



Neighbors

September 2007 Vol. 33 No. 8

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
- CAN Center..... 333-4963
- 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

www.4963.org

(816) 333-4963

General Meeting and Board Election, 25 Sep 2007

Recycling in Midtown KC

You can set your blue bin at the curb to recycle lots of stuff: newspapers, office paper, cardboard, plastic soda bottles, aluminum soda cans, and more.

But what about the items that *can't* go in the bin? Glass bottles, aluminum foil, printer cartridges, shredded paper, batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs, obsolete cell phones? **Our midtown recycling center takes them all.**

The recycling center is located at 48th & Forest, a block east of Troost and next to the old American Ice building. It's operated by the nonprofit group Bridging the Gap, and it's open Wed thru Fri 11am-5:30pm, Sat 8am-4pm. You can also drop off used batteries, clothing, shoes, bicycles (for repair and donation to children), scrap metal, phone books, and much more. See the whole list at www.bridgingthegap.org; follow the "Recycling" links.

At our September meeting, a Bridging the Gap representative will answer your questions on recycling. Another topic of discussion will be the **upcoming relocation of the Midtown center**, made necessary by KCP&L's plans to expand its Brush Creek substation.

We will also hold our annual 49/63 Coalition board elections. Read more in the story below and the president's column on page 2. Join us **Tuesday, Sep 25, at 7:30 pm** at the **Rockhurst Community Center, 54th & Troost.**

Join the Tradition! Serve on the 49/63 Coalition Board!

Watergate, the Apple I computer, the Yugo, Reaganomics, the World Series Royals, Furby, Enron, Trent Green: They've all come and gone... and the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition is still here, working hard to improve our little corner of Kansas City.

Want to be a part of a neighborhood institution with some history? We invite you to serve on the 49/63 Coalition Board of Directors. **If you are 18 or older, and live or work or own property in 49/63, you are eligible.** If you care about your neighborhood and want to work with a great bunch of people to make it better, please think about serving on the Board.

The Board meets on the second Wednesday evening of every month, from 7:30 to about 9 pm. Interested in serving? Please come to our September 28 general meeting and board election.

Trash & Recycling Schedule

Fri Sep 21 - Fri Sep 28 - Fri Oct 5 - Fri Oct 12 - Fri Oct 19 - Fri Oct 26 -

Bulky items: *Mon Sep 30 (SE of 54th & Troost) - Wed Oct 28 (all of 49/63)*



49/63

NEIGHBORHOOD
COALITION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Renee Neades, *President*

Fritz Hirter, *Vice-President*

Ruth Ann Cartwright,
Corporate Secretary

Steve Eklund,
Recording Secretary

Beth Brubaker

Don McClain

Pecolia Owens

Bryan Ring

Mary-Margaret Saxon

Dan Willis

Floyd Wiggins

Ericka Wright

The 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition publishes *49/63 Neighbors* to inform readers of local events, Coalition activities, and community issues. Our thanks to the City of Kansas City, Missouri which prints this newsletter. The City of Kansas City is not responsible for content. Copyright 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition, 2007.

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

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
Oct	Sep 28	Oct 18
Nov/Dec	Nov 1	Nov 20
Jan '08	Jan 2	Jan 18

From the President:

Democracy at the Local Level

According to Webster's, a democracy is: 1) a government in which the people hold the ruling power either directly or through elected representatives, rule by the ruled; 2) the principle of equality of rights, opportunity, and treatment, or the practice of this principle; 3) the common people, especially as the wielders of political power. Each of these definitions implies participation, direct or indirect, of "the common people".

By all of the definitions, the 49/63 Coalition is an example of a democracy. Here a board of directors is elected by the people to represent them in matters of governance, and we practice the principle of equality of rights, opportunity and treatment. We also depend on participation from the people of 49/63.

