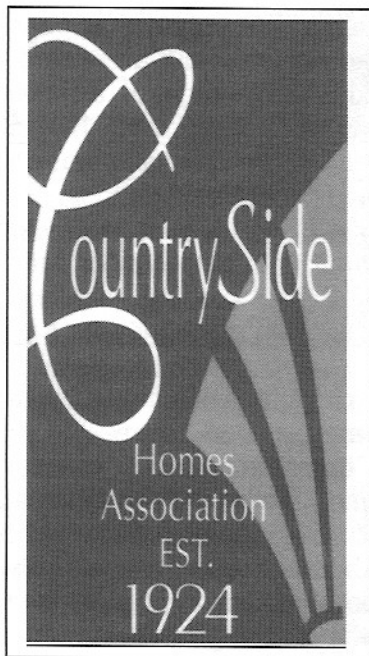


CountrySide Newsletter

September 2007



Notes from Our Neighborhood President

"Neighborhood and neighbors." This is a constant response in the survey as to why we choose to live in CountrySide. Your next-door neighbor is what makes the difference between wanting to be part of a community of people, and just living somewhere.

Recently, the neighborhood's harmony has been tested by the rash of crimes that have taken place in the surrounding area. Neighbors have become concerned about their safety, whether it's their property or even while walking late at night. It's unfortunate that a few criminal acts can dramatically change the way we view our neighborhood and our personal well-being.

An additional article in this newsletter highlights the Q&A meeting attended by Police Captain Marckx, but I wanted to address some things I think make any neighborhood work. Care and respect for your neighbors is No. 1 in my book. That means being a good neighbor, making the effort to know the people who live around you, watching out for each other, helping those who need it, being considerate about noise, property upkeep and pets. These days we all lead busy lives, but that shouldn't stop each of us from taking a minute to say "hi" and show an interest in our neighbor. The better we know each other, the easier it is to avoid or resolve conflict, work as a group to accomplish the goals of your block, be alert for signs of trouble and help each other lead a full and peaceful life.

I sincerely hope we've seen the worst of it, and that the coming months will remind us why we live in the beautiful urban neighborhood of CountrySide.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Day

Have you been looking for a way to clear out all that leftover unwanted paint, garden chemicals and other hazardous waste items you would normally have to bring to the city's Deramus outlet? The Ward Parkway Homes Association has offered to let us work with them on this effort.

The Hazmat Daze will be held on **Saturday, September 8, at the Hale School, 73rd and Pennsylvania, and will run from 8 to 11 a.m.** This is not just ABOP (antifreeze, batteries, oil, paint), so take this opportunity to clean out your homes and garages.

It's Time for Our Picnic!

The picnic is shaping up to be bigger and better than last year. It will be held on **Saturday, September 15, from 3 until 7 p.m.** We made it a bit later so that families who have sports events in the morning can still join us for neighborhood fun later. The band, Nikki and Selective Memory, should be a big hit. If you want to hear a sample of their songs, go to <http://nikkikc.com/index.html>. As usual, we will have great food, drinks, games, etc. so come on out and renew old acquaintances and meet new neighbors.

Picnic Volunteers

We are still looking at volunteers to help with the setup and tear down. If you're willing to help, please contact Nadine Rodeghier at 816-516-5299 or nrodeghier@kc.rr.com

Voice Calling System

There have been plenty of times when we've said, "Gee, wouldn't it be nice if we could get to everyone in the CountrySide HOA to let them know something." The only way was to send a postcard, which is no solution when time is a factor, or hope word of mouth would get to enough people. Well, a solution has knocked on our door.

Mobilepage has an automated voice calling system that will allow us to send a message to all members instantaneously at a very small cost. This will give us a way to provide critical information alerts as well as reminders for things like the picnic and annual meeting. If you hear "CountrySide Home Owners Association announcement" when you pick up your phone, please listen rather than hanging up. It's not a solicitation, and we promise not to bother you with frivolous announcements. If you have not provided

an up-to-date phone number, we will need that so you can be part of this handy system.

We are also putting together an e-mail list to provide additional information for similar purposes so please make it a point to send yours to a member of the board for inclusion.

Security Issues in CountrySide

A number of neighbors have expressed their concern regarding a jump in crime during the past few months in CountrySide and the surrounding neighborhoods. In order to provide factual information, the board invited Captain Marckx, the Watch Commander for the Dog Watch (overnight detail).

Captain Marckx began the August 17 session by introducing himself to the group, generously making himself available for both a presentation regarding the criminal activity taking place as well as engaging in a lengthy Q&A from the neighbors. He stayed until all questions were answered.

