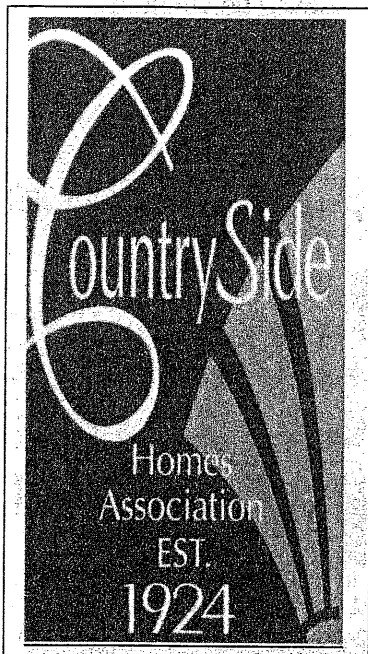


CountrySide Newsletter

June 2008



Notes from Our Neighborhood President

By now, most of you will have learned what transpired at the Countryside HOA annual meeting, held on April 22nd. For those of you unable to attend, I will recap the high points.

Three board member positions were up for election this year. Kevin Vaughn and Bill Robertson decided not to run

again while Jim Kraus tossed his name into the hat once more. Additionally, Kathy Arthur, Dan Sun, Laura Whitener and Darryl Hawkins ran for the open spots. The new board members are Jim Kraus, Kathy Arthur and Dan Sun.

I wanted to take a moment to thank Kevin Vaughn for his service to our community as Treasurer these last three years. Kevin was always first to jump into a task (must have been that Marine training), and his contribution to the board will be missed. Bill has been a board member for so long, no one remembered when he started, including Bill. His long history provided great insights into the neighborhood and the workings of the board. We will miss his humor and information.



A good time was had by all. Approximately 120 neighbors had pizza and socialized at the Annual meeting before the main program. (Photos by Mary Kay Van Buskirk Morrow)



The other major item of business was the vote of two proposals to raise our annual dues. Those are:

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

Hire off duty KCPD officers for additional patrols. They will be in uniform, generally have KCPD squad cars, and carry guns. Thus, they are able to act immediately if something is occurring and can also call KCPD for assistance.

This patrolling is spread out over all days and times so criminals cannot gauge 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.

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.** This provides 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. We agreed to do this for one year, see if we were pleased with the results, and put it up for a vote again in 2009.

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. **For our first project,** we targeted 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, and then our beautification committee will take over and

landscape the island. We felt as this was the original entrance to Countryside, it should be something to be proud of. The cost of this renovation and landscaping will be approximately \$5000.

We will be contacting those of you who have volunteered to help with the beautification effort to join the committee. You will help determine our focus going forward with the beautification of Countryside. If you would like to be a part of that effort, please contact a board member so we can add you to the committee.

Both of these proposals passed with a 75% majority vote. As the 2008 dues bills were sent in May, you will have seen the increase and read the insert.

We began the security patrols June 12th. The board will receive proposed schedules for the month and will get a summary of activities at the end of each month. These will be available through Kathy Arthur and the Neighborhood Watch committee. Additionally, the officers will do a security assessment on your home and property and point out areas for improvement. If you are interested, call Kathy Arthur.

A DST Main Street project update

Our keynote speaker was Tom McGee, a neighborhood resident and VP of DST Realty. Tom provided an update on DST's Main Street project. DST's goal is to have "mixed use infill that is compatible with the neighborhood and an amenity for the neighborhood". As you may have noticed, Yellow Sub has moved to the newly renovated fire station, providing a uniquely retro space with room for outside seating in good weather. The old building is already down and a set of new shops with approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of retail space will be erected this year. They are close on three of the leases, and rumor has it that a certain Italian restaurant may move down the block to occupy one of the spaces that will also have outside seating.

DST knows the neighbors desire a grocery store and they have reached out to several chains including local ones, however most feel the available space is too small for their standard offering (Whole Foods, Trader Joes, etc.). They have not given up on the idea and continue to pursue possibilities.

Tom was asked about the gas station as well as the former Chinese restaurant properties. DST does

not own either. The gas station property is owned by a jeweler on the Plaza and we know of no plans for the property at the present. The Chinese restaurant is currently being turned into an American Sport Bar by the Nigro family.



