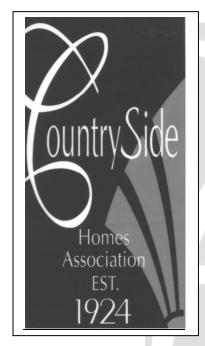
# CountrySide Newsletter

March 2010



# Notes from Our Neighborhood President

This has certainly been a tough year for many including neighbors, cities, states and the country as a whole. I would like to express my thanks to all of you who have contributed your full dues for the vear, as well as a few of you who added even more. Just like any other elected body, we

cannot do anything without your continued financial support as well as your contribution of ideas and time.

This year we will be electing two board positions. The terms of Joe Grego and Kyle Kelly are up for re-election and both have agreed to run again. If you have an interest in working for the good of your neighborhood, please toss your hat (and name) into the ring by letting a board member know by April 1st.

The annual meeting is our opportunity to share viewpoints on the state of the neighborhood, discuss how we would like the board and volunteers to focus time, money, and energy to improve our neighborhood. Consider this your chance to come out and provide input, share food and drink, and talk with your neighbors.

Items on the agenda with an impact to dues are the Security Patrol and General Services funds. This newsletter includes a number of articles describing where your money goes today, and what funds we believe we need to keep the neighborhood moving ahead.

While we do not provide major services, we would have no plowing and salting, no island landscaping and maintenance, no events like the Easter Egg hunt, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, annual picnic, dumpster days and Annual meeting without your full dues.

See you there, Terry Rodeghier

# Annual Countryside Homeowners Association Meeting – April 21st

Please be sure to mark your calendar for the annual Countryside Homeowners Association meeting. It will be held on **Wednesday**, **April 21st at Visitation's Tighe Hall**, **51**<sup>st</sup> **and Main**. We will start with a social hour at 6:PM when Chef Mark Blanck will serve a dinner of chicken with bow tie pasta, green beans, Italian salad and fresh baked rolls. We will be taking donations for the beer and wine. The formal portion of the meeting will begin at 7:PM.

#### **Annual Meeting Topics**

We expect to have a number of interesting and critical topics to discuss and vote on at the meeting.

- Tom McGee from DST (as well as being a long time neighbor and past board member) will discuss an update on UMKC's plans for Brookside and 51st.
- Treasurer's report
- Committee updates
  - Beautification
  - Safety
  - Historic District expansion
- Dues discussion and vote
  - Police patrol funds
  - General services increase for activities
- Bylaws changes and vote
- We have two board positions up for election. If you wish to serve on the board, please contact Terry Rodeghier by April 1<sup>st</sup> so we can get your name on the ballot.

## **Continue the Security Patrol**

At Countryside's 2009 annual meeting, an overwhelming majority of residents once again 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. This assessment currently funds four, four hour shifts per week. This effort has reduced the number of opportunities for crimes to be committed by increasing the frequency and visibility of patrolling officers. Officers have consistently challenged questionable behaviors and identified suspicious persons. For example, in

January, a pedestrian check of a person going door to door with a snow shovel revealed a long history of larceny and theft. A pedestrian check in February identified a paroled burglar with outstanding warrants. Monthly reports indicate that since our annual meeting in April of 2009, officers have made 21 felony arrests and cleared 49 city warrants. During this same period, officers performed 37 pedestrian checks and 59 car checks, responded to 158 calls for service and issued 193 traffic tickets. The Board of Directors strongly recommends that the per household assessment for security

The Board of Directors strongly recommends that the per household assessment for security be renewed for 2010-2011 and increased to \$65 to cover this year's shortfall and next year's as well. Please plan to attend the annual meeting and vote to continue to support this important initiative; encourage your neighbors to join you.

## **Proposed Bylaws Change**

In a continued effort to reduce costs, the board is recommending a by-laws change that would allow annual meetings' notices to be emailed to those members that agree to be notified in that manner. The current by-laws require postal delivery for announcing annual meetings. About half of the members currently receive the newsletter and other communications via email, providing a significant cost savings as well as being more environmentally friendly.

Members that wish to continue having their notices mailed will receive them via post. This revision will be discussed at the annual meeting, April 21st.

