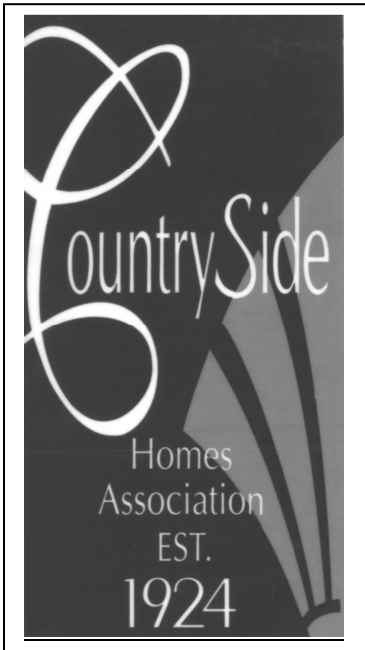


CountrySide Newsletter

Annual Meeting and Election Edition

March 2009



Notes from Our Neighborhood President

It seems like such a short time ago that we were planning for the last annual meeting, yet here we are again. At the 2008 Annual Meeting, you voted on a number of topics deemed critical to you based on the survey taken the summer before. The top two issues were crime and prevention, and

neighborhood beautification. We put a dues increase to a vote and you passed a \$50 increase to fund additional police patrols for one year with a revote in 2009. You also voted for a separate \$25 increase to fund beautification improvements. The \$25 increase will run for two more years, then decreasing to an ongoing \$10 for maintenance starting with the 2011 dues. In the following articles some of the board members will recap what has been accomplished this year, and what we plan to tackle in 2009.

We have two important votes at the meeting this year.

1) To determine if you would like to continue the \$50 increase for police patrols. A “yes” vote will mean we continue with the additional charge and a “no” vote means we discontinue the patrols. Please review the information provided in the newsletter and I think you will agree that the \$50 is money well spent.

2) There are two board members who are up for reelection this year. Terry Rodeghier (current President) and Mario Vasquez (current Treasurer), are both running for reelection. **If you would like to place your name on the ballot, please contact Terry Rodeghier prior to April 1st.**

I would encourage each of you to attend the annual meeting. This is an opportunity to meet with your neighbors, speak with your elected board on issues of importance to you, and hear our guest speakers discuss topics of interest.

Please note we have changed our venue this year. While we loved the space at eggTc, we out grew it last year making it difficult for neighbors to hear and participate. This year we will hold the meeting at Bo Lings Plaza location in the Board of Trade building. We hope you can all attend.

Annual Meeting Announcement

We will hold our Annual Meeting on April 14th, beginning at 6:P.M. with a happy hour. The place is a new venue, Bo Lings on the Plaza, in the Board of Trade building, 48th and Main. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:P.M. and last approximately two hours.

Agenda Items

- Opening remarks
- Treasurer’s report
- Officer Brent Parsons (discuss our patrol)
- Jan Marcason and Beth Gottstein*
- **Votes**
 - **A renewal of the \$50 dues increase for the Security Patrol**
 - **Two board positions**
- Committee updates
- Closing remarks

* Both Jan Marcason and Beth Gottstein represent our 4th District. Jan will discuss the City budget and what that may mean to you. If you have specific questions for either Councilwoman, please send them to Terry Rodeghier at nrodeghier@kc.rr.com

Holiday Light Judging Winners

Best House – 3 E. Concord Avenue

Best Block Participation – East 55th Terrace

I want to thank everyone who participated and made our neighborhood a little more festive during the holidays. Honorable mentions are:

Crestwood Shops (they really are in Countryside)
6 W 53rd Avenue
47 W 53rd Street

Countryside HOA Committees

It seems I missed thanking a number of people who have assisted or led events during the year so On behalf of the board and community I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the following volunteers who helped us in 2008.