Board members, old and new from left: Mario Vasquez, Kevin Vaughn (retired), Jim Kraus, Mary Kay Van Buskirk Morrow, Joe Grego, Kathy Arthur, Terry Rodeghier, Dan Sun. (photo by Nadine Rodeghier)

Countryside Neighborhood Watch

With warm weather, an increase in property crime is typically experienced here in Countryside.

During one recent week alone, a car was stolen from East 56th Street, license plates were stolen from a car parked on West 52nd Street and registration tags were stolen from a car parked on Main Street. There have also been a number of reports of individuals canvassing the neighborhood, soliciting donations for various "self esteem" programs. Remember you do not have to open your door to anyone and a city permit is required for legitimate solicitation. Additionally, please be advised that there have been recent instances of homeless men found sleeping in the unsecured lobby of the Post Office at 51st and Main. **Call 911 to report ANY suspicious persons/behavior.** 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.

License plate tip: to minimize the chance of stickers being stolen, cut through several times, then seal the edges with clear nail polish. This will stop thieves from peeling the stickers off and reusing on their own plates.

KCMO City Budget & Police

Source: KCPD Informant News

Although KC Police Department leaders call Kansas City's new 2008-09 budget fair and workable, about

\$45 million in department requests went unmet. The new budget which went into effect on May 1st did not include 20 additional police officers, crime lab personnel, call-takers and dispatchers. In addition, the City declined to give the department \$13 to replace the aging radio system, \$5 to upgrade the fleet nor several more million for new helicopters.

On the other hand, no department members will be laid off, and the same anniversary pay step increases remain for both law enforcement and civilian employees. Department members also will pay just a 2 percent increase for health insurance, a small fraction of the actual 8.9 percent raise. The department will shoulder the remaining 6.9 percent. Even without the additional funding, Deputy Chief Nick Nichols reported that the KCPD has 81 more officers on the street compared to the same time last year. "This is a fair budget," said Fiscal Division Commander Major David Zimmerman. "It's certainly not everything we wanted but everybody realizes this was a tough year for the city, and the city's budget affects us." Although the budget increased by 6 percent - - or nearly \$14 million over 2007 - - Major Zimmerman said it will only allow the department to maintain the level of service it had in the previous year. Reasons for this include the increased cost of health insurance, salary increases that took effect in November and ever-rising gas prices.

Savings are likely to come from consolidation and coordination with city staff for back-office issues, Zimmerman said. The city has estimated it will save \$500,000 in combining its building operations staff with the department's - - with no loss of jobs according to Zimmerman. In addition, the department and the city are moving forward with a plan for KCPD to take over the KCI Airport, which is policed by private contractors. About \$1 million was allotted in the department's budget this year to plan for that. Major Zimmerman said no decisions on how that take-over would work have yet been made and discussions are ongoing.

Countryside Tour of the Nelson

Deborah Emont Scott, chief curator of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and Countryside resident, has generously offered to give interested neighbors a special tour of the Nelson Atkins Museum. If you are interested, please reserve your space by emailing mmartin@nelson-atkins.org. You will receive an email confirmation within two days. The group will meet at 5:45 pm at the Visitor Services Desk in the Bloch Building for a one hour tour of the new Bloch Building on Friday evening, July 18, 5:45-6:45 pm. The tour is limited to 20 people.

Block Party Funding

Here's a reminder that our Home Owners Association will contribute \$100 to the first ten block parties who request assistance each year.

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 Darryl Hawkins at 531-2221 or send the information via email to arkitec35@aol.com.



100th Anniversary Committee meeting.

Participants from left: Tracy Kelso, Darryl Hawkins, John and Carol Duncan, Dave Brammell. (Photo by Mary Kay Van Buskirk Morrow)

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. Are you a painter, photographer, ceramist, or work in other mediums.

If you have an interest in showing your art, please contact Terry Rodeghier.

100th Anniversary Celebration Committee Update

Greetings from the Countryside 100 Year Celebration Committee. This summer, a 100 year celebration of the first neighborhood that J.C. Nichols created is in the works.

