

The Verona Hills Report

Fall 2007

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT.....

Don't underestimate the power of the people!

A handful of years ago many home owners and the board agreed that draining and dredging the pond in Migliazzo Park was a good idea. I don't know if it has ever been done. Certainly, not in the past 30 years, according to neighbors. We agreed that it was important not only from an aesthetics standpoint, but from a safety one, as well. The moss/sledge/muck had gotten so thick, it became a concern that kids wading into the water may fall face-flat, unable to escape. Many attempts to convince the City were made by the board and neighbors. PIAC requests were presented. Safety concerns were raised. Many people suggested it was important enough that Verona Hills should pay for it themselves. A cost estimated by the board as way too high. As the years passed, and the no-answer was continually received, the home-owners seemed to be that much more determined than deterred. Finally, we received confirmation earlier this spring that the project was approved. However, the removal of the island was not included. At the risk of "looking a gift horse in the mouth", we again continued to press for the removal of the island. It was deemed both an eyesore, as well as a haven for the geese. Finally, we were informed that the island portion of the project would be included.

My thoughts are that, it is great to see the pond drained and dredged. No question. **What is greater is seeing residents take so much pride in their neighborhood, they won't take no for an answer.** Everyone understood that, technically, the park is owned by the city. But, realistically, it belongs to the neighbors. Next up, geese beware...

Matt

Board of Directors

President – Jennifer Koenig 941-4486
Vice-President/Park/Common Areas – Matt Ungaschick 942-1983
Secretary – Donna Tulipana 941-7318
Treasurer/Newsletter – Cindy Sullivan 942-7922
Neighborhood Public Relations – Jim McDowell 942-0584
Common Area & Island Improvements – Sue Fahey 942-0117
Security – Kent Williams 942-1590
Snow Removal – Ted Richards 941-6244
Entrance Monuments Construction – Paul Redmond 943-0633
Neighborhood Events/TAN – Nancy Rusch 942-7659

Finances

Finance Update

As we begin a new fiscal year, the Board has been working hard to ensure we have a balanced budget with a cushion for unexpected expenditures. Our mission in setting the budget focuses on two goals. One is to keep Verona Hills as well maintained and safe as possible to ensure continuance of the property values we enjoy. And the second is to provide opportunities to gather as a neighborhood to continually replenish and expand the wonderful sense of community we have. Based on these goals, our major categories of expenditure are 1) common area maintenance and replenishment 2) snow removal 3) neighborhood activities and 4) additional security for the neighborhood. These items account for about 85% of the expenditure against our yearly dues collections of roughly \$112,000.

At the Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) May 31, 2007 our balance sheet was showing approximately \$73,000 in reserves, with \$27,000 in liabilities. Our total expenditures for the FYE 5/31/07 was \$163,000. Quarterly updates will be provided in the newsletters go forward and at the Annual Meeting in November. Please contact Cindy Sullivan if you have questions, comments or concerns regarding our Finances.

Liens Filed

We have 16 extremely delinquent homeowners who haven't paid their annual dues for over a year. Balances owed range from \$242 to \$1,116, for a total of about \$10,000. We have repeatedly contacted these homeowners for payment without success. As a result, liens have been filed against the following properties for non-payment of annual dues:

11612 SUMMIT
11318 JEFFERSON
11617 JEFFERSON
11705 SUMMIT
12121 SUMMIT
11724 WYANDOTTE
208 WEST 115TH TERRACE
317 WEST 116TH STREET
707 WEST 114TH TERRACE
11805 CENTRAL
12130 JEFFERSON COURT
12100 MADISON COURT
11907 GLEN ARBOR TERRACE
11703 JEFFERSON
315 WEST 119TH TERRACE
11719 WASHINGTON

We would encourage these homeowners to contact HACCD at 813-523-2440 to make payment immediately.

There are about 76 of our 750 homes that have not paid their current years dues, which were due on June 30th. If these amounts are not paid by August 30th, liens will be filed against the

properties and addresses published in the next newsletter. You will know if you are one of these 76 homeowners if you have continued to receive reminder invoices for payment. If it seems like we are being heavy handed on this, we are as we represent the 674 homeowners who have met their obligation and paid their bill on time without needing multiple reminders.

