



Neighbors

October 2007 Vol. 33 No. 9

ASTOR PLACE CRESTWOOD ROCKHILL CREST ROCKHILL RIDGE SOUTH PARK TROOST PLATEAU TROOSTWOOD

Handy Information

Area code 816 unless specified

EMERGENCIES 911
49/63 office & CAN... 333-4963
 City website ... www.kcmo.org

- Abandoned cars 311
- Animal Control 311
- Fire Dept non-emerg.. 513-1700
- Gas leak 800-582-0000
- Landlord-tenant issue 311
- Power line down ... 888-544-4852
- Property code violations 311
 Steven King, inspector... 590-2226
- Street light out/damaged..... 311
- Street repair..... 311
 or after hours 513-0431
- Traffic signals/signs 311
- Utility assistance 211
- Water/Sewer break 311
- Weatherization funds... 822-7703x219
- Weeds on vacant prop..... 311
- 48h before you dig... 800-DIG-RITE

Police and crime info:

- Community police 719-8199
 Aaron Shillcutt, Chris DeFreece
- KCPD non-emergency. 234-5000
- Report a crime tip..... 474-TIPS
- Complaint about police 889-6640

Trash:

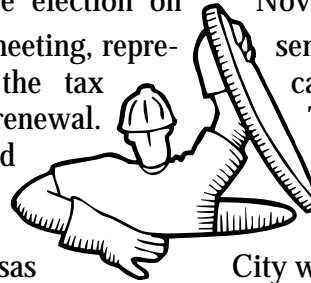
- Trash/bulky/recycling 311
- Report illegal dumping 311
- Hazardous waste 311

General Meeting, 23 Oct 2007

KCMO Improvements Sales Tax Renewal

For 25 years, a one-cent sales tax has funded many Kansas City capital improvements. This tax, which was most recently renewed in 1999, is again up for renewal at a city-wide election on November 6.

At our October general meeting, representatives from the communications firm handling the tax campaign for the city will speak in favor of its renewal. They will describe a few of the improvements funded through this tax in the 49/63 area and in the city as a whole. Provisions for distributing the benefits of the tax equitably across all parts of Kansas City will also be outlined.



This brief presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

It's *your* money. Come find out how the city plans to use it! We will meet **Tuesday, October 23, at 7:30 pm** in the **Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost.**

You can discuss your **crime and safety concerns** with members of the 49/63 Community Action Network (CAN) Team at a **CAN Center open forum**, at 6:30 pm on the 23rd, right before the 49/63 general meeting.

Leaf & Brush Pickup Nov 17

The first of the city's two fall yard waste pickups comes to 49/63 on **Sat Nov 17**. It will be followed by a Dec 14 pickup. The standard rules apply:

- Limit 20 bags + bundles per household, at the curb by 7 am on pickup day
- No grass clippings, no trash
- Paper lawn bags (no plastic bags); tie bundles with twine or jute rope only (no wire or plastic tape)
- Limit 40 lbs per bag or bundle

- Seal bags with masking tape only; no plastic or duct tape
- Branches not over 4 ft long or 3 in thick
- All branches must be bundled, with bundles not over 4 ft long, 2 ft across
- If wet weather is forecast, cover bags with a clear plastic sheet

If the city does not pick up your leaves and brush on the 17th, call the Action Center (dial 311) the following Monday.



Trash & Recycling Schedule

Fri Oct 19 - Fri Oct 26 - Fri Nov 2 - Fri Nov 9 - Sat Nov 17 - Sat Nov 24

Bulky items: Mon Oct 29 (all 49/63) - Wed Nov 28 (SE of 54th & Troost)



www.4963.org

(816) 333-4963

**49/63
NEIGHBORHOOD
COALITION**

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COMBAT
COMMUNITY BACKED ANTI-DRUG TAX
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*The 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition
is a COMBAT funded agency.*



**Got
news?**

Call **333-4963** or send
it to news@4963.org.

Issue	Deadline	Delivered
Nov	Nov 2	Nov 23
Jan '08	Dec 28	Jan 18
Feb '08	Feb 1	Feb 21

From the President:

We'll Miss You, KCNA

Recently the neighborhoods of Kansas City said a sad farewell to an old friend. The Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance (KCNA) closed its doors in September after 27 years of service to the metro area.

