



# 49/63 NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition — Kansas City, Missouri  
www.4963.org (816) 333-4963 Vol. 34, No. 2 : February 2008

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

## New Look for Your Newsletter!

After six years, we are redesigning some features of the 49/63 newsletter—in part to gain a little more space for news items.

We encourage your feedback on the new design. We welcome your feedback; please send your comments to [news@4963.org](mailto:news@4963.org).

Your editor is grateful for Dave Kinred's work in creating the previous newsletter design. It has served us quite well since 2001.

## News & Announcements...

### Foreclosure Clinic Feb 23

On Saturday, February 23rd, Senator Claire McCaskill will host a foreclosure clinic where industry and government experts will help Kansas City-area residents learn more about the resources available to them to prevent or recover from foreclosure.

Representatives from a wide range of banks, credit counselors, and community organizations will provide homeowners with answers to questions on how to avoid losing their home. They will also talk about what to do after foreclosure, how to avoid predatory lenders in the future, and the right way to purchase a home amid the

## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Tue Feb 26

### What Makes Volunteers Do It?

On the Wikipedia page devoted to *volunteerism*, you will find this definition: "...the willingness of people to work on behalf of others without the expectation of pay or other tangible gain." It's not unreasonable to wonder what gets people to simply *give* of their time and energy.

An individual's sense of volunteerism can spring from any of several sources. Some folks grow up in families where giving time to causes is simply the *norm* — they feel out of balance if they're *not* volunteering. Other people are driven by a pivotal (often traumatic) event; for example, burglary victims have a motivation to join block watches. People who have received help getting through hard times may "pay it forward" by helping others in similar situations.

There are many more reasons we get into volunteer work. But one thing that makes it easier for volunteers to keep at it is this simple phrase:

*"Thank you."*

This is what the 49/63 Coalition will say to our neighborhood's many volunteers on **Tuesday, February 26**. We will meet at the Rockhurst University Community Center, enjoy a catered dinner provided by Westport Flea Market, and volunteers will receive a small gift and a certificate of thanks.

Because the Volunteer Appreciation event will start at **6:30 pm**, an hour ahead of our normal meeting time, the CAN crime and safety meeting which precedes it will start at **5:30 pm**.

subprime mortgage crisis.

The Foreclosure Clinic runs **9 am-1:30 pm on Sat Feb 23rd**, at the Bruce Watkins Center, 3700 Blue Pkwy. **To pre-register**, please call Kimiko Gilmore, Terri Barr or Kimberly Johnson in Senator McCaskill's KC office at **421-1639**. **On-site registration** will be available **9-10 am** the day of the clinic.

15 to 22 years old with employment, internships, and pre-apprenticeships offered by thousands of KC area employers in both the public and private sectors.

**Interested candidates must apply by March 1, 2008.** You can apply online at [www.kcmo.org](http://www.kcmo.org); follow the links to the Bright Future Employment Fair.

## Trash & Recycling Pickup



Fri Feb 22 - Fri Feb 29 - Fri Mar 7 -  
Fri Mar 14 - Fri Mar 21 - Fri Mar 28

## Bulky Items

Thu Feb 28 (all of 49/63)  
Fri Mar 28 (SE of 54th & Troost only)



## Youth Employment Fair: Apply by Mar 1

Summer is just around the corner. The City of Kansas City is sponsoring the **Bright Future Employment Fair** on March 29.

This event will match young people

## Youth Scholarships

The KCMO Youth Advocacy Office will help administer a scholarship program for 17-to-25-year-olds living in households with incomes at 80 percent or less of city-wide median levels

*News & Announcements, turn to p 3...*

## 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

Abandoned cars on the street  
Property code violations, weeds  
(for Steven King, 49/63 codes  
inspector, call **590-2226**)  
Streetlights, traffic signals/signs out  
Streets needing repair  
(after hours, call **513-0431**)  
Dangerous ice/snow on streets  
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)



**COMBAT**  
COMMUNITY BACKED ANTI-DRUG TAX  
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*The 49/63  
Neighborhood  
Coalition is a  
COMBAT Anti-  
Drug Tax  
Funded Agency*

## From the President

### Strong Medicine

*Codes enforcement for nuisance violations is changing. For violations like trash, piles of brush or tree limbs, weeds, cars parked in yards or un-licensed cars and others, no warning letter will be sent. Now residents will receive tickets for these violations without notice.*