Community Events

Annual BBQ & Jazz Event Huge Success!!

The Annual BBQ & Jazz event went off without a hitch this year thanks to the cooperation of Mother Nature and the great planning and execution of Nancy Rusch and her team!! There were over 175 neighbors in attendance and swing to the beat – which they needed to do after filling up on all that great BBQ! Make sure you watch for this event again next year as it is a great way to meet your neighbors and build the kind of community we everyone wants to live in.

I Wonder.....Which wife "accidentally" ran over her husbands golf clubs so he would be at home helping prepare for the big party for his side of the family?

Annual Garage Sale and Reminder from our Local Law Enforcement

Don't forget to join in the fun of the Verona Hills Annual Garage Sale coming September 7th and 8th! And just a reminder – as with all things that involve monetary transactions – be aware of what is going on at your sale. Last year there were several reports of counterfeit bills being passed at the VH garage sales. Usually \$20 bills, but some \$50s and \$100s. According to our local police officers, the passing of counterfeit bills isn't all that rare, but still not really something that is common. With the availability of textured papers and the quality of home scanners and printers, it is possible to produce some fairly good facsimiles of real currency.

Here is what to watch out for. The "paperhangers", as they are known to police, usually wait until a garage sale is busy, then select several relatively high-ticket items and pay with the large counterfeit bills. They not only make off with the merchandise, but many times some of your hard earned cash when you make change for them.

If you think you have taken a counterfeit bill, or if someone at your garage sale is acting suspicious, please call 911 immediately to report. Remember that even passing a small counterfeit bill is a federal offense. As well, we have talked with South Patrol to let them know our Garage Sale dates so that they can increase patrols as appropriate.

Movies in the Park

The date for Movies in the Park has been set for Friday, September 28 at 8:00 p.m. We will show a short animated film before the feature film **Happy Feet** Watch your mailbox for a flyer with more details! If you came you came to this event last year you know how much fun it was even in the near freezing temperatures. If you didn't attend last year make sure you mark this on your calendar because it is a blast (and hopefully the only freezing temperatures will be on the big screen)!!

Haunted Park

We would like to start a new tradition in Verona Hills with a Trick-or-Treat event in Migliazzo Park. To do this we need a chairperson who is willing to really dig in and get this event kicked off. We are tentatively targeting October 28th for the Haunted Park, but will look to the event chairperson to figure out what will work best. Please contact Nancy Rusch to step up and take a swing at creating the inaugural Haunted Park event for Verona Hills!

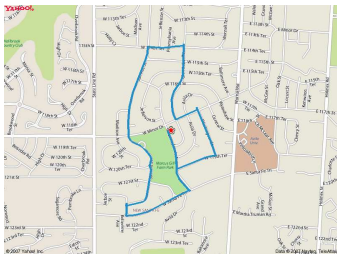
2007 Annual Greek Festival September 7th, 8th and 9th

Don't forget to check out the fun of the Greek Festival at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation at 120th and Wornall Road on September 7th, 8th & 9th. Always a good time with great food and pastries, dancing and even carryout for those of you who cant' get enough! Check out the website for hours and additional information at www.GreekFoodFest.org.

I Wonder..... Whose wife thinks her husband is planning a trip to Bora Bora for their 25th wedding anniversary much to his chagrin?

The 1st Annual 1K/5K Kansas City Walk for Awareness to be Held in Verona Hills

The first Annual 1K/5K Kansas City Walk for Awareness will be held on September 15, 2007 at Migliazzo Park. The Walk for Awareness is a one-day event to generate awareness about psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and to raise money for National Psoriasis Foundation education, advocacy and research programs. The Walk will take place on streets through Verona Hills. Please see the route below:



Walk begins at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Glen Arbor Terrace, South on Pennsylvania, East on 119th Terrace, North on Washington, West on Minor, North on Glen Arbor, West on 114th Terrace, South on Summit, South on Madison, East on W. Santa Fe Trail, North on Pennsylvania, Walk ends at intersection of Pennsylvania and Glen Arbor Terrace

Many myths and misconceptions surround psoriasis and the need for awareness is great. Psoriasis is a noncontagious, chronic skin disease that causes red, scaly patches, which can appear on any part of the body. Psoriasis on the hands or feet can prevent people from doing everyday tasks such as writing or walking. 10% to 30% of people with psoriasis may also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints. According to the National Institutes of Health, psoriasis affects as many as 7.5 million Americans.

