

VERONA HILLS NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION 2007

LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENTS

HANDING OVER THE GAVEL.....

It is with great anticipation and excitement that I hand over the reigns of the Verona Hills Presidency to Jennifer Koenig as I step down and focus my efforts on pursuing election to the 6th District City Council seat. From the first time I met Jennifer I knew that with her energy and enthusiasm to dig in and learn about all things "neighborhood", she would be a great choice to continue our efforts to be the best place in south Kansas City to live and raise a family.

I look back over my four years as President with a sense of satisfaction at all that was accomplished. From bringing back a sense of community spirit to the neighborhood with events that span the ages and interests, to our initial steps into updating the look of our neighborhood common areas, we have all worked together for a common purpose. My thanks to all of you for helping me learn what it means to be a leader in good times and in less than perfect times! Please keep up your involvement in the neighborhood and help me in welcoming Jennifer as your new President.

Keep in touch!

Cindy Sullivan

LETTER FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Verona Hills neighbors and welcome to 2007! Cindy has done a fabulous job these past four years and I look forward to the challenges and rewards this position brings. First of all, I would like to welcome new board members Donna Tulipana, Paul Redmond, and Ted Richards. Our returning board members are Matt Ungaschick, Cindy Sullivan, Kent Williams, Jim McDowell, Sue Fahey, and Nancy Rusch. Please join me in thanking all of them for donating their time and energy to make our neighborhood a great place to live.

Our board is full of great ideas, and we need to your guidance and help on implementing them. In addition to the long standing traditions such as the neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt and Bar-B-Que, we are looking to start new ones, such as a neighborhood organized vacation. We are working to make the newsletter more user-friendly, and are considering starting up a neighborhood website or blog where we can post and share up-to-date information. We welcome any suggestions you have. I can be reached multiple ways. My phone number is 816-941-4486, cell 816-769-3005, and e-mail jjaction@kc.rr.com. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss what is on your mind!

Jennifer Koenig

IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

PLEASE READ THIS!! **PUBLICATION OF NAMES** **OF THOSE WHO HAVE** **DELINQUENT HOMES** **ASSOCIATION DUES**

We are glad to share that our collection rate for Annual Dues remains very high at 97% of all households. Unfortunately those that do not pay are starting to amass a total amount due of roughly \$13,000. Liens have been filed against the properties where dues are owed. The cost of filing the liens, as well as interest is added to amounts owed. At the annual meeting we voted to publish the names and addresses of delinquent homeowners in the Newsletter. We will begin this publication of names in the next newsletter so that those who wish to become current in their amount owed will have one final chance. If you haven't paid your annual dues and wish to become current, call Clarence Foxworthy, our accountant at HACCD, to arrange payment. He can be reached at (816) 523-2440. If you have any questions about why we have taken this step to collect dues, please contact Jennifer Koenig at 816-941-4482.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW **BOARD MEMBERS!!**

There are three new Board Members that we would like you to meet! Please show your appreciation to them for sharing their time and talent for the common good of the neighborhood.

Donna Tulipana has joined the Board as our Secretary. Donna helps keep us in order by capturing action items and recording our decisions. We appreciate her stepping up and taking on this position on the Board as it is a bit unsung for all she is responsible for!

Paul Redmond has joined the Board to manage the construction of the remaining entrance monuments. Paul grew up here in south Kansas City and always provides some interesting perspective and commentary on how things have changed over the years!

Ted Richards has joined the Board as Director of snow removal. Please remember during snow and ice events that Ted is well aware of the weather – so be courteous and use some common sense when calling to talk about the current status of snow plows hitting our streets!! He really does have it under control to the extent he can, being at the mercy of Mother Nature!

WINTER WEATHER HAS ARRIVED!!!

Within the last few years, snow removal has become the responsibility of the City versus independent contractors. The current amount budgeted for snow removal is about \$1.2 million dollars. The City spreads a saltwater mixture on the roads before a storm hits, which evaporates leaving salt crystals on the road that facilitates early melting of snow, sleet and ice. If the temperature is going to be less than 10° F, a calcium chloride solution is also deployed to achieve a significant melting advantage. Sand is never used by City crews as it clogs the spreaders and does not add significant traction in most cases.