Easter Egg Hunt

Brian & Carol Ann Sirokman
Mike & Linda Flynn
Jim & Rhonda Meloy
Denis & Jennifer (Jenny) Green

Beautification

Carole Mehl
Ron Pence
Allen Jones
Mary Buren
Stuart Becker

Security Patrol Update

At Countryside's 2008 annual meeting, an overwhelming majority of residents voiced their approval of an additional \$50 per year per household assessment to hire off duty Kansas City Police Department officers to patrol our neighborhood. The agreement was to fund four, four hour shifts per week for one year and to assess the effectiveness of the program for the 2009 annual meeting. The objective of this effort was to increase the frequency and visibility of patrolling officers and reduce the opportunity for crimes to be committed. Since the patrols began last summer, officers have consistently challenged questionable behaviors and identified suspicious persons. Monthly reports indicate that the patrol has more than met the stated objective. In the past six months, officers have logged over 400 interactions, resulting in 7 felony arrests and the clearance of 49 city warrants. Included in these interactions were 29 pedestrian checks, nearly 100 car checks and 63 calls for service. At a time when the City is considering a substantial reduction in KCPD's budget, which will almost certainly result in a curtailment of police services, the Board of Directors strongly recommends that the \$50 per household assessment for security be renewed for 2009-2010. Please plan to attend the annual meeting and vote to continue to support this important initiative.

Kathy Arthur, Neighborhood Watch
816-719-1687
rarthur@kc.rr.com

Beautification Update

Warm weather will soon arrive and with it the opportunity to once again turn our attention to working outside. During the winter we have consulted with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department to finesse plans for the landscaping and maintenance of the park and traffic island at 52nd and Brookside. Trees were planted in late fall on the traffic island; boxwoods and roses will be added as soon as weather permits. We have negotiated with the City for "enhanced maintenance" of the park property. The enhanced maintenance program provides additional mowing, fertilization, seeding and weed control. The traffic island at Wyandotte and Westover is slated for a makeover. A landscape architect recently assessed the property and is developing a plan for its renovation that we hope to share with you at the annual meeting. In the meantime, the City arborist has agreed to prune deadwood from the mature trees and lighten their canopies so that sunlight can reach the ground. If you have an interest in serving on a committee to implement these plans, or have a landscape company and are interested in presenting a bid for installation and/or maintenance, please contact Kathy Arthur rarthur@kc.rr.com, 816-719-1687

Countryside Board Requests PIAC Money to Restore Crumbling Monuments

Late last summer, the Countryside Board presented a proposal and made application to Kansas City's 13-member Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) for money to help us restore and preserve the historical stonework monuments located throughout our neighborhood as they were originally conceived by J.C. Nichols in 1907-08.

PIAC money is generated from a One-Cent Sales Tax for Public Improvements that was first passed by Kansas City voters in 1983, renewed in 1988 and again in 2000.

As a voter-approved tax with a specific purpose, PIAC money cannot be cut from the City's budget. However, funds are allocated to projects based on an application and review process that evaluates about 1,000 requests citywide and lasts until the final budget is approved each year in March.

The annual PIAC budget, comprised of about \$3.7 million this year, is used to fund capital

improvement projects such as streets, public property and municipal buildings. City engineers estimate that it will cost roughly \$8,000 for the first phase of our project - to rebuild the crumbling marker on the northwest corner of Main and Concord and to tuck-point our other stonework features in order to prevent further deterioration.

Our case was strengthened by the fact that Countryside residents voted to increase annual dues to undertake the improvement of our four islands, work that is now underway.

We received notice in September that City staff would examine our request and recommendations would be made to the Mayor and City Council for consideration as part of the spring budgeting process.

The City's website now indicates that is our request has been "recommended" for funding.

When the budget is final at the end of March, we will be notified whether or not our project will be funded.

For more information about our PIAC request to KCMO, contact Mary Kay at 363-2595 or mary@kccolor.com

Countryside Movie Nite

Once again, the Countryside Homes Associated is partnering up with the Parks Department to host a Movie in the Park. The event will be held at the park on 52nd and Brookside on **Saturday, May 9**. More details will be available at the annual meeting. This is a great way for neighbors to come together and enjoy a fun evening outdoors.

If you have a portable generator that provides at least 40 amps of electricity and are willing to loan it to for the evening, please contact Mario Vasquez at 816-444-6424.

