



# 49/63 NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition — Kansas City, Missouri  
www.4963.org (816) 333-4963 Vol.34, No. 6: June 2008

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

## News & Announcements...

### Rockhurst Plan Forum Aug 26

If you're concerned or just curious about Rockhurst University's new **Campus Master Plan**, put Tuesday, August 26 on your calendar.



At the 49/63 general meeting that evening, representatives from BNIM/Einhorn Yaffey Prescott, the University's planning consultants, will gather your thoughts on Rockhurst's future for their Master Plan.

### Waste Drop-off Sat Jun 21

You are invited to get rid of old tires, automotive wastes, and more on **Saturday, June 21**, from **8 am to noon**, at a community waste drop-off site at the **Linwood Shopping Center, 3100 Prospect**.



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### Trash & Recycling Pickup

Fri Jun 20 - Fri Jun 27 -  
Sat Jul 5 - Fri Jul 11 (no 2-bag limit) - Fri Jul 18 -  
Fri Jul 25 - Fri Aug 1 -  
Fri Aug 8 - Fri Aug 15 - Fri Aug 22 -  
Fri Aug 29



### Bulky Item Pickup

Mon Jun 30 (all of 49/63)

The city's bi-monthly bulky item pickup program has been given a short reprieve! See details on page 1.

## General Meeting, Tue Jun 24

### Financing Home Improvement

Are you trying to figure out how to pay for a new roof—and afraid of falling victim to a predatory financing scheme? Wondering if it's time to refinance your home at a lower interest rate?

Neighborhood Housing Services of Kansas City (NHS), headquartered at 59th & Troost in 49/63, may have some answers for you. NHS is the only nonprofit community organization in Kansas City to offer a full range of mortgage and home loan services.

Here are some of the home purchase and improvement products offered by NHS:

- **Exterior home improvement loans.** These loans can provide up to \$5,000 to finance repairs to outside walls, garages, landscaping, sidewalks, and more—and up to \$10,000 for roof replacement. Annual interest rates are currently 3% (fixed), with a term of up to 10 years.
- **Home purchase loans** (mortgages), with or without rehab financing. NHS loans are always fixed-rate, with no early-payment penalty.
- **Mortgage refinancing**, with or without rehab.

In addition, NHS offers homebuyer education classes and foreclosure counseling.

At our June meeting, Marquetta Broome of NHS will talk and answer your questions about their home loan products. Join us **Tue Jun 24, 7:30 pm at the Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost**. Remember the CAN crime and safety meeting at 6:30, same location.

### Bulky-Item Pickup Mon Jun 30

Scheduled bulky-item collection isn't dead—yet. While the city works out the details of its new appointment-based program, we are still on the old schedule.

For June, this means that large items placed at the curb by the morning of **Mon Jun 30 will be picked up**.

After June, check the city's website before setting out bulky trash. Go to [www.kcmo.org](http://www.kcmo.org), click *City Services* on the left-side list, and click *Bulky*

item collection for details.

The new bulky-pickup system will also be announced in the media in advance of its debut.

### Trash Amnesty July 11

Remember that for the regular trash pickup on **July 11**, the usual two-bag-no-tag limit is waived — you can set out any number of bags, without city trash tags. The 40-lb-per-bag weight limit still applies.

## 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](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)



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

## From the Editor

### Shop Locally! Save Gas!

When \$4-a-gallon gasoline finally hit the KC area a few weeks ago, it led the 10-o'clock news. Conversation in the workplace and on the street is turning more and more to the question of how to cope with fuel prices high enough to force some lifestyle changes.

Driving the old gas-guzzler out to the new-car dealer and trading it in on a hybrid isn't an immediate option for most of us. But we can start doing one thing right away to save gas: Shop locally.

Here in 49/63, we have a variety of services available on Troost Avenue and on 63rd St. You can get work done on that old guzzler at any of several auto service establishments along Troost, and find parts for it at any of three auto-parts stores. We have a dry cleaner, a drugstore with full-service pharmacy, a health-care equipment outlet, a wide variety of restaurants, a veterinarian, at least two coffee shops, and more.