The National Psoriasis Foundation is a patient-driven, nonprofit patient advocacy organization and the voice for millions of Americans, and their families, who are affected by psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of people who have psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Through education and advocacy, we promote awareness and understanding, ensure access to treatment, and support research that will lead to effective management and, ultimately, a cure.

The walk is open to anyone interested in supporting the psoriasis community and the Foundation. The registration fee is \$15 for a fundraiser/\$25 for a non-fundraiser. For more information or to register, please go to www.psoriasis.org/walk or by contacting Tony Staser with the National Psoriasis Foundation at 6600 SW 92nd Avenue, Suite 300, Portland, OR 97223-7195 or (503) 245-0626. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. The actual walk should end around 10:30 a.m. There will be lots of fun activities including breakfast, music, carnival activities and appearances from Teresa from Mix 93.3 and KC Wolf. Come out and join us for a good time while supporting a great cause.

Public Hearing: Amending the Bannister Mall Area TIF Plan

The second amendment to the Three Trails District Tax Increment Financing plan will be heard September 12th at 9:30 a.m. at the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City MO, 1100 Walnut, Suite 1700, KCMO. (This is public hearing in regards to redevelopment of the Bannister Mall site known as the Three Trails District Tax Increment Financing Plan.) The proposed second amendment provides for:

- (1) the modification of the Redevelopment Area to include the area highlighted on the map on file at the Commission office;
- (2) demolition of Bannister Mall;
- (3) demolition of the retail shops on the east and west of Hillcrest Road commonly known as Benjamin Plaza Shopping Center, excluding some of the existing out parcel buildings on the east and west sides of Hillcrest Road (on the west side, the new fire station and cosmetology school are to remain);
- (4) demolition of two hotels on the south side of 87th Street;
- (5) demolition of selected buildings on the south side of Bannister Road;
- (6) renovation one 100 room hotel on the north side of 87th Street;
- (7) construction of up to 1,061,850 square feet of retail space;
- (8) construction of an up to 250 room 160,000 square foot Stadium hotel;
- (9) construction of a 17,000 – 22,000 seat multipurpose facility and 12-18 tournament soccer fields;
- (10) construction of up to 1, 614,500 square feet of office/mixed use office; (11) construction of public recreation areas;
- (12) construction of all necessary public infrastructure;
- (13) cost benefit revisions;
- (14) updated employment and construction information; and revisions to Redevelopment Projects Costs budget.

The intention of the plan remains unchanged other than those changes specifically mentioned herein. The Redevelopment Area is generally bounded by 87th Street on the north, the Kansas City Southern Railroad tracks on the east; Bannister Road on the South and Interstate 435 on the west in Kansas City Jackson County Missouri. The Amendment as proposed may be reviewed by any interested party on or after September 5, 2007 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the offices of the Tax Increment Financing Commission, Town Pavilion, 1100 Walnut, Suite 1700, Kansas City Mo. According to Section 99.830.3 all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

Mayor Funkhouser is Coming to South Kansas City

Mayor Funkhouser is bringing his Town Hall meeting to our neck of the woods on Tuesday October 23rd. Yippee! What a great opportunity to get to listen up close and personal as our

Mayor lays out his plans for the City, and then get the opportunity to ask him questions about things that impact us directly. Avila University has volunteered to provide the venue for the Mayors visit, and we sincerely appreciate the great neighbor that Avila has become to us here in Verona Hills. So plan to attend this Town Hall meeting and speak out about our needs and desires for the Southland.

Southland Hazardous Household Waste Drop-off

A South Kansas City Hazardous Household Waste event will be held at Hale Cook School, 7302 Pennsylvania from 8:00 – 12:00 on Saturday, September 8, 2007. We normally reach our maximum allowed limit of 200 cars bringing hazardous waste by 11:00, so coming early is best. Cars with only leaves, brush, tires and non-hazardous recycling will be accepted until the 12:00 deadline.