Three celebration activities are in the planning stages. 1) A walking tour of historically significant

neighborhood homes is in the making. We need volunteers to help with all aspects of this effort. 2) A bike parade during the Fourth of July weekend. We need parents to assist this effort. 3) Our Annual Countryside Picnic. We would like to add a historic flavor to the picnic whether it is food, costumes, games, or anything else to make this event special.

If you would like to volunteer to be part of any of these activities, call Darryl Hawkins at 531-2221 or via email to arkitec35@aol.com.

4th of July Kid's Bike Parade

In a rebirth of an old tradition and to celebrate the Red, White and Blue, Countryside will hold a Kid's Bike Parade on the 4th of July. Decorate your bikes, trikes, wagons, dogs, you name it. We will have some extra decorations like ribbons and flags if you need them just before the parade. We will give out prizes for the best decorated bikes in various age groups so use your creativity and decorate away. The judging and parade will begin at 2: PM, July 4th, in the Visitation parking lot next to Minsky's and will wind through the neighborhood. If you have questions, call Darryl Hawkins at 405-2159 or email at arkitec35@aol.com.

City Bulky Item Pickup Rules Change

As you may recall, the City has changed the Bulky Item Pickup to "reservation only" process. They will no longer pick up at the end of every other month. Residents placing non-bulky items at the curb will receive notification that their items do not qualify for collection, and they will be left at the curb. If non-bulky items are left in a pile with bulky items, all will be left as crews will not separate the items. An item that qualifies as bulky if it is too large for regular trash service. Typical items are refrigerators, stoves, sofas, chairs, doors, carpets, etc. The City does not consider an item to be bulky if it can be accommodated by regular trash service. Items such as bags or boxes of trash or remodeling debris weighing less than 40 lbs should be placed in trash bags for general collection. For a complete listing of City rules visit www.kcmo.org/trash or call the 3-1-1 Action Center.

Please call or email our Councilwomen --"Beth Gottstein info@beth4kc.com, Jan Marcason jan_marcason@kcmo.org, or contact our City Action Center at 311 or 513-1313 or

actioncenter@kcmo.org to voice your concerns about the nearly complete elimination of this critical service that help citizens keep their neighborhoods cleaned up.

In order to help with this issue, the Countryside HOA will hold at least two, and possibly three dumpster days per year for the neighborhood. Watch the calendar for dates.

Welcome Wagon Committee Update

DONATIONS FOR THE New Neighbor "WELCOME BASKET"

If you would like to donate coupons or goodies to the beautiful basket our Welcome Committee has put together for our new neighbors, please contact Mary Beth LeCluyse at **361-2736**. These baskets include gifts such as coffee, home-baked cookies and wine.

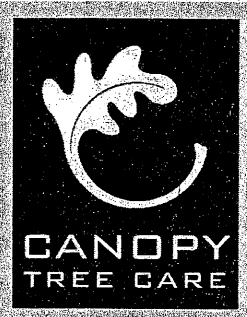
Some of our long-time neighbors are thinking about moving out & then, back in,--just so they can get a basket!

Donations already include:

- Stuart Bitterman-Candy with "Welcome to Countryside" custom label
- Cassandra Bitterman-Fresh Cut Flowers & Herbs
- Dr. Carla King-Certificate for Free Teeth Bleaching
- Mary Beth LeCluyse-Southern Living at Home Catalog & Discount
- Mary Mountain – Gift Certificate to Plaza Animal Clinic
- Lance & Pat Jesse – Posty Cards
- Lea Murphy – Photography Reduced Sitting Fee
- Ruth Jenkins – Mary Kay Makeup Samples
- Rachel Kennedy - Remodel ME Brochure
- Plaza Merchants – Brochure
- John Quastler – Arrow Fabricare Services \$25 Gift Certificate
- Paula Gilliland – The Place to Come - Certificate for Salon Services & Beauty Products
- Michelle Goss – fresh baked cookies
- Mary Kay Van Buskirk Morrow--KC Local Color™ Directory
- Countryside Homes Association-Countryside T-Shirt

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 1/2") is \$10 per issue or \$35 for four issues. Larger ads will cost multiples of that rate. Directory prices will be quoted upon request.



Let's Talk About Your Trees.