Boulevards and major thoroughfares are plowed by dump trucks, which also hold slat for icy spots, hills and curves. Residential areas are generally plowed by ¾-ton pickup trucks carrying 7-foot-wide plows. Some streets in our area, such as Bannister Road and Antioch Road, are actually part of the State Highway System and are plowed by MoDOT.

Every public street is part of a gridded assignment system. City drivers are expected to plow their area within 12 hours of a storm hitting. Some gridded areas contain as many as 30 lane-miles. If you know of public streets which are not

being plowed, there may be a couple of reasons: the street may be too narrow or crowded with parked cars for the plow to do it's job safely, under certain conditions the street may be too dangerous to plow without the risk of the truck itself getting stuck, and in some instances new streets or smaller streets can sometimes be missed.

In addition to the City's snow removal services, which are sometimes slow in coming, Verona Hills' Homes Association has contracted with an independent snow removal service. Pursuant to the contract, snow removal begins when snowfall amounts exceed 3". The contract does NOT cover ice events regardless of accumulation. Each resident is responsible for clearing their own driveway, including the approach to the street.

Should you find your street in need of salt, sand or plowing, or if you have any questions about why a particular street or area is not being plowed please contact Greg Bolon at (816) 513-9204 or email him at greg_bolon@kcmo.org so that he can look into the matter. If there is a snow removal emergency only you can contact the City's Snow Command Desk at (816) 513-9364.

BULKY ITEM PICK-UP

Reminder that the City does their Bulky Item pick-up every two months now. For Verona Hills the pick-up is in even months only, on the 16th of the month. Easy way to remember our pick-up date is "**16-even**", since 16 is an even number and the pick-up is done in even months. If you happen to forget and put bulky items out in an odd month - PLEASE don't leave the bulky items sitting at the curb - they will not get picked up any faster and this really trashes up the neighborhood. So plan accordingly for your Spring cleaning blowout and take advantage of this great service the City provides to us!!

TOP 3 NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLAINTS - PLEASE HELP US!

Members of the Verona Hills Board regularly receive phone calls regarding three issues that seem to be universal to our entire neighborhood.

The first is that people walking their pets in the neighborhood forget to clean-up after them. Cleaning-up after your pet is really just a common courtesy and easy to do by simply carrying plastic bags to pick-up what your pet left behind.

The second most received complaint is the overnight parking of cars on the

neighborhood streets. There are several issues at play with this:

- Cars parked in the street impede the progress of the snow plows during the winter months
- Cars parked in the street create a safety issue with so many small children in our neighborhood who are difficult to see when they cross the street in front of street parked car
- Many times the street parked cars are placed behind another neighbors driveway creating concerns that when backing out the parked car may be hit

Please be courteous and think about how you can park your multiple vehicles in a safe way.

And the third is tree limbs hanging over sidewalks, which causes unsafe conditions for our neighborhood runners and walkers.

Please take a moment to assess your parkway trees to see if you can comfortably walk on the sidewalk and not bump your head or get tangled in leaves.

If your parkway trees need trimming attention you can either give them a trimming yourself or call the KCMO Action Center at 816-513-1313 (or dial 311) to arrange for the City to trim them. Please be patient when requesting the trimming

through City services as it may take up to a month or so to get the trimming done. Also be aware that the City is only responsible for trimming the parkway trees, if the trees are on your property and not in the City easement, the City will not trim them. As an option, you could choose to trim the trees yourself to get the job done sooner.

VANDALS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

Within the last month or so we have had a rash of yard farmings and stolen statuary (both from private residences and the common areas). If you know anything about any incidences of this type please contact Kent Williams (816) 942-0590 so that he may inform our off-duty police officers of the activity. We will press charges against anyone caught vandalizing in the neighborhood – zero tolerance.

SPEED TRAPS IN THE SURROUNDING AREA

Please keep in mind the speed limits when you are driving in Verona Hills and the surrounding neighborhoods. I have recently heard from several association presidents in our vicinity that they have requested speed control radar in our general area.

