



# 49/63 NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition — Kansas City, Missouri  
www.4963.org (816) 333-4963 Vol.34, No. 9/10: Oct/Nov 2008

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

## News & Announcements...

### Neighborhood Forum Oct 25

The Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council invites you to a **Neighborhood Information Forum**.

This is an opportunity for you to learn first-hand about changes in City services that affect you and your neighborhoods. The forum will cover trash, neighborhood code enforcement, and overgrown lots.

Come learn how the City is addressing these issues and what to expect in the future. Also, come see how neighbors are working together to improve their neighborhoods.

The Forum takes place **Saturday, October 25, 2008, from 10 am to noon, at the Robert J. Mohart Multipurpose Center, 3200 Wayne Ave** (a block east of Linwood & Paseo).

### No November Newsletter

Our postage costs for mailing out this newsletter 10 times a year are about \$4,300 — about 75% of our entire general operating budget!

As a cost-saving measure, this newsletter will cover October and November. The Coalition does not hold

News & Announcements, turn to p 2...

#### Trash/Recycling Pickup

Fridays except as noted

Oct 24 - 31

Nov 7 - 14 - 21 - 29 (Sat)

Dec 5 - 12 - 19 - 27 (Sat)

Jan 3 (Sat) **no bag limit** - 9 - 16 - 24 (Sat) - 30



### General Meeting, Tue Oct 28

## Ballot Issues & Bulky Trash...

Along with candidates for office, the November ballot includes a number of important issues, including four statewide initiatives. Kansas City voters will also decide whether to authorize a sales tax to support a 14-mile light-rail starter line. You can see a sample ballot at [www.kceb.org](http://www.kceb.org); click *Poll Locations/Ballot Info* to find it.

Our October 28 meeting will feature an opponent of the KC light rail initiative, as well as a speaker from Bridging the Gap in support of a Missouri proposition requiring utilities to increase their use of electricity produced from alternative energy sources.

In addition, **Michael Shaw**, Assistant to the Director of Public Works for the city, will explain **how to use the city's new appointment-based bulky trash pickup**. The city discontinued periodic pickups in favor of the new system at the start of September.

We will meet **Tuesday, October 28, at 7:30 pm at the Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost**.

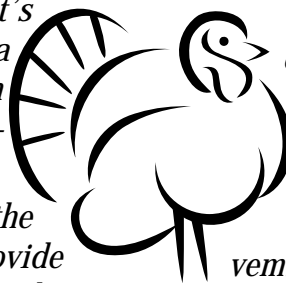
As usual, this meeting will be preceded at **6:30** by the **49/63 CAN Center public meeting**, where you may discuss your concerns about crime, disorder, and safety with our CAN Team police, city housing codes inspector, and neighborhood COMBAT Coordinator.



## 49/63 Thanksgiving Potluck Tue Nov 25

Mark your calendars for the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. That's when 49/63 will offer a jump on turkey season with its 2008 Thanksgiving Potluck.

As in past years, the Coalition will provide roast turkey, coffee, and water. Please bring a side dish, salad,



or dessert to share, as well as your own eating utensils.

As in past years, this dinner will start at 6:30 pm, an hour earlier than our usual meeting time.

We will not have a November newsletter this year, so please save this announcement!



## 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)**

Schedule a bulky-item pickup

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)*

### 49/63 NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION, INC.

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Kansas City, MO 64110

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www.4963.org

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The 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition publishes *49/63 Neighbors* ten times a year to inform readers of local events, Coalition activities, and community issues. We thank the City of Kansas City, Missouri for printing this newsletter. The City of Kansas City is not responsible for content. Copyright 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition, 2008.

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



**COMBAT**  
COMMUNITY BACKED ANTI-DRUG TAX  
WWW.JCCOMBAT.ORG

*The 49/63 Coalition  
is a Jackson County  
COMBAT Anti-Drug  
Tax Funded Agency*

## From the Editor

### Hard Times

*These are frightening times.*

*As a child growing up in the 1960s, I heard my parents talk about their own early years in the Great Depression — farmers losing their land and their livelihoods to foreclosure and low prices and dust storms, my grandmother in tears because the family owed hundreds of dollars to the grocery store with no prospect of paying it off, my father being grateful as a teenager to earn 25 cents a day treating railroad ties with creosote.*

*It all sounded so primitive, all these strange things that happened somewhere else a zillion years ago in a different age. We had progressed beyond all that... right?*

*Apparently not.*

*The latest mortgage industry statistics show that 1 in 20 households in Kansas City is in some stage of foreclosure. That works out to about one house per block — and it's worse in some American cities.*

*The good news, at least on the housing front, is that nonprofit community organizations such as Communities Creating Opportunity (aka Church Community Organization) and Neighborhood Housing Services of KC, are working to make changes. A lot is happening at the grassroots level, and at the crucial level where community-based organizations coordinate strategy on a national scale, to bring relief to imperiled homeowners.*

*If you have missed a mortgage payment or are facing the prospect of foreclosure, don't wait to get help. Neighborhood Housing Services of KC offers free foreclosure mitigation services and is located in our neighborhood (822-7703). Nonprofits and commercial banks are working together to find an equitable way out of this mess, and you might find a solution that is better than you think.*

*I hope and I believe that our collective memories of the bad times of 70 years ago, even if second-hand for many of us, are enough to drive us to do whatever we must to avoid reliving the worst of those distant times.*

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

a general meeting or publish a newsletter in December, so this will be the last issue until next January.

