



49/63 NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition – Kansas City, Missouri
www.4963.org (816) 333-4963 Vol.34, No. 5: May 2008

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

News & Announcements...

Sewer Overflow Meeting May 28

The last of the city Water Services Department's three Town Hall meetings on plans for rebuilding our sewer system will take place **Wed May 28 at 7 pm** at **Hickman Mills High School, 9010 Old Santa Fe Rd.**

Kansas City is being required by the Environmental Protection Agency to separate its combined sewer system into sanitary and stormwater components. This process will cost over \$2 billion and take 25 years to complete.

The Town Hall meetings give an opportunity for public comment on the sewer plans. For more information on the plans, visit www.kcmo.org/wetweather.

KC Trails Logo and Naming Contest

The city is holding a contest to create the best logo design and name for Kansas City's growing network of foot, bike, and horse trails. The contest is open to the public, and children are encouraged to submit entries.

The logo and the name may be used on trail signs, markers, and promotional literature. You may submit a logo, a name, or both. Prizes for the best entries include \$1,000 cash and a Gary Fisher hybrid (road/off-road) bicycle.

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Trash & Recycling Pickup

Fri May 23 - Sat May 31
- Fri Jun 6 - Fri Jun 13 -
Fri Jun 20 - Fri Jun 27



General Meeting, Tue May 27

Is Your Home a Heat Sieve?

Gasoline prices have attracted a lot of recent attention, but they are not the only energy costs headed toward the stratosphere. Natural gas, which nearly all of us depend on for heat, is going up in price as well. Electricity costs are also heading upward in Kansas City, making it more expensive to keep a house cool in the summer.

As home heating and cooling get more expensive, heat which leaks out of (or into) your house becomes more of a financial burden. Here's the flip side: It will take fewer years for you to recoup the cost of sealing up and insulating your home. For the 1920's-era houses in our neighborhood, some of which have little or no wall insulation, adding some insulation and sealing up leaks can dramatically cut utility bills.

At our May meeting, Mark Freeman, the owner of GreenTech, will give an illustrated presentation on what makes older homes energy-inefficient and what's involved in correcting the problems. He will cover all phases of improving the energy efficiency of a house, including home energy audits, how common sources of heat loss are corrected, and the process of insulating wall cavities and attic spaces.

Mark will also talk about energy-saving options such as heat pumps and tankless water heaters, and home energy generation using solar panels for heat or electricity production.

Join us on Tuesday, May 27, for an informative look at how you can make your home more energy-efficient and comfortable. We will meet at 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.

Southtown Honors CAN Team

At its May 13 Beautification Dinner, the Southtown Council honored members of the 49/63 CAN Team as its "Southtowners of the Year".

COMBAT Coordinator Ruth Austin, and Police Officers Aaron Shillcutt and Chris DeFreece, were rec-

ognized for their service to our corner of south-central Kansas City.

This annual event also honors businesses and institutions for outstanding efforts to make their properties, and thereby the whole Southtown area, more attractive.

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

What Are Your Neighborhood Priorities?

In 2005, five 49/63 Coalition board members participated in “Charting the Course”, a leadership development and neighborhood planning workshop sponsored by Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance. The concluding sessions were devoted to these three steps in strategic planning:

- (1) drafting vision and mission statements;*
- (2) identifying the strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities which are part of both the neighborhood and the Coalition; and*
- (3) developing a list of priorities and action steps.*

These plans included increasing neighborhood event attendance, improving communication with businesses in our neighborhood, building cohesiveness at the block level, and increasing involvement in neighborhood leadership.

We have made some progress in these areas. In 2006, about 50 businesses participated in our first Business Tour. Last year, our COMBAT Coordinator received calls from 60 residents who had never called the 49/63 CAN office before—and that phone call is often the first step in taking on a leadership role on one’s block.

Throughout spring 2008, the Coalition board is reviewing our strategic plan. We want to align the Coalition’s priorities to the neighborhood’s current needs, and find effective ways to use our limited resources to meet those needs.

The Coalition board wants to know what you think. On our website, www.4963.org, you will find a link where you can let us know your concerns, your vision of the neighborhood, and your priorities as a member of the 49/63 community.

The 49/63 Coalition doesn’t have a magic wand to wave at neighborhood problems—only the same old perseverance and elbow-grease that has always served us. So tell us where you think we need to put it to work!

From Your CAN Team & COMBAT Coordinator

Let’s Keep Watching! 311 Works

We are doing a good job of watching neighborhood activity and calling 911 when something looks suspicious.

Some block and plat leaders use their own e-mail lists to get the word out to dozens of residents quickly when something is amiss. We encourage others to create and/or participate in similar crime-alert lists.

According to data provided to our COMBAT Coordinator, 49/63 is making very good use of the city’s Action Center (the “311” telephone number).

Call 311 for any situation which is not an emergency but which calls for city services. Be sure you can give a precise description of the problem, especially the location.



Thank You (Again), UMKC!

Last November, UMKC got a Thank You from 49/63 for cleaning up and landscaping a vacant lot they own in the 5400 block of Troost.

Then it got *better*. This April, the new beds erupted into a zillion colors as thousands of tulips came up.