Countryside Dumpster Day

The semi-annual tradition will continue with two dumpster days scheduled for Countryside. The first will be in mid to late May. We will put out a voicemail alert once we receive the date from the City. The second will be in the fall and will be posted in later newsletters. Each event will be located in the St. Teresa's West parking lot and begin at 8:A.M. and end at Noon. We will have two dumpsters, one for brush and yard waste, a second for trash. Please remember that no hazardous materials can be disposed so leave the paint, chemicals, tires, computers, etc. at home or bring them to the city's Deramus recycling branch.



Let's Talk About Your Trees.

MICHAEL FLYNN
COUNTRY SIDE RESIDENT
TEL: 816.500.1325

Announcing the Annual Countryside Easter Egg Hunt

Believe it or not friends but Spring is right around the corner and all the signs are there. Puxatawney Phil saw his shadow recently so we know that we're in for at least another couple of weeks of winter. But in the meantime, temperatures are beginning to climb and the days are getting longer while the nights are getting shorter. Heck, before we know it, it will be time for Spring Break.

Another sure sign of Spring is the Annual Countryside Homes Association Easter Egg Hunt. As has become tradition, we will be holding our hunt on Saturday, April 11th, the day before Easter at 10:00am, weather permitting (We will remind you of the event in the days prior via our "all call" system). And we're returning to our original site this year at St. Theresa's Academy. We've been assured by the kind folks at St. T's that they will postpone any fertilization treatments to their grounds until after Easter this year, so this makes for a safe environment for the kids.

After being unavailable last year, our friend and neighbor Jenny Greene will be organizing this year's Hunt. Jenny would really love to have some help from some of you and your older children with this venture. People are needed to stuff eggs and help place them throughout hunting grounds. For those that would like to have a little fun and are interested in donating their time and efforts to help Jenny stuff eggs and organize the hunt, contact Jenny at jgreene4870@yahoo.com or (816)341-1428. She's got a plan to make it worth your time and effort....

See you at the Hunt, and don't forget to bring your Easter Baskets!

Countryside Garage Sale

The Countryside Garage Sale will be held on **Saturday, October 3rd**. An ad will be placed in the KC Star and signs will be posted in the neighborhood.



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and Wyandotte, 55th and Wyandotte and Westover and Wyandotte, please contact Kathy Arthur, rarthur@kc.rr.com , 816-719-1687.



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Neighborhood Update

Welcome New Neighbors


Our new neighbors since the previous newsletter are listed below:

January

Patricia & Katrina Riha 5408 Central

February

Thomas & Stephanie Snyder 45 W Concord



Pam Grego Partner
 s 816.931.2630
 m 816.830.4734
 e pamgrego@yahoo.com

Sarah Jane Stevenson Partner
 o 816.361.8136
 m 816.985.8447
 e sjstevenson@kc.rr.com

Kansas City Recycling

Hello Homesteaders,

Good news on the recycling program (at least while we still have one). Deffenbaugh has expanded the types of plastics they will accept. Up until now, the only types of plastic that were accepted were No. 1 and No. 2, like soda and water bottles. As of now, Deffenbaugh will accept No. 3 through No. 7, like CD cases, plastic straws and laundry detergent caps. Basically, anything plastic is now fodder for the recycling facility.

As a quick reminder, here are the program guidelines from kcmo.org/pubworks.nsf/web/recyclefirst

Recycle these items in your bin:

- Aluminum cans and other metal cans
- Plastic bottles with a neck #1 and #2 (look for the number inside the chasing arrow symbol), such as water and soda bottles, milk jugs and detergent bottles
- Plastic containers #3 thru #7 (look for the number inside the chasing arrow symbol), such as yogurt and margarine/butter tub containers.
- Office paper, junk mail, newspapers, phone books, catalogues and magazines.
- Cardboard (thick corrugated and thin cereal box-type)

Don't put these in your bin:

- Pizza delivery boxes
- Glass
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Motor oil bottles and other automotive product bottles
- Egg cartons
- Paper towels, tissues or napkins, plates or cups
- Waxed containers, like milk cartons or juice boxes



Attention all landscapers! If you are the owner of a landscaping business and would like to submit a bid for installation and/or maintenance of the Countryside "islands" located at 52nd and Brookside, 52nd

- Gift wrap
- Shredded paper



How to participate: Participation requires the use of a recycling bin. This is required, because it signals the truck to stop. If you would like an extra bin, or need a replacement bin, please visit your local participating Westlake Ace Hardware or Price Chopper store. Bins are \$9 each.

