

VERONA HILLS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2009

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has come and gone; Verona Hills has made great strides in beautifying and securing our neighborhood. The monuments have been completed, on budget I might add and really have given our subdivision a face lift. Thanks to our new security headed by Brent Parsons, our crime rate has decreased in our area. I am in no way advising you to let your guard down, please remember to keep your outdoor lighting on, your cars off the streets and closer to your home with nothing visible inside them that could tempt a criminal. And always, day and night, have your garage door closed to detour any theft.

Remember that dues should already be paid for the 2009-2010 year. If you have over looked this, please send them in as soon as possible. For those who are behind, you can make arrangements to get caught up. I know that the recession has really affected our pocket books, but dues are the only way for us to keep Verona Hills aesthetically attractive and secure.

Lastly, in November, my two-year term will come to an end as the President of Verona Hills. I would like to thank the board members, past and present for all of their help and support during these past couple of years. These individuals work tirelessly for our sub-division without complaint in order to make Verona Hills the wonderful neighborhood it is to live. Thank you for allowing me to be your President and together let's continue to make Verona Hills the exceptional neighborhood it is.

Sincerely,
Paul Redmond

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phil Paschang, President	942-7517	Sue Fahey, Grounds Maintenance	942-0117
Jennifer Koenig, Vice President	941-4486	Bill Venable, Snow Removal	699 8380
Ted Richards, Treasurer	941-6244	Nancy Rusch, Communications	942-7659
Donna Tulipana, Secretary	941-7318	Tina Cotton, Events	943-4044
Joe Davidson, Security	941-0316	Bill Venable, Website	699-8380
Jennifer Koenig, Compliance	941-4486		

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our current Homes Association Financial Statement is enclosed in this newsletter. Please contact Ted Richards if you have questions, comments or concerns regarding its content.

#330 VERONA HILLS HOMES ASSOCIATION
Balance Sheet
August 31, 2009

ASSETS

Cash in Bank	\$ 99,545.52	
Certificate of Deposits		51,723.15
Accounts Receivable		19,831.19
Deposits with HAKC		7,500.00
		<hr/>

**TOTAL
ASSETS**

\$ 178,599.86

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable--HAKC	16,488.46	
		<hr/>

**TOTAL
LIABILITIES**

16,488.46

RESERVES

Retained Earnings	116,513.14	
Current Earnings	45,598.26	
		<hr/>

Total Reserves

162,111.40

TOTAL LIABILITIES & RESERVES

\$ 178,599.86

#330 VERONA HILLS HOMES ASSOCIATION
Income Statement
August 31, 2009

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Budget Balance
	Aug '09	Date	Budget	Balance
REVENUE:				
	\$	\$		\$
Base Assessment	0.00	111,750.00	\$111,750.00	0.00
Interest on Investments	20.90	182.91	1,000.00	817.09
Interest on Assessments	359.08	441.04	1,000.00	558.96
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Activities Income	0.00	128.00	0.00	(128.00)
Total Income	379.98	112,501.95	113,750.00	1,248.05
EXPENSES:				
Administration	508.82	1,526.46	6,300.00	4,773.54
Annual Meeting	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Other Services	15.00	175.00	2,000.00	1,825.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	425.00	425.00
Legal Fees	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Common Area Maintenance	4,289.45	8,104.05	60,000.00	51,895.95
Capital Improvement	10,737.60	49,820.02	25,000.00	(24,820.02)
Postage	57.69	775.52	5,000.00	4,224.48
Meetings	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
Snow Plowing	0.00	2,590.00	10,000.00	7,410.00
BBQ	0.00	1,088.71	2,000.00	911.29
Easter Egg Hunt	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Movies in the Park	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Garage Sale	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
Newsletter	0.00	0.00	1,750.00	1,750.00
Directories	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Stationery & Supplies	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Telephone Alert	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Security Service Fees	840.00	2,640.00	12,000.00	9,360.00
Real Estate Taxes	0.00	0.00	60.00	60.00
A/R Written Off	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Utilities	39.90	121.93	500.00	378.07
Other	0.00	62.00	1,000.00	938.00
Total Expenses	16,488.46	66,903.69	143,085.00	76,181.31
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (16,108.48)	\$ 45,598.26	\$ (29,335.00)	

