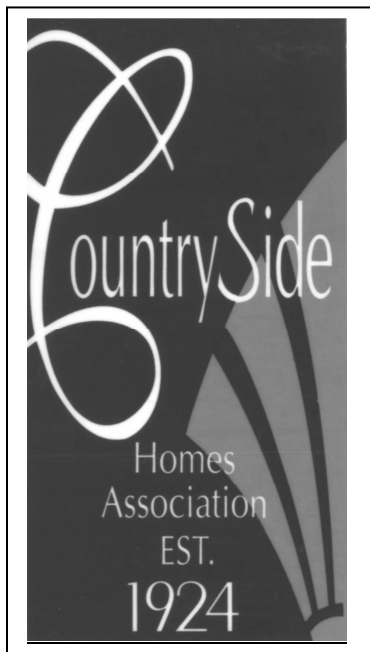


Countryside Newsletter

September 2009



Notes from Our Neighborhood President

Summer seems to be flying by, but then half of it did seem like another spring. Everything has been so green throughout July it seems very un-Kansas City. It's nice to see all of the home improvement activity going on in the neighborhood. We live in such a wonderful area and neighbors always seem interested in

making it better.

On a beautification note, last year saw the rebuilding of the Countryside marker and landscaping of the triangle at 52nd and Brookside. This year, we have been working with the neighbors living next to the island at Westover and Wyandotte to generate a plan that will enhance the island while keeping its English Country Garden flavor. We are in the process of getting bids to do the pathway stonework so you may see progress in that corner of our neighborhood yet this fall.

Our Security article will provide more information but needless to say, we are happy that our police patrol has apprehended and jailed several active felons during the past months. That doesn't mean we should let down our guard, but their and our vigilance is paying dividends. Doing the right things to protect our homes, cars and personal property will go a long way towards making our neighborhood a more crime free environment.

In these trying economic times, I want to thank all of you who have promptly paid your association dues in full. I know it may be a stretch for some of you, but we cannot continue to do the things we have as a community without those dues.

Thanks for being a part of Countryside.

The Countryside Annual Picnic is almost here!

The annual picnic will be held on **Saturday, September 19th, from 3 – 7 PM** in our park on 52nd and Brookside so mark your calendars. Music will once again be provided by Nikki and Selective Memory, providing a variety of contemporary, classical and country rock. There will be a Carousel Moonwalk, chalk art (3 – 7: PM), candy art and a tattoo artist (4 – 6: PM) for the kids. The afternoon will include a visit from the Police and Fire Departments with their vehicles on display. As always, there will be plenty of food and drink for all. *In order to help defray the cost of the beer and wine we will have a "donation jar" sitting near the coolers so please consider dropping something in to help.* This is a great opportunity to come on out and join your neighbors for a fun time in the sun. If you would like to give a hand with the picnic, especially with activities for kids as well as general set-up and tear-down, please call Nadine Rodeghier at 816-516-5299 or email nrodeghier@kc.rr.com. *If you or your business would have an interest in sponsoring any portion of the picnic or activities please contact a member of the board.*

For those attending, please be sure you are current on your dues as the "Other Services" portion is what pays for activities like this.

Countryside Fall Dumpster Day

The fall dumpster day will be held on **Saturday, October 3rd, from 8:A.M. until Noon** in St. Teresa's parking lot at the corner of 57th and Wyandotte. This is a great opportunity to clean out your basements, attics or garages. We will have one dumpster for lawn and garden waste and **two** dumpsters for household articles. We doubled the number of household dumpsters since we filled the spring dumpster by 10:A.M.! ***The additional dumpster is being sponsored by Jim Kraus, Brookside Realty.*** *If you would like your business to sponsor a dumpster now or in the future, please contact a member of the board.* Please do not bring any hazardous materials such as paint, oil, tires, batteries, etc.

We will be checking to ensure those dropping off articles are residents and current with their full dues. It is the Other Services portion of the dues that allows us to provide these services as well as the volunteers who organize and staff them.



Let's Talk About Your Trees.

MICHAEL FLYNN
COUNTRY SIDE RESIDENT
TEL: 816.500.1325

Harvesters Collection at the picnic


We will be collecting canned goods for Harvesters at this year's picnic. There will be a bin by the food area so please contribute something.

Also look for our neighborhood information table. We will have information regarding the proposed Community Garden at 51st and Main, as well as samples of the locking license plate covers and No Soliciting signs.





