

The Verona Hills Report

Spring 2008

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT...

With Winter coming to a close, we hope this edition of the *Verona Hills Report* will get you geared up to come outside and play with you neighbors! Kicking us off for the year is the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 15th. This event is great fun for young and old alike with eggs for the kids and goodies for the adults! Throughout the warmer months we will have many opportunities to get together and have some fun including the Annual BBQ and Movies in the Park. So watch your mail box for invites and if you have any great ideas about new events give Tina Cotton a call – she would love to hear from you!

Reflecting on the past few months...

Snow removal has been a concern this year with many of you, and I will start by saying we should contact our City Council members (John Sharp @ 816-513-1615 and Cathy Jolly @ 816-513-1602) and ask them why the City is not plowing our neighborhood streets. Our taxes pay for this snow removal, and it is just not happening. Looking inward we did contract with a new snow removal company this winter, and as with any new contractor we had our growing pains getting them trained to what we wanted them to do. Our contract with our vendor calls for the streets to be plowed when there are more than 3 inches of snow. That didn't really happen this year. The bigger problem was the ice, and we will work to be more effective with salt application in the next winter season. Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss in person.

Overall Verona Hills has faired very well over the last few decades in terms of value and desirability of location. Our home values have continued to increase steadily. We can assure this trend by maintaining our properties. As our neighborhood ages this means painting, new roofing, new landscaping and making sure our homes have the great curb appeal they did when we bought them. If we all do our individual part in keeping up our properties, our neighborhood will continue to thrive!

I look forward to the coming year as your President. As always, feel free to contact myself or any of the other Board members should you have questions or concerns.

Paul Redmond

Board of Directors

President – Paul Redmond 943-0633	Director, Communications – Nancy Rusch 942-7659
Vice President – Jim McDowell 942-0584	Director, Grounds Maintenance – Sue Fahey 942-0117
Treasurer – Cindy Sullivan 942-7922	Director, Snow Removal – Ted Richards 941-6244
Secretary – Donna Tulipana 941-7318	Neighborhood Compliance – Jennifer Koenig 941-4486
Director, Security – Shawn Connor 941-3626	Director, Events – Tina Cotton 942-4044

Financial

Our current Homes Association financial statement is enclosed in this newsletter.

Please contact Cindy Sullivan if you have questions, comments or concerns regarding our Finances.

Liens Filed

We have 16 delinquent homeowners who haven't paid their annual dues. Balances owed range from \$150 to \$1,000, for a total of \$7,235. 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:

11805 CENTRAL
11907 GLEN ARBOR TERRACE
11617 JEFFERSON
11703 JEFFERSON
12130 JEFFERSON COURT
800 WEST SANTA FE TRAIL
11330 SUMMIT
11705 SUMMIT
12121 SUMMIT
11719 WASHINGTON
11724 WYANDOTTE
707 WEST 114TH TERRACE
801 WEST 114TH TERRACE
317 WEST 116TH STREET
117 WEST 119TH STREET
820 WEST 121ST STREET

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

We Want to Know...

...what you think. Let us know what issues you want your Board to address, and how and what we communicate to you. Contact any of the Board members or e-mail your thoughts to Cynthia.Sullivan@sprint.com.

Verona Hills Annual Meeting a Huge Success!!

Attendees heard:

- An update on the ongoing work on Migliazzo Park lake.
- Statistics on real estate transactions that support the stability of property values in Verona Hills.
- A report on crime prevention efforts that proves Verona Hills is a very safe place to live.
- A financial report establishing the very positive financial position of the Association and the success of the efforts to collect past-due assessments.
- Plans to expand construction of monuments to other parts of the community once the current program is completed.

Don't miss the next annual meeting!

Easter Egg-Citement

Mark your calendars for March 15th at 10AM for our annual event in Migliazzo Park. We really need 8-10 volunteers to lay eggs (prior experience as a chicken is helpful, but not necessary) the morning of the event. If you would like to help or have kids who could help (up to 4 service hours available) please contact Tina Cotton at 943-4044 or tcotton1@kc.rr.com. See the flyer mailed a couple of week ago for details about the event! Rain date is March 22, same time.

Neighborhood

Speed Limits

Follow-up traffic studies made on Santa Fe Trail indicate the speed humps installed last summer have been effective in reducing speeds. The average speed between State Line and Pennsylvania reduced an average of 5 miles an hour after the humps were installed.

Santa Fe Trail Improvements

Property easements have been granted and right-of-way issues are resolved. Construction plans are ready to go out for bid on the widening and improvements to Santa Fe Trail between Wornall and Pennsylvania. Selection of a contractor and approval of a city ordinance are the next steps. Please

continue to voice your support for this project to your elected officials. The street will likely be closed to through traffic during construction.

Trash Talk

Your Homes Association has negotiated the convenient Monday pickup for Verona Hills residents. While we once were considered a "Friday" area for special collections such as leaf and brush, our regular pickup day is now considered Monday for all collections.

BULKY ITEM PICKUP schedule:

April 16th * June 16th * August 18th * October 16th * December 16th

Pick-up is in the 16th day of even-numbered months. If the 16th falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, items will be picked up the following work day. Please place your items at the curb just a day or two before the scheduled date to keep our neighborhood looking neat. Please visit www.kcmo.org/trash for more information on trash pickup.

Help Line

The number to call for City Services is 3-1-1 for the City Action Center.

