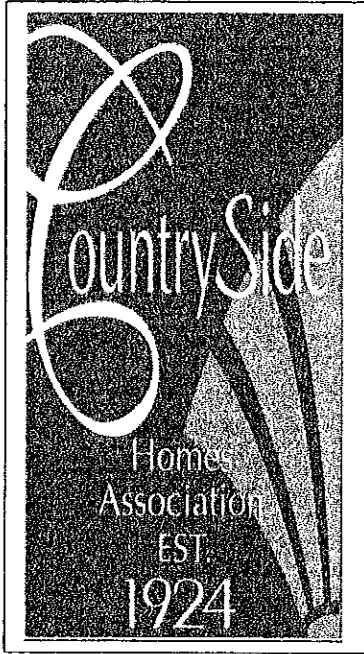


CountrySide Newsletter

March 2008



State of the Neighborhood

Since this is an election year, I thought a "State of the Union" note was appropriate. Like our Federal relatives, we also have an election of three board member positions coming up at the annual meeting. 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.

This has been a year full of concerns on the national, state, and local fronts. Between wars, the economy, crime, education, taxes, and all the civic issues in our city, we are challenged on all sides. Your concerns are reflected in the survey results and we hope to address some of that in the coming year.

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 the Countryside caucus, come out and share pizza and provide your input.

This year we have a number of items to discuss that will be directly impacted by a decision to increase our dues. This newsletter includes a number of articles describing where your money goes today, what you suggested we focus on based on the survey results, and what funds we believe we need to move your top items along.

I know you are all concerned with taxes these days. We get hit with Federal, State, local, sales, etc. All that revenue is used by the various government bodies to fund programs. While you may or may not agree on where it gets spent, without taxes, nothing would get done.

The same thing is true with your Homes Association dues. 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, annual picnic, and Annual meeting. Your survey results state you would like even more accomplished by the board in a number of areas, all of which takes money. Please consider that when voting on the dues increase at the meeting.

Annual Homeowners Association Meeting Announcement – April 22nd

Please be sure to mark your calendar for the annual Countryside Homeowners Association meeting. It will be held on **Tuesday, April 22nd at eggtc, 51st and Main**. We will start with a social hour at 6:PM where we will serve pizza and drinks, with the formal portion of the meeting beginning 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 DST's plans for Main Street.
- We have three board positions up for election. If you wish to serve on the board, please contact Terry Rodeghier by April 1st so we can get your name on the ballot.
- Treasurer's report
- Committee updates
- Dues discussion and vote
 - What the dues pay for
 - What we want done in addition
 - Additional police patrols
 - Dues increase to pay for increased activity

Additional Paid Police Protection (Security voted #2 in the survey)

I spoke with a number of nearby associations who pay for additional security surveillance. Most recommend using off duty KCPD officers as they will be in uniform, generally have KCPD squad cars, and carry guns. Thus, they are able to act

immediately if something is occurring rather than having to call KCPD for assistance.

This patrolling is spread out over all days and times so criminals cannot gage when a patrol might be in the neighborhood. Of course there is no guarantee that a patrol will be in the neighborhood when something is occurring, it just provides some added presence.

Safety is one of the top concerns voiced in the survey so **the hiring of added security patrols will be put to a vote during the Annual Meeting.** One suggested plan is as follows: cost of the patrol is \$24,000 per year which buys an association 800 hours of patrolling. **This averages out to an increase in dues of \$50 per household assuming everyone pays.** The officer who runs the patrol said this would equate to four days a week, four hours per day. They plan their patrols at random times based on the latest crimes statistics and their experience to provide the best possible coverage.

Physical Upkeep (voted #1 on the list)

This takes on many forms, some that we have control over. An example where the board can act is the rehabilitation of our various landmarks throughout the association. The one we have targeted this year is the marker on 52nd and Brookside next to our park. As you may have noticed, the marker leans. We have hired a stone mason to correct this problem. Once done, we will add an urn to the top as was done to the one at Wyandotte and 52nd, then landscape the island. We felt as this was the original entrance to Countryside, it should look appropriate. The cost of this renovation and landscaping will be approximately \$4,000.