# MAGGIE'S HELPING HANDS LLC

Trusted experts in home services



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Licensed \* Bonded \* Insured
Maggie Sheehan
(816) 444 1950

# **Annual Holiday Lighting Contest**

I just wanted to say thanks again to all the people who decorated their homes and made the neighborhood a festive one. Now the winners:

Best home: Butch Rigby 204 W. 52<sup>rd</sup> Street

Best Block: West 52nd Street

Congratulations to both for your efforts to make our community that much brighter this year.



# Carla King, D.D.S.

#### Your Neighborhood Dentist

- · Fabrication of sleep apnea appliances
- In-office bleaching
- · Major Credit Cards Accepted
- Office Hours by Appointment

Accepting most major insurance:

Premiere Provider for Delta Dental
Preferred Provider for BC & BS of KC & KS - MetLife and DeCare Dental

315 NICHOLS ROAD, SUITE 217
(Above Eddie Bauer in the Plaza Medical Building)

816-561-9847

## Welcome New Neighbors

Our new neighbors since the previous newsletter are listed below, so welcome to Countryside.

#### December

Brett & Mary Emanuel 12 West 54th Street
Paul & Shannon Tancona 3 East 52nd Street

<u>January</u>

Butch Rigby 204 West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street

<u>February</u>

Kevin & Margaret Tucker

28 East 55th Terrace

March

Robert F Smith

5212 Brookside Blvd



GREAT AMERICAN INVESTORS, INC. Investment Securities

Member FINRA / SIPC

#### Ted Colburn

President Colburn Financial Group, LLC

6025 Metcalf Lane, Suite 100 Overland Park, Kansas 66202 tcolburn@greatamericaninvestors.com (913) 384-1803 (800) 281-2590 Fax (913) 384-1806

# Advertise to your neighbors

As you can see, many of your neighbor owned businesses advertise in the newsletter. 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

Thanks Henry and Tony at Marthabelle's

issue or \$40 for four issues. Larger ads will cost multiples of that rate.

Countryside Neighborhood Watch Neighborhood Watch

The recent reports of a serial rapist at large in our community have everyone on edge. It is important to remain focused on the facts that the KCPD provides regarding these cases and not be misled by rumors that may be circulated by well meaning neighbors. KCPD Chief Corwin posts up to date information on the investigation at http://kcpdchief.blogspot.com. Five women have been raped in their homes in the Waldo and Brookside areas from Sept. 29, 2009, to Feb. 22 of this year. All the women lived alone and were home alone at the time. In some cases entry was gained through an unlocked window or door. The suspect is a black male with pitted cheeks, a bald head and a 6 foot, 250 pound frame. Victims report that he has a deep, smooth voice and may smell of smoke or exhaust fumes. The sketch below is a composite of these descriptions:



Take steps to protect yourself by being aware of your surroundings at all times and keeping doors and windows locked. Immediately report suspicious people or activity to police. As Chief Corwin says, "We want the people in these neighborhoods and throughout the city to feel empowered, not afraid. Track crime reports in your neighborhood. Attend a personal safety class. Get involved with your neighborhood association, become acquainted with everyone who lives around you, and look out for each other." Crime reports can be tracked at www.crimereports.com. KCPD Metro Community Interaction Officer, John Trainor, can arrange to conduct a free security survey of your home and has information about personal safety classes being offered by the police department. Officer Trainor can be reached at 234-5520 or John.Trainor@kcpd.org. The UMKC police department offers RAD, a comprehensive 12 hour personal safety program for women of all ages. Find Information about class schedules at http://web2.umkc.edu/adminfinance/police/R A D.asp.

Remember that our neighborhood watch works because we <u>do</u> look out for each other; it's more important now than ever.

Kathy Arthur

PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS THE ONLY
PRINTED COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER
FOR THE YEAR. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE
THEM VIA EMAIL, PLEASE SEND YOUR
EMAIL ADDRESS TO Terry Rodeghier at
nrodeghier@kc.rr.com



## **Historic District update**

We are happy to report that the City's Landmarks Commission staff was successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist in the expansion of the Countryside Historic District. The \$7,500 grant will assist in the expansion of the National Historic District designation to include all of the homes in our association.

