



49/63 NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition — Kansas City, Missouri
www.4963.org (816) 333-4963 Vol.34, No. 7: August 2008

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

News & Announcements...

What Would Get You to Shop on Troost?

A couple of entrepreneurs have put together a survey to find out what sort of retail business neighborhood folks would use if it opened on Troost Avenue.



This very brief survey is available online. Go to www.4963.org, click on *News*, and scroll down to “Help Build a Business on Troost” to find the link.

Leaf & Brush Drop-off Changes

The city’s leaf and brush drop-off sites, at I-470 & Raytown Road and on Deramus Ave, are operating under some new rules:



- Proof of Kansas City residency is required, in the form of a driver’s license with a current KC address. See below for exceptions.
- Residents may bring a maximum of five paper lawn/leaf bags of leaves and brush per week for

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General Meeting, Tue Aug 26

Rockhurst to Unveil Master Plan

Universities and the residential neighborhoods surrounding them have complex and occasionally difficult relationships.

Ten years ago, when UMKC sprung an aggressive expansion plan on its southern neighbors, those difficulties erupted into hundreds of “UMKC Kills Our Homes” yard signs, a series of stories in the *Star*, and court proceedings. The plans were drastically scaled back.

Eventually, UMKC’s campus leadership moved away from unilateral pronouncements of that kind and toward more dialogue with its neighbors. UMKC’s relationship with the adjacent neighborhoods has improved considerably—though residents remain understandably wary.

In the past few years, Rockhurst University’s relationship with its neighbors to the north and south has taken an initial trajectory similar to this earlier episode. Homes have been bulldozed for parking lots, conflicting signals have been given on the promised divestment of properties in the Troostwood neighborhood, and residents have been surprised by the sudden appearance of survey crews in Rockhurst’s employ.

The neighborhood’s reaction to these perceived threats has so far been more subdued than the earlier response to UMKC’s plans, but it has nonetheless succeeded in encouraging Rockhurst to take the first steps toward a renewal of dialogue with its neighbors.

Our August 49/63 meeting will be a milestone along this path. At this meeting, BNIM/Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, the University’s planning consultants, will solicit input from neighborhood residents for the Campus Master Plan it is now developing.

If you want to participate in the discussion, join us **Tue Aug 26, 7:30 pm at the Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost.** Remember the CAN crime and safety meeting at 6:30, same location.

Trash & Recycling Pickup

Fri Aug 22 - Fri Aug 29 -
Sat Sep 6 - Fri Sep 12 -
Fri Sep 19 - Fri Sep 26



Bulky Item Pickup

Thu Aug 28 (all of 49/63)

The city’s bulky pickup program continues... for the moment.

...while you wait for the new...

look up a book on the kind of work you’re doing...
to create a problem-solving environment...
and help reflect the information...
and help reflect the information...
The 49/63 Coalition’s board...
no longer...
and help reflect the information...
and help reflect the information...

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
City website..... www.kcmo.org
(including Action Center report form)

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Steve Eklund, *Editor* · news@4963.org



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From the Editor

Let's Keep 49/63 Child-Friendly

I work at one of Kansas City's charter schools in an administrative support position. The school draws kindergarten-to-12th-grade students from across the KC urban core.

Recently I assisted our student transportation contractor as they adjusted bus routes and stops at the request of parents.

It was a revealing experience. Many parents of young students asked for stops to be moved a block or two to avoid sites of recent violent crimes, or to get their children away from street corners frequented by gangs or other loiterers — even if it sometimes meant a longer walk between home and the bus stop.

This brought home to me some of the everyday consequences of neighborhood crime and disorder for the families living near these problems. Children (and their parents) should not have to live in constant fear for their safety as they wait for the school bus.

I'm happy to report that none of the "bad" corners I happened to hear mentioned were in 49/63. But that doesn't mean we don't have them.

Let's work together as a neighborhood to resist and reverse the small signs of disorder that lead to these kinds of fear. Don't be afraid to call 911 when you see teenagers up to no good. Get to know your neighbors and the families of school-age children on your block.