State of the budget

Revenue from dues \$15,000

Major expenses or the year

Administration (Haccd)	\$3,900
Island Maintenance	\$1,100
Postage	\$1,500
Newsletter	\$1,600
Snow Plowing	\$400
Block Parties	\$500
Annual Picnic	\$2,700
Meetings	\$650
Other	\$400
Total	\$13,750

Annual Holiday Lighting Contest

I know it's been a long time coming and you are all dying to know who won. First let me say we are sorry that the signs disappeared this year and we will be sure to have them for next season. Now the winners:

Best home: 6 W. 53rd Terrace (Denise and Mike Tumberger)

Best Block: East 55th Avenue

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

Honorable mentions are:

11 W 52nd Street

235 W 54th Terrace

5508 Central

14 E 56th Terrace

3 E Concord

52nd Street (block)

Thanks to everyone who participated in making the holidays in our neighborhood a bit more festive.

Voice Calling System

We have revamped the phone numbers on our calling system so we believe every association member should now receive our calls. The next planned use is in early March for a reminder of the Easter Egg Hunt, then the Annual HOA Meeting. Please let a board member know if you become aware that you are not receiving the messages.

Property Assessment Review

Mike Sanders Announces Property Assessment Review Commission (from the KC Star article)

Property Value Assessment was one of the top concerns among Countryside residents who completed our survey last fall. The board will keep Countryside neighbors on top of this important issue as we learn more about it.

This issue ranked one of the highest in our survey along with physical appearance and crime. The assessed values of our homes and corresponding property taxes that many of us have seen go up considerably in recent years--affect our monthly house payments directly. Some US communities have capped the percentage that assessed home values can be increased within a single year.

In January, Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders announced the members of a new Assessment Review Commission. Upon

announcing the formation of the task force, Sanders said, "It is critical that the process for assessing our most valuable asset, our family homes, be fair for everyone. Further, it is critical that we begin to examine new strategies to ensure that seniors and families are not forced from their homes due to rising property tax bills.

"Therefore, I am announcing the creation of a bipartisan task force to examine the assessment and appraisal process for Jackson County property owners. "This task is an important step in ensuring that the system of assessment will be fair for everyone in our community."

The total assessed value of all Jackson County residential property in August 2007 was \$5,671,354,710 and the total assessed value of all commercial property in the county was \$4,368,389,589. There are approximately 290,000 total property parcels in Jackson County.

Members of the Assessment Review Commission include: 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.

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 will be quoted upon request.

Welcome New Neighbors

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

January

Steven & Carolyn Eaton	19 West 52 nd Street
Edward & Kathryn Ellerbeck	215 West 53 rd Street
Lee Hayes & Eliana Espitaleta	42 East 55 th Terrace
John T. Brookfield	12 West 54 th Street

February

Christine Page	26 East 53 rd Terrace
Katherine Wind	20 East 53 rd Terrace

Countryside Neighborhood Watch

Nearly 200 residents recently voiced their support for a more secure community by signing petitions to form the Countryside Neighborhood Watch. Block captains volunteered to recruit neighbors in an effort to foster a greater sense of responsibility for each other and for our neighborhood. An email database has been developed to keep residents informed about criminal activity in our area as well as general neighborhood information. Watch for signs to be posted this spring that identify Countryside as an involved community where "we look out for each other." If you are interested in more information about the neighborhood watch program or would like to be added to the email list, please contact Kathy Arthur, 816-719-1687 or



rarthur@kc.rr.com.

Thanks to Kathy Arthur for being the driver of this effort.

Police Boundary Changes Meeting

Police Chief Corwin

Addresses Boundary Changes

By Mary Kay Van Buskirk Morrow

Countryside Board members attended the Southern Communities Coalition's January meeting where KCMO Police Chief Jim Corwin headed off conflict by admitting culpability right off the bat for not soliciting public input on a police redistricting plan, now on hold, that was developed in 2007.

The plan was advanced in an attempt to concentrate more police in the Central (29% of calls to KC Police) Patrol (north of Countryside) and East (35% of calls) Patrol (NE of Countryside) where police reportedly have been inundated for years due to increases in the numbers of violent crimes and police officers shot.