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The entry submittal deadline is noon on May 30. You can download a descriptive flier and entry forms at www.kcmotrails.com. Click the Upcoming Events link and then the Logo/Naming link.

Summer Academic Camp for 1st to 8th Grade Students

Swope Corridor Renaissance is offering a **summer academic camp** program for children in 1st through 8th grades. The program runs Jun 16–Aug 8, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, at several sites in the KCMO urban core.

The camp features “a nationally recognized reading and math program, one-on-one tutoring/mentoring by certified teachers, interactive computer-based instruction, free breakfast and lunch, afternoon activities including weekly field trips, swimming,

The 49/63 Coalition doesn’t have anything like the Southtown Council’s Sparkle award for beautification.

So the newsletter editor hopes the UMKC grounds folks who made this happen will be content with a heartfelt “Wowee!”

dance, music, gymnastics, art, soccer camp, and martial arts” and more.

Enrollment is on a first-come-first-served basis. For information and application instructions, call the Swope Corridor Renaissance office at 363-3819.

Garden Market Open Saturdays

Want to support local agriculture and enjoy some delicious organic produce? Check out the Troostwood Garden’s weekly market!

The Garden Market, located at **52nd & Paseo**, will be open on **Saturdays from 9 am to 3 pm** throughout the growing season.

You’re encouraged to bring a copy of a favorite recipe to the Market. The Troostwood Youth Council, which operates the Garden, is putting together a neighborhood cookbook, to go on sale sometime this fall.

CALENDAR

RUCC: Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost

TYG: Troostwood Youth Garden, 52nd & Paseo

May

Every Sat 9:00 am– 3:00 pm	Garden Market, TYG. Fresh, local, organic produce at reasonable prices
24 / Sat 11:00 am –2:00 pm	Senior Community Information Fair, Shops on Swope Parkway
27 / Tue 7:30 pm	49/63 General Meeting, RUCC. Topic: Making your home energy-efficient , presented by Mark Freeman, owner of GreenTech
28 / Wed 7:00 pm	Sewer Plan Town Hall meeting, Hickman Mills High School

June

Every Sat 9:00 am– 3:00 pm	Garden Market, TYG. Fresh, local, organic produce at reasonable prices
07 / Sat 9:00 am	Troost Plateau meeting, RUCC
07 / Sat 10:00 am	Troostwood meeting, Coffee Break, 5400 Troost
11 / Wed 6:30 pm	49/63 board strategic planning session, RUCC
11 / Wed 7:30 pm	49/63 board meeting, RUCC
13 / Fri Dusk	Friday Night Film, St Francis Xavier Church, 52nd & Troost: <i>Apollo 13</i>
24 / Tue 7:30 pm	49/63 General Meeting, RUCC. Topic TBA



Got news?

Send it to us at news@4963.org !

Issue	Deadline	Delivered
May	May 2	May 21
Jun	May 30	Jun 19

It’s a Bird!

Here’s a reason to keep an eye on your block which has nothing to do with suspicious persons: A large, hawk-like bird has been seen by residents near 57th & Virginia, and the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center (just across Brush Creek from 49/63) would like your

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Please Deliver By May 23, 2008

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help in identifying this unusual neighborhood resident.

If you can get a photograph of this bird—a hawk, eagle, or falcon, perhaps—please share your picture with the Discovery Center. You can contact them by calling **759-7300**, or visit mdc.mo.gov/areas/kcmetro/discovery.

Senior Information Fair May 24

A Community Information Fair for seniors who wish to stay in their own homes will be held **Sat May 24, 11 am–2 pm** at the **Shops on Blue Parkway, 4401 Blue Pkwy**. This event is free, and no reservation is needed.

The Fair will cover a range of topics from transportation to home repair to financial and health services. A wide variety of Federal, state, and city agencies and service providers are participating, as well as financial institutions. Councilmembers Circo and Riley will be there.

For more information about the Fair, you may contact InnerLight, Inc at **763-0802**.

Win a Home Landscape Makeover!

Bridging the Gap is sponsoring a drawing in which first prize is a \$10,000 landscape makeover.

The winner will receive a professionally designed and environmentally appropriate landscape design which uses native, low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plantings. The runner-up will get a professionally designed rain garden.

The suggested donation for drawing tickets is **\$25, or five for \$100**. Only 1,500 tickets will be offered. Tickets must be purchased by **July 1**.

For more information, visit www.bridgingthegap.org and look for the “Dreamscape Makeover 2008” logo. You can also call Bridging the Gap at **561-1087**.

Powell Gardens Shuttle Buses

Powell Gardens, a 915-acre botanical garden 40 miles southeast of KC on 50 Hwy, is offering free shuttle bus service on selected weekends throughout the summer.

This service will be available Jun 14–15, Aug 8–10 and 15–17, and Aug 30–Sep 1. Each day will include a morning trip and an afternoon trip.

A special attraction this summer is a collection of 40 contemporary stone sculptures created by ethnic Shona artists for the Chapungu Sculpture Park of Zimbabwe.

Reservations are required. For a reservation form, you can call Powell Gardens at **697-2600 x225**, or e-mail lburtont@powellgardens.org.