NEWSLETTER TO GO ELECTRONIC IN DECEMBER

While the newsletter is the most important means of communication between the board and neighbors, it is also one of the largest budget items. In order to save a considerable sum each year, we will be going electronic with the December issue. This means that instead of receiving a paper copy through the mail, you will receive an email letting you know that the newsletter has been published so you can retrieve it from the HA-KC Countryside web site at www.ha-kc.org to read or print. This will allow us to save up to \$3,000 each year. We assume most of you have access to email personally, or through a friend, but in case you do not, please call Terry Rodeghier at 816-516-5299 and we will keep you on the hard copy mailing list. Please note if you are not receiving our Neighborhood Watch emails, you are probably not on our email list or we have an old email address for you. In that case, please email Terry Rodeghier at nrdeghier@kc.rr.com so we can add or update your information. The only paper copy we will continue to send out to everyone will be the March edition that carries the Annual Meeting information.



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Security Patrol Update

June and July were busy months for car burglars targeting Countryside. In response, the watch commanders at KCPD Metro deployed additional resources to combat the problem and made multiple arrests. At least one arrest was made as a direct result of a "suspicious person" report called in by an alert Countryside resident. The importance of notifying police when suspicious people or activities are noticed in our neighborhood cannot be overstated. The police are eager to assist us, but we must be proactive in promptly reporting anything that does not seem "right." **If you see a crime in progress or feel that your personal safety is threatened in any way, call 911.** If you discover a theft after the fact or want to report a suspicious person, please use the non emergency number, 234-5111. Everyone is aware of the need to remove valuables from parked cars, but we are reminded to remove garage door remote controls



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from cars that are parked outside. If your car is broken into and the remote is stolen, immediately disable your automatic opener by unplugging it until you can change the code.

The neighborhood watch coordinator for Wornall Homestead (south of Countryside) reports recent thefts of license plate stickers. This type of theft is a perennial problem and should be reported to KCPD. If you are victimized, go to <http://dor.mo.gov/mvdl/motorv/tabtheft.htm> for information about replacement. Note that if you have a police report you will be charged only a \$3.50 processing fee. PO James Shriever with KCPD Central Patrol is negotiating with Advanced Auto Parts to provide, at a reduced price, shatter proof license plate covers with locking screws. These plates will be available to any resident interested in purchasing them as a way to deter tag theft. More information about this program will follow as it becomes available. In the meantime, score tags with a razor blade and seal the edges with clear nail polish to make them harder to remove.

Countryside's Neighborhood Watch still lacks captains for the following blocks:

- 0-200 block of East 55th Street
- 5200-5300 Oak
- 5400 block Main

Please contact me if you are able to fill one of these positions.

The July report for Countryside's off duty patrol, included information on a pedestrian check on a solicitor selling magazines door to door. The check revealed that he was recently released from the Texas Penitentiary where he served time for robbery and sexual assault. Do not hesitate to call KCPD on the solicitors in the neighborhood. Regarding recent AT&T door to door solicitors in the neighborhood, the corporate office confirms that AT&T is conducting this type of marketing in our area. If you are interested in a "No Soliciting" sign to post at your home, please contact me for information about various options.

Countryside can become an unattractive target for crime. It takes time to reach that goal, but everyday more and more residents are helping us get there by reporting suspicious activity via 911 whenever something or someone looks suspicious.

Get to know your neighbors and their routines. Stop our off duty officers and introduce yourself. The Metro officers that are patrolling off duty in Countryside include Officers Gooch, Henryriot, Sattler, Masterson, Ropka and Parsons. They, along with Metro Patrol, are all committed to preserving the peace of Countryside and the safety of its residents. Our neighborhood watch works because we are looking out for each other. Keep up the good work!

Kathy Arthur, Countryside Neighborhood Watch, rarthur@kc.rr.com



Posted on Thu, Aug. 13, 2009

Kansas City will explore options to improve bulky item pickup

By LYNN HORSLEY

The Kansas City Star

The Kansas City Council directed city staff Thursday to work to improve its problem-filled bulky item pickup program.

The council's resolution calls for the city to explore abolishing the appointment-based program and provide regularly scheduled collection services every other month, or to pursue other alternatives.

Public Works Director Stan Harris said he will report back to the council in 30 days on options. Meanwhile, residents should still call the 311 Action Center to make an appointment or go online to www.kcmo.org/bulky.

The appointment system was adopted in September 2008 to be more efficient and save money. But it has generated such confusion and such a deluge of complaints about delayed appointments that city officials say it is causing more problems than it is solving.

Some council members called for a return to the old regular collection schedule, but others said they didn't see how the city could afford that. The

resolution gives city staff flexibility to figure out what will work.

Harris said his department does not currently have the necessary equipment to cover the entire city on a regular schedule and may have to contract out for that service.