The event is only for those living in Kansas City, Missouri. Proof of residence is required. Please have it handy when you come to the event. The homes associations sponsoring this event are once again asking each participant to bring one can of food or one dollar to donate to Harvesters. All traffic coming to this event will enter the school property on Pennsylvania and exit on Jefferson. Cars may enter from either the north or south on Pennsylvania.

Materials will be accepted from residences only. Business waste is not accepted. If you can't buy an item at a store, it's probably not residential waste. Twenty gallon and 55 gallon drums are considered business waste and will not be accepted. No material in containers larger than 5 gallon buckets can be brought to this event.

For your reference-

Allowed Items:

Brake fluid, oil, antifreeze, gasoline, car batteries, household batteries, household cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, expired medications, road flares, pool and spa chemicals, paint, leaves, brush, tires, paper, magazines, to name many.

Refused Items:

Explosives, needles, radioactive waste, smoke detectors, some cancer medicines, glass, oxygen tanks, Styrofoam, grass clippings.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Annual Garage Sale – September 7th & 8th
Greek Festival – September 7th, 8th & 9th
Hazardous Waster Drop-off – September 8th
Bannister TIF Amendment Public Hearing – September 12th
Second Fridays Trailside Center – September 14th
Psoriasis Walk – September 15th
Movies in the Park – September 28th
Mayoral Town Hall Meeting at Avila – October 23rd
Haunted Park – October 28th
Verona Hills Annual Meeting – November 8th

Neighborhood Developments

Hump Day

After several years of diligent pursuit of an effective traffic calming solution for Santa Fe Trail, three speed humps were installed on July 27. Residents of Santa Fe Trail report they have been very effective in reducing the speed and volume of traffic on the street. Thanks go to our 6th District Councilpersons for supporting the wishes of neighborhood residents.

Santa Fe Trail Widening

Construction plans are approved and ready to go out for bid on the widening and improvements to Santa Fe Trail between Wornall and Pennsylvania. The project is on hold at the present time pending resolution of right-of-way issues with residents along the roadway. Hopefully, work will proceed this fall.

Vandalism

Recently we have had costly damage done to homes and cars in the neighborhood by items such as eggs, shaving cream, mustard, ketchup, maple syrup, flour and last but not least toilet paper (wonder if any of these items are missing from your pantry?). We are not sure who is behind the activity at this time, but we have contacted South Police Patrol and our off-duty police officers to make them aware of the problems we are having. We want to reiterate that the offenders will be prosecuted when caught, and full restitution will be expected.

Common Area Tree Trimming and Island Maintenance

For the third season, Family Farm Landscaping has been awarded the contract to maintain the common areas and islands. There are 41 islands and common areas that are inside Verona Hills. If you notice a common area or island that requires more attention, call Matt Ungashick. Please be mindful that Family Farms is not contracted to poop-scoop the islands. As our neighbors have become more cognizant to disallowing their pets to soil other residents yard while walking, please remember that the islands are **not** Free-Poop Zones. Please carry a bag with you while walking your pet.

I Wonder.....Is it true that since fireworks are no longer allowed in this household, the Halloween displays will only get better each year?

Monument Update

Over the past two years we have been working hard to replace the major entrance monuments to Verona Hills. To date we have replaced the three large monuments on Minor Drive, and two smaller ones at 121st on the State Line side of the neighborhood. This year our plan is to completely finish the new monuments with lighting and potentially irrigation. We are looking into the cost of both and how that impacts our budget. Looking forward, our next steps will be to begin replacement of the seven remaining smaller monuments along Wornall Road, and then to look at additional points within the neighborhood that would benefit from having a monument to designate them as part of Verona Hills. One along Santa

Fe Trail would seem to make sense, let us know if there are other placements that should be considered.

Park Lake Dredging

The draining and dredging of the Migliazzo lake is finally complete!! The island has been removed to discourage the goose population, the aerator will be put in place next Spring to help keep the water from being too stagnant. Fish will be stocked to help slow the silt buildup. We feel very fortunate to have received about \$200,000 of infrastructure bond money to get this project completed, and give many thanks to our Southland Parks & Rec representatives for their efforts in making this happen! Now we just need to wait for the rains to come and fill the lake back up – here's to hoping that it happens soon!