Let's make every corner of 49/63 child-friendly.

From Your CAN Team & COMBAT Coordinator

CAN Officers Shillcutt and DeFreece are on duty Monday through Thursday during the day. To discuss concerns and solve problems with them, call their mobile number, **719-8199**. Elizabeth Haney, our new COMBAT Coordinator, can be reached at **333-4963**.

911 calls: Once you dial 911, please don't hang up. Stay on the line until you are able to give your information. For non-life-threatening situations, you may be told that the police response time will be 2 to 4 hours.

Just thank the call-taker. With luck, a police cruiser could be just a couple blocks away and able to respond right away. Regardless of when they get there, the officers will search out the

neighborhood, which is a good thing.

Call whenever you think you see anything that is suspicious or potentially dangerous. (That can even be unsupervised children trespassing; any child unsupervised is in danger.)

Unruly block parties: A number of complaints have been received about block parties that do not seem to fit what most people (and the city) consider appropriate.

Block-party permits are intended to help neighbors get better acquainted, to develop positive relationships with each other, help each other and watch out for each other. They are *not* designed for events that would be more appropriate in a private rental hall.

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Anyone wishing to discuss this may call the CAN Center at **333-4963**.

House parties: Disturbances from any house—loud voices, loud music, excessive coming and going, trash being left in your yard or in the streets—are reasons for a police citation for disturbing the peace or operating a disorderly premises.

If you are victimized by this behavior, it is best *but not mandatory* to try to talk to your neighbors about stopping the disturbing activity.

The CAN Team and COMBAT Coordinator can also try to help you; call **333-4963** as soon as possible and tell us what is going on.

Citizens Police Academy: The next session starts Thu Sep 11, and meets Thursday evenings. To learn

more, call CPA Coordinator Angela McCune at **413-3505**.

Useful website: Find KCMO crime maps at **www.crimereports.com**. The maps list all recent crime reports, down to the block level.

Get your stuff back with serial numbers: If you lose power tools, appliances, or electronics to a break-in, you have a chance of getting some of it back—if you can provide serial numbers to the police. Make a list and keep it somewhere off-site but handy, such as in your e-mail or at a relative's house.

Protect parked cars from crime: Keep your eyes open for people lurking around parked automobiles. If you see this behavior, call 911 immediately. Don't wait for them to drive off in the vehicle or walk off with its license plate.

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free. These five bags may *not* include bundles of twigs and branches—see below.

- Residents are allowed two pickup-truck loads of yard waste (not to exceed three cubic yards) per year. Bundled twigs and branches are counted as part of a truckload.
- Loads above these limits are charged as follows: \$1 per bag, \$4.50 per cubic yard over the 3-yard limit, \$10-\$15 per pickup load (depending on volume).
- Residents with drivers' licenses not showing a KCMO address, or landlords with multiple properties, must bring their drivers' license, a utility bill, and (for landlords) a lease to the city's Solid Waste offices on the 23rd floor of City Hall, on a weekday between 8 am and 4:30 pm. You will receive a voucher to use at the drop-off site.

The twice-yearly curbside yard waste pickups will continue. For more information on the drop-off program, call the Action Center—dial **311** from a land-line phone, or **513-1313** from a cell phone.

You can also find information at **www.kcmo.org**; click *City Services* on the left, then *Trash collection* from the list, and finally "Leaf and brush" under the *At drop-off sites* heading.


Earth-Friendly Sidewalk Weed Control

—Contributed by **Francie Hall**
49/63 resident

Visual impairment has forced me to become a walker, and as a result I am much more aware of our neighborhood.