That plan, presented last October, would have reassigned a section south of 85th street that is currently part of the Metro Patrol (of which Countryside is a part)—and made it part of the South Patrol area (13% of calls)--without necessarily increasing South Patrol's number of police officers—currently about 90 officers.

Understandably, the proposed change worried some 6th district, South KC residents who concluded that the changes would likely impact police response times in south KC—geographically the largest of the three patrols due to its rural sections to the south.

“What I did was totally wrong” Corwin began his presentation.

After having asked his planning people to study the issue and make a proposal, Corwin explained how the Police Department moved forward without gathering outside opinions.

“I told staffing to look at the numbers which we had not done since 1995,” explained Corwin.

“The planning people got busy and developed a plan. But that’s the wrong way to do business,” Corwin told the gathering of southtown residents. “It’s my responsibility. We didn’t have community input. We stumbled on this *big piece*.”

For now, police redistricting has been put on hold and the process to put together a new recommendation will be restarted—this time, with community input.

“We have the data (that was originally compiled) and will rebuild a redistricting plan,” Corwin explained. “We need to have the community’s help with where the lines should be. We’ll work together to come to a consensus.”

Corwin explained that the KCPD is at the beginning of budgeting and that additional funding will be hard to get.

“The City has limited funding,” Corwin outlined the realities. “The old way was to add more cops, while the new way is to do the best you can with what you have. We need to make sure we have more bodies in the right places.”

“We’ll be looking at efficiencies and putting resources in the right places,” reiterated Corwin. Fielding questions from the Southern Communities Coalition audience, many of whom Corwin knew by their first names, Corwin diffused tensions and then credited community involvement when he received enthusiastic applause after an audience member concluded the evening by saying, “I think you’re doing a mighty fine job!”

Southern KC residents feel that the South Patrol district should not be penalized if crime there is under control. Corwin agreed that that was “exactly right.”

“I think you’ll be pleasantly surprised (with the new plan),” Corwin concluded.

Corwin invited people to step forward to initiate and run programs similar to the one the Ivanhoe

neighborhood has started. The Ivanhoe community took charge and said “no more!” to criminals according to an audience participant.

“The reason for the success of that effort was leadership,” Corwin reasoned. “Citizens stepped forward to make it work and it has done tremendous good.”

When asked about police use of lights and sirens, Corwin explained that for liability reasons, residents are going to see more use of red lights and sirens.

“The police department is not liable for accidents when cars run into police cars if our lights and sirens are on,” the chief enlightened the audience. As a result “you will hear more” sirens in the future.

2008 CountrySide Archives for the Centennial Celebration

Please help record neighborhood history

As this is the 100th year of Countryside’s existence, we would like to generate a historical retrospective of the community. We ask that people with pictures and/or information about CountrySide share those items. If you would like your home or historical information included, please contact any member of the board or send the information to them via email.

Are You A Local Artist?

Would you like a chance to display your art for all to see (and perhaps purchase) during our Centennial Celebration picnic. If you have an interest in showing your art form, please contact Terry Rodeghier so a list can be compiled.

Overwhelming Volunteer Response for Countryside

Letters are going out now to those who indicated on their surveys that they would like to volunteer for our neighborhood. Nearly 70 homes had one or more individuals who want to become more involved - - oftentimes in more than one activity. With about 470 homes in our homes associations, this overwhelming response is one more reminder of the blessings we enjoy as neighbors. Many want to contribute time and abilities in concrete and inventive ways. Thank you for raising your hand.

We did our best to place volunteers into groups. A list with volunteers is included with the letters.

The committees are:

- Physical Appearance & Neighborhood Upkeep
- Security & Traffic
- Historic Expansion & Preservation

Welcome Wagon – Gift Baskets – Business Advertising

Media Team
Dinner and Book Clubs
Interests & Hobbies
General Support

The next step is for teams to contact one another, meet and begin to organize. Please contact Mary Kay at 363-2595 with questions. The board supports each team's efforts and invites volunteers to join us at 7pm the second Wednesday of each month at Minsky's to talk about where teams are and what they need to keep things moving smoothly. Board members are happy to come to team meetings as well, support the team work, print your news in the quarterly newsletter and get the word out when needed.