ANNUAL HOME OWNERS DUES

Every neighborhood requires work to help maintain its beauty and “curb appeal” but these come at a price. Our annual Homes Association dues are required to maintain the common areas throughout Verona Hills. Unfortunately, there are some homeowners who are delinquent on these dues for a year or more. We have standing liens filed against these properties and will continue to try to work with these homeowners to obtain payment.

We strongly encourage these homeowners to contact HACCD at (913) 385-2440 to make payment arrangements immediately as interest and fees continue to accrue on balances due.

COMMUNICATIONS

by Nancy Rusch

ANNUAL HOMES ASSOCIATION MEETING

The date is set; please mark your calendars for Thursday, November 5 for the annual meeting of the Verona Hills Homes Association. It will be at Blue Hills Country Club. Special guest speaker will be Mayor Funkhouser. Please look for the flyer coming out soon which will give all details of the nights events.

VERONA HILLS DIRECTORY

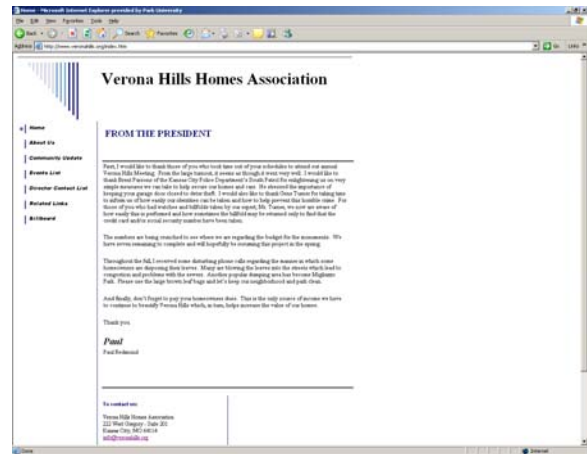
Our new neighborhood directory is finished and will be mailed to all residents shortly. Please take a moment to look this over and if any changes need to be made or a phone number added, fill out the postcard located in the back of the directory and mail back right away. Any changes will be included in the next printing.

TELEPHONE ALERT SYSTEM

For over a year now, Verona Hills has been implementing a telephone alert system used to communicate with the entire neighborhood in a matter of hours. The purpose of this system is to get information to all households in our subdivision in a timely manner. The cost of this service is a fraction of the cost for postcard reminders of up coming events. It is also beneficial in alerting us if there are any issues occurring in our area such as break-ins which South Patrol feels we need to be made aware of. For this reason, it is imperative that we have current phone numbers for all households in Verona Hills. If you do not currently receive these calls, fill out the postcard located in the back of your neighborhood directory or call Nancy Rusch at (816) 942-7659 to get your number on our phone call log. There is, of course, no obligation to receive these messages, however, you risk missing out on important information that may need to be distributed throughout Verona Hills. For those residents who wish not to receive these calls, there is information on how to opt out of this system once the call has reached your home. Simply follow the prompts and the phone calls will stop immediately.

VERONA HILLS WEBSITE IS ONLINE *by Bill Venable*

Early this spring the first version of the Verona Hill Homes Association Website was launched and posted online. With the help of board member Bill Venable and several of his vendor contacts, the site only costs our association \$15 per month for hosting. The cost also includes an “info” email address which will forward messages directly to the association president and a backup copy to our webmaster. The site can be found at www.veronahills.org.



The website will function as the information hub for issues, ideas and activities within the 750 homes that form our community. The board of directors encourages everyone to send an email to info@veronahills.org so that we can build a database of member email addresses. The more addresses we identify, the better we can function in the communication process. In the long run we can have more communication and reduce our postage and printing expenses.