As you might recall, we previously reported that the City's Landmarks Commission staff had completed the data collection phase of the process last summer. The collected data will be used to prepare the required nomination documents. These documents will then be evaluated by staff from the State Historic Preservation Office and will be brought forth for consideration by the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (MOACHP). This is a state-wide citizen board responsible for evaluating nominations to the National Register for Historic Places. There is significant work ahead and, per the grant requirements, all work must be completed by September 30, 2011.

#### **Next Steps**

City staff has been working to finalize the grant agreement with the DNR. Our next task is to work with the City to put together a simple memorandum of understanding to document the terms of our financial contribution to the project. We anticipate that City staff

will take the lead in hiring a qualified historic preservation professional and overall management of the project. If you are interested in serving as the association's representative to the project, please contact one of the members of the board.

We want to express our thanks to the City's Landmarks Commission staff and in particular to Brad Wolf and Lon Clark both of whom have diligently worked to move this initiative forward.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact Mario Vasquez at 816-444-6424.



## Why the 2010 US Census Counts

MISSOURI COULD LOSE MILLIONS AND A SEAT IN CONGRESS
By Mary Kay Morrow

Missouri is at risk of losing millions of federal dollars and a seat in Congress if too many of her citizens are missed in this year's US Census count.

An undercount of just 60,000 could result in the loss of one Missouri seat in the US House of Representatives. "In all likelihood, because of growth in states in the southwest, Missouri may loose one of its nine seats in Congress," said US Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II. "There are only 435 Members allocated by the Constitution, and growth in one part of the country means some states must subtract seats when others add."

US Census figures are not only used to dole out congressional seats but also billions of dollars in federal funds for things like street improvements, education, and health clinics.

According to the state, for each 100 Missourian missed by Census counters, the state stands to lose some \$1.3 million in federal aid over the next ten years.

Local governments use data collected in the Census to plan amenities like transportation, hospitals and libraries. "Decisions are based on population size," said Missouri 45<sup>th</sup> District Representative Jason Holsman. "The data determines how congressional districts are drawn. It's important to collect as much information as possible."

To that end, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon formed Missouri Complete Count in January to make sure people know how important a complete and accurate count is and to target difficult-to-reach groups such as college students living away from home, people who live in isolated rural areas, the impoverished, transients, the homeless, and recent immigrants.

More than 130 million addresses throughout the nation will receive a Census form in March, either by mail, or in person from a Census worker. Households should complete and return their forms upon receipt.

It's one of the shortest Census questionnaires in our nation's history -- only 10 questions long and it should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

Officials worry people will avoid answering Census questions because they have concerns about confidentiality, don't want someone coming to their door, may feel threatened, don't understand the questions, or just don't want to be bothered.

See inset.

Efforts to educate and reach every person are gaining momentum.

"This year's effort will mobilize the largest peacetime federal effort in our history," said Cleaver. "Nearly 2.5 million Americans will be employed to go door-to-door and insure an accurate count."

Kansas City is going all out to make sure every person living in Kansas City is counted in the 2010 Census. Local officials are encouraging all Kansas Citians to talk to their family, friends and neighbors and remind them to complete and return their questionnaires right way because it is safe, easy and vitally important to our community.

Missouri may need as many as 9,000 field workers statewide to accomplish the huge undertaking. Positions with good pay (\$10-16 per hour), paid training, mileage reimbursement, and flexible hours in your own community are still available.

From late April through July, US Census takers will follow up by calling door-to-door on homes that do not mail back questionnaires.

Apportionment counts will be provided to US President Barack Obama on December 31, 2010.

The Census is taken every ten years. The first time was in 1790 and counted 3.2 million people. The US population is now approaching 309 million people. "The Census is our only constitutionally-mandated community project," said Cleaver. "Our nation's founders wisely determined that in order to make a representative government fair, we would need to count how many Americans there are."

#### Sidebar:

Answers to commonly asked questions -

 Census information is protected by law, and everyone who works for the Census must swear that they will never disclose any personal information. Penalties for any employee who might share that information are severe: up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. By law, the Census Bureau can't share your information with anyone — including other federal agencies and law enforcement. Your information is safe.