List of Board of Directors

- President** – Jennifer Koenig
- Vice-President** – Matt Ungaschick
- Secretary** – Donna Tulipana
- Treasurer** – Cindy Sullivan
- Neighborhood Public Relations** – Jim McDowell
- Common Area & Island Improvements** – Sue Fahey
- Security** – Kent Williams
- Snow Removal** – Ted Richards
- Entrance Monuments Construction** – Paul Redmond
- Neighborhood Events/TAN** – Nancy Rusch
- Migliazzo Park/Common Area Maintenance** – Matt Ungaschick

GOOD THINGS TO KNOW.....

COMMON SENSE TIPS ON HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

- Keep your house painted and in good repair at all times. Maintain the sidewalks and curbs around your home.
- Keep your lawn well-trimmed and all shrubbery neat. Lawn cuttings and other trimmings should be disposed of properly. Disposal of lawn clippings and other debris in the Park or other common ways is strictly prohibited.
- Do not allow accumulation of debris to collect in your yard and do not leave tools and equipment outside.
- Trash containers should not be conspicuous except on trash collection days.
- Don't put trash at curbside any earlier than late evening the day before scheduled pickup. Putting it out on Sunday morning does not make the trash collection trucks come any sooner.
- Keep exterior lighting pointed away from your neighbors' homes to avoid creating an annoyance when your neighbors are trying to sleep at night.
- Before making any changes in your property (additions, fences, etc.), make sure to obtain required approvals at City and County levels as well as a call to the Home's Association to make sure improvements comply with the

codes and restrictions. Contact is Clarence Foxworthy at (816) 523-2440.

- Do not allow pets to run free day or night, and please be considerate and cleanup after them.
- Keep your cars in the garage overnight, not in the street. Remember to take down your Christmas lights after Christmas each year. We know it is a pain to take them down just to put them back up the next year – but it is really unattractive to see Christmas lights hanging from eaves in the middle of summer!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KC HOSPICE HOUSE

Hospice House admitted its first patient in April of 2006. Through the end of the year, patients ranging in age from 16 to 99 have been cared for at the facility. Several individuals from Verona Hills serve as volunteers at the House. Often area high school students can be found at the House fulfilling their community service requirements by helping out, frequently by baking cookies. Churches in the area are extending support in a variety of ways as well. We have found a great home in south Kansas City and we extend our sincere thanks to all our Verona Hills neighbors for their support and Patience through our construction and start up year.

ENTRANCE MONUMENT UPDATE

With three under construction, and two already complete, we are nearly half-way through our entrance monument renovation! The reviews so far from the neighborhood have been a thumbs-up, and as compared to the new monuments recently completed by Verona Gardens I would say we have done a spectacular job of maintaining the look and feel of our neighborhood. As soon as the weather gives us a break from the cold, snow and ice – we will get the three State Line monuments completed.

A point of interest that we shared about the new monuments at the Annual Meeting was that the stone caps on the tops of each end of the monument are stone from the old Pendergast mansion up north that was torn down a few years ago. History lives on.....

MIGLIAZZO PARK UPDATE

If you haven't visited Migliazzo Park lately you are really missing out on one of the best parks in south Kansas City MO!! As we head towards Spring, make sure you take some time to walk or bike through the Park – we think you will be pleasantly surprised!!! We must be doing something right if last Fall a couple actually choose to get

married in our Park. Can't beat that for an endorsement!! The additional funding we have provided to the City as a neighborhood has allowed for more grass, less weeds and a much nicer overall appearance. We have plans under way to deal with the crumbling island in the middle of the lake, as well as a request for dredging of the lake due to the heavy silting on the north end. We are not much headway on getting the PIAC money needed for these improvements – so if you have anyone that you think could help get these projects on track please give Matt Ungaschick a call at (816) 943-1982.

SEXUAL PREDATOR WEBSITES

It's nobody's favorite topic, but neither is it something to ignore. Recent legislation, nationally and locally, requires that convicted sex offenders (those who plead or were found guilty) register periodically with local authorities who then make that information available to the public via the internet.