We also need content such as pictures, announcements, stories that may be of interest to your neighbors and friends. Feel free to add your attachments to an email and forward them to the “info” address. If you, or someone in your home, would like to get involved in the editing process please send an email to Bill Venable at wrv3@marketsolutions.com. We can use help in the further advancement of the site. This would be a great opportunity for a student in graphic design that needs a project for their portfolio.

FUN WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS *by Tina Cotton*

Verona Hills Annual Easter Egg Hunt:

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 4th in Migliazzo Park. Organized by Verona Hills resident Kim Gordon, it was filled with lots of food and fun. This year Kim coupled with local businesses Lamars Donuts, Dunn Brothers Coffee and Hy-Vee to provide a delicious spread of refreshments. The children were thrilled with their candy filled eggs and special visit by the Easter Bunny himself! The following area businesses donated gifts to raffle off to those over the age of 13 after the egg hunt:



- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Avila University | Rosehill Nursery | Normans Pest Control |
| Dos De Ores | Sandtrap Bar and Grill | Sushi Haru |
| Dunn Brothers Coffee | Silpada Jewelry | Mary Kay |
| Laines Cheesecakes | Sonic | Cosmetics |
| Panera Bread Company | Hy-Vee | Lamars Donuts |

A BIG thank you to these businesses that help us every year. Please support them because they choose to support us! Another thank you to our Kansas City Hospice House neighbors who underwrite our event each year. We appreciate their support and recognize them as exceptional neighbors. Finally, a big thank you to Kim Gordon and every one of her fantastic volunteers who helped with this event. You and your team did an exceptional job!



1st Annual Verona Hills Homes Association 4th of July Parade and Picnic

Our first annual 4th of July Parade and Picnic was a wonderful addition to our very fun lineup of events this year! A huge THANK YOU to Cindy Locke who took over responsibilities for the event. The event was held at Migliazzo Park and everything kicked off at 10am with a parade through the park. Children decorated their bikes for the 4th of July and a prize was awarded to the best decorated bike. We had a free hot dog lunch provided by J & N Grill and had red, white and blue bomb pops to celebrate our Nations independence! It was a very HOT day and Cindy had our local fire fighters come and spray everyone down. It sure felt good and we want to thank them for taking time out of their busy day to come and visit us! It was a perfect first annual parade and picnic and everyone had a wonderful time.

Upcoming Events

We would like to have an event in December to look at holiday lights in the area. If you would like to help with the development and planning of this event, please email me at tcotton1@kc.rr.com or call me at 943-4044.

THE BARKING DOG

by Sue Fahey

Some canine behavior problems, such as house soiling, affect only a dog's owners. However, problems such as escaping and excessive barking can result in neighborhood disputes and violations of animal control ordinances. Therefore, barking dogs can become "people problems." If your dog's barking has created neighborhood tension, it might be a good idea to discuss the problem with your neighbors. It's perfectly normal and reasonable for dogs to bark from time to time, just as children make noise when they play outside. However, continual barking for long periods of time is a sign that your dog has a problem that needs to be addressed. While we are on the subject of dogs....please make sure when you are walking your dog to pick up your dogs poop...to put it nicely.

SNOW REMOVAL

by Bill Venable

Snow Season is on the Way!!



How lucky can we get? Last year provided us with one of the lowest snow fall totals in recent memory. Can we be as lucky in 2009-10?

Your homes association dues help us to pay for "special" snow removal that is in addition to any services we might receive from the city. We have contracted with the same company for the last three years and we work to monitor their progress and to see that all of our streets are plowed.

In order to balance the budget, the snowplow company will plow our streets if the snowfall total is in excess of three inches on the ground. In the cases of ice storms we have the option of sending them out with salt to provide better traction in the neighborhoods. The snow committee chairman is Bill Venable. He will be working with Paul Redmond and Ted Richards to maintain contact with the plowman during snow storms. The committee needs your help too. If you see downed trees, power lines, or streets that are covered with ice or snow, please send an email to info@veronahills.org. Your message will be received promptly by the on call committee member on their wireless device. This process will be faster than telephone and will allow you to provide a detailed message stating the situation.