Highlights of Captain Marckx presentation included the following:

1. Definition of terms
 - a. Stealing - taking property from where it belongs
 - b. Robbery – stealing with force (i.e. gun presented)
 - c. Burglary – entering or remain in a structure to steal
 - d. 1st Degree Burglary - burglary with people present/at home.
2. Description of actions taken by KCPD – They had increased patrols, and detained and questioned suspicious pedestrians and suspicious drivers during a two-week period. A typical patrol for the Metro District area includes 12 -16 cars per night, and following the numerous requests and reports of crime in our area, a greater number of cars were allocated. The result was several arrests of individuals for various violations including parole violations, possession of illegal weapons, etc... It's not clear however if any of those arrested were the suspects involved in the recent crime wave. It is clear though that the increased police activity has curtailed most of the criminal activity in our area.
3. Response Time – Average response time is 8 minutes on calls to the 911 emergency number.

4. KCPD contact numbers – Non-Emergency # 234-5530, Emergency # 234-5111.

When asked, Captain Marckx explained that nearly all burglaries that had taken place in our area were a result of the thieves taking advantage of an open window, unlocked door, or garage left open. In each case, items taken were in clear view and easy to grab. Things like purses, wallets, laptops, cell phones, and keys, allowing them to steal cars, were left on countertops in clear view of a window or door.

Captain Marckx provides us with guidelines for safer living.

First, most of the criminal activity takes place between the hours of 9pm – 1am.

It's important to use common sense to avoid becoming a victim of crime. Actions that individuals can take include the following: leave exterior lights on, lock doors and windows, draw blinds, close curtains, do not leave personal belongings in view. Walk your property in the evening to see what a burglar would see. Make sure that from outside the home, nothing can be seen inside the home. Close garages, lock vehicles, keep garage door openers out of sight, and most important, be observant and vigilant. If you see suspicious activity, note the car, type, number of doors, color, and license plate. If you see a person acting suspiciously, note their characteristics and, if you remain concerned, call 234-5111. If you are in imminent danger, call 911. For administrative issues call 234-5520. Always leave your name and a number where KCPD can get back to you.

An Identity for Our Neighborhood

Neighborhood: *A district forming a community within a town or city, where inhabitants recognize each other by sight.*

For some time now, we've been discussing the desire to better identify CountrySide to the public. Some areas hang banners or have other signage announcing the boundaries of their neighborhood. Other communities are known for their flowers, architectural style, festivals, and other representative characteristics.

One of the questions in the recent survey asked how you might like to see CountrySide presented, whether it's with banners, signs, flowers, trees, etc. The results of the survey will be published in the

December newsletter and the board will discuss how we move forward from there.

We do believe some way of promoting our historic neighborhood would be a positive step.

Historic District Update

The training session for the historic district expansion project was held on Saturday, August 4, at the Plaza Library. About a dozen neighbors joined Brad Wolf of the City's Landmarks Commission to learn more about the process for expanding the historic district and how to conduct the necessary survey work.

Brad provided a description of the various styles of houses that we might expect to find in our neighborhood, such as classical revival, four square, Kansas City shirtwaist and Tudor. For those who want to learn more about different house styles, Brad suggested *Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester.

During the session Brad discussed and provided illustrated examples of the various elements of a house that need to be noted when conducting a field survey. These include the type of roof, windows, façade, cladding, foundation, materials and various others. A detailed checklist was provided that will make our work easier.

When the field work is complete, then we conduct research about the actual construction of each house. For this we would first turn to building and water service permits to determine date of construction, architect (if noted), builder and original owner. Brad will help us with this work, most of which will take place in City Hall or at the offices of the Water Services Department. If these resources fail, then we rely on other records such as trade magazines from the period during which our neighborhood was built. John Duncan (48 E 52nd Street) has a real estate abstract that provides owner information from the time our homes association was created. He has offered this resource to assist us in our research.

Next Steps

We have quite a bit of work ahead, so here are the next steps to continue making progress.

1. Getting Organized – We need to identify teams of 2 or 3 people to complete the necessary field survey and research. Each team will be assigned a block and provided a field survey guide and checklist to complete

work. We've already identified volunteers for the majority of the blocks that are part of this effort, but we still need help on the following blocks: 54th Terrace, 55th Street, 56th Street, 56th Terrace, 57th Street and Oak. If you live on these blocks, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact any member of the volunteer committee listed below.

2. Complete Field Surveys – Once you're assigned a block, the task is to complete the field survey. The field survey on each house should take about 15 minutes, which should get easier and faster as volunteers get more comfortable doing it. There are about 250 houses to survey. Although you might think this is a daunting task, consider this: the South Hyde Park neighborhood just completed a survey of 800 homes within their boundaries. We're not saying our task is easy, but it is certainly doable.
3. Complete Building Permit Research – Once the field work is complete, we move indoors, either in City offices or at the Central Library. We will arrange for the Landmarks Commission Staff to have all permit materials and information ready for our volunteers. This is work that can be done during the winter, but considering the holidays and other commitments, we would like to be finished by March 15, 2008.