Have a safe Halloween, an enjoyable Thanksgiving, and a joyous Christmas / Hanukkah / Kwanzaa / New Year's holiday. See you again in January!

## Holiday Crime Prevention

**W**e are approaching the holiday gift-giving season, and that

means extra vigilance against burglars using your house to fill out their gift list.

Here are some tips:

- Don't leave wrapped gifts out in plain view through a window
- If you will be away from home for a while, use lamp timers and other devices to give the appearance of someone being home
- Break down empty computer or electronics boxes before recycling them—don't let their labeling advertise what's inside your house.

## 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Add to our calling tree? [ ]Yes [ ]No *We will not share your number around.*

Comments/concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 49/63 Needs Your Financial Support

Your contributions are the only source of funding for our newsletter, which costs *nearly \$500 per month* in postage and supplies, even with printing provided free by the City of KCMO. Your donations also help pay other expenses, such as insurance and office computer repairs.

**Please help keep us going with a donation.** We are a 501(c)3 charitable organization, so ***your contribution is tax-deductible.***

Please use the form above for your donation, and return it to

**49/63 Neighborhood Coalition  
5309 Woodland Ave  
Kansas City, MO 64110**

## UMKC Students, Alums Pitch In for Tulips



CALENDAR							
<b>RUCC:</b> Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost							
<b>October</b>							
25 / Sat 10:00 am	<b>Neighborhood Information Forum</b> , Mohart Center, 3200 Wayne						
28 / Tue 7:30 pm	<b>49/63 General Meeting</b> , RUCC. Topic TBA						
31 / Fri 6 - 8 pm	<b>Rockhurst Children's Halloween Party</b> , RUCC						
<b>November</b>							
01 / Sat 9:00 am	<b>Troost Plateau meeting</b> , RUCC						
01 / Sat 10:00 am	<b>Troostwood meeting</b> , Coffee Break, 5400 Troost						
04 / Tue	<b>Election Day</b> ; polls open 6 am to 7 pm						
12 / Wed 7:30 pm	<b>49/63 Board meeting</b> , RUCC						
25 / Tue 6:30 pm	<b>49/63 Thanksgiving Potluck</b> , RUCC						
<b>December</b>							
06 / Sat 9:00 am	<b>Troost Plateau meeting</b> , RUCC						
06 / Sat 10:00 am	<b>Troostwood meeting</b> , Coffee Break, 5400 Troost						
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<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <p><b>Got news?</b> Send it to us at <a href="mailto:news@4963.org">news@4963.org</a> !</p> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Issue</th> <th>Deadline</th> <th>Delivered</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jan</td> <td>Jan 5</td> <td>Jan 23</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>		Issue	Deadline	Delivered	Jan	Jan 5	Jan 23
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Jan	Jan 5	Jan 23					

**T**he Tulips on Troost movement got a boost on October 4 from several hundred UMKC volunteers. The planting effort was one of several projects and events featured in UMKC's 75th-anniversary homecoming weekend.

The group pictured at left planted tulips along the rock wall on the Troost side of Forest Lawn Cemetery between 70th St and Gregory Blvd.

Next spring, these tulips will bloom into a field of yellow and purple—the closest match to UMKC blue and gold that tulips can produce.

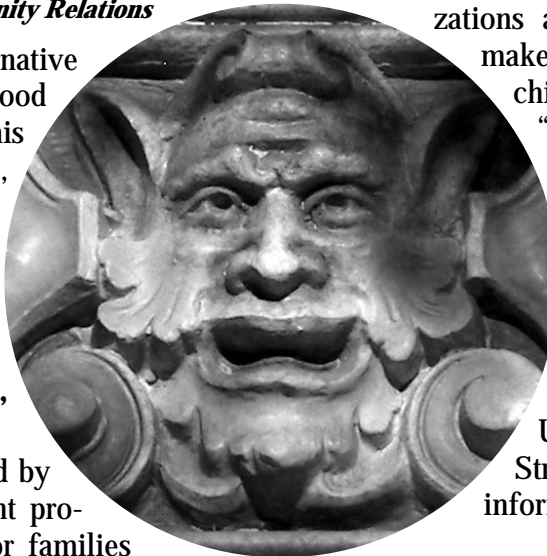
Please Deliver By October 24, 2008

## Rockhurst University Hosts a Safe Trick-or-Treat

—Contributed by Alicia Douglas  
Rockhurst University Community Relations

Children looking for an alternative to making the neighborhood rounds on Halloween this year can tour a haunted house, play games and enjoy refreshments and candy at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Rockhurst University Safe Trick-or-Treat, from **6 to 8 pm Friday, Oct 31**, at the **Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost Ave.**

Safe Trick-or-Treat is sponsored by Rockhurst University. This event provides a safe, fun environment for families



on Halloween. Rockhurst students, various organizations and departments on campus help make the event more interesting for the children. Some organizations host “scary” rooms and others lead children through the Safe Trick-or-Treat rooms.

The event is **free to children 12 and under accompanied by an adult.** The Rockhurst University Community Center is located at the entrance of Rockhurst University, on the corner of 54<sup>th</sup> Street and Troost Avenue. For more information, call 501-4818.

— This gargoyle gazes out from a building on the west side of the 5500 block of Troost Avenue —