Update for Monument Restoration

The Board received notice in March from KCMO Capital Improvements Program Manager Pat Klein that our request for funding from the city's sales tax for public improvements to restore our historic stone markers WAS FUNDED FOR \$8,000 for the fiscal 2010 year.

However, the City works in mysterious ways and speed is not one of them. While the money has been granted, it may still be a while before we see anything happen.

If you have questions, contact Mary Kay at mary@kclocalcolor.com.

The board also submitted several additional PIAC requests to provide lighting, water, and a sign for our park at 52nd and Brookside, limestone walls and pathways for our island at Westover and Wyandotte, and expanded funding for the marker and pillar restoration and replacement within our boundaries. While we do not expect to be granted all of those requests, we hope one or more will receive attention for the 2010 season.

Contributing businesses are:

Stuart and Cassandra Bitterman, Bitterman Candy
BB's Lawnside BBQ

Carla King, D.D.S.

Mary Beth LeCluyse, Southern Living at HOME

Mary Mountain DVM, Plaza Animal Clinic

Kelly's Westport Inn

Pryde's Old Westport

Pizza 51

Mary Kay VanBuskirk-Morrow, KC local color

Anna McConnell, Wardrobe Consultation

Snyder Homes, Kitchen, Bathroom, Basements, Additions

Breath of Fresh Flair, Lisa Holiman-decorator

Countryside Homes Assoc, T-shirts

Sara and Martin Murphy, Wine

Paula Gilliland, The Place to Come

We want to thank those Countryside Home Owners who have contributed their share by paying their dues in full.

Notices will be going out soon to those still in arrears. If your check crosses our notice in the mail, please accept our apologies.

Please remember that the Other Services portion of your dues pays for activities like the picnic, dumpster day, Annual Meeting happy hour, etc. The security and beautification portions allow us to provide that added protection as well as enhancing the common areas of the neighborhood.

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Welcome Basket Committee Thanks

The board wanted to extend a big thank you to the Welcome Gift Basket committee and the sponsors who provide the information and goodies that each basket contains. If you would like to have your business contribute to these baskets please contact Carla King at 444-6168.

Countryside Yearly Budget

We continue to work on ways to make the budget balance from year to year. We will keep you updated as we make changes like going to an electronic newsletter to save on printing and

mailing costs, and let you know where we stand as we approach our annual meeting.

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Annual Countryside 4th of July Kid's Parade

Once again, the CountrySide Fourth of July Parade was a BIG success. Thanks to Tracy Kelso and Darryl Hawkins for emceeing the parade again this year. Approximately 40 participants and several dogs turned out for the big event this year and the weather was perfect. Participant age ranged from 2 years old to those who still thought they were kids (Darryl, probably being the oldest one on his mountain bike equipped with full sized flags off each handle bar). We hope to see everyone out next year as it looks like we have turned this back into an annual CountrySide event.

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

Since it is important for everyone to know who their Neighborhood Watch block captain is and how to get in touch with them we though publishing a current list might be helpful. They are:

E 52 St Janet Howard
363-4421 jhpiano@kc.rr.com

E Concord Laurie Bedlington
523-8110 Laurie.A.Bedlington@hud.gov

E 53 St Rhonda Meloy
822-2159 rmeloy@kc.rr.com

E 53 Terr Kim Doran

333-1670 kimgdoran@sbcglobal.net

E 54 St Kathy Arthur
822-0803 rarthur@kc.rr.com

E 54 Terr Cathy Colburn
237-1639 cathycolburn@yahoo.com

E 55 St None

E 55 Terr Jim Kraus
806-7653 jim@brooksiderealtors.com

E 56 St Amy Davis
444-6116 asdllc@kc.rr.com

E 56 Terr Lisa Dunbar

361-6977 ldunbar1@kc.rr.com

5200-5300 Oak None

E 56 St 200 block Peter Noth
361-4879 pnoth1@hallmark.com

W 52 St incl houses on Balt & Main S of School Bridget Winget

531-2622 bhwinget@excite.com

W Concord incl island Mary Kay Morrow
363-2595 mary@kclocalcolor.com

Wyandotte to Wornall at 52 None

W 53 St Georganne Kelly
363-6392 mkelly@kc.rr.com

W 53 Terr Mary Mountain
444-0426 mmountain@kc.rr.com

W 54 St Elizabeth Fischer
444-0602 elizabethathome@gmail.com

5400 Baltimore Stephanie Bridges
361-8472 SBridges5@kc.rr.com

5400 Wyandotte Gayla Holliger
361-3258 gaylaholliger@hotmail.com

5400 Central and Wornall Linda Williams
444-2335 | williams@mail.com

5500-5600 Wornall Jerry Wheeler
842-6262 bjermewheeler@kc.rr.com

5500-5600 Central Ann Beth Mulloy
523-4137 mulloyabed@aol.com

5500-5600 Wyandotte Laura O'Brien
361-4366 leo22557@hotmail.com

5400 Main None

E 55th Terrace 200 block Jim King
444-0632 bluesprop@yahoo.com

E 57 St Frank Connaghan
523-7472 FJConnaghan@cs.com

Neighborhood Update

Welcome New Neighbors

Our new neighbors since the previous newsletter are listed below:

June – July - August

William & Daria Blanton 148 W 54th St

Sharon Courtney 11 W 52nd St

Amanda Crawley 5 E 54th St

John & Emily Gretzinger 5411 Central

Linda Glynn 5410 Main





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COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN POSSIBILITY

There is a rapidly growing awareness in our country that eating locally grown food is not only good for our health, environment, and local economy, but also really delicious! We in Kansas City are fortunate to have an abundance of local farmers and farmers' markets, but have you ever wanted to get really, really local—like right in your neighborhood local? Perhaps you'd love to put in a few tomato plants, but don't have the space. Maybe you'd love to pick a fresh zucchini out of your back yard, but our big beautiful shade trees are conspiring against you. Or could it be you're curious about growing food, but don't have enough gardening experience to feel confident without a little backup?

Well, you are in luck—you can grow wonderful fresh food, be part of a community of gardeners, and help local charities to boot! We are moving forward with plans to take advantage of DST's generous offer to create a community garden on the currently unused ground at 51st and Main Street. A group of interested neighbors met on August 26th to brainstorm ideas for the property, and our conversation led to the idea of a dual-use site:

Area 1 would consist of small garden plots maintained by individuals. There would be room for at least 20 to 30 garden plots and places for storage, composting, and programming/events. This area could also contain a special area that would be commonly maintained, such as a children's garden. Members will be asked to contribute a portion of their harvest to a local food pantry.

Area 2 would serve more as a traditional "farm". This area would be maintained by a community of volunteers, and the harvest could be shared among volunteers, donated to a local food pantry, sold to defray costs of the garden, or another great idea that you may come up with!

In addition to allowing us to use the ground, DST has agreed to provide water on the site and to help us with some of the site setup. In return they have asked that a portion of our harvest be donated to local charities.

Now all we need is YOU! At this point we are interested in hearing from our friends and neighbors in the area who might be interested in our endeavor. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested and contact us with your questions, thoughts, and ideas. We will also have a table set up at the annual picnic with more information and will be available to answer questions then. In the mean time feel free to email Shannon Buster (sbuster@lutjen.com) or Kate Wind (kwind@sfarch.com) with questions or comments.



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CountrySide 2009/10

Agenda

September 19th, Annual Picnic held **3 to 7** at our park on 52nd and Brookside

October 3rd - Fall Dumpster Day – St. Teresa's parking lot, 8:AM until Noon

December 13, Holiday lighting judging

April 3, Easter Egg Hunt

April 13, Annual CountrySide HOA meeting @ To Be Announced - Social hour begins at 6: PM

Spring Dumpster Day (TBD)

July 4th, Kid's bike parade (11: AM – Visitation parking lot at 51st and Main)

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KC Marathon

On Saturday morning October 17, 2009 the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon will run through our neighborhood. This means street closures for Wornall and Brookside at various times during the morning hours. Keep that in mind as you plan your day on the 17th.



Please remember to pick up after your dogs. Your neighbors will appreciate it.

Beautification Update

Members of the board met with neighbors of the 55th and Wyandotte island to discuss how to make improvements while keeping the natural ambiance of the island. The neighbors drew up a vision of what they see as improvements to the island while keeping the English Country garden look that exists today. Renovating the existing limestone pathways and adding others, replacing mismatched brick work and sprucing up the lawn are among the items being considered. We hope to have bids and begin the work before the end of the season.



CountrySide Newsletter

September 2009

The 2009-10 Board Members

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Jim Kraus, Vice President
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joeg213@yahoo.com

Mary Kay Van Buskirk Morrow
816-363-2595 Director
mary@kclocalcolor.com

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

xxxxxxx, Director
816-xxx-xxxx
xxxxxxx@yahoo.com

Home Associations of Kansas City
(HA-KC) Clarence Foxworthy 913-385-2440

www.ha-kc.org

The Board meets on the second Wednesday (Tuesday during the summer) 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.ha-kc.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 \$12 per issue or \$40 for four issues. Larger ads will cost multiples of that rate. Directory prices are \$30 per quarter 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.

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