The final step in the process is to submit the completed forms and photographs to the Landmarks Commission. They will be responsible for entering all the information into their database to begin the formal process to amend the boundaries of the National Historic District to include our entire homes association.

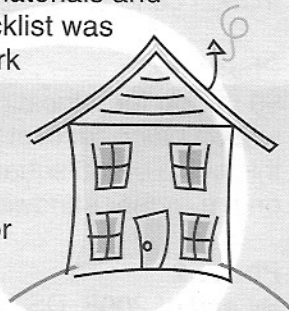
Please feel free to contact these Historic District Expansion experts—or anyone on the board—if you have any questions.

Historic District Expansion Contacts

- Laurie Bedlington 816-523-8110
laurie.a.bedlington@hud.gov
- Patricia Jerez 816-444-0435
dimedame@sprintmail.com
- Mario Vasquez 816-444-6424
mvasquez@kc.rr.com
- Laura Whitener 816-361-0144
lwhitener@att.net

HISTORIC HOME PLAQUES

The Country Side Board has worked out a special deal for historic home plaques with Erie Landmark



Co. of Columbia, Penn. These quality, bronze plaques are similar to those on homes located between Wyandotte and Wornall on 53rd Street. Overall, they give our neighborhood an historic feeling similar to Colonial Williamsburg and add to Country Side's charm and property values. Special thanks to Clark Greenlee and Jeff Schmidt for blazing the trail for the rest of us and sharing what they learned along the way.

To obtain this special price, we have agreed to one, consistent look.

The price quoted below is for all plaques ordered in 2007 with EXACTLY the same material, construction, style and wording EXCEPT FOR THE ARCHITECT'S NAME AND DATE. **There may be additional charges for ANY CHANGES to the basic design. YOU MUST PROVIDE the name of the architect and date for your home to Erie. All communication will be between individual CountrySide homeowners and Erie directly. The board is not responsible for communication, approvals or other details of your order.**

For architect name and year built, contact:
Heather Gilbride, Landmarks
816-513-2902 or heathergilbride@kcmo.org

To Order:

You may place your order online, by fax, mail or telephone.

You must reference JOB NUMBER 24113 to get our price.

PROVIDE ARCHITECT NAME AND YEAR BUILT

Contact: Mary Warrenfeltz.
Erie Landmark Company
637 Hempfield Hill Road
Columbia, PA 17512
Toll Free: 1-800-874-7848
Fax: 717-285-9060 or 703-758-2574
Email: info@erielandmark.com
Website: www.erielandmark.com

Country Side Plaque Details:

Material: Bronze
Finish: Brown
Size: 10"x7" rectangle
Font: New Brunswick
Single Border
Concealed Mounting with two 3" brass anchors (back mounting, not visible from front)

Delivery is approximately 4-8 weeks from written art

approval given to Erie Landmark. Additional fees for rush orders.

Terms of Payment: Payable on art approval. They accept Visa or Mastercard.

Price: \$150.70

This includes base price of \$128.70 plus \$22 Shipping. Price good through 2007.

DST Plans for 49th – 51st & Main

In case you missed the *Star* article by Kevin Collison (Friday, July 6 Business Section), DST Realty is planning major investments along a two-block stretch of Main Street to complement its nearby Kirkwood luxury residential development (high-rise condominium tower, townhouses and single-family homes bound by Wornall & Wyandotte, from 49th to 50th Streets).

According to Tom McDonnell, president & CEO of DST, "We want to see it revitalized with a mix of retail, residential and office use to complement Kirkwood and the 4900 Main building." McDonnell said progress on phases of the project, including the supermarket and apartment projects, depends on market conditions.

Phase 1

\$9 million for relocating Planet Sub to the vacant fire station being renovated. After that move is completed this fall, a 9,730 square-foot retail building will go up on the former sandwich shop site.

Phase 2

By end of 2008, DST proposes to build a 5,000-square-foot ground-floor addition to UMB Bank at 4900 Main. Now under negotiation with UMB, the plan would shift the bank's current drive-in closer to Main Street, house the retail banking there, and replace the ground floor of 4900 Main with UMB's high net worth group.

Later Phases

- Construction of a supermarket and office project on the NW corner of 51st & Main, comprised of retail space wrapped by a 125-unit apartment development.
- The renovation of 4901 Main office building into mixed-use office, retail and residential space.

This Main Street investment furthers DST's goal of improving the area and protecting the neighborhood. We hope to have a presentation on this project for CountrySide residents and businesses in the future.