Thank you again for volunteering. We're exciting to see what can be accomplished by all of us working together and getting to know each other better.

City Watershed Project

Board members attended the City's Watershed Project presentation last month (I saw a number of neighbors there as well).

Phase 5 involves installation of a new storm sewer under the current location of the Trolley Track Trail from Brush Creek to Meyer Boulevard. An interceptor is a large storm drainage pipe that collects storm water from smaller pipes. The new interceptor will significantly increase the capacity of the existing drainage system and should reduce the frequency and severity of flooding problems.

This phase is part of a \$50 million public investment designed to reduce flooding and sewer backups. Phase 5 will repair more than 5,800 feet of sanitary sewer systems, install approximately 6,800 feet of new sanitary sewer, and construct approximately 11,200 feet of new storm sewers. Work will be completed in two phases, starting in 2010 with the northern portion of the project at Brush Creek. Work on both contracts is expected to continue through 2015, subject to availability of funding, at a cost of approximately \$30 million.

While most of the work will be done on the Trolley Trail site, one side of Brookside Boulevard from Volker to approximately 52nd will be torn up to install sanitary sewers that cannot be routed under the existing drains on the easement property.

Information about Your Pets & Our Community



Pet overpopulation is a serious problem in Kansas City. Thousands of cats and dogs are put to sleep each year simply because there are not enough homes.

As a responsible pet owner, we ask for your cooperation by having your pets spayed and neutered. This will help decrease the surplus of pets and make adoption more likely for the thousands of cats and dogs that enter our shelters each year.

Spay and Neutering Services

- Low-cost & Free*
- Low-cost vaccination clinic
- Safe, high quality surgery

Cold Weather Tips to Keep Your Pets Safe This Winter

- It is best to keep pets indoors during the winter months, but if this is impossible, provide pets with adequate housing (An actual dog house) Animal Control ordinances state: crates, truck beds, porches, are not adequate housing as they cannot keep your pet safe from the elements.
- Use only hay or straw for bedding to keep them warm – anything else can freeze and will not keep your pet warm.
- Your pets water will freeze in cold weather - replenish with fresh water daily.
- Keep your pets away from antifreeze solution, and promptly clean up any antifreeze that spills. Antifreeze is attractive to pets and is deadly, even in very small amounts
- Dogs with very short coats have the least tolerance for cold. These breeds include Pit Bulls, Greyhounds, Dobermans, Boxers, and Chihuahuas.

- Keep plenty of food available for your pets; they require extra calories to stay warm.

Spay and Neuter Kansas City
 3710 Main Street – KCMO 64111
 PO Box 410303 - KCMO 64141
 816-353-0940
 www.snkc.net

Friday	April 18
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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. As you have seen, they are expanding housing along Brookside Boulevard. The plan is to build additional housing north of the 51st Street shops as well as a hotel. The group asked if they planned on renovating the shop area and the answer was yes, though firm plans have not been made. There will be continued expansion of the academic buildings on both campuses as well.

KC Rental Registration and Inspection


All owners of rental dwellings located in Kansas City, MO now must register their properties with the City's Neighborhood and Community Services Department. This registration is the result of the passage of ordinance No 071046 in October 2007. By more actively monitoring rental properties through the Rental Registration and Inspection Program, we will not only serve renters better but we will also help improve the condition of all neighborhoods, which benefits all residents. Any property owner who has not registered by January will be assessed a \$50 per month fee. Registration will be required on a calendar basis and expire each December 31st. For information call the Neighborhood Preservation Division (816) 513-9041.

Summer Movie Night Under the Stars

Watch for more on this event in the June newsletter.

Midtown Recycling Center has closed

We are waiting to hear where a new Midtown Recycling Center will be located, and when it will open. The closure was a surprise to all.



Let's Talk About Your Trees.