KCNA was a major source of support for our neighborhood. It provided leadership training for many past and present board members. 49/63's action plan was developed with the guiding hand of KCNA. I can't even guess how many fliers or plat newsletters were printed there. KCNA also administered the Neighborhood Self Help Fund – the source of grant funds for our projects and events like the lawnmower clinic and volunteer appreciation evening. KCNA provided all of their services to metro neighborhoods without charge.

The board of KCNA has found agencies that will take over many of their programs and are working hard to find homes for the remaining ones. Even so, there was something unique and special about KCNA-- a sense of welcome, support and caring-- that will be tough to replicate. I salute all who helped create that sense and bid them a fond farewell. May the many blessings you brought to us find their way back to you.

*– Renee Neades, President
49/63 Neighborhood Coalition*

From Your COMBAT Coordinator and CAN Center

Crime Spikes

Be a neighborhood safety activist! Many 49/63 residents are doing a great job of keeping their eyes open, calling 911 on any suspicious activity, and giving good descriptions of suspicious individuals.

In many areas, these watchful residents take two further steps: they call their neighbors so they are reminded to be on watch; and when a pattern of criminal or suspicious behaviors arises, they pass out fliers on their block and nearby blocks (the CAN Center will supply them; call 333-4963).

Our neighborhood, like any other, suffers the occasional "spike" of property crime. But as one neighbor said recently, "...no burglar too lazy to work is running me out of my house. I love this neighborhood."

Vigilance by residents can ensure that these spikes are brief, by communicating in small ways to the burglars and thieves that if they continue their activities here, they are likely to get caught

With the recent rash of property crimes in the area south of 59th St, KCPD's Metro Pa-

trol has been giving our area some more concentrated attention, and detectives are putting in extra hours trying to help.

In early October, after a watchful resident near 60th & Holmes saw burglars trying to kick in a door and gave good descriptions to police, four individuals responsible for some of the south-of-59th mayhem were captured.

Empty houses: Like other neighborhoods in Kansas City and across the nation, 49/63 is seeing a lot of houses emptying, many due to mortgage foreclosures.

Empty houses are prime targets for thieves who specialize in copper, appliances, construction tools, or the desirable furnishings found in many older homes. Once a home is trashed by scavengers, it is likely to stay empty even longer. Of course, transients and drug dealers are attracted to empty houses as places from which to operate.

If you own a vacant house in the neighborhood, make certain it is kept up and looking decent. Neighbors of a neglected vacant property are encouraged to open a codes case

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by calling the city's Action Center (dial 311).

Regardless of the condition of an empty house on your block, it's useful to be able to contact the owner or responsible agent directly. A "For Sale" or "For Rent" sign in the yard with a phone number is ideal.

No sign out front? There are other ways to get the information. If you see someone working on the house or tending the yard, let them know you live close by and ask them for the owner's or agent's phone number.

News & Announcements

Children's Halloween Party

After a one-year absence, the Rockhurst University community Halloween party for children is returning to the Rockhurst Community Center, 54th & Troost.

This year's "Safe Trick or Treat" event is planned with children 12 and under in mind, and children *must be accompanied by their parents or guardians.*



The party runs from 6 to 8 pm on Halloween night, and will feature costumed characters and lots of treats. Several Rockhurst organizations are working together to present this year's party. The 49/63 Coalition thanks the University for providing this opportunity for our neighborhood children to enjoy a safe Halloween.

Tulips Bake Sale Oct 27

Tulips on Troost, the flower-planting movement that managed to make Troost Avenue a tourist attraction last spring, has even bigger plans for 2008.

To help raise funds for tulip bulbs, as well as some planting and cultivating tools, **the Tulips group will hold a bake sale on Saturday, October 27, from 10 am to 2 pm at Coffee Break, 5400 Troost.**

Here's your chance to show off what you can do with flour, eggs, sugar, and an oven, while helping to make your neighborhood more attractive. If you'd like to contribute but you're all-thumbs in the kitchen, you still can... by helping on the day of the sale.

In case of codes violations that you know have been reported, but that then drag on for a month or more without correction, call Steven King, the city codes inspector for 49/63, at **590-2226**, and find out what the holdup is.

Resolution of codes cases often takes time, especially with the heavy caseloads carried by Kansas City's codes inspectors. But your expression of concern—and possibly your information about what is or isn't being done to remedy the conditions—may help move the process forward.



Volunteers interested in contributing baked goods and/or time to the bake sale are encouraged to call Renee Neades at **361-5346**. You are of course welcome to simply show up the morning of the sale.

