
Neighborhood News

Country Club District Homes Association

Let's Keep The Neighbor In Neighborhood

March, 2012

By Master Patrol Officer James Schriever, KCPD



Yesterday I had the opportunity to correspond with a great community partner who was discussing the importance of neighborhood watch and personal neighborhood contacts. Here is a quote from that correspondence.

“There was a song that was recently popular. The lyrics went, ‘We don’t have neighbors, that’s why they call it the hood’. I thought that was so interesting. I never really knew why they called it the ‘hood’ maybe because everyone wears hoodies, or hoods over their faces? But no, the song explained it, because they took the ‘neighbor’ out of ‘neighborhood.’”

In KC urban and midtown neighborhoods we have what is called “front porch neighborhoods.” This design usually

consists of smaller back yards with large front porches. Most suburban neighborhoods are referred to as “back deck neighborhoods.” They usually have smaller front yards with little or no front porches but have large decks in the rear.

The front porch design was to bring all residents to the front to interact, to get to know and to look out for your neighbors. This design was also instrumental in developing neighborhood watches and in knowing what was happening on your block.

When gangs started, one of the huge obstacles was to get the neighbors off the porches and into their houses so their actions could not be detected. Through intimidation, threats, graffiti and violence, they were mostly successful and created what was known as a “hood.” This “hood” mentality has been a root cause of urban decay and violence.

In the past you have heard me speak on the importance of putting community back into community policing, we also need to focus on putting the neighbor back into neighborhoods.

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The Future of Bryant Elementary School

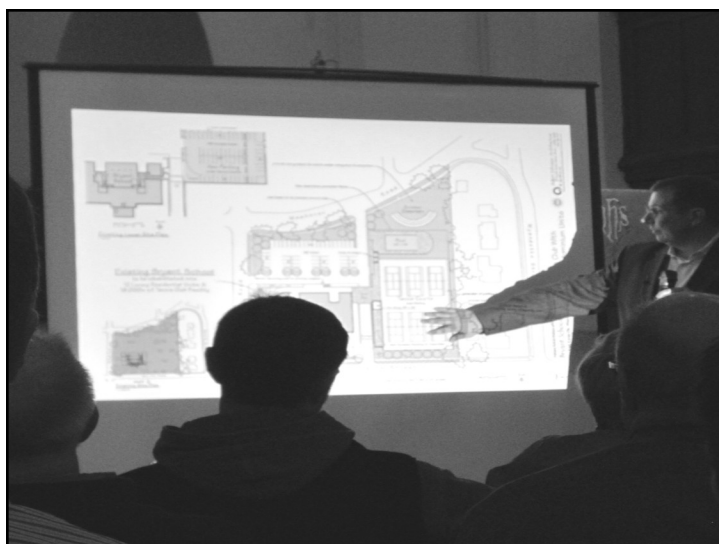
The Kansas City Public School district issued a “Request for Expressions of Interest” on November 28, 2011. The deadline for submitting proposals/ offers was February 17th, 2012. On March 20th, the short listed proposals were presented at a community meeting held at the Country Club United Methodist Church.

On February 7th, a group called the Kansas City Sustainable Development Partners, LLC presented an overview of their plan

to move the Rockhill Tennis Club to the former Bryant Elementary School site. They described their plan as an “historic adaptive reuse” of the building. It would not be

torn down or gutted inside. The plan also includes building 12 residential units within the school’s structure. To accommodate parking needs, an underground garage would be built underneath the tennis courts in an area now occupied by the play ground area on the SE section of the property. A swimming pool would also be built in the NE area of the property.

The school sits on 4.15 acres, is in the Courtyside HOA and has been closed since 2009. It will be interesting to see what other plans are developed.



KCKIDSFUN.COM

This is a great site to find fun activities for your kids. You will even find ticket discounts for many of the activities. The majority of activities are in Jackson and Johnson counties and are suited for children of all ages.

The list is endless and includes art, dance, vocal music, sports, cooking, camping, fairs, historic site visits as well as a list of summer camps. There is even a tab for “Moms’ & Dads’ Groups.”

Looking for clothes or toys for the kids? The “Consignment Sales” tab lists dates and locations around the metropolitan area where sales are being held.

Here are just a few of the fun activities listed for this spring:

- ♦ **Junior Iron Chef** Saturday, April 14th at the Union Station
- ♦ **Deanna Rose Farmstead** opens April 1st
- ♦ *** 31st Annual Kids Fishing Derby** at Lake Jacomo May 5th
- ♦ **Toddling Troops** Kansas City Zoo Thursday mornings at 9am
- ♦ **Charlie Brown’s Jungle Journey** Worlds of Fun beginning June 2nd
- ♦ **Conservation Kids Club-Frogs, Symphony Of Spring** Burr Oak Woods Nature Center April 10th
- ♦ **Cooking Wild Series: Pizza Gone Wild** Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center March 30th
- ♦ **Cartooning For Kids** Kansas City Art Institute April 15-May 6th

A PERFECT ST PAT'S DAY PARADE!

Pictures by Teresa Stockton



Old & New Blend Together



These two homes face one another on Brookside Blvd. The banner in front of the 100 year old house caught my eye first. I admit that I was skeptical about the new one as it was being built but it seems that the finished product fits well. Notice the generous front porch on both homes.



Calling All Bikers!

“Bike Week” in Kansas City is so jammed packed with events they are calling it “Bike Month”! There are over fifty events scheduled for May, including popular traditions like the **Bike-In Movie** and new favorites like the **Bike Prom**. Get the bike week skinny at <http://bikeweek.bikewalkkc.org>.

In the spirit of the Golden Age Of Bicycles,” the popular **3rd Annual Kansas City Tweed Ride** is scheduled for April 14th. Meet at Cliff Drive, Kessler Park in historic old Northeast KC for an afternoon of “sophisticated social revelry upon the most marvelous machines ever devised by man.”

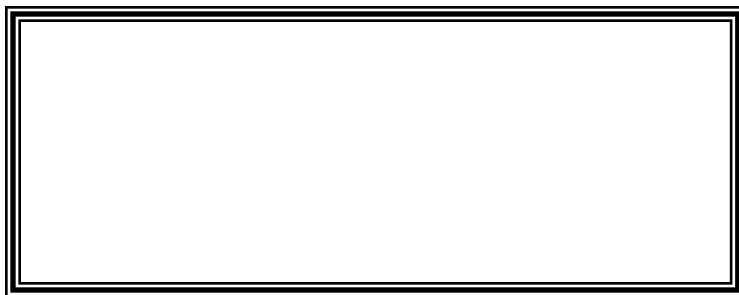
For those wanting even more involve-

ment, a **Bike Week Open House and Idea Generator** will be held Tuesday, March 27th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Community Christian Church on the Plaza.



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