Recycle: Take your recyclables to the curb every week on the same day as your trash pick up.



Every can, every day: Always remember to recycle your high value materials, like aluminum cans and newspaper!

Too much for the bin? Set extra recyclables in cardboard boxes, paper bags or plastic tubs next to the bin. If you have more than two bags of trash, purchase trash tags for the extra bags at Westlake Hardware or Price Chopper.

Written by: [Mark Forsythe](#)


[Wornall Homestead Homes Association](#)

telephones and they screened out all sales calls except those coming from politicians.

Next month may bring another wave of annoyance to your life, this one even more irritating than the calls during dinner. Next month cell phone numbers will go public. That means that for the first time, the cell phone companies (happy to have another revenue stream) will start releasing / selling cell phone numbers to telemarketing companies. If you don't act now to stop it, you will probably start receiving sales calls on your cell phone. If the mere intrusion isn't bad enough, depending on your call plan, you may also be charged for the very calls you never wanted in the first place.



Once again, it's up to you to opt out. To add your cell number to the Federal Trade Commission's National No Call List, call 888-382-1222. It only takes a minute and it blocks your number for five years. However, *you must call from the cell phone number that you want to have blocked.* You can't call from another cell phone.

Taken from the February HACCD Newsletter



James V. King, CLU®, ChFC®, CFP®
Financial Advisor

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www.nmfn.com/jimking

New Neighbor Gift Baskets

So far, two dozen gift baskets have been delivered to new arrivals in Countryside since last spring. We thank those who have contributed time, talent or gift items to welcome our newest neighbors.

Volunteers Mary Beth LeCluyse, Kristi Calkins, Casey McFarlane and Carla King have developed a great process to build and deliver the baskets. And their baskets are beautiful - a wonderful way to show our new neighbors that we're happy to have them in our neighborhood.

Donations from the following neighbors & friends have helped keep the cost of the baskets down: Mary Mountain of *Plaza Animal Clinic*, Carla King DDS, Kristi Calkins of *FIT Mama's*, Stuart & Cassandra Bitterman of *Bitterman Candy Company* – also fresh flowers & herbs, Paula Gilliland of *The Place to Come*, Eric Threat of *Studio E Esthetics*, Michelle Goss – fresh baked cookies, Mary Beth

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Hey, Don't Bother Me

Several years ago, we ran into an article about the state No Call lists, the ones that allow you to eat dinner without a side order of telemarketing calls interrupting your meal. Those No Call lists applied to "land line"

LeCluyse of *Southern Living at Home*, William & Sara Murray - wine, Rachel Kennedy of *RemodelME*, Kyle Kelly of *Kelly's of Westport*, Shannon & Jason Pryor of *Pizza 51*, Christine Snyder of *Snyder Remodeling*, Lou Ann Donavan of *Vemma Nutrition* and Mary Kay of *KC Local Color*, as well as the following businesses: *BB's Lawnside Bar-B-Q*, *Breath of Fresh Flair*, *Lights and Design by Dan*.

Please be sure do business with these folks and thank them for their generous contributions!

Thanks to all who have helped to re-institute this nice tradition.

For more information, to report any new neighbors who might have been missed, or to make a basket contribution, please contact Mary Beth at 916-7284 or mbislah@sbcglobal.net

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Countryside Hosts Mayor's Town Hall on March 11

Countryside Homes Association will host Kansas City Mayor Funkhouser's March Town Hall at **6pm** at the **Garden Center** behind the pavilion at **Loose Park**.

Town Hall meetings are open to the City. The Mayor typically speaks on current issues for about 20 minutes and takes questions for 40 minutes – keeping the length to about an hour. He likes to keep the format open and take candid questions directly from citizens.

Mayor Funkhouser, City Manager Wayne Cauthen and the City Council are tasked with cutting \$87 million from the budget by March 26th so this will be a timely opportunity to hear directly from the Mayor on key budget issues affecting Countryside.