In particular, I appreciate those neighbors who keep our sidewalks clear of mud, yard waste, snow/ice, and other debris. We can't do much about the tree roots tilting our sidewalks, but we can keep them clean with just a little effort. Here's a helpful tip:

Grass and weeds pushing up through pavement can be eliminated with the simple application of boiling water. Just bring your teakettle to a boil, use oven mitts to carefully carry it outside, and pour over weeds or grass sprouting through concrete or

<h1>CALENDAR</h1>											
RUCC: Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost											
TYG: Troostwood Youth Garden, 52nd & Paseo											
Every Sat 9:00 am- 3:00 pm	Garden Market, TYG. Fresh, local, organic produce at reasonable prices										
August											
26 / Tue 6:30 pm	CAN Team forum, RUCC										
26 / Tue 7:30 pm	49/63 General Meeting, RUCC. Topic: Rockhurst Campus Master Plan —neighborhood input										
28 / Thu	Bulky-item pickup										
September											
06 / Sat 9:00 am	Troost Plateau meeting, RUCC										
06 / Sat 10:00 am	Troostwood meeting, Coffee Break, 5400 Troost										
10 / Wed 7:30 pm	49/63 board meeting, RUCC										
23 / Tue 6:30 pm	CAN Team forum, RUCC										
23 / Tue 7:30 pm	49/63 General Meeting and Board Election, RUCC										
 Got news? Send it to us at news@4963.org! <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <th>Issue</th> <th>Deadline</th> <th>Delivered</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep</td> <td>Aug 29</td> <td>Sep 19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct</td> <td>Oct 3</td> <td>Oct 23</td> </tr> </table>			Issue	Deadline	Delivered	Sep	Aug 29	Sep 19	Oct	Oct 3	Oct 23
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Oct	Oct 3	Oct 23									

brick.

In a few days, weeds die off; most do not return for months. Not only is this cheaper than weed-killer, it also reduces the chemicals running off into our waterways. The "hot bath" method is safe for sidewalks, driveways and patios.

Happy walking, neighbors!

Aug 23: Play Marbles and Make History!

Last year, the Toy & Miniature Museum at 52nd & Oak fell *just* short

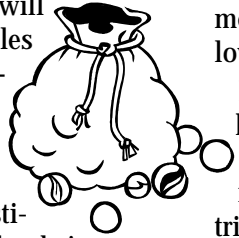
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Please Deliver By August 21, 2008

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of setting a record for the **world's largest marble tournament.**

On **Saturday, August 23**, the Museum is taking another shot at a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. This marble tournament, at **Swinney Rec Center** in the heart of the UMKC campus, will start with a quick marbles lesson at 9:45 am, **registration at 10 am, and the actual tournament at 11 am.**



Help put a 49/63 institution in the record books! Here's how:

- Bring friends and family out to play marbles for about an hour.
- Extend this invitation to anyone you know who might be interested.

Prizes and giveaways for tournament participants include free admission to the Toy & Miniature Museum for that

day. Learn more at the Museum's website, toyandminiaturemuseum.org

Home Repair Program Accepting Applications

The city has adjusted its minor home repair program to better meet the needs of Kansas City's lower-income homeowners.

Eligible KCMO homeowners in urgent need of roofing, plumbing, electrical and mechanical work can apply for the city's Emergency Home Repair Program. The current application window started on Aug 1.

To qualify for assistance, residents must own their home and *no* other property, not have received assistance from this program since Sep 1993, and have household incomes below the caps listed in the table, based on

	Per- Income	Per- Income	
	sons cap	sons cap	
1	\$23,950	5	\$36,960
2	\$27,350	6	\$39,650
3	\$30,800	7	\$42,400
4	\$34,200	8	\$45,150

persons in the household.

Approved applicants can receive the one type service they most need, to be done by a contractor who meets a defined set of standards. The need must be a genuine emergency, and will be done quickly once it is approved.

Applications will be accepted through Dec 1. In the future, applications will be accepted Jan through Apr so the work can be done in the same calendar year the application is received.

A Community Development Block Grant from the federal Housing and Urban Development Department funds this program.

Applications for this program are available at the Property Preservation office on the fourth floor of City Hall, 414 E 12th St, and online at www.kcmo.org/neigh. To learn more or have an application mailed to you, call **513-3025**.