If you need action from the City of Kansas City, call the KCMO City Action Center at 3-1-1 or 816-513-1313. Hours of service are M-F from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can leave a message after hours. Use this great tool to report pot holes, a broken water main, streets that are slick or haven't been plowed for snow, burned out streetlights, trees in the city right of way that need trimming; even to request speed control on your street. The list goes on and on. The City is usually very responsive and will give you a record number so that you can track resolution of your issue. One resident reported a streetlight repair was done in 24 hours!

Park Pond Plans

The pond in Migliazzo Park is to be stocked with catfish this spring. The fish help minimize the buildup of silt, keeping the pond cleaner. A group of volunteers just cleaned up trash and debris from the pond. Help us keep the pond clean by throwing trash in one of the barrels in the park.

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.

Free Parking

Please remember that parking your car in the street creates difficulty for snow removal equipment, fire trucks and ambulances – especially at night. While in some situations it cannot be helped, please use available space in your garage or driveway first. Think about a snowplow trying to get through before you park your car on the street. Thank you for doing what you can to help us keep our streets clear and our neighborhood safe and attractive.

Cars parked in the same spot on the street for more than 48 hours may be reported to the city as a nuisance. Phone (816) 531-1313 or just dial 3-1-1.

Get Involved...

We Need a Few Good People...

Would you be interested in helping preserve the quality of life and community spirit that we have here in Verona Hills? If so, you have an opportunity. Your Board of Directors would like you to consider one of the several upcoming open positions on our nine-member board.

Serving as a Board member requires attending monthly board meetings, chairing a committee and being actively involved in decision making. If you have an interest in seeking one of the open positions, please send a brief description of your qualifications (which can be as simple as I really LOVE my neighborhood and I want to get involved) to Paul Redmond at 12013 Madison or email him at PRedmond@KC.rr.com.

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 Tina Cotton for upcoming event volunteer opportunities.

Neighbors Corner

The New Directories Have Arrived!

The new Verona Hills directories were delivered at the end of February! Please help us keep this one up to date by saving the postcards that have been supplied for changes/additions and using them to keep us informed. Our promise back to you is that if you send us the changes – we will send out an updated directory yearly. We know this is a great way to know your neighbors and include new neighbors in your street's activities. So help us keep it updated....please!

Print vs. Online?

We have had several requests to start e-mailing the newsletter versus sending paper copies. The last time we tried to obtain e-mail addresses for this use we got about 30 respondents out of our 750 homes. So in an effort to start going green we will be requesting that you send an e-mail address to HACCD with your annual dues. We will see what type of response we get – and at a minimum will use the e-mail addresses received for a QUICK ALERT system to notify you of neighborhood activities ranging from upcoming events to crime alerts.

We would also like to create a VHHA Web site to post important information and reminders. The newsletter could also be posted on this site so anyone could view it. If you have ideas or would like to help with this project, contact Joe Davidson at 941-0316 or joedavkc@aol.com.

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

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,
What can we do to control the goose population at Migliazzo Park?
Bill B.

Bill,
The city has placed fox decoys around the park to discourage nesting. We will evaluate their effectiveness to determine if more action is necessary. City crews also do periodic cleaning of goose "remnants."

Dear Jim,
What are Homes Association covenants regarding rental property?
Mark M.

Mark,

While the Homes Association has no specific covenants regarding this subject, the City of Kansas City recently instituted a new law regarding registration of rental property. All owners of rental dwellings located in Kansas City, MO must now register their properties with the City's Neighborhood and Community Services Department.

"By more actively monitoring rental properties through the Rental Registration and Inspection Program, we will not only serve renters better but we also will help improve the condition of all neighborhoods, which benefits all residents," said Daniel Schmelzinger, manager of the Neighborhood Preservation Division. For each month (or portion thereof) after February 2008 that a rental dwelling is not registered, an additional \$50 fee will be assessed. For example, a rental property not registered until August will be assessed a fine of \$350.

Registration is required on a calendar-year basis and will expire each Dec. 31. We will be sending our list of known Verona Hills rental properties to the City to ensure compliance with the new law.

Please Note:

If you plan to move away from Verona Hills but still retain ownership of your property, our office needs to have your new address and phone number on record to contact you if there are issues or emergencies with your property.

Please send your new address to:

Homes Association of the Country Club District
222 West Gregory Blvd., Suite #201
Kansas City, MO 64114

Dear Jim,
What are three things each person in Verona Hills could do to keep our neighborhood safe and clean?
Kathy S.

Kathy,

That's a great question. Overall, Verona Hills is an attractive, well-maintained and safe community. Statistics on home sales and crime prove this to be true. There are many things we all do to keep it this way. Three of the most important are:

1. Park cars off the street – keep them in your garage and driveways.
2. Keep trash, yard waste and bulky items out of sight until the day before a trash pickup.

3. Keep your house and property well-lit, both inside and out. This enhances the image of your home and is an effective crime deterrent.

*Verona Hills Homes Association
222 West Gregory, Suite 201
Kansas City, Missouri 64114*

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Mark Your Calendars!

Easter Egg Hunt – March 15 – 10:00 a.m. Migliazzo Park
(Rain date is Saturday, March 22, same time)

Martin City St. Patrick's Parade – March 16 – 11:00 am

KCMO Dog Park Task Force meeting – March 18 – 6 – 7 pm
Water Services Bldg., 4800 E. 63rd Street

Richards-Gebaur EPA Brownfield Grant Public Meeting – March 18
– 6:00 pm, The View, 13500 Byars Rd., Grandview

Center Planning and Development Community Meeting – March 25
– 7:30 pm, Church of the Nazarene, 801 W 97th St.

KCMO Water Services Public Forum – March 26 – 6:00 pm Colonial
Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall

Spring leaf and brush pickup – Monday, April 21