MICHAEL FLYNN
 COUNTRY SIDE RESIDENT
 TEL: 816.500.1325

Rain Barrels – a class is offered

Do you want lush green gardens without the high water bills? Well, there is a solution. Using rain barrels can be an easy, inexpensive way to have beautiful gardens all growing season.

Powell Gardens is offering a workshop where you will learn why and how to use a rain barrel. Plus, you will use a 55 gallon barrel to make one of your own. Sessions are being offered on the following dates:

Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. – noon

Saturday, March 29, 1 – 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. – noon

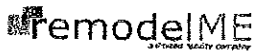
Saturday, April 12, 1 – 3 p.m. (I'm going)

The cost is \$54 and includes supplies. To enroll, please call 816-697-2600 at least two weeks before the class.

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 17 paper bags of yard waste so take advantage and get that cleanup done.

If your trash day is	your dates are:
Monday	April 14
Tuesday	April 15
Wednesday	April 16
Thursday	April 17



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City Update

The following are notes from various meetings I attended the last three months.

PIAC Funds

This year's pool of PIAC funds available to neighborhoods is \$40 million. The 4th District's share is approximately \$2.8 million.

Light Rail

The City Board members are behind a recently proposed starter line that would run approximately 12 miles from Waldo to north of the river. This will be put on the ballot in November.

The City Board is backing a broadening of the anti smoking ordinance to include all public places.

City Budget

There is an estimated \$78 million shortfall in the City budget. This will likely manifest itself in cuts to many programs.

Storm and Sanitation Sewer Project

The Federal government has mandated that Kansas City provide

a plan for splitting storm water and sanitation sewers. This is estimated to be \$3 billion. Proposals to pay for the project include increases to our water and sewer bills, and new taxes of various kinds. Expect your water bills to go up considerably over the coming years

An Overview of Short-Term Loan Ordinances in Kansas City

In January of 2007, responding to an alarming proliferation of payday (or short-term) loan establishments in parts of Kansas City and to a general consensus that these businesses have a detrimental effect on the surrounding neighborhoods and business districts, as well as on the lives of targeted low-income citizens, the City Council passed a moratorium on any new business permits for these establishments, which was extended until September of that year.

Two ordinances were passed by the City Council in the fall of 2007, one of which restricted any new short-term loan establishments from being closer than a mile from an existing one, as well as distance requirements from schools, churches, package liquor stores, etc., and restrictions on gaudy signage. The other one requires short term loan establishments to obtain a permit annually, with a fee of \$1000 per year. The fee only takes effect if the voters OK it on April 8, 2008. In addition, a notice must be posted stating interest rates and the financial implications of rolling over a loan, etc.

If the measure passes on April 8th, the fees collected will reimburse the city for the administrative costs related to inspecting and regulating short-

term loan establishments in order to ensure that they are adhering to these new requirements, put in place to protect our citizens and our neighborhoods.

New Telephone Directories

Last call - we are going to print with the new directories so if you need to provide a new number, or are a new neighbor, please call Kevin Vaughn 816-960-3606, or email at mrandmrsvaughn@sbcglobal.net

CountrySide 2007 HOA

Agenda

March 22, Easter Egg Hunt

April 22, Annual CountrySide HOA meeting (@ Eggtc)
Social hour begins at 6:PM

May 3, Neighborhood Clean-up (dumpster day)

May 24, Summer Newsletter article deadline

May 31, CountrySide Garage Sale

August 23, Fall Newsletter article deadline

September 13, Annual CountrySide Picnic and 100th Anniversary Celebration

October 25, Neighborhood Clean-up (dumpster day)

November 7, Winter Newsletter article deadline

December 13, Holiday lighting judging

CountrySide Newsletter

March 2008

The 2007 Board Members

Terry Rodeghier, President
816-516-5299
nrodeghier@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, Director
816-806-7653
jim@brooksiderealtors.com

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

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

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

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.haccd.org/moassoc/CountrySide
and is managed by the Homes
Associations of the Country Club
District that hosts a website at
www.haccd.org or can be reached at
(816) 523-2440 to attend to you
individual needs.

Countryside Homes Association
222 West Gregory Blvd. , Ste. 201
Kansas City, MO 64112