Our board elections will be held at our Sept. 25th meeting, and we do have several vacancies to fill. The current board is made up of good people like you. We are retirees, educators, child care providers, computer geeks, managers, and clerks, to name a few. We all come from different backgrounds but are united by a common passion for our neighborhood and a commitment to serve.

If you share this passion and are willing to commit to serve, please consider running for a seat on the board. Your participation will help sustain our local democracy.

— Renee Neades, President
49/63 Neighborhood Coalition

From Your COMBAT Coordinator and CAN Center

Keeping a Lid on Crime

Crime rates everywhere are creeping up again, but it appears that 49/63 has been experiencing a much lower crime rate than than the surrounding neighborhoods south of Brush Creek.

This statistic is admittedly of little comfort to those of you who have been victims of crime—but overall, it tells us that we are doing something right in 49/63.

Our CAN Center officers and COMBAT Coordinator have noticed that more and more of our neighbors are willing to watch for and immediately report suspicious activity. This trend is a strong asset in maintaining a safe neighborhood.

More residents are stepping up to serve as block leaders, compiling phone lists and alerting neighbors when a crime takes place or when suspicious activity is seen. *National studies consistently show that this action alone proves to be the best crime prevention tool a neighborhood can have.*

When people know a crime has been com-

mitted or suspicious activity is going on, they become more alert and watchful—and this extra vigilance means that criminals working the area are more likely to be observed and reported to police in time to prevent the next crime.

Couple this resident crime prevention activity with the proactive work of CAN Officers Shillcutt and DeFreece, and the 49/63 COMBAT Coordinator, and we have a powerful weapon against crime: police and the community working together to increase neighborhood safety.

If you or a neighbor becomes a crime victim, after you make the necessary police calls, please also call the CAN Center at **333-4963** and tell them what happened. Through its neighborhood-wide coverage and its contacts in other areas, the CAN team adds your information to their picture of crime trends throughout 49/63 and nearby areas.

This wider view helps our CAN officers, detectives, the gang squad, and other KCPD units track down the perpetrators and take

COMBAT/CAN, continued on p 3...

...COMBAT/CAN, continued from p 2

them off our streets.

Safety Tips for Pedestrians

A recent incident in our neighborhood illustrates how to handle a perceived threat when you are on foot.

A resident walking on the sidewalk heard a noise behind her and immediately looked back to see what it was. A man was walking swiftly, apparently toward her, while making obscene remarks. She faced him and began yelling and screaming, and he went away.

Her response, which may have protected her from an attack, illustrates some protective steps for pedestrians.

First, **be aware of persons near you**, especially behind you. Be sure you can hear what's going on around you—if you take a personal stereo or MP3 player with you on your walk, keep the volume down.

Stay out of harm's way—move, walk backwards if you must, use your voice. Criminals who target people on the sidewalk do not

want the attention that comes from someone shouting at them.

Project confidence—send the message that you have no intention of giving up control of the situation. Shouting at someone is confident behavior.

Try to keep some distance between you and any questionable approach. If someone asks you for directions, keep your distance.

Trust your instincts. If you think someone is following you, switch directions, cross the street, find a safe place.

Don't worry about being perceived as rude to an "innocent" person—"stranger danger" is good advice for adults as well as children. If you have a cell phone with you and can call police, keep moving, give the best description you can, and keep a confident eye on the stranger.

A bit of foresight can also protect you. If you're going out for a walk, choose clothing and shoes that do not restrict your movements, and remember to carry a cell phone if you have one.

News & Announcements

City Call Center Expands Hours

Kansas City's 3-1-1 Action Center is now open on Sundays. The Action Center, which you can reach by dialing 311 within Kansas City, is your point of contact for nearly all non-emergency city services—property codes, animal control, trash service, and more.

The Action Center's hours are now 7 am to 8 pm Mon-Fri, and 8 am to 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the extended hours, the Action Center has recently added 11 new employees to ensure that your call gets answered and processed more quickly.