On September 5, 2009, a ceremony took place in Verona Hills to place the final limestone post which marks the Santa Fe Trail. Following is an article which appeared in the Jackson County Advocate commemorating this event.

FOUR MONUMENTS IN SOUTH KANSAS CITY PAY TRIBUTE TO WHERE PIONEERS' WAGONS ONCE ROLLED

New Posts Mark Old Santa Fe Trail

By Seann McAnally – JC Advocate newspaper



Between 100 and 150 years ago, pioneers flooded through what would become south Kansas City in search of a better life.

As it wound its way from Independence, Mo. to the New Mexico territory, the Santa Fe Trail passed through the Hickman Mills and Red Bridge areas.

On September 5, members of the Historical Society of New Santa Fe installed the fourth and final limestone post that marks the route of the Old Santa Fe Trail through South Kansas City.

The post features plaques from the National Park Service and the Missouri River Outfitters, a group that worked to identify the local route.

The new marker is at Pennsylvania Street and Santa Fe Trail, on the Missouri side. In fact, it's right in Karolyn Dreiling's yard.

She and her husband, Thomas, gave the historical society permission to put the marker there. In fact, she said she loves having a connection to local history.

"We said no problem," Karolyn said. "I had no idea when we moved in, but as we've lived here we've gotten to know a lot more about it. It's kind of exciting. It's nice to be able to recognize it (the area's history) in our personal life."

She said she doesn't mind the idea of sightseers swinging by her home as they retrace the footsteps of old-time pioneers.

Elliott Threatt, a member of the Grandview C-4 School Board, lives nearby and was present at the installation. He said markers like the one in the Dreiling's yard keep local people connected with their history in a concrete, every-day way.

"Lots of times when kids study history in school, it's about something abstract," Threatt said. "Jamestown? That's in Virginia. But the Santa Fe Trail? That's nine blocks away. That street, right there – that's where it started."

Threatt is on the board of the Timber Trace Neighborhood Association, and lives on a hill that overlooks the Santa Fe Trail route. He said sometimes he sits outside and imagines a line of pioneer wagons stretching off into the west.

“That was the highway then, and there was no state of Kansas – this area was the dropping-off point where you hopped off into the abyss. It’s every bit as important as 18th and Vine – it’s our local heritage.”

He praised local volunteers and history buffs for making the project happen.

“This is our history, and we’ve done a good job embracing it,” Threatt said. “St. Joseph plays up Jesse James, and we need to play this up. Missouri, and people like Ann (O’Hare) have done a great job with that.”

The other three markers are at Holmes Road at the St. Thomas More corner, Oak Street at the Avila Campus corner, and just near 122nd and State Line, where the old town of New Santa Fe was once located. That area was a small Indian settlement, with plenty of room for travelers to camp. Permanent settlements by non-natives began in 1833, when John Bartleston, a hominy and potato farmer, erected a log cabin along the Santa Fe Trail. A small community soon sprang up around Bartleston’s property, and by 1851 the hamlet of “Little Santa Fe,” as it was known, was officially incorporated as New Santa Fe.

That’s when the community’s history took a dark turn.

Like most of the border region between Missouri and Kansas, fierce fighting between pro-slavery groups in Missouri and anti-slavery groups in Kansas plagued New Santa Fe. In this area, the Civil War can be said to have lasted from 1855 to well after the surrender of the Confederacy – border ruffians were causing trouble before the war, and outlaws were a problem for at least a decade after official hostilities ended.

Major railroads bypassed the area, however, relegating it to little more than a historical footnote by the end of the 1800s.

Today, the area is marked by the New Santa Fe Cemetery at 122nd Street and State Line Road, where a rut in the cemetery marks the actual Santa Fe Trail.

