

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

KCPD COMMUNITY FORUM

by President, Nina Hollabaugh

On Saturday, March 7th, Country Club District and Countryside Home's Associations hosted a KCPD Community Forum. Over 50 people attended the event which was held in the Social Hall at Country Club Christiaan Church. A panel of eight officers from the Metro Police Division addressed the issues and concerns of the neighbors. They detailed how the three department watches operate and interact, provided detail of recent criminal activity in our area and answered all of the questions that were posed by the audience. In addition, they discussed the various ways we could help secure our homes to make them less attractive targets and less vulnerable to burglary.

The officers urged us all to be proactive. If you notice any suspicious individuals, harassing solicitors or unusual cars on your street, don't hesitate to call the KCPD Police Non-Emergency Number **816.234.5111 or 911** and report this observation. It is helpful for the patrol officers to have descriptions in case individuals or groups are casing the neighborhood. Take the time to put this number in your cell phone or place it by your landline, so that you can reach them quickly. KCPD provides residential security assessments free of charge to City residents. Contact Metro CIO John Trainor at john.trainor@kcpd.org to schedule yours.

Some additional items the officers outlined to help make your home a harder target included: lock doors and garage doors even when home, to discourage quick grab and dash crimes. Don't leave your car idling in the driveway. Unlocked cars or cars with valuables in plain view are easy targets. If someone knocks on your door or rings your bell, do not ignore them. Often burglars knock at the front door, if there is no response they go to the back door and kick it in. They do not want to confront individuals. If they know you are home, they will move to another target.

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FUTURE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & VOLUNTEERS WANTED

As a resident of the Country Club District Homes Association, your Board of Directors encourages you to become an involved member of our neighborhood. While it is often the case that we are looking for new board members, there are also other ways you can get involved. Examples of these opportunities would be on Dumpster Day when we ask volunteers to give an hour of their time to help load the dumpster; at our yearly HOA Dinner when we need help at the registration table and bar; and helping with our website as we try to keep it current.

In addition to the volunteer opportunities above, we are also forming a garden committee to help Molly McGee take care of our islands. Within the CCDHA, there are ten islands that we oversee. We hire Heinen Landscape & Irrigation to mow and trim. That may seem like all that is necessary but it is not. Plants need to be chosen and planted at the islands both in the ground and in urns. Each island needs to be monitored to make sure trash does not accumulate and a need does not go unnoticed. If you feel that you would like to get more involved in YOUR neighborhood, please email mtejde@gmail.com.

Cycle in the City

This event will take place on Ward Parkway between Meyer and Gregory on May 16th from 2:00 to 5:00. It is intended to be a free family-friendly open streets festival that encourages urban exploration through bicycling, walking, jogging, skating and playing.

There will be no start or finish line at Cycle in the City, just a wide open split-lane boulevard that welcomes people of all ages to explore KC in an innovative, healthy, social and fun environment with no motor traffic.



Our New Neighbors

Amanbir Kaur

1030 W. 59th Terrace

Robert B. Adams

820 W. 65th Street

McGregor Johnson & Lindsay Steiner

821 W. 59th Terrace

Saturday KC Farmers Markets

For those of you seeking fresh food this spring and summer, KC boasts several farmers markets you may want to try:

Brookside (9-12) 63rd and Wornall

City Market (6-3) 20 E. 5th Street

KC Organics (8-12:30) Red Bridge and Homes

Olathe (7:3 until sold) 200 W. Santa Fe

Overland Park (7-1) 7950 Marty

Troostwood Youth Garden (9-3) 5142 Paseo

Shawnee (7-4) Nieman @ Johnson Drive

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Trim large bushes and foliage around your windows and doors so burglars can't conceal themselves while trying to look inside or break in. Lighting is a big deterrent to crime. Make sure you have outside lights around your home and turn them on. Areas that are very dark provide cover for criminal activity. If you have an alarm system, make sure it is permitted by the city. If it is equipped with an outside alarm and/or strobe lights, it is usually more effective. Notify neighbors when leaving town and kindly ask them to collect papers and mail, rather than "stopping delivery" while gone. This also gives your neighbor a heads up, in case they see any unusual activity while you are away. Place timers on lights inside your home to activate when you are gone.

Our thanks to Major Floyd Mitchell, Captain Shawn Nichols, Captain Don Jantzen, Captain Justin Kobolt, Sergeant Kevin Kilkenny, Sergeant John Blomquist, Sergeant Mike Satter and Community Information Officer John Trainor. They were all very informed, approachable, humorous and on point. We know from the many positive comments that neighbors came away with a much more clear understanding of how the department operates and an even greater appreciation for all they do to keep us safe every day.

Many thanks to CCC Church for giving us such a great place to gather and providing coffee and beverages. Also, a big thank you to CCDHA board members Hannah Fenley and Mary Edwards, who coordinated with Kathy Arthur, president of the Countryside HA to secure the panel of officers, prepare an agenda and facilitate the program.



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