

The Verona Hills Report

Summer 2008

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Welcome to the Summer 2008 issue of our Verona Hills Homes Association newsletter. In this issue you'll find news about:

Upcoming neighborhood events

Park improvements

Real estate market

Safety and anti-crime tips

Santa Fe Trail street improvements

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

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.

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.

Annual Homeowners Dues

Mailings were sent in the early part of June for your 2008/2009 Verona Hills Homeowners dues. We hope you have paid yours by now – but we do have about 200 of our 750 homes not paid for the year. We will be watching this closely.

We now have 12 very delinquent homeowners who haven't paid their annual dues for more than a year, and we have standing liens filed against their properties. We continue to try to work with these homeowners to obtain payment. Balances owed range from \$300 to \$1,100, for a total balance due of about \$8,200. Here are the addresses of the past-due residents:

800 Santa Fe Trail

317 West 116th Street

801 West 114th Terrace

707 West 114th Terrace

117 West 119th Street

11805 Central

11705 Summit

11907 Glen Arbor Terrace

12121 Summit

11719 Washington

11724 Wyandotte

11703 Jefferson

We encourage these homeowners to contact HACCD at 813-523-2440 to make payment immediately, as interest and fees continue to accrue on balances due.

Community Events

Easter Eggs Finally Discovered!!!

After rain forced a cancellation of the first scheduled date, the Easter Eggs were ripe for picking when the hunt took place on March 22nd. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success.

We're looking for someone to take over the Easter Egg Hunt responsibilities beginning next spring. It is a great event that is a HUGE success every year...everyone LOVES it! Please email Tina Cotton if you are interested at tcotton1@kc.rr.com. Thanks!

Summer in the Park

Mark your calendars for July 12th for our "Movies in the Park". We will be showing "Grease" this year. Come to Migliazzo Park at dusk and bring your blankets, chairs, snacks and drinks. We will provide popcorn. The movie will start at dark. Hope to see you there!

Also, "BBQ in the Park" is currently being planned for September. Great BBQ and really fun jazz...hope everyone can come for a great time!

Annual Verona Hills Garage Sale

This very popular neighborhood event is in need of a chairperson to manage the details! If you're interested, please email Tina Cotton, tcotton1@kc.rr.com. If we don't have a chairperson, we will not be able to have this event, so please volunteer!

Neighborhood

Santa Fe Trail Improvements

Work is to begin in July on the improvements to Santa Fe Trail east of Pennsylvania and will last approximately four months. Plan ahead - the road will be closed to through traffic during construction. A sidewalk along the new section will connect to the walking trail being constructed through Avila on the east side of Wornall Road.

Real News

While the housing market in many parts of the country has been dismal the past year, the numbers for Verona Hills don't look too bad.

Here are a few stats for Verona...through the past 6 months a total of 20 properties were listed – as of June 1, 8 remain. The average listing price for the 20 properties was \$302,373...average sale price was \$236,083. The high sales price was \$332,000, and the low sales price has been \$184,000. Of the inventory remaining, the high list price is \$369,900, and low list price is \$215,000. The condition of VH homes, street appeal of the neighborhood, with larger lots, etc., as well as our easy access to shopping and the interstate, continues to keep our market steady. Forbes Magazine recently rated KC as # 5 in the country in the stability of housing prices. This information courtesy of Judy Shearman of Prudential Kansas City Realtors.

Trash Talk

BULKY ITEM PICKUP

Please place your items at the curb just a day or two before the scheduled date to keep our neighborhood looking neat. KCMO Public Works Department is notifying residents that in the interest of improving service for all residents, it has increased the enforcement of rules associated with the Bulky Item Collection Program. Residents placing non-bulky items at the curb will receive notification that their items do not qualify for collection. Non bulky items will be left at the curb. If non bulky items are placed in a pile with bulky items, all items are likely to be left at the curb. Crews will not separate the material for collection. An item qualifies as bulky if it is too large for regular trash service. Typical bulky items are refrigerators, stoves, freezers, dishwashers, dryers, sofas, chair, desks, tables, doors and carpet. For a complete listing of the City rules regarding bulky items collection, visit www.kcmo.org/trash or call the 311 Action Center.

