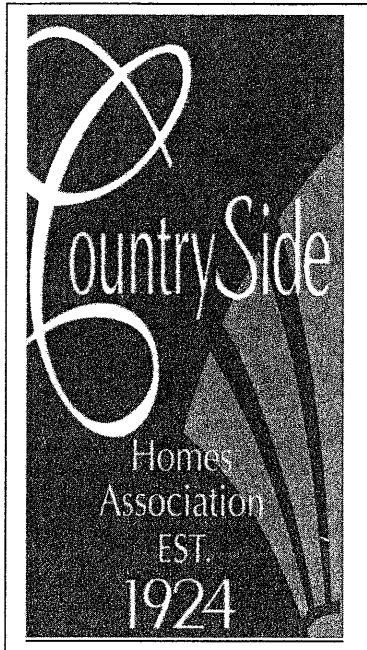


# CountrySide Newsletter

December 2008



## Notes from Our Neighborhood President

Another year is coming to a close, and what a year it has been. On the national front, we've had a melt down of the economy, federal and state elections. In our little corner of the world, you voted for your own brand of change at the annual meeting, increasing your dues to pay for off duty police patrols and beautification

efforts. Several of the articles following will provide you with information on the success of those endeavors, but I wanted to take a minute to thank all of you homeowners who voted to pay for these efforts. I know it is not an easy thing for many of you to increase yet another outlay of funds, especially in these times. However, safety and improvement of the neighborhood common areas were voted the top two items in our association survey, and you showed you were serious.

Thanksgiving is over, the turkey but a memory, or perhaps there are still some leftovers in the freezer. Each of us is blessed to be living in a great neighborhood with wonderful neighbors. As Christmas approaches, take a minute to reflect on a kindness done for you by a neighbor, friend, or stranger, and think of how you may return that act or "pay it forward" and do something for another person. If each of us does some little thing for others on a continual basis, we can all contribute to a better world. Whether it is through personal actions, donations to a favorite charity, some type of volunteerism, or just a kind word, each little action adds up.

It has been my privilege to be on the Countryside board these years and it is my hope, and the board's, that all of you have a wonderful holiday season, and that you and yours have a brighter new year.

## Last City Leaf and Brush Pick-up

Mark your calendar for the last Kansas City leaf pick-up date for 2008. For our area where trash is picked up on Friday, the date is **December 5<sup>th</sup>**. For specifics on the pick-up please go to [kcmo.org](http://kcmo.org) under Services.

## Holiday Light Judging

Here's your last reminder before the big day that we will have our Annual Holiday House Lighting and Block Decorating judging on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Deck out your house and get your block to do the same and show your holiday spirit. Signs will be posted at the winning house and block after the judging (winning house receives a gift certificate and the block gets extra money towards a block party).



## SAVE THESE DATES FOR EXTRAORDINARY CHRISTMAS MUSIC

- Dec. 14: Chancel Choir, Children's Choir & instruments presenting Hal Hopson's Cantata *Come Ye Faithful*, *A Service of Carols* at 10:45 am
- Dec. 16: Country Club's Concert Series presents Bach's *Magnificat* with UMKC's Collegium Vocale Conservatory of Music students, & orchestra at 7:30 pm
- Dec. 24: Special Christmas Eve service at 5:30 pm

## Country Club United Methodist Church

57<sup>th</sup> & Wornall KC, MO 64113  
[www.countryclubumc.org](http://www.countryclubumc.org)  
816-444-1616



## Countryside HOA Committees

On behalf of the board and community I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers who helped with our various efforts this year. As you can see, many of your neighbors are lending a hand and we are always open to added help or new ideas for committees.

Neighborhood Watch/Crime Prevention

Kathy Arthur

Beautification

Kevin Yates, Kathy Arthur

Welcome Baskets

Mary Beth LeCluyse, Carla King, Kristi Calkins, Casey McFarlane

Annual Picnic

Nadine Rodeghier

Fourth of July Parade

Darryl Hawkins and Tracy Kelso

Easter Egg Hunt

Jenny Greene and others

Gift Basket Contributors

- Mary Mountain, Plaza Animal Clinic
- Lance & Pat Jesse, Posty Cards
- Lea Murphy, Photography
- Ruth Jenkins, Mary Kay Beauty Consultant
- Dirty Dan's
- Carla King, DDS
- Roasterie/Grocery Store
- 5B
- Shopgirls
- John Quastler, Arrow Fabricare Services
- Mary Kay VanBuskirk-Morrow, KC Color
- Stuart & Cassandra Bitterman, Bitterman Candy
- The Place to Come, Paula Gilliland
- Michelle Goss – fresh baked cookies
- Mary Beth LeCluyse, Southern Living at HOME
- Sara and Martin Murphy - wine
- BB's Lawnside BBQ
- RemodelME, Rachel Kennedy
- Plaza Merchants Assn.
- Kristi Calkins – FIT mama's