Common Area Updates

We continue to look for common areas that are past their prime and need to be reinvigorated. We like to get the direct involvement of the homeowners around the common area to help with some basics when there are new plantings. Please let us know if there is a common area you think needs some attention by calling Sue Fahey at (816) 942-0117.

Please Don't Feed the Geese in Migliazzo Park

As we look to improvements at Migliazzo Park lake, we kindly ask that you **please not feed the geese**. Over the years the geese have been very destructive, including tearing up the grass, leaving unwanted deposits on the sidewalks and playground and actually charging young children. We have worked with the City over the past four to five years to keep our goose population under control and we simply ask your help in not undoing the work that has been done. The geese in our Park have no natural predators in that particular environment. Left unchecked we could have a real mess on our hands to say the least. We know it is a fun outing with the grandkids or kids to hike down to Migliazzo Park and feed the geese, but please help us make the park enjoyable for all by refraining from giving the geese even more reasons to stay.

Historic Cemetery says "Cheese"

The New Santa Fe Cemetery located in Verona Hills recently was the subject of a photo documentary by Linda Lewis. Ms. Lewis took photographs of every stone in the cemetery and documented the name and location of each person interred. Lewis has done similar documentations for historic cemeteries throughout the area, and we are thrilled she chose to document the New Santa Fe Cemetery. Visit <http://cemetery.cottonhills.com> to view the pictures, and then visit the cemetery to see where Cinderella and the horse thief are buried.

The New Santa Fe Cemetery, established in the mid-1800's, is managed by a private, nonprofit association that relies on contributions for its upkeep. The VHHA provides financial support to ensure the cemetery remains a positive part of our Verona Hills landscape.

Head's Up

Keeping your tree branches trimmed high off the ground not only is a good way to keep your home well-visible and safer from intruders, it makes it much nicer for walkers to traverse our sidewalks. Trim at least 8 feet high – you never know when our mayor might walk by.

No Sign Zones

To ensure that the entryways to our neighborhood look neat and well kept, we ask that you not place any type of long-term signage at or around the major entry points into Verona Hills.

Get Involved...

Trailside Center Meetings

Get up to date on happenings in South Kansas City at the Second Fridays meetings at the Trailside Center at 99th & Holmes (in the Fire Station building) from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Topics range from Santa Fe Trail history to updates on changes taking place at City Hall. Also, our two new City Council members – Cathy Jolly and John Sharp – attend to give their perspectives and updates on the 6th District. This is another good way to keep in touch with what is happening in our area.

Mark your calendar to attend this meeting on September 14th to hear about the Bannister Mall Redevelopment Plan presented by Owen Buckley, President of Lane4 Property Group.

Southern Communities and Center Planning & Development

We have two community activist/neighborhood groups that meet regularly to review everything from zoning requests to crime statistics. These groups meet publicly and all are welcome to attend, ask questions and provide feedback to those wanting to impact our neighborhoods (developers, etc.) and those who help our neighborhoods (police, County Prosecutors Office, etc.). Meetings are always very informative and a good way to get in touch with what is happening in our District. Meetings are as follow:

CENTER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Nazarene, 801 W. 97th Street. For more information contact Joyce Maas, Secretary, 816-942-6890 or PemCor@kc.rr.com

SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES COALITION MEETING

Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Baptiste Educational Center at 5401 E. 103rd Street - West Entrance. For more information contact Carol McClure at 816-966-0855.

KC Hospice

The KC Hospice Facility is always looking for volunteers to help them with things large and small. Please consider getting involved by helping them do something as simple as visiting with a patient in the facility or baking them cookies or a meal, or by taking on something more substantial such as becoming a trained volunteer that can help patients manage their terminal illness as a companion in their journey. Contact Kathy Feters of KC Hospice (816) 276-2640 to discuss opportunities.

I Wonder.....who is one of the last eligible bachelors in the neighborhood that is about to be engaged?

All Verona Hills Events

We are always looking for neighbors to help us with our many neighborhood events. Commitments can range from chairing the event to simply helping with set-up or clean-up. Please contact Nancy Rusch for upcoming event volunteer opportunities.