While 49/63 has no grocery stores within its boundaries, there are at least three within half a mile or less of the neighborhood. And if it's fresh-picked organic produce you want, consider the Troostwood Garden and its Saturday Garden Market.

Consider Europe, where high fuel prices have been the norm for decades. Europeans citizens are much more inclined than we are to purchase everyday goods and services from a small, local shop. They have already adapted to the new reality of high-priced petroleum, and we would do well to learn from their example.

There's a benefit to shopping locally beyond saving gas. Supporting neighborhood merchants helps to preserve the economic vitality of your neighborhood, and ensures that those businesses will still be there when gas hits \$5, and \$6, and...

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## From Your CAN Team & COMBAT Coordinator

### Excessive Noise IS Disorder—Report It!

Loud parties that keep neighbors Lawake late at night are not just a discourtesy. They are instances of disturbing the peace and keeping a disorderly premises, which are city ordinance violations.

It's not easy to deal with a chronically loud and disorderly neighbor,

but there are ways. If you or someone you know is suffering from this problem, call the 49/63 CAN office at 333-4963 and let us know. We can work with you and other concerned neighbors to resolve the issue.

### Fireworks: NO!

Many common types of fireworks are illegal in Kansas City—  
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...CAN/COMBAT, from page 2

with good reason. Fireworks have set fire to front porches and roofs (it happened twice here last year), and they have been used as weapons against police officers.



If your block is subjected to a siege of fireworks, call 911. If you get put on hold, stay on the line. Give the dispatcher as exact an address for the perpetrators as you can.

...News & Announcements, from p 1

The event will include an "ABOP" (antifreeze, batteries, oil, paint) collection site. The ABOP site is limited to the first 180 cars, so get there early! Tires and yard waste (leaves, brush) will also be collected.

Only households and neighborhood associations may drop materials off at this event. The event is sponsored by the KCMO Water Services and Public Works departments and the neighborhoods served by Neighborhood Housing Services, including 49/63.

## Adopt a War Memorial?

—Contributed by Nancy Hulston  
Troostwood resident

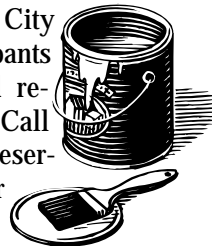
On the southwest corner of Volker & Paseo, just outside the 49/63 neighborhood, there is a small and sadly neglected memorial to two Kansas City area natives who died in two wars.

The **Fitzsimmons/Battenfeld Memorial** preserves the memories of Lt. William Fitzsimmons, a 1913 KU Med graduate and the first American officer to die in WWI, in a bombing raid on a field hospital in France; and Jesse Battenfeld, a Navy flight surgeon with KU Med ties, who died in a plane crash in the Cascades while stationed in Seattle during WWII.

Don't count on an immediate police response, but make the report anyway; you might get lucky if a police officer is nearby and available.

## Free House Paint

Free house paint is available for eligible Kansas City homeowners. Participants pick paint colors and receive other supplies. Call 513-3025, Property Preservation Division, for information.



The memorial was until very recently strewn with trash and drug paraphernalia, with the flags and lighting in bad shape. A call to KC Parks & Rec got some of the mess cleaned up, but the real answer may be for the 49/63 Coalition or some 49/63 residents to adopt it and keep it clean.

Interested? Please e-mail **nhulston@kumc.edu**. Let's do right by those who died serving our country.

## Parks & Rec Free Pool Parties

This summer, the five major KC Parks & Rec pools (listed below) will again offer free swimming every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4 to 7 pm. Swope Park Pool will also be free 1 to 5 pm on Sundays.

KCWE 29 and Children's Mercy Family Health Partners are sponsoring **pool parties**, one at each of the five pools, and all five **free and open to the public**. In case of rain, the party will be held the following evening.