**Security Patrol Update**

Although several Countryside residents have been victims of burglaries in the past couple of months, officers report that neighbors seem to be more alert to suspicious behavior and are taking steps to reduce the opportunity for such crimes. Fewer garage doors are being left open and a recent attempt at breaking and entering was interrupted when a resident noticed a man trying to pry open the rear door of a neighboring house. The holiday season is here and criminals (as always) are looking for easy targets. Do not leave gifts or valuables in sight, either in your car or in your home. Remember to be aware of your surroundings when you park or are approaching your parked car. **This includes your own driveway.**

**Patrol Statistics for October**

Pedestrian Checks	4
Traffic Violations	20
Car Checks	13
Traffic Tickets	10
Reports	5

Calls for service	20
Intelligence Reports	3
State Arrests	2
Residence Checks	3
Warrant Arrest	16

(other than state)  
 Kathy Arthur, Neighborhood Watch  
 816-719-1687  
 rarthur@kc.rr.com

**Beautification Update**

As previously noted, a comprehensive plan has been developed for landscaping the island at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Brookside. Implementation of the plan has been slower than originally anticipated as it was necessary to obtain the approval of the Parks and Recreation Department for improvements to this "boulevard" property. Six trees were installed early this month (see picture). Boxwoods, roses and ornamental grasses are scheduled for early spring.



We are continuing to work with the Parks Department to provide water service to the island at a reasonable cost. In the interim, Tom and Kim Tuccillo, who live adjacent to the island, have graciously offered the use of their outdoor hose. The islands on Wyandotte at 55<sup>th</sup> and at Westover are currently being assessed to determine a course of action for renovation. If you are interested in being part of this effort, contact Kathy Arthur at rarthur@kc.rr.com.

**Countryside Movie Nite**

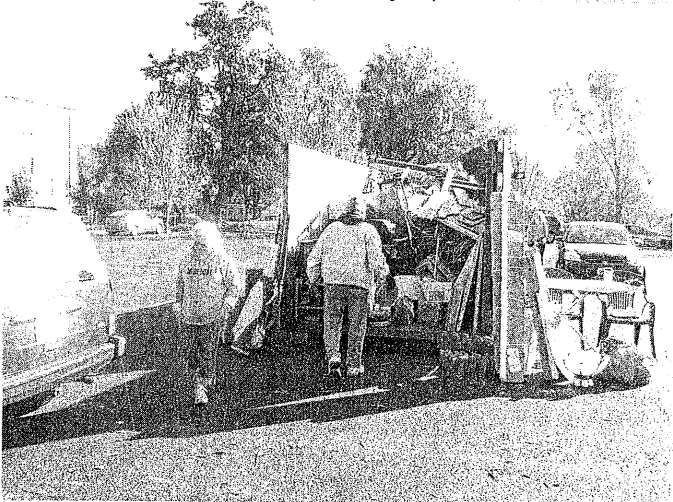
About 30 residents, mostly children, came together to enjoy an outdoor showing of "Beetlejuice," a Tim Burton classic that seemed like a good warm up for Halloween. The event was held on Saturday, October 4, at the park at 52nd and Brookside. The film was part of the "Movies in the Park" program underwritten by the Parks and Recreation Department.

The event was successful and those in attendance expressed interest in doing it again next year. Drop us a note and let us know if you would enjoy another outdoor movie night sometime in the spring.

More importantly, the event highlighted the value of the park at 52nd and Brookside. It has become a valuable asset for our homes association. It would seem like the place needs a name and a sign. Anybody care to join us and petition for the park to be named "Countryside Park"? Please let us know and we'll get working on it

### **Countryside Dumpster Day**

It was another fine fall day for lightening the load of many Countryside homes. Neighbors took advantage of the opportunity to bring all manner of bulky items and yard waste to St Teresa's parking lot for our association dumpster day. Members of the board worked tirelessly (okay, some a little more tired than others by the end) to load and pack the dumpsters. One neighbor lent a hand with his "expert packing" knowledge and helped create considerably more space (thank you).