- A Census questionnaire will be mailed to you. If you fill
  out the form and mail it back, no Census taker will need
  to come to your residence. Most people mail back their
  form. The Census Bureau would rather get your form
  back in the mail, and you can help your country save
  money by sending it back.
- All Census workers undergo an FBI name background check, and we added a fingerprinting requirement for the first time for the 2010 Census as an extra precaution. These two security measures screened out about 16 percent of the more than hundreds of thousands of applicants for Census operations in 2009. We are confident that these measures will make the 2010 Census the safest decennial Census possible.
- The 2010 Census will actually be one of the shortest and simplest in U.S. history. It will ask just 10 basic questions about those living in your house, apartment or mobile home including name, gender, age and date of birth, hispanic origin, race, household relationships and if you own or rent your home.

Source: US 2010 Census website located at http://2010.Census.gov



# **Volker Planning Council Meeting**

I attended a meeting of the Volker Planning Council. This is a group made up of HOAs and other neighbor groups that border on UMKC. The group was formed years ago as an outgrowth of neighborhood protests to the way UMKC was expanding into the neighborhoods, taking houses for campus expansion.

The school has significant expansion plans for the coming year. The area bounded by 51<sup>st</sup>, Oak, Brookside and the church boundary on the south is targeted for a mix-use building. It is proposed to be three stories facing Brookside and six stories facing Oak. Most of the space will be occupied by UMKC

offices with a portion of the ground floor allotted for a new grocery store rumored to be a Whole Foods. If funded, the plan is to begin work this spring or summer.

## City Leaf and Yard Waste Pickup

I know it's early to start thinking of these things but the City will be coming around and take up to 20 paper bags or bundles of yard waste so take advantage and get that cleanup done.

If your trash day is	your dates are:
Monday	April 5
Tuesday	April 6
Wednesday	April 7
Thursday	April 8
Friday	April 9



# **School Board Candidates Forum**

Monday, March 22, 2010 7:00pm-9:00pm Visitation Tighe Hall 51st Terr & Main

Visitation Church, a Member of Communities Creating Opportunity Invites the Public to Attend a School Board Candidates Forum for the 2nd District and At-Large Seats on the School Board of the Kansas City, Missouri School District

Candidates will be asked to comment on key issues confronting the district, including:

- Community & Parental Involvement
- Transparency
- Budget
- Safety

Candidates Attending: Rose Bell (at-large)

Kyleen Carroll (at-large)

ryleen Caroli (at-large

Cokethea Hill (at-large)

Kenneth Hughlon (at-large)

Bob Peterson (at-large)

Crispin Rea (at-large)

onspiritica (at large,

Thanks Henry and Tony at Marthabelle's

#### Derek Richey (2nd district

#### CCO's Vision:

To strengthen parent & community involvement in public schools. Each of us who cares about the children of our community today and their hope for tomorrow should attend this forum and vote on April 6th.



## Spring Dumpster Day has expanded

Date: Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:AM till Noon.
Location: St. Teresa's South parking lot.
Dumpster Day has become such a popular event we will now have three dumpsters on site. One will hold yard waste while the other two will be for household trash.
Please remember we cannot take paint, batteries, toxic

chemicals, etc.

This year we have a great addition. We have partnered with Goodwill Industries who will provide a truck to collect computer equipment. Items accepted will be computer monitors, computers (laptops or desktops), printers, scanners, hard drives (Goodwill will not accept responsibility for confidential data, you must erase before dropping it off), keyboards, mice, speakers, cords & cables, ink and toner cartridges, and software (please include the license key). What a great opportunity to rid yourself of those old units or pieces lying around the house.

This year the dumpsters are being provided by: Brookside Realty – Jim Kraus Kelly's in Westport – Kyle Kelly NASB - Mike O'Neil

# Farewell to Smitty, our mailman for many years

Fifty to 75 neighbors gathered Sunday, February 25, to wish retiring mail carrier, John "Smitty" Smith, a happy retirement and thank him for his many kindnesses throughout the years. The event, hosted by Susan Edelbrock and Mary Kay, honored Smitty's 25 years with the US Post Office, as well as his wife, Lillian. Smitty took his job well beyond delivering mail, building relationships with many along his mail route. For fifteen

years, Smitty delivered mail to those living from 51<sup>st</sup> to 53<sup>rd</sup> Streets between Wornall and Main plus one block north of 51<sup>st</sup> on Wyandotte. Throughout the celebration, neighbors shared memories of Smitty -- making sure mail got to the right homes (in spite wrong addresses), helping them out by carrying deliveries such as furniture for them, keeping an eye out them, and warding off barking dogs. Smitty's last day carrying mail was March 3. Of his retirement, Smitty said, "I just wanted to ride off into the sunset."