Welcome Baskets – Advertise your business to your neighbors

We are reinstating our Welcome Wagon and Gift Baskets as way of welcoming new neighbors. If you would like to be on the committee, or if you would like to contribute items for the basket, please contact us. Contributions could be anything from gift certificates and discount coupons to foods, t-shirts or plants. Oh, and we'll need baskets, of course. This is a great way to advertise your business to your own neighbors. As a thank you for your contributions, we will provide a mention for your business in the newsletter.

Preliminary Survey results

As of this moment, there have been over one hundred and sixty-five responses received from you, the members. The full results will be published in the December issue of the newsletter. Here's a teaser:

There were 165 responses, 34 that were anonymous.

Q15 – Raise in dues – 133 yes to 32 no vote.

All these are based on a scale of importance - 1 (low) to 5 (high)

Q1	Physical upkeep	4.4
Q2	Clean-up	4.1
Q3	Security	4.4
Q4	Traffic	3.9
Q5	Snow plowing	4.3
Q6	Flooding	3.7
Q7	Tree/sidewalk	3.5
Q8	History	3.5
Q9	Celebrations	3.2
Q10	Oxford/etc	3.2
Q11	Taxes	4.4
Q12	Apparel	1.9
Q13	Website	2.9
Q14	Contribute	3.1
Q15	Raise in dues - 123 Y/35 N	

There are many written comments, some very nice, some not. These will need to be reviewed in detail and compiled into some usable form. We will try to share as much detail as possible in the December newsletter.

One trend I noticed was a concern about security and having a method to be notified when something of importance is taking place. I remind everyone that we have a new voice notification system, and have solicited your phone number and email address

along with the survey. If you have not sent those in, please do as those are the methods we will use to notify the members about important items.

What's Your Favorite Pastime?

Is it garage sales, German shepherds or gourmet coffees? Whatever it is, chances are some of your neighbors share your passion. Why not start an informal neighborhood group to share ideas? One such group of photographers and artists started from a casual comment made at our annual meeting. We can help you spread the word in our newsletter.

2008 Centennial Celebration

We continue to seek people with information and/or pictures about CountrySide, or interesting historical stories. Our plan is to put together a booklet describing the history of CountrySide and as many of the houses as we can get information about. Please contact any board member.

New Telephone Directories

We have delayed printing to allow us to include the most up-to-date

information we could that was gathered from the responses sent in with the survey. Once these updates have been made, we will produce the new phone directory. If you have additions or corrections, please call Kevin Vaughn 816-960-3606, or email at

mrandmrsvaughn@sbcglobal.net



New Resident Information

Are you new to the neighborhood? Are you unsure when trash, recycling or bulky items are being picked up? Are you not sure where to vote? Would you like to know where the closest community center is located? All of these questions and more can be answered simply by a click of a button. Kansas City has a very helpful website at www.kcmo.org under the Residents section where many of your questions can be answered. General Citizen Services can also be reached by phone providing a recorded message system, or individual questions can be answered by calling (816)-513-3490.

Important Seasonal Phone Numbers

Power line Down	1(888) LIGHT-KC
Potholes	(816) 513-1313
Water Main Break	(816) 513-0209
Snow Removal	(816) 513-9364
Action Center	(816) 513-1313
Gas Leak	1(800) 582-0000

CountrySide HOA Agenda (2007)

September 15, Annual CountrySide Picnic

October 27, Neighborhood Clean-up (dumpster day)

November 24, Winter Newsletter article deadline

December 17, Deadline for holiday house decorating

December 18, Boards Holiday Lights Judging

February 23, Spring Newsletter article deadline

March 22, Easter Egg Hunt

April 15, Annual CountrySide HOA mtg (@ eggtc)

April 26, Neighborhood Clean-up (dumpster day)

May 17, CountrySide Garage Sale

May 24, Summer Newsletter article deadline

June 21, CountrySide Garden Tour

August 23, Fall Newsletter article deadline

September 13, Annual CountrySide Picnic and 100th
Anniversary Celebration

CountrySide Website Information

<http://www.haccd.org/moassoc> then choose
CountrySide

2007 Board Members

Terry Rodeghier, President 816-516-5299
trodeghier@kc.rr.com

Mario Vasquez, Vice President 816-444-6424
mvasquez@kc.rr.com

Kevin Vaughn, Treasurer 816-960-3606
mrandmrsvaughn@sbcglobal.net

Joe Grego, Secretary 816-213-5634
joeg213@yahoo.com

Bill Robertson, Sgt. At Arms 816-361-8379
shawil@sbcglobal.net

Jim Kraus, Member 816-806-7653
jim@brooksiderealtors.com

Mary Kay Van Buskirk Morrow,
Member 816-363-2595

mary@kclocalcolor.com

Home Associations of the Country Club District
(HACCD) Clarence Foxworthy 816-523-2440