Leaf & Brush Pickup Dates

The city has scheduled two leaf and brush pickup dates for our area this fall: **Friday, November 16** and **Friday, December 14**.

As in previous pickups, only 20 bags and

bundles per household are permitted. Watch the October newsletter for more details.

Help St. Francis Xavier Serve the Poor

The Social Concerns Committee of St. Francis Xavier Church (52nd & Troost) are working with Visitation parish (52nd & Main) and other midtown KC parishes to turn Christian teachings into action in our community.

Among this group's many activities are a food pantry at the St. Francis parish office, and an annual Christmas basket program.

Want to help? Contact Janice Hughes, Social Ministries Coordinator, at **523-5115 x208** or jahughes@sfx-kc.org.

If you can help with the St. Francis Soup Kitchen ministry, call Bethany Paul, Pastoral Associate, at **523-5115 x213**. One of their two soup kitchens is housed at St. James Church at 39th & Troost, and the other is located at the Holy Family Catholic Worker House, 912 E. 31st St.

Calendar

RUCC— Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost

TYG— Troostwood Youth Garden, 52nd & Paseo

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Every Sat thru October: Troostwood Youth Garden Market, 10 am-4 pm, TYG

September

25th (Tue): 49/63 General Meeting and Annual Board Election, 7:30 pm, RUCC. Topic: The Midtown KC Recycling Center, featuring a representative of Bridging the Gap

October

6th (Sat): Troost Plateau meeting, 9 am, RUCC

6th (Sat): Troostwood meeting, 10 am, RUCC

8th (Mon): Rockhill Ridge Annual Meeting and Board Election, 7 pm, RUCC

10th (Wed): 49/63 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, RUCC

23rd (Tue): 49/63 General Meeting, 7:30 pm, RUCC. Topic to be announced

November

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

3rd (Sat): Troostwood meeting, 10 am, RUCC

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

16th (Fri): Leaf & Brush pickup; details in October newsletter

Please Deliver By September 20, 2007

Rockhurst Parking Plans Stir Neighborhood Concern

Rockhurst University's plans to turn residentially zoned properties into parking lots are drawing criticism and resistance from neighborhood leaders.

Over the past five years, Rockhurst has demolished a number of houses on the 5400 block of Forest. A series of lots on the west side of the street was then graveled over, and parking signage was installed. This summer, after the university was ticketed for use of an unacceptable surfacing material for a parking area, it opted to close this lot.

Last spring, Troostwood residents were surprised to see surveyors planting markers and taking measurements on both sides of the 5100 block of Forest. Survey crews told neighbors that they were working for Rockhurst.

In June, Rockhurst shut off utilities to the house it owned at the northwest corner of 52nd and Forest. On July 11, one day after a demolition permit was approved, the house was torn down. The 49/63 Coalition board, at its monthly meeting that evening, passed a resolution opposing any rezoning of residential lots for use as parking.

At a July 24 hearing before the city's Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA), Rockhurst requested a variance to the R1b (single-family residential) zoning of this property in

order to convert it to a parking lot. Approximately 20 Troostwood and 49/63 residents attended the BZA hearing to speak in opposition to the plans. The BZA denied Rockhurst's request.

In order to comply with current impervious-surface runoff standards, the proposed parking lot included an underground stormwater detention basin. An engineer who reviewed Rockhurst's plans suggested that the volume of the proposed basin exceeds what would be needed for the paved surface shown in the plans. This immediately raised concerns about the future of the other Rockhurst-owned residences on this block of Forest.

Rockhurst has not given up on the corner lot. The university has resubmitted its plans to the BZA with a request for a rehearing, which will take place on September 25.

Neighborhood leaders acknowledge Rockhurst's need for more campus parking. But they remain resolute in their belief that this need must not be satisfied by sacrificing residential property, and that alternatives, such as shared parking with UMKC or construction of a multi-level parking structure, would be more appropriate for a campus located in a historic urban-core neighborhood.