Board members assisting neighbors at the dumpster.

Mary Kay, Jim, Mario, Joe and Terry worked the dumpster with help from neighbor Kevin Vaughn. Kathy Arthur and Mary Kay organized a cleanup of Main Street from 52<sup>nd</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup>. They were ably assisted by the Reid family, Caroline, Andy and Susan. Given the City's curtailed bulky item pickup, the board is considering adding a third dumpster day in mid summer. If you are interested in helping out with one of these events, please email or call Terry Rodeghier.



Neighbors cleaning up Main Street. Mary Kay Morrow, Caroline, Andy, and Susan Reid. (Photos by Mario Vasquez)

### **Citizens Frustrated Over Bulky Trash Change**

*Appointment-only bulky item pickup service saves KCMO money, angers residents*

KCMO neighborhood leaders vocalized considerable dissatisfaction with Kansas City's new Bulky Item Collection policy recently at a Neighborhood Information Forum. City representatives told board members from various homeowner associations how each division is making mandated budget cuts through staff reductions, frozen positions and reduced services. Cutbacks to the City's bulky trash collection brought several frustrated citizens to the microphone to voice concerns.

"I take it from your comments today that the City is going to force this on us," said a frustrated resident, noting the preponderance of negative letters on the recent change in the KC Star.

On September 1<sup>st</sup> the City transitioned its Bulky Item Collection Program to an appointment-based collection system for the disposal of large household items such as large appliances and furniture that cannot be handled in regular weekly trash. Citizens were informed to call 311 or 513-1313 to schedule an appointment. Operators ask callers what day items will be out and to enumerate bulky items.

KCMO residents had been receiving curbside bulky pickup on a regular basis since 1997 and had gotten in the habit of having "bulky" trucks pick up anything they left out – from large items to piles, bags and boxes of smaller trash.

"For ten years, citizens have been able to put *anything* out and City trucks drove 354 square miles up and down every street looking for trash," said Tonya Davis of KC's Solid Waste Division. "Now, we know exactly where to



### **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**

go, what we're picking up and it forces citizens to be more responsible."

With 25,000 tons of bulky debris collected annually, the City cut the amount spent by roughly \$370,000 -- from \$2.57 million in 2007-08 to \$2.2 million in 2008-09.

"This is a major reduction in funding," explained Davis. "Our biggest cost savings is that we are asking citizens to call in and make an appointment to have their bulky items collected."

Public Works Information Officer Dennis Gagnon admitted "people are not happy about how long it takes to get an appointment."

Gagnon explained that bulky items should be put out the night before regular trash day and the City will normally collect it within 24 to 48 hours.

However, in cases of heavy demand, it may take longer. "Items should be picked up within 30 days," explained Davis. "If your items are not picked up in 30 days, you should call the 3-1-1 Action Center within 24 hours of the missed pickup."

Gagnon has also gotten complaints from residents who don't like the idea of identifying what items they are putting out.

"You are asked exactly what items you are putting out so that you can be instructed how to prepare various items for pickup," Davis explained. For example, operators will ask you to make an "X" with tape across glass in window panes for safety reasons.

Another reason for itemizing is so that the City can send the appropriate trucks and equipment to handle various items. Freon, for example, must be handled in a particular way.

"There are rules to trash preparation. But if items are properly prepared, we'll pick them up," Davis clarified. Gagnon explained further.

"People have to understand that the purpose of bulky collection is for bulky trash. By moving more of people's regular trash from "bulky" to "regular" pickup, we pay \$26 a ton versus \$34 per ton."

The new program has allowed the City to go from a 14-person crew down to 8 people and by consolidating services for leaf and brush, bulky items, and regular trash pickup, the City pays roughly \$10 per household for everything.

"That's a little less than what an individual citizen would pay for a private company to pick up their regular trash only."

By recycling, Gagnon pointed out, even more saving can potentially be realized.

"Right now only 18% of the City's trash is being recycled which doesn't cost the City anything. But in theory, 75% could be recycled over time," Gagnon explained.

The City is asking residents to take on more responsibility and to work with the City to manage waste.

"We need citizens to be proactive in a constructive manner," clarified Davis who encouraged partnerships between homeowner associations and the City.

Citizens can view a list of acceptable bulky items at [www.kcmo.org/trash](http://www.kcmo.org/trash).

