



# 49/63 NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition — Kansas City, Missouri  
www.4963.org (816) 333-4963 Vol.34, No. 4: April 2008

Serving Astor Place, Crestwood, Kingston Heights, Rockhill Crest, Rockhill Ridge, South Park, Troost Plateau, Troostwood, Wing & Steen neighborhoods

## News & Announcements...

### Friday Night Films at St. Francis Xavier

St Francis Xavier Church at 52nd & Troost invites you to its *Friday Night Film Fest*, on **May 9, June 13, and July 11**.

Movies begin at dusk and are held on the lawn. In case of rain or extreme heat, the movies will be shown in the church's air-conditioned gym.

These events are free, and the parish will serve free popcorn and bottled water. *Bring a lawn chair or blanket.*

As of press time, the movies to be shown were not yet selected. Check the 49/63 website, [www.4963.org](http://www.4963.org), for updated information.

### Light Rail Workshops

You are invited to the two concluding meetings in a series of forums on plans for light rail in midtown Kansas City. These meetings will give city transit planners and the KC Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) citizen input as they draft a plan.

The first of these meetings, Thu Apr 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, will be held

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## General Meeting, Tue Mar 25

### MAX Is Coming to Troost

The Troost bus line, which runs through the center of our neighborhood, will feature "MAX" service starting in late 2009 or early 2010. MAX buses make fewer stops and can communicate with traffic signals to reduce stoplight wait time.

Kansas City's first MAX line, which started in July 2005, serves Main Street between downtown and the Plaza, with some extended service continuing south to 74th & Wornall. Current stations are identified by steel and glass shelters and tall markers which display the arrival time of the next MAX bus.



*Illustration courtesy of KCATA*

The picture at right shows how a station at 52nd & Troost could look.

As the most heavily used line in the Metro system, Troost Avenue is an obvious place for a second MAX line. Buses currently run at short intervals all day, and even the midday runs are often full over much of the route.

The Troost MAX will run six buses per hour in each direction from downtown to 75th St during the day. Service will extend to the Bannister Federal complex at a lower frequency, and some Troost MAX runs will serve the redeveloped Bannister Mall site. Less frequent MAX service will continue into the evening and on weekends. Some "local" Troost buses will continue to serve stops at every block.

**Our April 49/63 meeting will feature a representative from KCATA, who will describe the planned Troost MAX and ask for your input on some features of the service. Join us Tue Apr 22, 7:30 pm at the Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost.**

As always, you can meet with the 49/63 CAN Team at 6:30 pm, an hour before the meeting, to discuss your crime and safety concerns.

### Trash & Recycling Pickup



Fri Apr 18 - Fri Apr 25 - Fri May 2 -  
Fri May 9 - Fri May 16 - Fri May 23

### Bulky Items

Mon Apr 28 (all of 49/63)  
*By appointment only after April (see article at right)*



**Leaves & Brush: Fri Apr 18**

### Monthly/Bimonthly Bulky Item Pickup to End in April

One of the casualties of the recent budget cuts was the city's monthly or bimonthly bulky item pickup. **April 28 will be the last.**

Starting in May, if you have bulky items to dispose of, you must call the city's Action Center by dialing 311 (cell phone users dial 513-1313) to schedule a pickup. Details of how to use this service will be published in the May newsletter if available.

## CONTACTS

### EMERGENCIES ..... CALL 911

Gas leak ..... 800-582-0000  
Power line down ..... 888-544-4852  
49/63 CAN Center office ... **333-4963**  
49/63 CAN officers ..... **719-8199**  
Aaron Shillcutt, Chris DeFreece  
KCPD non-emergency ..... 234-5000  
Report a crime tip..... 474-TIPS  
Complaint about police ..... 889-6640  
Fire Dept non-emergency ..... 513-1700  
Utility-bill assistance..... 211  
Weatherization funds... 822-7703 x219  
48 hrs before you dig. 800-DIG-RI TE

### CITY SERVICES

For any of the following, dial ..... **311**  
(from a cell phone, dial **513-1313**)

Abandoned vehicle on street  
Property code violations, weeds  
(for Steven King, 49/63 codes  
inspector, call **590-2226**)