Following are official websites you can search to ensure you are a little more informed about those living around you:

Missouri:

<http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/PatrolDivisions/CRID/SOR/SORPage.html>.

You will be able to search the records by name, county or zip code.

Kansas :

www.accesskansas.org/kbi and click on "Offender Reg." on the top tool bar. You will be able to search by name, city, county or zip code.

THREE STEPS TO ENSURE YOU ARE READY FOR AN EMERGENCY

Have you thought about a plan to keep yourself, your family and other loved ones safe in case of a major emergency that impacts Kansas City? The State of Missouri and the American Red Cross have teamed up to provide you with some straightforward steps to help you be prepared:

Step 1: Create a Plan

Different settings require different plans: if your workplace does not have a plan, suggest one! Families should know how to "check in" if they are separated from the rest of the group, and have both a nearby and out-of-town meeting locations, for different scales of

disaster. Another possibility to plan for is when you are unable to leave your home or car for an extended period of time due to outside conditions.

Step 2: Prepare a Kit

Once a warning has been sounded for an emergency, it is generally too late to gather or purchase supplies. So plan ahead and keep a 3-day supply of food and at least a gallon of drinkable water available for each person in your household. Also remember medications and a first-aid kit. Have a battery or crank operated radio to use in case electricity is unavailable.

Step 3: Listen for Information

Once you and your party are safe, listen for further information and instructions on your radio, through sirens or loudspeaker announcements

These 3 steps are very high level, and should be used to get you thinking about being prepared. To get more information check out [www.dhss.mo.gov/Ready in 3/](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/Ready_in_3/) for further information.

COMMON AREA IMPROVEMENT FORM

As parts of our neighborhood have passed the ripe old age of 40, it has become evident some of the common areas and islands just aren't as attractive as they once were. With the numerous amounts of common areas and islands in our neighborhood, we are also looking for your input on which ones are in most desperate need of improvement. If you have an area that is close to you, that you feel could use some improvement, please clip and mail the form below to Sue Fahey so that we can start prioritizing the work that needs to be done.

Location of Common Area or Island:

Current condition of the Common Area or Island:

What would be some things we could do to improve the area:

Could we count on you to water any new plantings we might add to this area?

Your name and phone number so we can contact you with questions:

**Send this form to:
Sue Fahey
901 WEST 120TH STREET
Kansas City, MO 64145**

GET INVOLVED AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

HOW ABOUT A NEIGHBORHOOD WEBSITE OR BLOG?

Anyone interested in creating and maintaining a Verona Hills website or blog – please contact Jennifer Koenig at (816) 941-4486 to share your interest. The ability to communicate near real time with all the homes in our neighborhood is something that would help us, among other things, start a crime watch network, keep an updated list of teens willing to provide babysitting or lawn mowing services, or post last minute information about upcoming events. Please consider sharing your programming talents with the neighborhood!!!

BABYSITTING COOP

We have been hearing about other homes associations setting up a babysitting coop for mothers with young children. Sounded like a great way to build our community interactions – so if this sounds interesting to you and you would like to participate or help organize the COOP, you know the drill, call Jennifer Koenig at 816-941-4486 or email her at jjaction@kc.rr.com .

VERONA VACATION CLUB – HAVE FUN TRAVELING WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Are you interested in participating in an organized group trip for Verona Hills residents and their friends? We are working with a professional travel agency who will arrange a special package deal for participants from our neighborhood. Destinations being considered are a Caribbean Cruise, Cozumel Mexico, Las Vegas or any place else that sounds fun and exciting! If you are interested in joining a group trip, have a suggestion about where to travel or would like to chair the organization of the trip, please contact Jennifer Koenig (816)941-4486. We are in the preliminary planning stages but hope to get a trip in 2007.

CONTACT LIST FOR NEIGHBORHOOD TEENS PROVIDING SERVICES

We are considering starting a list of Verona Hills teens who provide services such as babysitting, lawn mowing, pet sitting, snow shoveling, house sitting, students in need of community service hours, etc. that will be published in the Newsletter (or our website if we can find someone willing to

build and maintain one for us!). If you are interested in adding your teens name to this list, please call Jennifer Koenig at (816) 941-4486 with your teens name, address, contact telephone number, services provided, fees, special training they have plus any other relevant information. We hope to have a large response to this request because we get lots of calls from those looking for help!