For more information about this Town Hall Meeting, call Mary Kay at 363-2595 or mary@klocalcolor.com

Trails KC Project Receives PIAC Funding

Shannon Jaax, AICP in City Planning and Development Department writes that the City Council has announced PIAC funding of over \$1.5 million for the Trails KC projects including \$250,000 for design/ROW plans/construction drawings for the Trolley Track to Indian Creek Trail Connection, part of which is located in the 4th Council District.

Shannon asks that we remember to thank our council members and PIAC representatives for funding the trails.

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Citizen Task Force Recommends Revisions to Personal Property Tax Assessment Process

Last fall, the task force appointed by Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders to review how personal property taxes are assessed recommended that the process be revamped.

After gathering citizen feedback, the citizen taskforce recommended the following changes.

- prohibiting assessors from increasing a property's value by more than 15 percent except in "extreme circumstances"
- that the County review assessments of 15 percent or more from 2006 or 2007
- discouraging the use of "Certificates of Value" (filed by real estate agents when properties sell) as an exclusive appraisal tool
- use of an installment plan so residents do not have to pay their entire tax bill in full at the end of the year
- redesigning assessment notices to include information on how values are determined and how to appeal them
- allowing property owners who are appealing to pay the portion of the bill they agree with while the rest of the bill is being appealed

Director of Assessments Curtis Koons said that in previous years, certificates of deposit for one

property have been used to gauge the value of nearby properties; that factors such as a property's age or condition should be considered; and that in many cases new residential development was driving up the cost of older properties that may surround it.

Sanders said that the recommendations are not finalized policies.

"What we have to do is go through and see what we can and can't adopt," he said. "But the recommendations seem to make a lot of sense."

Sanders also said that he was concerned that tax assessments were not properly conducted under previous county administrations and that "the key component is making sure the process is transparent and understandable" for taxpayers.

It was not known at time of publication which recommendations will be adopted.

Property valuation is a key concern to Countryside residents and the board will keep residents updated as information becomes available.

Members of the Assessment Review Commission included: Fred C. Buckley III, Director of Missouri Government Affairs for the Home Builders Association of Greater KC; Rafaela "Lali" Garcia,

Neighborhood Activist; Kim L. Gladney, Pastor of Oak Grove MBC; Angelo Mancini, retired Executive Vice President of Bank Operations for Mercantile Bank; Molly Korth Williams, Attorney; and Ex-Officio Member Curtis Koons, Jackson County Director of Assessment.

For more information about Jackson County property tax assessment, contact Mary Kay at 363-2595 or mary@kclocalcolor.com

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Countryside 2008/9 Agenda
April 11, Easter Egg Hunt

April 14, Annual Countryside HOA meeting @ Bo Lings Plaza location, 48th & Main (Board of Trade Building) Social hour begins at 6: PM

Spring Dumpster Day (once date is determined we will send a voicemail notification)

May 9, Movie Nite Under the Stars – held at our park on 52nd and Brookside – starts at dusk

July 4th, Kid's bike parade (time to be announced later)

September 19th, Annual Picnic held at our park on 52nd and Brookside

October 3, Countryside Garage Sale

Fall Dumpster Day (date to be determined)

December 13, Holiday Lighting Judging



Plaza Animal Clinic, Inc.

Dr. Mary L. Mountain
5002 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64112
FAX (816) 931-3443

(816) 931-6636

CountrySide Newsletter

March 2009

The 2008 Board Members

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Jim Kraus, Vice President
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dansunk@yahoo.com

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

www.haccd.org

The Board meets on the second
Wednesday of each month at Minsky's
beginning at 7: PM. Please contact any
board member if you wish to attend so we
can put you on the agenda.

CountrySide Website

Information

http://www.haccd.org/moassoc/Country_Side

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

Advertise to your neighbors

We have begun taking ads for the newsletter as well as the directory which is being compiled. If you are interested in advertising your business, our newsletter reaches approximately 480 homes in the neighborhood. An ad the size of a business card (2" x 3 /12") is \$10 per issue or \$35 for four issues. Larger ads will cost multiples of that rate. Directory prices are \$25 per half page (approx 4" h x 5" w).

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.

Homes
Association
EST.
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