MICHAEL FLYNN
COUNTRY SIDE RESIDENT
TEL: 816.500.1325

Movie Night Under the Stars

Want to watch a movie under the stars? Well your chance is coming! Around the week of the picnic, the HOA will be showing a great movie. Bring your chairs, drinks, popcorn, and relax under the stars in our very own neighborhood drive-in / walk-in theater. Watch for date/time/place in the next newsletter.



Carla King, D.D.S.
Your Neighborhood Dentist

- New Patients Welcome
- Emergency Dental Care Available
- 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

315 NICHOLS ROAD, SUITE 217
(Above Eddie Bauer in the Plaza Medical Building)
(816) 561-9847

New Telephone Directories

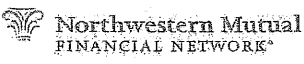
Last call - we are going to print with the new directories so if you need to provide a new number, know or are a new neighbor, please call Terry Rodeghier 816-516-5299, or email at nrodeghier@kc.rr.com

Do you know these neighbors?

*Monica and Bart Starr
Jenny Dean*



They graciously volunteered but we don't have contact information for them.

Please let us know. Thanks for your help. Mary Kay 363-2595.



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

2600 Grand Boulevard, Suite 600
Kansas City, MO 64108
816-412-1520 office
816-412-1525 fax
816-590-8364 mobile
jim.king@nmfn.com
www.nmfn.com/jimking



Tree Program

Have you had the misfortune to lose a tree on the parkway or maybe didn't have one to begin with. If you want/need to replace a tree on the parkway, the association will match up to \$100 in cost for up to two trees. Arrange to have the tree put in and, once done, submit the bill to the board for the matching funds.

Missouri Acts on Property Tax Issue

Late in the legislative session, the Missouri General Assembly has acted to limit future tax increases for Missouri homeowners.

A taxpayer-oriented bill that stops backdoor tax increases by requiring taxing entities to roll back their property tax rates won approval in the Missouri General Assembly in May.

The bill requires cities, counties and other taxing jurisdictions to roll back tax rates to prevent windfall tax increases whenever rising property values result in higher assessed values on real estate, even if the taxing entity has not reached its maximum levy.

According to a May 13th Star article, jurisdictions would be allowed revenue increases no larger than the rate of inflation. Increases in total tax revenue higher than the rate of inflation would have to be approved by voters.

A May 16th article from the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry states that the bill also closes a loophole that allows taxing districts to apply new voter approved levies to future and

requires that taxpayers receive a projected tax liability along with their reassessment notices.

Community Meeting

PIAC Neighborhood Hearings

Last year, more than 950 requests for capital improvements projects were received through the PIAC process. The Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) is holding public hearings to hear directly from citizens about the City's public improvement needs. The information gathered will be used to recommend projects for funding to the Council for use of the 2009-10 one-cent public improvements sales tax. Our PIAC reps are Durwin Rice and Jim MacDonald. Our councilmembers are Beth Gottstein and Jan Marcuson.

Fourth district hearings are Tuesday, July 22nd from 6:30-8:30pm in the Westport-Roanoke Community Center, 3601 Roanoke AND Tuesday, July 29th from 6:30-8:30pm at Rockhurst Education Center, 5401 Troost. Questions to Rose Rhodes at 513-1322.



◆ INNOVATIVE DESIGN & RENOVATION ◆

Darryl W. Hawkins, AIA, CBO, NCARB
(Principal / Owner)

2 W 52nd St., KCMO 64112
Phone (816) 531-2221
E-mail: arkitec75@aol.com

Our very own Countryside T-Shirts

If you weren't at the annual meeting you missed an opportunity to purchase one of our really cool Countryside t-shirts. Currently available in black or white short sleeved versions for \$10, they will also be available in a long sleeved version for \$15. If you are interested, call Darryl Hawkins at 531-2221.

Countryside Annual Picnic

Part of the 100th Year celebration this year.

We are looking for volunteers to help make this year's picnic the best ever. While we are planning on all the usual fun, food and drink, we would like to include more activities for the kids. If you have

ideas and are willing to organize and/or supervise an activity, please call Nadine Rodeghier @ 516-5299 or email @ nrodeghier@kc.rr.com.