Streetlights, traffic signals/signs out  
Street repairs (after hours 513-0431)  
Water or sewer line breaks  
Illegal dumping  
Dogs running loose  
Landlord/tenant issues

Trash, hazardous waste questions

E-mail ..... [actioncenter@kcmo.org](mailto:actioncenter@kcmo.org)

City website..... [www.kcmo.org](http://www.kcmo.org)  
(including Action Center report form)

### 49/63 NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION, INC.

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Steve Eklund, *Editor* · [news@4963.org](mailto:news@4963.org)



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## From the Editor

# Could 49/63 Be Loved to Death?

*Our neighborhood has had a lot of practice staring down bulldozers. Institutional encroachment has brought responses ranging from the city-approved Troostwood Master Plan to hundreds of "UMKC Kills Our Homes" yard signs to vigils and protests. We have learned how to make ourselves heard.*

*But another, more subtle threat to our neighborhood's integrity may be on the horizon. Attractive urban neighborhoods in Chicago, Denver, Dallas, St. Louis, and other cities are under assault from developers who are drawn to their locations but who fail to respect what makes these neighborhoods attractive. A developer buys a property, tears down and replaces the existing home with a big, upscale-suburban-style house that is completely out of proportion with its surroundings. These oversize houses, often called "McMansions" or "monster homes," can so thoroughly disrupt the character of the surrounding neighborhood that property values of nearby homes decline. Even an ill-conceived rehab or remodeling project can cause similar damage.*

*Urban neighborhood leaders across the nation are recognizing these threats. Their responses include zoning-ordinance changes which ensure that lot-line setbacks, street façades, gross floor area, building height, and garage siting for both new construction and rehabs conform to existing local norms. Magazines like American Bungalow frequently feature new infill houses which nicely complement the surrounding 1920s-vintage homes in neighborhoods like ours.*

*The 49/63 community is blessed with a wealth of activists who care deeply about the sustainability of our neighborhoods. But protecting and preserving these neighborhoods will take more than concern. It will take coordination. Historic-neighborhood designation, zoning changes, and developer education will require a team approach, in which leaders within and among neighborhoods formulate strategies, delegate tasks, and review their progress regularly.*

*Are we ready to turn our devotion to our neighborhoods into action? Are we up to this new challenge?*

## From Your CAN Team & COMBAT Coordinator

### Got a Problem? Let's Talk

If something on your block—noise, disorder, trash dumping, unruly children, crime, graffiti—is bothering you, don't just grit your teeth. The 49/63 CAN team can help.

*We don't have any magic cures. Most neighborhood problems require*

*teamwork and time for their solution.*

*But they can be solved. By working with the CAN center, hundreds of 49/63 residents have brought positive change to their blocks.*

*Call the CAN Center at **333-4963**. Together, with patience, we can work to make things better.*



# Troost Plateau Hears MAX Bus Plans



Troost Plateau residents (54th to 59th, Troost to Paseo) learned about plans for a Troost Avenue MAX bus rapid transit line at their April 5 meeting.

The presenter was Mike Looney of Taliaferro & Browne, the engineering firm working with KCATA to plan the MAX bus lines.

## Green Neighborhoods Festival May 17

You're invited to join your neighbors for the Troostwood Garden's annual eco-nutrition-nature-fun bash, **Sat May 17, 10 am to 4 pm.**

*Fun Stuff to Do:* Face painting \* Horseback riding \* Games & activities

*Fun Stuff to See:* Birds of Prey exhibit \* Gardening & Nutrition info \* Praise Dancers

*More Stuff...* from the local EPA office, MO Conservation / Natural Resources departments

*Potluck Lunch:* Bring a dish to share, lawn chairs, and a recipe for the upcoming Troostwood Youth Council Cookbook.

— No Pets, Please! —



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in the UMKC Education Building at 52nd & Cherry. This session will focus on route alignment, station location, and economic development along the proposed route.