Don't Forget

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.

Park Pond

The removal of the island and frequent spring rains have combined to keep the pond at Migliazzo Park clean and attractive this year. Rumor has it the fishing is even better. Thanks for your help keeping the park clean and attractive for all Verona Hills residents.

Lots of Caring

On June 7, the United Way Day of Caring, volunteers from the Panhandle Eastern Corporation assisted with a general cleanup of the New Santa Fe Cemetery. More than 20 persons trimmed trees, pulled weeds, mulched flower beds and cleaned tombstones at the historic cemetery. Our thanks to these volunteers for their efforts to keep our neighborhood attractive.

If you're interested in contributing your time or treasure to the upkeep of this historic neighborhood landmark, contact Ann O'Hare at 942-5033.

Monumental Project

Landscaping and lighting has been completed on the entrance monuments at the corners of Minor Drive and Wornall and State Line. Work will begin this fall on additional monuments on Wornall Road.

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

GoogleMap Crime Data

Awareness of local crimes being committed helps us protect ourselves, and Kansas City Police officials have just launched a free service that maps crimes committed by area. It is very easy to use and we encourage you to check it out. CrimeReports can be accessed via www.crimereports.com or www.kcpd.org.

Speaking of Crime....

Did you know that over 50% of home burglars enter through the garage? An equal number of burglaries occur during the daylight hours. During the summer months, trusting homeowners often roll out the welcome mat to crime by leaving garage doors open while working in the yard or taking the kids for a spin around the block in their wagon. So be aware – police on both sides of the state line have noticed a pattern of midday burglaries where the thief enters the garage and grabs expensive tools, bicycles or golf clubs and is gone within seconds.

And with that said.....

Join a Neighborhood Crime Watch training class and help keep an eye on crime! Details can be found at <http://www.kcmo.org/neigh/CrimeWatchtrainings2008.pdf>. Training is free and there are multiple sessions across the City.

Just Click

Verona Hills' newsletters and upcoming events can be accessed at the Homes Association of Country Club District Web site. Visit www.HACCD.org, click on "Missouri Associations", then "Verona Hills" to access important information and reminders. Let us know if there is other information you'd like to see on the site.

Along the Cyber-Trail

While we're talking Web sites, you can keep up with activities of the Historical Society of New Santa Fe by visiting their new site, www.newsantafe.org. The site was designed by Linda Lewis of Cottonhills Interactive.

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,

When I take my daily walk there are lots of tree limbs that make it difficult to walk on the sidewalk. Do we have any rules about tree trimming in the neighborhood?

A: The best thing to do about low hanging limbs is to knock on the door of the homeowner and explain the situation. If you don't want to do that you can always call the City Action Center at 3-1-1 and ask the City to remove the limbs. Keep in mind the City might take a while to trim.

Keeping tree limbs trimmed at least ten feet off the ground improves the appearance of your home, keeps it safer from intruders, and is a courteous thing to do for your neighbors.

Dear Jim,

The house next door to mine is overgrown with weeds. I never see the people who live there and I'm getting concerned. What should I do?

A: To ensure Verona Hills maintains its reputation as a desirable place to live, it is critical that we all maintain our properties and watch out for those that aren't. It's a good idea to first let your neighbor know you are concerned about the appearance of their property. If there is no response you can make a report to the City Action Center so that the complaint can be officially logged. The City will pursue the matter with the ability to leverage penalties.

Dear Jim,

I often see a lot of activity at Migliazzo Park after closing time. What is the best way to keep the park safe at night?

A: We have directed our off-duty officers to pay special attention to the Park during late hours, especially on weekends. If there is activity in the park after official closing time (10:00 p.m.), please call 911 to report. The police will send an officer and the culprits will soon get the message we are watching them.

*Verona Hills Homes Association
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Mark Your Calendars!

Verona Hills Movies in the Park – July 12 – Migliazzo Park at dusk

BBQ in the Park – Mid-September

Geese in the Park – Daily

Neighborhood Garage Sale – TBD when we find Chairperson

Verona Hills Annual Meeting – November 13th – Blue Hills CC