Smitty and Lillian



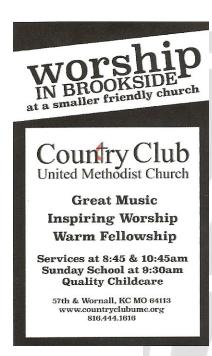
Some of the many neighbors wishing Smitty a farewell.



#### Let's Talk About Your Trees.

MICHAEL FLYNN COUNTRY SIDE RESIDENT TEL: 816.500.1325

# CountrySide Newsletter

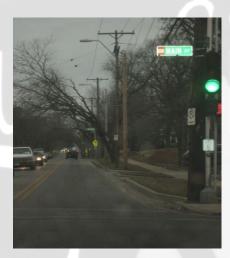


# URBAN REFORESTATION PROJECT

Sadly, many of the older trees in Countryside are nearing the end of their lifespan. These "forest" trees were planted many years ago, and their mature height and spread have greatly exceeded the amount of space available to them in their urban setting. For some, the process has been hastened by disease, damage from winter storms and the severe pruning necessary to keep utility lines free of limbs. Nowhere in Kansas City is this more evident than along the north side of 55<sup>th</sup> Street from Main to Wornall. Several locust trees have been lost entirely over the years and were not replaced, leaving large gaps in landscape. Those that remain are in an extreme state of decline. In partnership with KCPL and the KCMO Parks and Recreation Department, Countryside has an opportunity to participate in an urban reforestation initiative that is anticipated to become a model for other neighborhoods in the city. Early this Spring, the locust trees on the parkway (the space between the sidewalk and the street) on the north side of 55<sup>th</sup>

#### March 2010

Street will be taken down and replaced by Japanese Maples that will provide a beautiful streetscape and, at maturity, will not outgrow the confines of their urban site. KCPL and KCMO Parks and Recreation Department will bear the bulk of the expense of this project; Countryside Homes Association will also contribute. You may notice KCPL and/or Parks Department employees as work progresses on this exciting project. We have been assured that any inconvenience residents will be kept to a minimum.





#### MIKE O'NEILL LOAN OFFICER

moneill@nasb.com 913.469.1646 direct 816.289.8246 cell

10950 El Monte Street Suite 210 Overland Park, KS 66211 913.327.2000 main 913.327.4329 fax



## Plaza Animal Clinic, Inc.

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

(816) 931-6636

# CountrySide 2010 HOA Agenda

April 3, Easter Egg Hunt at St. Teresa's field, 55<sup>th</sup> & Main

April 21<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday), Countryside Annual HOA meeting at Visitation's Tighe Hall – 51<sup>st</sup> and Main. Social hour begins at 6:PM, business meeting at 7:PM

May 15, Spring Dumpster Day and Goodwill E-Waste pickup of computers and associated gear, 8:AM until noon, St. Teresa's south parking lot

May 22, CountrySide Garage Sale

July 4<sup>th</sup>, Kid's bike parade (11: AM – Visitation parking lot at 51<sup>st</sup> & Main)

September 18, Annual Picnic held 3 to 7 at our park on 52<sup>nd</sup> and Brookside

October TBD, Fall Dumpster Day – St. Teresa's parking lot, 8:AM until noon

December 13, Holiday lighting judging

# CountrySide Newsletter

March 2010

### The 2010 Board Members

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

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

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

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

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

Mike O'Neil, Director 816-333-4526 moneill@nasb.com

Kyle Kelly, Director 816-363-6392 mkelly@kc.rr.com Home Associations of Kansas City (HA-KC) Clarence Foxworthy 913-385-2440

#### www.ka-kc.org

The Board meets on the first 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.hakc.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

### **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. CountrySide Home Owner's Association has a website at www.hakc.org/moassoc/CountrySide and is managed by the Homes Associations of the Country Club District that hosts a website at www.ha-kc.org or can be reached at (913) 385-2440 to attend to you individual needs.

Countryside Homes Association 4300 Somerset, #216 Prairie Village, KS 66208

> Homes Association EST. 1924

Thanks Henry and Tony at Marthabelle's