A second meeting, focusing on summarizing citizen input from the previous meetings, will be held Thu May 8 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 40th & Main, also from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

You can find out more by visiting [www.kansascitylightrail.org](http://www.kansascitylightrail.org) or

calling KCATA Marketing Director Cindy Baker at **346-0209.**

## St. James Church Block Party May 2-3

On the first Friday and Saturday of May, St. James United Methodist Church at 56th & Paseo will host a city-wide worship and social networking event called "RAGE" (Radically Accepting God's En-

# CALENDAR

**RUCC:** Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost  
**TYG:** Troostwood Youth Garden, 52nd & Paseo

## April

18 / Fri	<b>Leaf &amp; brush pickup</b>
18 / Fri 7:00 pm	<b>Swope Health Family Empowerment Showcase,</b> Metropolitan M.B. Church, 2310 Linwood Blvd
19 / Sat 9:00 am-1:00 pm	<b>"H.O.P.E." family violence prevention fair,</b> Christian Fellowship Church, 4507 Troost Ave
22 / Tue 6:30 pm	<b>49/63 CAN crime &amp; safety meeting,</b> RUCC
22 / Tue 7:30 pm	<b>49/63 General Meeting,</b> RUCC. Topic: Troost MAX Bus Line plans
24 / Thu 5:30 - 7:30 pm	<b>Light Rail Planning Workshop,</b> UMKC Education Bldg, rm 115
28 / Mon	<b>Bulky pickup,</b> all of 49/63


## May

02-03 / Fri-Sat	<b>"RAGE" Block Party,</b> St James Methodist Church, 56th & Paseo. <i>See article for details</i>
03 / Sat 9:00 am	<b>Troost Plateau meeting,</b> RUCC
03 / Sat 10:00 am	<b>Troostwood meeting,</b> Coffee Break, 5400 Troost
08 / Thu 5:30 - 7:30 pm	<b>Light Rail Planning Workshop,</b> St Paul's Episcopal Church, 40th & Main
14 / Wed 7:30 pm	<b>49/63 Board meeting,</b> RUCC
17 / Sat 10:00 am -4:00 pm	<b>Green Neighborhoods Festival,</b> Troostwood Youth Garden, 52nd & Paseo
27 / Tue 7:30 pm	<b>49/63 General Meeting,</b> RUCC

**Got news?**

Send it to us at [news@4963.org](mailto:news@4963.org) !

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Delivered</u>
May	May 2	May 21
Jun	May 30	Jun 19



trance).

A youth-led worship service will be held at the church Friday evening, May 2, from 7 to 10 pm with partici-

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pation from ministries across the city. Saturday, May 3 will be filled with workshops for youth and adults, exciting games, concessions, and exhibitors from 9 am to 6 pm. A worship concert from 6 to 9 pm will feature choirs, bands, holy hip-hop, spoken word, and dance.

## Graffiti Busters Busy

Our neighborhood, especially along Troost, has suffered a real run of graffiti in recent months. Between November and February, about 60 sites were cleaned up.

**Removing graffiti can be a tough job.** On painted surfaces, it can be primed and painted over, preferably in a color somewhat close to that of the surrounding surface.

Unpainted smooth, hard, non-absorbent surfaces like glazed brick or some concrete can be treated with a graffiti remover available at home-improvement stores. The material is painted on, left for half an hour, and then rinsed off with scrubbing.

Graffiti on a heavily textured or absorbent surface, such as deeply grooved brick, presents a real challenge. On the advice of KC's downtown-area graffiti abatement specialists, the CAN center is trying out a high-powered treatment that costs \$230 per 5-gallon bucket. Even with this stuff, getting rid of a mark on rough brick takes a lot of elbow

grease—and in our neighborhood, that means volunteers.

The next step up, in both cleaning power and expense, is pressure-washing. This method requires a water supply, something not often available at the site. The 49/63 CAN team has not yet resorted to this step.

**What can you do if you see graffiti?** First, contact the CAN Center at **333-4963** or **coord@4963.org** with an accurate report of the location. If it's on city property such as a stop sign, you can also call the Action Center at 311 (from a cell phone, 513-1313) with the location.

*If it's on your property, do the right thing: Clean it off or paint it over as soon as you can.*



Photo courtesy of Ruth Austin  
CAN Volunteer Josh Hamm covers graffiti on the wall of a Troost Avenue business