Neighbors Corner

Ask Jim – Verona Hills' very own "Know it All" Columnist

We thought it would be fun to answer some of the most asked questions in a forum where all could read. Please submit your questions to "Ask Jim" by snail mail to Jim McDowell at 11635 Glen Arbor Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64114 or email Jim at mcdowell3@kc.rr.com.

Dear Jim,

Last Fall I noticed that as the homeowners on my block get older, they have a harder time keeping up with the falling leaves from the big trees we have in our neighborhood. What can we do to both help these neighbors with a labor intensive task while at the same time keeping the neighborhood looking nicely manicured?
Mike M.

Mike,

We have seen and heard from other Homes Associations that a Saturday Clean Sweep organized by either someone in the neighborhood or a Boy or Girl Scout Troop is a very effective way to keep the neighborhood looking good. If you or someone in the neighborhood could head up this effort the Homes Association would certainly be willing to sponsor a pizza party for all the hard workers afterwards. Call me if you are interested!

Dear Jim,

New neighbors moved in down the street and they have really let the outside appearance of their house deteriorate. What are some steps I can take to get them to keep up their property? Sally C.

Dear Sally,

This is a tough question. First, I'm not sure whether you are talking about the house itself, the lawn or both. Let's assume the worst. You've given me a couple of clues: first, if they are new neighbors, you might make a visit to welcome them to the neighborhood, and say that "as good neighbors, we want to offer you any help we can. We have a lot of yard tools that we can loan you to help you with your landscaping." If it's the house itself, mention in a friendly way that the neighborhood takes pride in the appearance of its properties, and if there's anything we as neighbors can do to help you, just let us know. Under more difficult circumstances, letters can be sent to the home owner from the homes association and in extreme situations the city will clean up the property and bill the owner.

Dear Jim,

**My neighbor down the street has started parking his "extra" cars in the street in front of his house. I am worried that I might back into one of his cars when pulling into and out of my driveway. Any suggestions on how to handle this situation?
Mark S.**

Mark,
This is another difficult issue. Once, I had a neighbor who owned a towing company. He was a very nice fellow, but he consistently parked tow trucks on the street and in his driveway. I decided to make friends with him. Ultimately, we used his towing service to pull some horse trailers out of a very muddy field (that's another story) and after offering him my genuine thanks, I mentioned that some neighbors were concerned about sideswiping one of his tow trucks and also had commented about the appearance of the trucks in his driveway. Later, the trucks disappeared. It's usually best to "de-fuse" these situations first, rather than jump right into confrontations.

I Wonder.....Which precocious and active four year old recently told her mother she needed a fur coat for her Fall wardrobe?

Letter From Our Neighbors

From the desk of Jim McDowell -

It's hard to believe that we've been in the same house at 11635 Glen Arbor Terrace in Verona Hills for 30 years. We moved here in May, 1977, and are the original owners. We were 36 years old when we moved in, and we're now 66. Our daughters grew up in Verona Hills, and are now married with children, living elsewhere. Just about every year, we go through the pangs of "should we stay, should we go?" Should we move to one of the many ritzy condo developments in the greater K.C. area?

Then, happily we sobered up and review the many blessings of living here. Our wonderful next-door neighbors, Todd and Heidi Loechler and their daughter, Jessica, take care of our plants, our mail and most importantly our beloved four-legged friend, Rusty when we are out of town. Sometimes, they even shovel our snow when we aren't looking.

Across the street, Glenn and Ruby Lane and their son, Glenn, Jr. share in those duties and keep a watchful eye on our house during our travels. And do we really want to miss Glenn's fantastic Christmas display every year?

With neighbors like these, say we, why move?

We've replaced just about everything in the house over the last several years, so it's good to go for a very long time. Just to seal our steely resolve to stay put, we built a few months ago a new lily pond and fountain in the back yard. (Come on over and see it.)

I almost forgot—the neighbors on our block throw a great block party every year. We used to organize those things ourselves, but now a younger generation has taken over.

And who can forget our very active and very involved Verona Hills Homes Association board---people who really care about our neighborhood.

Move?? Forget about it!