*For most of us, this change may seem a bit abrupt and heavy-handed, but for someone who has lived next to a junky property, it is long overdue. The old process started with a warning letter which gave the resident time to fix the problem. The property was re-inspected 30 days later; a ticket was issued if the violation was still present. Essentially that meant a pile of trash could sit in a yard for over a month without consequence to the offender.*

*But there were consequences for the neighbors who had to look at and smell the trash and deal with the vermin that were attracted to it. The new enforcement approach will at least decrease neighbors' exposure to such nuisances.*

*With the city's change in enforcement there is also an opportunity to increase the efficiency of codes enforcement. Codes officers that used to perform a repeat inspection are now free to make new ones.*

*The increased inspections may be a hard pill to swallow for some, but over time it can help create a more attractive neighborhood. That's a consequence we can all live with!*

—Renee Y. Neades

*President, 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition*

## From Your CAN Team

### Nuisance Violations: No More Warnings

**E**xpect a summons to court, not a warning letter, when you have certain nuisance violations on your property. More than ever, it is our responsibility to know what is a violation; and take care of it before getting a ticket.

Tickets are now issued to occupants (not landlords) for trash, tree limbs and brush, disabled/unlicensed/improperly parked vehicles, open storage, weeds, and animal carcasses.

This decision was made by the city with the hope that it will provide relief to neighbors who have to view this blight, watch their property values decline **because** of others' careless-

ness, and be embarrassed when visitors come and have to see the blight.

It may still take 30-45 days to get enforcement, but the city believes that the consequences of a ticket and going to court may eliminate future careless and illegal behavior.

The number to report a code violation is **311**. Cell phone users must call **513-1313**.

### CAN Team Available at 5:30 on the 26th

**T**he CAN Center Team will be available to discuss neighborhood safety concerns at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, the 26th, prior to the Volunteer Recognition dinner at 6:30 at Rockhurst Community Center.

*CAN Team, turn to p 3...*

## Respect Neighbors and Visitors: Get Rid of Trash Properly

Do not set out trash for city pickup prior to 3 pm the day before pickup.

Two 40-lb bags per house is free; each excess bag must have a special city sticker, available for \$1 at KC Price Chopper or Westlake Hardware stores.

*Residents in southeast 49/63 with Trial Trash Bins:* The bin lid must close or your trash will not be picked up. Bags which won't fit must be set next to the bin and have the same city sticker mentioned above.

**Tires are never picked up.** Keep waste tires out of sight. If someone dumps a tire on your property, you are the one that will be ticketed. Store it out of sight, and call **311** for information on the city's waste tire drop-off program.

**Leaves and brush are only picked up 2-3 times a year.** It is a codes violation to let bags sit out front or in plain sight of neighbors outside of these pickup times.

### ...News & Announcements, from p 1

(see accompanying table).

Applicants must be pursuing educational opportunities at an accredited institution and have their high school diploma or GED.

The scholarships will provide at least \$1,000 per academic year toward tuition, books, room and board and fees.

Applications are due by May 1, and must include

- a high school transcript or GED certificate;
- a 300-word essay;
- a letter of recommendation from a

Household income caps	
Persons in HH	Income limit (\$)
1	28,294
2	36,274
3	44,255
4	56,951
5	67,470
6	76,176
7	85,970
8	95,765
9 & up	114,627

## Graffiti Removal: We Need Your Help

Over fifty graffiti markings have been removed in the past year—hopefully more by the time you read this. The CAN Center thanks 49/63 businesses, Rockhurst Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity volunteers, David Meinhold and Josh Hamm, KCPL, and the city for their efforts.

There is still more graffiti out there, and the perpetrators are still at it. Keep your eyes open for them, and call 911 immediately if you think you see graffiti being left.

Thank you, residents, for calling the CAN Center and COMBAT Coordinator when new graffiti appears. We're working hard on this. It has to come down... and stop.

**Graffiti removal supplies are expensive,** and the CAN Center has been buying a lot lately. **Want to help us cover this expense?** Make a donation to the CAN Center. Even a \$5 or \$10 check would be helpful.

Checks should be written to **49/63 CAN Center** and sent to **5309 Woodland, KC, MO 64110**. Contributions to the CAN Center are *not* tax-deductible.

teacher, counselor, employer or clergy member;

- the most recent Federal tax returns of all members of the household.