STARTING A BOOK CLUB, BUNKO GROUP, BRIDGE GROUP OR BIBLE STUDY?

If you are looking for new members to participate in your group activity or to start a new group, we can help by publishing your information in future Newsletters. Provide Jennifer Koenig at (816) 941-4486 with your name and contact information, the group activity you wish to start, and targeted day and time you will meet. If it is an existing group it would be great to provide some factoids about the group and the skill level you are seeking to join.

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS UPDATE

MOVIES IN THE PARK A DOWNRIGHT THRILLER OF A PARTY!

On Friday, October 13, the Verona Hills Homes Association hosted the first annual Movies in Migliazzo Park and it was a tremendous success!! We had over 125 people in attendance even though the temperatures bordered on being a little chilly by the time Monsters Inc. was finished playing! It was great to see parents with their young ones and grandparents with their grandkids participating in this event. Many, many THANKS to those that helped plan and work this event, we all appreciate you very much! We will plan on having this event again next year, and may even look at an additional mid-summer date since the event was so successful!

PETER COTTONTAIL IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT EASTER EGG HUNT!

Peter Cottontail has been in touch and is ready to hop on down to Migliazzo Park for an Easter Egg Hunt very soon! Easter is early this year on April 8th, so be watching your mail for an invitation to join Mr. Cottontail in February! The Easter Egg Hunt continues to grow larger each year with more parents, grandparents, kids and grandkids alike attending. We are very thankful we have such

a nice large park right in the middle of our neighborhood in which to hold this event! As always, we could use some additional help planning and coordinating this event. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact the Easter Egg Hunt Chair Tina Cotton at (816) 943-4044.

BBQ IN THE PARK

We are looking forward to giving the Barbeque in the Park event another try this year. Our plan is to target late summer and we hope to include live music and outdoor games for all. We are looking for a Chair for this event, so if you have some time, some good ideas and the desire to help get this event off the ground, please call Nancy Rusch at (816) 942-7659 or nancyrusch@kc.rr.com.

HAUNTED PARK

Details are in the works for a Halloween Haunted Park this year in Migliazzo Park. The date for this event will be sometime in late October. This would be for children 10 and under. Anyone who has any ideas or wants to help put this event together should call **Nancy Rusch at (816) 942-7659. Coordination of this event would be a great service project for some of our High Schoolers!!**

**HAVE A GREAT IDEA FOR
A NEIGHBORHOOD GET
TOGETHER?**

Movies in the Park, Neighborhood Garage Sale and the Easter Egg Hunt are some of the major events that take place in our neighborhood. Are there other events you are interested in seeing happen in our neighborhood? Something that targets the teen crowd or the older adults in our neighborhood perhaps? Maybe an Ethnic Festival where we sample food from around the world? Give Nancy Rusch a call at 942-7659 to let her know your thoughts or sign-up to Chair an event.

We are also looking for event sponsors and underwriters for our events. This could be real estate agents, nearby

businesses, or other clubs that are interested in supporting neighborhood events. Contact Nancy Rusch for more information if you are interested.

**WE NEED YOU TO GET
INVOLVED – PLEASE!**

With so many events happening in the neighborhood, we need all the help we can get with planning and coordinating activities. There is always plenty to do and we can use adults and teens needing service hours to help get things done. If you have any interest in helping with or coordinating an event, please contact Nancy Rusch at 942-7659 to volunteer. Remember the load is always lighter when there are multiple hands to lift it!

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE CITY?

CONNECT WITH MULTIPLE SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES BY DIALING 2-1-1

Get help and give help by dialing the new United Way 2-1-1 community services information number. United Way 2-1-1 is an easy way to remember a central phone number connecting people with available community resources and volunteer opportunities. Use 2-1-1 to both find help and give help, no more wasted time trying to find the right resource for every social service agency located in our Kansas City community. This includes finding out about support groups, rehabilitation or counseling, locating child care, Head Start or family resource centers and looking for volunteer opportunities that need your help in our community.