Rose Brooks Center needs your help

This year's Countryside Annual Picnic will be a big celebration for the 100 year anniversary of our neighborhood, but will also serve as a wonderful opportunity to give back to our community and help women and children who have survived domestic violence. National statistics prove that 1 out of every 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

Rose Brooks Center is a local non-profit agency that has been providing safety, shelter, support, and healing for over 30 years. Every year more than 700 women and children find safety at the Rose Brooks Center Emergency Shelter. The staff and volunteers encounter courageous women every day. These women are determined to emerge from abusive relationships, despite incredible obstacles. They come to Rose Brooks Center from a variety of backgrounds, ready to take those first steps toward freedom. The majority arrive with nothing but the clothing on their backs and maybe just a few items for their children. When a woman escapes violence she is 75% more at risk so they must flee in an instant in order to ensure their safety. As a result, Rose Brooks Center provides them with the first week's supply of emergency needs. This is where Countryside can help.

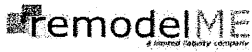
On behalf of Rose Brooks Center we ask you to bring to the Annual Picnic contributions such as: women and children's personal hygiene items, (e.g. toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.) or school supplies, (backpacks, notebooks, pencils, pens, etc.). No gift is too small or too big.

For more information on Rose Brooks Center you can call Tracy Kelso at (816) 523-5550 or check out the website at www.rosebrooks.org. Countryside is a caring community and willing and able to make a difference. Thank you for your help!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world"
Margaret Mead.

CountrySide Newsletter

June 2008



FREE CONTRACTOR
REFERRAL SERVICE

- *Kitchen/Bath Updates
- *Room Additions
- *Basements
- *Everything in between!

CALL TODAY

816.298.0057

www.remodelmekc.com

Neighborhood Update

Welcome New Neighbors

Our new neighbors since the previous newsletter are listed below. Welcome to Countryside:

March

Destine & Hilary Valine
5425 Baltimore

May

Jason & Shannon Pryor
17 East 54th Street
Matthew Hall
7 West 52nd Street

June

Brian & Christine Sullivan
220 West 53rd Street

TREE PLANTING EFFORT

The City of Kansas City, Missouri is undertaking a multiyear climate protection plan, which includes the goal of adding 120,000 additional trees to the city's landscape over the next ten years. An aggressive tree planting effort will require

identification of available planting sites. To assist in this effort, Heartland Tree Alliance, an affiliate of Bridging The Gap, will coordinate trained volunteers in teams of two or more to identify potential sites using maps of the city. Please join us in this important effort to support Kansas City's Climate Protection Plan! Info Angela Schreffler, 816-561-1061, ext. 110 or email angela.schreffler@bridgingthegap.org

FREE EXTERIOR HOUSE PAINT

Program gives eligible homeowners high-quality, exterior paint for their homes at no cost. Eligible applicants must complete an application. Total cost of the paint supplies will not exceed \$500.

Applicants must:

- Reside in Kansas City, Mo
- Own only one property and live in the property
- Meet these income guidelines... One person - \$38,300; Two people - \$43,800; Three people - \$49,250; Four people - \$54,700; Five people - \$59,100; Six people - \$63,500; Seven people - \$67,850; Eight+ people - \$72,250.

For more information and to get an application, visit <http://www.kcmo.org/neighborhood/paint/> or call the Property Preservation Division (816) 513-3025.

CountrySide 2008/9 Agenda

July 4th Kid's bike parade, 2: PM, starting at Visitation parking lot next to Minsky's.

August 15, Fall Newsletter article deadline

September 13, Annual CountrySide Picnic and **100th Anniversary Celebration**

October 25, Neighborhood Clean-up (dumpster day)

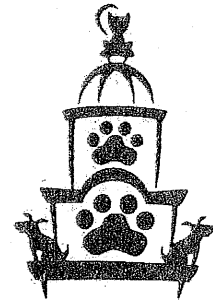
November 7, Winter Newsletter article deadline

December 13, Holiday lighting judging

April 11, Easter Egg Hunt

April 14, Annual CountrySide HOA meeting (@ Eggtc) Social hour begins at 6: PM

May 15, Summer Newsletter article deadline



Plaza Animal Clinic, Inc.

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

(816) 931-6636

CountrySide Newsletter

June 2008

The 2008 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

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

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

Dan Sun, Director
816-550-5269
dansunkc@yahoo.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 your
individual needs.

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

Homes
Association
EST.
1924