Countryside currently has two "dumpster days" annually, one in the spring and one in the fall. However, if more are needed we can certainly add additional dumpster days to accommodate the need.

*For more information about bulky trash pickup or to request additional dumpster days, contact Mary Kay at 363-2595.*

## **Dampened Mayor Faces KC Residents**

Mayor Mark Funkhouser holds November Town Hall

A beleaguered Mayor Mark Funkhouser faced Kansas City citizens during a Town Hall at the Southern Community Coalition (SCC) November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. A year and a half into a four-year term, Funkhouser has endured a range of criticisms and setbacks, but the Mayor will stick to his convictions and let voters decide his future.

"I never ran on a popularity contest," he said. "Citizens will hold me accountable at election time." Sworn into office in May of 2007, Funkhouser; his wife, Gloria Squitiro; and the City face legal challenges. City revenues are shaky, bills are soaring, and debt load has ballooned. In spite of being the Mayor's top priority, his relationship with the City Council continues to deteriorate. His regional light rail vision was reduced to a less-ambitious starter line before being doused on election day. The Kansas City Star retracted its endorsement of the Mayor. And a citizen satisfaction survey showed dropping scores in spite of Funkhouser's commitment to services on which he campaigned. During this Town Hall, Funkhouser promoted his New Tools Taskforce, addressed declining citizen satisfaction, defended his controversial positions, and empathized with residents' concerns. The Mayor blamed media for negative perceptions about his performance.

"I'm working on 'New Tools' which has been in the paper maybe a dozen times," said Funkhouser. "But Gloria has been in (the paper) a hundred times. It's not fun."

### **New Tools**

Funkhouser pointed to his New Tools Taskforce as one positive initiative about which citizens know very little. Last September the Council unanimously backed the Mayor's resolution to develop new tools for economic development in the City's most economically-depressed areas.

"It's as if there's a hole in the middle of the City where the tax base, revenues and the quality of life is going down," said the Mayor who initiated the effort to spur economic activity and stop population losses in the City's core.

### **Citizen Satisfaction**

KC's Mayor admitted that he had hoped street improvements, fewer metal plates, and better playgrounds would result in improved citizen satisfaction. "That did not happen," Funkhouser said referring to results of a citizen survey. "The decline is a major disappointment to me."

The Mayor laid out his plan for improvement. "We need to do a better job managing the money and improve services so that citizens are satisfied."

### First Lady Controversy

When a participant expressed his "great sense of frustration" over the wasted time and money spent by both the Mayor and the City Council on the controversy surrounding his wife's role in his office, Funkhouser took a stand.

"Whether or not the First Lady is sitting in my office has had absolutely no impact on your life," he fired back.

"But the newspapers are selling papers on it."

Funkhouser said he was perfectly happy with the way things were going before the City Council passed a law allegedly intended to remove his wife from City Hall.

"To say that a specific human being cannot come into my office, sit down, and converse is the silliest thing in the world," the Mayor said as applause broke out. "It's an assault on the integrity of the office of the mayor."

He went on to clarify that this issue is not what he's spending time on and that he doesn't think council members are spending a lot of time on it either.

### Circo's Replacement as Housing Chair

Citizens quizzed the Mayor on his recent replacement of Councilwoman Cindy Circo as chair of the City's Housing Committee with Councilwoman Sharon Sanders Brooks. He's been accused of retaliating against Circo for her support of Squitiro's removal from his office.

"I felt I needed to make a change to get a better outcome," Funkhouser defended his action. "Sharon Sanders Brooks will comply with the city housing policy."

When further pressed to name specific areas where Circo had fallen short, Funkhouser clarified his position.

"I'm not going to stand here and tell you a list of criticisms. I won't attack a person who works hard. I will criticize institutions and policies, but not a person."

### Light Rail Revisited

Questioned about the light rail proposal that voters vetoed this month, Funkhouser said that he had predicted voters wouldn't approve a starter line and referred to his original vision of a comprehensive regional transit system that crosses state line.

"We're going to do it, but we'll need to rethink it again," the Mayor promised. "There's probably not going to be a lot of rail and a new plan must include a stronger bus system."

### Citizen Frustration

The Mayor didn't hesitate to admit that he did not have all the answers.

Asked why property taxes are going up in blighted areas of KC, he explained that the county determines property values and professed, "I don't know, but I'm going to ask."

Asked if anyone was tracking the spike in illegal dumping as a result of the City's new bulky trash policy, he answered, "I don't know. I doubt it."