And if you just want to purchase some wonderful baked goods on the 27th, come on over. Any veteran of a few 49/63 potlucks can attest that we have some seriously good cooks in this neighborhood!

No-Till Gardening Workshop

—Contributed by **Marty Kraft**
Heartland All Species Project

Learn how to organically grow your own veggies, conserve and improve your garden soil, and save yourself some effort at a **No-Till Organic Gardening** workshop, the morning of **Sat Oct 27**.

The workshop, sponsored by Kansas City Community Gardens, will take place at **Lincoln College Prep**, 2012 E 23rd St (on the hill just southeast of the 18th & Vine district) and the **Niles Garden** just across the street.

Registration is **free**, and starts at **8:30 am**. A short film on Ruth Stout, a pioneer of modern no-till gardening, will be shown at 8:45.

Two lecture/demonstration workshops will follow. At 9:15, soil scientist Joel Gruver will show you how to improve the health of your garden soil with organic inputs and minimum tillage.

Next, at 11 am, Patrice Gros, a commercial **News & Announcements, continued on p 4..**

Calendar

RUCC— Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost



Every Sat: **Troostwood Garden Market**, 10 am–4 pm through the growing season, Troostwood Garden, 52nd & Paseo

October

23rd (Tue): **49/63 CAN Public Meeting**, 6:30 pm, RUCC

23rd (Tue): **49/63 General Meeting**, 7:30 pm, RUCC. Topic: **Renewing the One-Cent Sales Tax for Capital Improvements**

27th (Sat): **Tulips on Troost Bake Sale**, 10 am–2 pm, Coffee Break, 5400 Troost

29th (Mon): **Bulky pickup**

31st (Wed): **Rockhurst Safe Trick or Treat** for children 12 & under and their parents, 6–8 pm, RUCC

November

3rd (Sat): **Troost Plateau meeting**, 9 am, RUCC

3rd (Sat): **Troostwood meeting**, 10 am, Coffee Break, 5400 Troost

3rd (Sat): **Food Drive bag distribution**

6th (Tue): **KCMO sales tax renewal vote**. Polls open 6 am to 7 pm

10th (Sat): **Food Drive donations pickup**

14th (Wed): **49/63 Board meeting**, 7:30 pm, RUCC

17th (Sat): **Leaf & brush pickup** (see p 1)

27th (Tue): **49/63 Thanksgiving Potluck** 6:30 pm, RUCC

28th (Wed): **Bulky pickup S of 54th & E of Troost**

Please Deliver By October 19, 2007

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organic farmer, will explain the basics of his financially successful no-till system including cultivation systems, crop sequences and fertility. He will demonstrate the building of a no-till bed using his techniques.

The Blue Bird Bistro is offering lunch for registrants for \$10. Local, organic produce will be featured, depending on availability.

The workshop will continue with a garden bed building demonstration and discussion from 1:30 to 3 pm.

You are encouraged to register in advance by calling the Kansas City Community Gardens at **931-3877** or **info-1@kccg.org**. Cosponsors include the City of Kansas City Missouri, Heartland All Species Project, and the Niles Home for Children.

Univ. Academy Food Drive Nov 3 and 10

Watch your front steps for an opportunity to lend a hand to needy families in our area.

The University Academy charter school will conduct its sixth annual food drive to benefit several faith-based food pantries in and around our neighborhood.

On Saturday, November 3, volunteers from University Academy, UMKC, and other institutions will distribute grocery sacks and fliers to as many 49/63 households as



they can cover, as well as homes in the neighborhood near the school's 68th & Holmes facility.

The following Saturday, volunteers will canvass the neighborhoods to collect donated food and personal care items placed on front porches.

At the school, donated items will be divided among the St. Francis Xavier, St. James United Methodist, and St. Therese Little Flower food pantries.

Center High Poetry Slam Oct 25

The Center High School Poetry Club invites you to its first **Poetry Slam** evening on **Thu Oct 25 at 7 pm** in the school cafeteria, 8715 Holmes Rd. Adult admission is \$2.00, and you will also be able to order tulip bulbs to support the school's participation in Tulips on Troost.

The Poetry Club is also raising funds for a trip to the International Youth Poetry Slam next summer in Washington, DC.

Don't miss this chance to hear spoken-word poetry and give a boost to the growth of beautiful flowers and articulate young scholars.