Scholarships are renewable if recipients remain full-time students in good academic standing, and continue to live in a household within the income limits.

For more information, visit [www.kcmo.org/youth](http://www.kcmo.org/youth) or contact Thalia Cherry, youth advocate for the City Manager's Office at 513-1378. This scholarship program is funded by the KCMO Port Authority and area casino gaming operators.



## CALENDAR

**RUCC:** Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost

**TYG:** Troostwood Youth Garden, 52nd & Paseo

### February

23 / Sat 9:00 am-1:30 pm **Foreclosure Clinic**, Bruce Watkins Center, 3700 Blue Pkwy. Pre-register at 421-1639 or register at the door

26 / Tue 5:30 pm **49/63 CAN crime & safety meeting**, RUCC

26 / Tue 6:30 pm **49/63 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**, RUCC

28 / Thu **Bulky pickup**, all of 49/63

### March

01 / Sat 9:00 am **Troost Plateau meeting**, RUCC

01 / Sat 10:00 am **Troostwood meeting**, Coffee Break, 5400 Troost

12 / Wed 7:30 pm **49/63 Board meeting**, RUCC

25 / Tue 6:30 pm **49/63 CAN crime & safety meeting**, RUCC

25 / Tue 7:30 pm **49/63 General Meeting**, RUCC. Topic TBA

28 / Fri **Bulky pickup**, SE of 54th & Troost only

29 / Sat 7:45 am-3:00 pm **Bright Future Employment Fair**, KC Convention Center, 301 W 13th St. Applicants must be present by 8:45 am

### April

08 / Tue 6:00 am-7:00 pm **City elections:** School Board seats and municipal issues on the ballot

## The Bus—Serving 49/63 Here and Now

Our city continues to debate the future of its public transit—and we all need to give it our attention. But in the meantime, we are already served by a capable bus system.

Detailed route and schedule information is available on the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority's website, [www.kcata.org](http://www.kcata.org).

*News & Announcements, turn to p 4...*

## Please Deliver By February 21, 2008

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### ...News & Announcements, from p 3

Here's a quick look at the bus routes serving the 49/63 neighborhood. Note that some routes have two or three different endpoints; buses generally alternate among them and display which one they serve:

- **Armour/Paseo (route 54):** Downtown to 85th & Hickman Mills, serves the Paseo between 47th and 63rd. Every 20-30 min during rush hour, hourly during mid-day, evenings, and weekends.
- **Troost (route 25):** Downtown to 83rd & Troost, Bannister Federal complex, or Bannister Mall area. Every 10-12 min all day and 30 min during evening; extensive weekend service. Some Troost buses use Rockhill and Holmes between Meyer and Gregory; ask the driver before boarding.
- **Rockhill (route 55):** Rush-hour only, from downtown to Meyer & Rockhill or 99th & Holmes.
- **55th St (route 155):** 39th & Broad-

way to Blue Pkwy & Kensington. In 49/63, it uses 51st St through the UMKC campus to Troost, cuts over to 55th on Troost and heads east. Every 30 min during rush hour, hourly through mid-day; no night or weekend service.

- **63rd St (route 163):** 63rd St, Ward Parkway to Blue Ridge Cutoff. Every 35 min during the day, hourly early evenings and weekends.

### Rockhurst Students Take Creative Approach to Helping the Needy

*Contributed by Katherine Frohoff  
Director, Public Relations & Marketing  
Rockhurst University*

Two Rockhurst University student-led efforts to convert unused meal points into cash resulted in a warmer and more satisfying holiday for many families in the Kansas City area during December.

Senior Brad Kelsheimer approached

Mike Johnson of Sodexo, the university's food service provider, to ask if the students on his dorm floor could use their meal points to help a family. Within a week, Kelsheimer's door-to-door canvass of student housing had converted enough points for 70 pairs of gloves, 70 hats and 70 \$20 Target gift cards.

The items became part of gift bags distributed to foster children at the holiday party hosted by Associated Youth Services in KCK. Student donations also covered refreshments for the more than 200 party attendees.

A second meal-point cash-in provided St. Francis Xavier's food pantry with 4,000 apples and oranges and 190 5-lb bags of potatoes. These items, supplemented by goods placed in food collection barrels in lieu of an admission fee to Rockhurst's Dec 1 Festival of Lessons and Carols, went into holiday baskets for 100 needy households receiving help from the pantry.