Regarding a complaint about city workers breaking recycling bins by throwing them, Funkhouser sympathized, "Mine's broken too."

Quizzed on where recycling money goes, Funkhouser responded, "I don't know. It's part of Deffenbaugh's contract."

Admittedly disappointed with some results so far, Funkhouser is not going to give up or sacrifice his principles for approval. He doesn't believe that opposition is a reason to stop trying.

In a recent interview the Mayor said, "I'm never going to give up."

Contact Mary Kay at 363-2595 with questions about Mayor Funkhouser's Town Hall.



**MARY KAY®**  
Salvadora Katosang  
Independent Beauty Consultant

25 E. 52nd Street  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
816-444-6037  
816-721-7670  
skatosang@marykay.com  
www.marykay.com/skatosang

## Neighborhood Update

### Welcome New Neighbors

Our new neighbors since the previous newsletter are listed below:

#### September

Trevor & Matthew Coates      5421 Baltimore

#### October

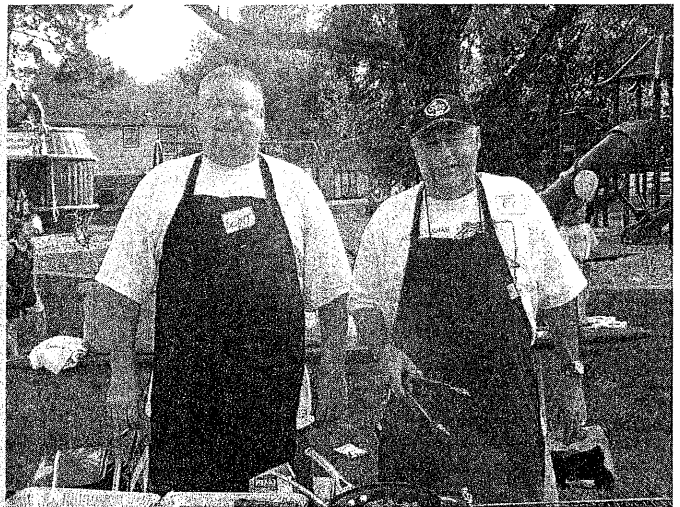
Lee Siam Tan-Kassef      34 E 56<sup>th</sup> Terrace

## Countryside Annual Picnic

If you didn't make it to this year's picnic, you missed great music by Nikki and Collective Memory, our excellent cooks grilling up burgers, sausages and dogs, lots to drink, the Moon Bounce, a spray tattoo artist, a KCPD fire truck, balloons, Countryside t-shirts for sale and more. We had a great turnout with neighbors and kids coming and staying to talk with people from all over our association, as well as with our Councilwoman, Jan Marcason. Some pictures follow to encourage you to join us next year.



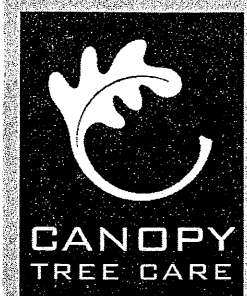
Nikki and Selective Memory rockin' throughout the day with lots of songs and requests.



Our faithful chefs, Scott and Ed, cooking up burgers, brats, sausages and the old favorite hot dogs.



Some of the many neighbors that came out to join in the fun in the sun. (Photos by the Rodeghiers)



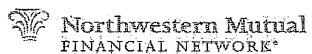
**Let's Talk About Your Trees.**

MICHAEL FLYNN  
COUNTRY SIDE RESIDENT  
TEL: 816.500.1325

## Shutterbugs


photography


<p><b>Pam Grego</b> Partner</p> <p>s 816.931.2630 m 816.830.4734 e <a href="mailto:pamgrego@yahoo.com">pamgrego@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>Sarah Jane Stevenson</b> Partner</p> <p>o 816.361.8136 m 816.985.8447 e <a href="mailto:sjstevenson@kc.rr.com">sjstevenson@kc.rr.com</a></p>
---	--



**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](mailto:jim.king@nmfn.com)  
[www.nmfn.com/jimking](http://www.nmfn.com/jimking)





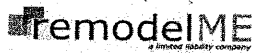
**◆ INNOVATIVE DESIGN & RENOVATION ◆**

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



2 W 52nd St., KCMO 64112  
Phone (816) 531-2221  
E-mail: [arkitec35@aol.com](mailto:arkitec35@aol.com)





**FREE CONTRACTOR REFERRAL SERVICE**

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

**CALL TODAY**

**816.298.0057**

[www.remodelmekc.com](http://www.remodelmekc.com)