United Way 2-1-1 spans the 23-county Kansas City Metropolitan Area (including 7 Kansas and 13 Missouri counties) and has access to literally thousands of resources, including agencies in other states. In times of natural disaster, United Way 2-1-1 will be especially critical to the community by being a single number people can turn to get information. Use of United Way 2-1-1 will save 9-1-1 for life and death emergencies during these times.

So give it a try by dialing 2-1-1 on your phone, or if you prefer to use your computer to find that same information you can log onto kcunitedway.org/211.htm.

QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS? COMPLAINTS? DIAL 3-1-1 FOR EASY REACH TO CITY SERVICES

Reaching the City Action Center is now as easy as dialing 3-1-1 on your telephone. This easy to remember number helps you obtain information about all non-emergency City services. 3-1-1 allows the City to open and track service requests to the City, as well as provide quick answers to frequently asked questions. Some examples of what 3-1-1 can handle for you include:

- Report a pothole or a streetlight out of service
- Questions about trash pick-up service
- Report an abandoned vehicle
- Find out where to register to vote
- Locate a City facility
- Request a dead animal pick-up
- Report an overgrown lot
- Request a recycling bin coupon
- Obtain information about a City sponsored event

- Find out who your City Council representatives
- Report a water main break or a stray dog

So next time you have a question about City services, please give 3-1-1 a try. They now have extended hours to serve you, Monday thru Friday 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM and Saturday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS

We now have Community Prosecutors that will be helping the South Patrol division of the KC Police Department achieve targeted results for crime prevention and prosecution of criminals. Denise St. Omer is the point of contact for this program and would like to hear from you at (816) 881-3802 if you have questions about the program. Concerns and suggestions specific to Verona Hills can be directed to the South Patrol Community Prosecutor Kyndra James at (816) 881-3286.

PIT BULL ORDINANCE PASSED BY CITY COUNCIL

The City of Kansas City MO passed a mandatory altering ordinance stating that all Pit Bull and Pit Bull mix dogs that reside in the City limits and are more than 8 weeks old must be spayed or neutered. If any unaltered Pit Bull is found in the

City limits it will be impounded and the owner will be issued a citation for failure to comply with the ordinance. The Pit Bull must be claimed within seven days and will only be returned when owners agrees to spay or neuter the animal and pays for the procedure.

The Ordinance also includes information about permits for breeding pit bulls and restrictions on the sale of the offspring. For more information on the Ordinance and to view it you can log onto <http://kcmo.org/neigh/PitBull.pdf>. If you have further questions that are not answered on the website you can contact the Animal Health and Public Safety Division at (816) 513-9800.

It is interesting to note that the City Council has appropriated an additional \$350,000 to the Animal Health and Public Safety Division to increase staffing for enforcement of the new Ordinance. Spay and Neuter Kansas City, located at 3710 Main Street, has partnered with the City to provide spay and neuter services to KCMO pet owners who cannot otherwise afford it. Please contact them at (816) 353-0940 if you know someone who needs this service for their pet.

CITY BUDGETING PROCESS FOR 2007- 2008 IS UNDERWAY

The City Budget for 2007-2008, which takes effect on May 1, 2007, is currently being drafted by the City Budgeting Department. Please take the time to participate in this budgeting process in the upcoming public hearing meetings. You can find the times and locations of the hearings in the Metropolitan section of the KC Star or on-line at www.KCMO.org. The current targeted timeline is as follow:

- January 15th: Mayor Barnes received the budget proposal for comment
 - February 8th: Budget proposal goes to the City Council, which will discuss it throughout the month.
 - **February 28th: Public Hearing, 7 PM, 26th Floor City Hall**
 - March 1st: Budget Ordinance presented to City Council, given to the Finance/Audit Committee
 - **March 7th, 14th, and 21st: Finance and Audit Committee will hear additional public testimony during their regular sessions (Wednesdays, 10th Floor Council room, 10:30 AM)**
 - **March 15th and 22nd: The full Council Business Session will hear testimony as well.**
 - March 22nd: Budget is expected to be adopted by the City Council.
- Some quick facts about the current 2006-2007 budget that will shed some light on just how important the budgeting process is to ensuring your tax dollars are spent appropriately.
- The total KCMO budget for 2006-2007 is approximately \$1.1 billion
 - This equates to \$2,507 for each of the City's 444,000 residents, or \$5,891 for each of the City's 189,000 households.
 - 86% of the total budget is restricted in some fashion on how it is spent:
 - 27% - Spent on Aviation and Water Departments per Federal Regulations
 - 21% - Required to be spent per Voter Approved initiatives
 - 18% - Allocated for expenditures per State Law and City Charter requirements
 - 10% - Programs approved by Ordinance and Resolution (TIFs, Zoo, Jackson County

- Sports Authority, etc.)
- 4% - Dedicated to Program Services generating revenue (pet licensing, birth certificate reprint, etc.)
- 3% - Reserved for Grant Programs
- 3% - Debt and Lease payments
- This leaves about \$140 million of unrestricted funds (14% of the total budget) to be spent on everything else the City needs to accomplish
- Here is how the money was allocated for 2006-2007:
 - Economic Growth - 29%
 - Public Safety - 28%
 - Public infrastructure - 21%
 - Healthy Community - 11%
 - Neighborhood Livability - 6%
 - Governance - 5%

Key budget drivers to watch for in the 2007-2008 budget will be:

- Increase to City salaries and benefits due to increasing health care costs and increased City staffing
- Economic incentives
- Repair and replacement to the City's aging infrastructure

Hopefully these few facts have captured your curiosity about how your elected officials are allocating your tax dollars. **Please get involved.**

ADOPT-A-STREET PROGRAM

The Adopt-a-Street Program in Kansas City, MO is looking for groups and organizations to help keep our streets clean. The program asks that participants do three things:

1. Choose a six-block (half-mile) minimum length of a city-owned street to adopt that is not currently taken under the program
2. Clean the area at least once every 45 days for a year long commitment
3. Have all volunteers sign and notarize a waiver of liability for the City for their activities as part of the Adopt-a-Street Program

That's all there is to it! The Program provides and erects signs with the adopting organizations name on it, special trash bags and orange safety vest for volunteers to wear while working. This can be a great activity for a family, neighborhood, church group, Girl Scout Troop or Boy Scout Troop to take on to promote civic pride and have a cleaner City in which to live. Contact Cedric Norton at 816-513-2680 or cedric.norton@kcmo.org for more information.

NEW NEIGHBORS IN VERONA HILLS

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Please help us in welcoming the following folks to our neighborhood! Take the time, as warmer weather nears, to get out, meet them and give them a Verona Hills welcome so they know what our community spirit is all about!

Timothy & Mary Jamison	806 West 122 nd Street
James & Kristine Cannon	912 West 121 st Terrace
Jenny & Ester Myung	706 West 115 th Street
Joseph & Karen Byrnes	317 West 116 th Street
Richard & Dionne Abshee	11613 Summit
Paul & Crystal Hentzen	11704 Summit
James & Denise Easley	308 Avila Circle
Randy & Sonya Johnson	11312 Summit
Kenneth & Marge Beard	11412 Summit
Timothy & Becky Mullen	11612 Pennsylvania
Sharon Nelson	11508 Summit
D. Bohling & P. Perry	11818 Central
Margaret Sauer	106 West 119 th Terrace
J. Prestage & A. Bellatin	11801 Pennsylvania
Thomas Dew	208 West 116 th Street
Matthew & Jennifer Prusa	11818 Pennsylvania
Chad & Lisa Moore	11726 Washington
Richard & Julie Andresen	316 West 116 th Street
Thomas & Caren Smith	11800 Central
T. Doyle & M. Pace	908 West 120 th Terrace
Joan Taylor	11212 Jefferson
Hal & Diane Linhardt	912 West 121 st Terrace
Walter & Jennifer Bell	909 West 120 th Street
Andrea & Arthur Corbin, Jr.	11601 Summit
Aine Kelly-Brown	101 West Minor Drive
William & Margaret Kilgore	11206 Summit
Peter & Betty O'Connor	1 West 115 th Street