The monuments mark the original 1821 trail, said Ann O’Hare, a volunteer with the New Santa Fe Historical Society.

“That was the first trail,” she said. “The Indians used to take that one across the prairies.”



Over time, the trail branched out a bit, with different groups taking slightly different paths.

“The trails are kind of like a rope when you unwind it,” she said. “There are strands in many directions.”

Over time, other “Santa Fe trails” branched out from Independence through Westport, and connected to the settlement at New Santa Fe.

O’Hare said she’s noticed that a lot more people are paying attention to local history these days.

“It always makes me feel like people are becoming more interested in their heritage,” she said. “We gather so many interesting people. The public is reconnecting with history – there seems to be a resurgence of interest, and we’re very happy to see that.”

SCAM ALERT

On both sides of State Line, scammers have called property owners posing as employees of the local water department. After informing the homeowner that the water bill is overdue and that service shut-off is imminent, the caller offers to take payment over the phone by check or credit card.

It's easy to guess the rest of the story. The scam continues because it's working; crooks are collecting hundreds of account numbers in the Kansas City area.

Please alert your neighbors to the problem. And ask anyone who receives such a call to collect as much information from the caller as possible. Any caller ID information is especially helpful. You can always ask the caller to hold the phone while you go get your wallet. Then just set the phone down. Eventually the crook will hang up and you'll get a phone-off-the-hook signal. But in the meantime, you'll waste the caller's time and maybe spare a victim or two.

CRIME CORNER

by Phil Paschang

Unfortunately, times are hard right now which makes crime an even more inevitable part of our lives. At some point in time, all of us are affected by crime in one way or another. Your Homes Association Board felt we should keep our residents informed as much as possible on events which have affected our neighborhood and to help us exercise prevention. Please read on for information provided by our outgoing Director of Security and new Board President Phil Paschang...

It was a relatively quiet summer for Verona Hills in terms of crime. Even the teenage revelers in the Park were few and far between. No sooner had I written my newsletter report to this effect that within just a few minutes, not one but two crimes were reported. In the last weeks of August, a truck in a driveway and a home were burglarized in Verona Hills. The truck was unlocked (oops) but a deadbolt was forced in the home.

This is an unfortunate reminder of why we allocate a portion of our budget for additional patrols by off-duty KCPD officers. They need your help in the very tough job of crime prevention.

The patrols are probably more effective than we can measure however. Earlier in the summer, a known bad guy was seen turning onto Wornall from the 117th Terrace cul-de-sac. Suspecting this guy had no business on that block since he lives on the other side of town he was stopped by the police and arrested on outstanding unrelated warrants. He of course had no explanation for being on that street.

Verona Hills Homes Association
4200 Somerset Drive, Suite 216
Prairie Village, KS 66208



FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

DON'T INVITE TROUBLE...

My own home was almost a statistic last fall. At about 8:00 in the evening, after hearing a noise, we opened the door to the garage and nearly came face-to-face with a hooded man who immediately scrambled. His partner was in a waiting car using stolen license plates so there was no way to identify them. **They were obviously cruising and looking for open garage doors.**

Our security patrols report an astonishing number of open garage doors, piled up newspapers, valuable items left in unlocked cars, and pitch-black houses at night. Even after personal reminders, the condition continues to be widespread.

We learned the hard way to be vigilant because it will happen to you. Be smart, try just a little harder, and trust me, don't invite trouble.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

From time-to-time we all come across a quote which makes us stop and think. Perhaps, in some cases, it has a profound effect on you. We would like to end each newsletter with a quote so if you have one (or several), please feel free to email them to Nancy Rusch at nancyrusch@kc.rr.com and we will include them in future newsletters. Here is our first one, giving credit to Father Don Farnan of St. Thomas More Parish. It's amazing how 10 simple two-letter words can make a big difference.

IF IT IS TO BE IT IS UP TO ME