looked onto Harrison Parkway. The house was used by the school until it was razed in 2003 for a new building.

Most of these 'temples' of education were beautiful structures that spoke to the importance of a good education to the citizens of Kansas City as they transitioned from a dusty cowtown to a bustling urban center.

Pam Gard Sells Hyde Park. When I talk with clients about **Hyde Park** I say it is a small town in the middle of a great city with friendly neighbors and beautiful historic homes.



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Meals on the Bus

KCPS continues to send buses throughout the city to bring free breakfast and lunch to families. Buses will distribute meals for 10 minutes at each stop before continuing on their route. The buses visit weekdays while school in session. There will be a break between December 21 – January 4 to coincide with the winter break for students, but KCPS will be partnering with other organizations to work to make sure food needs are still being met. For more info visit: kcpublicschools.org/reopening-kcps/family-support/meals-on-the-bus.

Stops in Hyde Park include: **33rd and Charlotte at 11:15 a.m., 36th and Holmes at 11:45 a.m., 42nd and Campbell at 12:30 p.m.**

Trash Amnesty: December 26–31

Residents can put out up to 12 bags curbside without additional tags. Bags must weigh less than 40 pounds. Regular trash rules apply - no hazardous waste, bulky items or leaf and brush will be collected.

Winter Activities During COVID

Don't let the pandemic keep you home all winter. Here are a few winter activities you can enjoy while staying socially distant!

Sledding – Gillham Park and Hyde Park both have great hills for sledding.

Winter Magic in Swope Park – This new drive through light experience in Swope Park is open through January 2. \$20 per car, visit wintermagicck.com for more info. Reservations required. Proceeds benefit KC Parks Summer Camp Scholarship Fund.

Mayor's Christmas Tree at Crown Center – Open through January 3. Drive by or stay socially distanced and outdoors while when you visit this 100 foot Christmas tree. View this year's lighting ceremony on youtube at youtu.be/rIK5TKWASKQ.

Plaza Lights – Open through January 10. Drive or walk through the Plaza to enjoy thousands of colorful lights, an annual tradition since 1925!

Crown Center Ice Terrace – enjoy outdoor skating through March 7. Admission is \$7, \$4 for skate rental. Masks are required. Reservations are needed to limit the occupancy. Visit crowncenter.com/iceterrace for info.

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Meetings & More

All in person meetings have been cancelled, sign up for HPNA emails for updated meeting info: <https://hydeparkkc.org/subscribe/>

Monthly Meetings –

HPNA Board: Second Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Meetings:

Third Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Crime and Safety: The KCPD Central Patrol offices on Linwood Boulevard have responsibility for Hyde Park. Our proactive officer can be reached by email at: charles.barbosa@kcpd.org. Officers meet with neighbors monthly at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday from January through October at the Central Patrol Station's Community Room.

The HP Playgroup: Playgroup has been suspended due to COVID-19. Contact Megan Sawyer for updates megan.m.sawyer@gmail.com.

Your 2021 HPNA Board

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Sign up for HPNA emails to receive the latest neighborhood news!
<https://hydeparkkc.org/subscribe/>

Ready to join or renew your HPNA Membership?

Visit hydeparkkc.org/association. Memberships are for the calendar year and start at \$35/household. Resident dues help cover the costs of neighborhood social events, dumpster days, the Hyde Parker newsletter, website, and special projects such as banners, entrance markers, and landscaping. There are three ways to pay dues:

• **Online via a secure transaction using your Visa or Mastercard.** Visit <https://hydeparkkc.org/join-the-hpna>

• **Directly to any Board member,** at any regular meeting

• **By mail to HPNA,** P.O. 32551, Kansas City, Missouri 64171.

The Hyde Parker is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, Inc.
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