**soup maker**

816.221.SOUP

[www.happysoupeater.com](http://www.happysoupeater.com)



Soups made fresh, with all natural ingredients, delivered to your door

**Developer seeks Neighborhood Input for 51<sup>st</sup> & Main**

Opus Plans Lifestyle Complex near Countryside Homes Association

In our last newsletter, we discussed Opus's plans to build at 51<sup>st</sup> and Main. We are working with Opus to have a joint neighborhood meeting with the South Plaza HOA so they can present their updated proposal and all neighbors can participate in the discussion. When a date is set we will communicate the meeting information via our voice mail system and email lists.

**Disposing of trash and unwanted items in Kansas City MO**

Bulky item collection -  
Call for appointment - 311 or (816) 513-1313

**Recycling Drop-off Centers**

- North – Metro North Mall, 400 NW Barry Rd. (northwest parking lot)
- South – Wal-Mart Supercenter parking lot, 9051 Hillcrest Rd.
- Environmental Campus, 4707 Deramus (Wednesday thru Saturday, 9 – 5)

Leaf and Brush – Saturdays at two locations

- 1815 N. Chouteau Trafficway
- I-470 & Raytown Rd

Tires – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month (March – November) at 4707 Deramus

Household Hazardous Waste -  
Call for appointment (816) 784-2080

**For more information visit [www.kcmo.org](http://www.kcmo.org) or call (816) 784-2080, or the Action Center at 311 or 513-1313**

**Appointment scheduling required for bulky item pickup**

**CountrySide 2008/9 Agenda**  
**December 13**, Holiday lighting judging

**April 11**, Easter Egg Hunt

**April 14**, Annual CountrySide HOA meeting @ (to be determined) Social hour begins at 6: PM

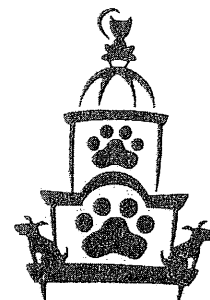
Spring Dumpster Day (date to be determined)

**May 15**, Summer Newsletter article deadline

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**, Kid's bike parade (time to be announced later)

Annual Picnic (date to be determined)

Fall Dumpster Day (date to be determined)



**Plaza Animal Clinic, Inc.**

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

**(816) 931-6636**

# CountrySide Newsletter

December 2008

## The 2008 Board Members

Terry Rodeghier, President  
816-516-5299  
[trodeghier@kc.rr.com](mailto:trodeghier@kc.rr.com)

Jim Kraus, Vice President  
816-806-7653  
[jjim@brooksiderealtors.com](mailto:jjim@brooksiderealtors.com)

Mario Vasquez, Treasurer  
816-444-6424  
[mvasquez@kc.rr.com](mailto:mvasquez@kc.rr.com)

Joe Grego, Secretary  
816-213-5634  
[joeg213@yahoo.com](mailto:joeg213@yahoo.com)

Mary Kay Van Buskirk Morrow  
816-363-2595 Director  
[mary@kclocalcolor.com](mailto:mary@kclocalcolor.com)

Kathy Arthur, Director  
816-719-1687  
[karthur@kc.rr.com](mailto:karthur@kc.rr.com)

Dan Sun, Director  
816-550-5269  
[dansunkc@yahoo.com](mailto:dansunkc@yahoo.com)

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

[www.haccd.org](http://www.haccd.org)

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

## CountrySide Website Information

[http://www.haccd.org/moassoc/Country\\_Side](http://www.haccd.org/moassoc/Country_Side)

## Important Seasonal Phone Numbers

Power line Down	1(888) LIGHT-KC
Potholes	(816) 513-1313
Water Main Break	(816) 513-0209
Snow Removal	(816) 513-9364
Action Center	(816) 513-1313
Gas Leak	1(800) 582-0000

## Advertise to your neighbors

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

## New Resident Information

Are you new to the neighborhood?  
Are you unsure when trash, recycling  
or bulky items are being picked up?  
Are you not sure where to vote?  
Would you like to know where the  
closest community center is located?  
All of these questions and more can be  
answered simply by a click of a button.  
Kansas City has a very helpful website  
at [www.kcmo.org](http://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 Homes Association

222 West Gregory Blvd. , Ste. 201

Kansas City, MO 64112

Home  
Associations  
EST.  
1924