Do you have a "Neighbors Helping Neighbors story? Send it to us for a future newsletter. Don't worry about writing purple prose. Just send us the facts to Jim McDowell at jmcdowell3@kc.rr.com and we'll make a story out of it.

Get to know Your Neighbors....

August Spotlight – Joan & John Jenkins

Our neighbors Joan and John Jenkins, who have lived at 703 W. 115th Terrace for the last 17 years, were recently selected to have their home on tour for the Master Gardeners Tour. We took some time to sit down with Joan and John and get some perspective on being a Master Gardener, living in Verona Hills (which Joan has done for the past 40 years) and life in general.

How would you characterize your garden? Seventeen years ago the Jenkins began with a sun baked and tree-less back yard. Soon flowers and a vegetable garden were planted around the newly built fence around the newly built house. Then some shade and ornamental trees were planted to provide relief, along with a fishpond for some serenity. They were hooked from there. John began to create birdhouses to complement the earthly elements of the landscape and Joan focused on keeping up with the changing characteristics of the garden as the shade trees grew, including the 700 annuals she planted this year alone. Today the pond is gone because Daisy the dog loved to dig for the frogs, but as Joan says "That is what keeps things interesting and fun"!

Tell us three words that describe you-

Joan- busy, gardening, golf, grandmother (Joan couldn't limit herself to 3)

John- maintain, build, golf

John we know you love to build beautiful birdhouses, how did you get involved with this? Well Joan wanted a birdhouse. She went to Halls and saw what she wanted and I said I could build it for a lot less and so I did. After the initial endeavor more birdhouses have been built for Joan and other special neighbors.

What is the best thing about Verona Hills?

Location, location, location, friends and neighbors, friendliest neighborhood in town

What are your hobbies other than gardening?

Joan - golf, crafting, reading, grandchildren

John - golf, fishing, my honeydew list

We know you both like to play golf. What is the best local golf course?

Fred Arbanas (Longview) - great golf for a great price

How do you spell relief on a hot July day?

Play golf and cool down with a frosty brew

John - cowboy boots or golf shoes?

Both, but since there aren't any horses in the neighborhood - its golf shoes.

Joan - stilettos or golf shoes?

Golf shoes

Favorite sports team?

Kansas City Chiefs hands down for both

What is the craziest thing you have done that is printable in newsletter?

John- I married Joan. I guess not so crazy in hindsight since we have been together for 17 years and still going strong!

Joan - I can think of something, but it is not printable she says with a laugh.

When you see Joan and John out and about in the neighborhood make sure to say HI! and let them know you met them in the Verona Hills Report. Also, make sure you have Joan tell you the craziest thing she has done that we couldn't print!



(Editor's Note: A very special thanks to Joan and John for being the first neighbors spotlighted in "Get to Know Your Neighbors". We hope you enjoy this addition to the newsletter and submit a neighbor of interest for our next edition! Send your candidate to Cindy Sullivan at 505 W. 116th Street, Kansas Ctiy, MO 64114 or email at Cynthia.Sullivan@sprint.com)

Contractor List

CONTRACTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

We have been asked by many homeowners over the years to add a newsletter section that references good contractors that have been used on our neighborhood. So here you go! If we are to keep it going though we need your feedback on if you like this addition to the newsletter and we also need more contractors to add.

Contractor name: Miller Painting Co. – Dennis Miller

What he does: Home painting and wood work.

Contact Phone: 816-529-7470

Who recommends him: Matt Ungashick, 943-1982

Work performed: This is the second time that the Millers have painted our house. The first was over 10 years ago. Priced fairly, they spend a lot of time replacing wood rotted boards prior to hand-brushing (not spraying or rolling) the paint.

When: June 2007

Here are the rules to submit a contractor name:

- 1) They must have performed satisfactory work for you within the last 9 months**
- 2) You must be willing to list your name, phone number and work performed**
- 3) You must be willing to talk to a neighbor calling for a reference on the contractor you listed**
- 4) Submissions for additions to the "Contractor List" can be mailed to Cindy Sullivan 505 W. 116th Street, Kansas City MO, 64114 or emailed to Cynthia.Sullivan@sprint.com**