Here's the schedule. All parties go from 5 to 7 pm:

- Tue Jun 24: Grove Pool, Benton Blvd & Truman Rd
- Tue Jul 8: Swope Pool, 6700 Lewis Rd



## CALENDAR

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

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

Every Sat 9:00 am- 3:00 pm	<b>Garden Market, TYG.</b> Fresh, local, organic produce at reasonable prices
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### June

24 / Tue 7:30 pm	<b>49/63 General Meeting, RUCC.</b> Topic TBA
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30 / Mon	<b>Bulky item pickup</b>
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### July

Every Sat 9:00 am- 3:00 pm	<b>Garden Market, TYG.</b> Fresh, local, organic produce at reasonable prices
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09 / Wed 6:30 pm	<b>49/63 board strategic planning session, RUCC</b>
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09 / Wed 7:30 pm	<b>49/63 board meeting, RUCC</b>
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12 / Sat 9:00 am	<b>Troost Plateau meeting, RUCC</b>
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12 / Sat 10:00 am	<b>Troostwood meeting, Coffee Break, 5400 Troost</b>
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### August

26 / Tue 7:30 pm	<b>49/63 General Meeting, RUCC.</b> Topic: <b>Rockhurst Campus Master Plan</b> —neighborhood input
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### Got news?

Send it to us at [news@4963.org](mailto:news@4963.org)!

Issue	Deadline	Delivered
Aug	Aug 1	Aug 22
Sep	Aug 29	Sep 19

- Tue Jul 22: Brush Creek Pool, Cleaver II Blvd & Cleveland Ave
- Tue Aug 5: Budd Pool, Budd Park Esplanade and Denver Ave.

## Coordinator Position Reopened

The Jackson County COMBAT Commission has informed the 49/63 Coalition that COMBAT will continue to fund our Coordinator position through the end of 2009.

Now we need to find a COMBAT Coordinator. Our previous Coordinator has retired, and volunteers are

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Please Deliver By June 20, 2008

...News & Announcements, from p 3  
staffing the office in the interim.

The mission of the 49/63 Coalition's COMBAT program is to root out drug activity and reduce crime in the neighborhood. The Coordinator works with city officials and departments, law enforcement agencies, neighborhood residents, businesses, and property owners to abate drug activity and eliminate pockets of disorder which tend to attract criminals.

The Coordinator works very closely with the other members of the CAN team—codes enforcement, the police officers assigned to the 49/63 area, the Jackson County community prosecutor assigned to KCPD Metro Patrol Division, and CAN volunteers from the neighborhood.

The position is full-time, with a salary of approximately \$28,000 per year; we are not able to provide benefits. If you would like to apply, please send a letter of interest to the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition, 5309 Wood-

land Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110; or send an e-mail message to [pres@4963.org](mailto:pres@4963.org).



## School Board Sub-districting Options

The Kansas City School District is in the process of redrawing the boundaries of the six subdistricts from which board members are elected. The new boundaries are needed as a result of the recent transfer of seven schools to the Independence system.

*The approach to subdistrict creation could have a substantial impact on the politics of school board selection.*

Four subdistricting proposals are shown as maps on the Kansas City Election Board website ([www.kceb.org](http://www.kceb.org)). Three of these (Maps 1, 2, and A on the KCEB site) make minimal

changes to current subdistrict boundaries, which run along Troost Avenue and tend to follow Kansas City's traditional social divides.

But a fourth proposal (Map 3 on the site) represents a radical shift from traditional boundaries. This proposal would replace the current subdistricts with a stack of six long, narrow zones, each running east-west from the Kansas state line to the east edge of the district. Each of these proposed subdistricts includes a diverse sampling of Kansas City ethnic groups.

This proposal is backed by the group Kansas Citizens United for Educational Achievement. They call it the "Unity Option", and see it as a step in erasing the "us-vs.-them" mentality that has often driven the board's deliberations.

By the time you read this, the Election Board will have chosen one of the plans. Their decision could have a lasting influence on the effectiveness of our school board.