



49/63 NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition — Kansas City, Missouri
www.4963.org (816) 333-4963 Vol.34, No. 3: March 2008

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

News & Announcements...

St. Francis Xavier Community Flea Market

Contributed by Bethany Paul
Social Ministries & Development,
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

On Saturday, April 12, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, at 52nd & Troost, will host a spring flea market from 9 am to 1 pm in the church parking lot.

Items for sale will include hand-made crafts, specialty items, baked goods, and garage-sale items. Please come browse the market for treasures.

In case of inclement weather, the market will be held in the adjacent school gymnasium.

KCMO Youth Advocacy Office Seeks Applicants

Contributed by Paul Kramer
Communications Office, City of Kansas City, MO

The city's Youth Advocacy Office is accepting applications for the Kansas City Youth Commission. City residents between the ages of 12 and 23 may apply.

Youth commission members will be chosen through a competitive process.

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Trash & Recycling Pickup



Fri Mar 21 - Fri Mar 28 - Fri Apr 4 -
Fri Apr 11 - Fri Apr 18 - Fri Apr 25

Bulky Items

Fri Mar 28 (SE of 54th &
Troost only)
Mon Apr 28 (all of 49/63)



Leaves & Brush: Fri Apr 18

General Meeting, Tue Mar 25

Politics Close to Home

National politics are grabbing and holding our attention now. Will it be Clinton or Obama? Who will McCain pick as a running mate? Will Nader tip the balance again? How will party power shift in Congress?

But our daily lives may be more profoundly affected by local politics.

On April 8, Kansas City voters will make several collective decisions with broad consequences for our daily lives:

- *Renewal of the 3/8-cent bus tax.* This tax is needed to maintain Kansas City's only current public transit, but some say its defeat is a necessary step in forcing us to confront and resolve the light-rail issue.
- *A ban on smoking in public places.* The proposal on the ballot exempts the casinos; is it a step in the right direction or a sellout? Is it both?
- *License fees for payday-loan businesses.* These services, regarded by many as predators on the poor, have mushroomed throughout KC in recent years. The fees would fund enhanced city oversight of their operations.
- *Kansas City School Board seats.* At this time, no seat is contested on the ballot, although a few write-in campaigns are organizing.

The full ballot text is on the KC Election Board website, www.kceb.org. Under *POPULAR LINKS*, select *Upcoming Election Info*.

At our March meeting, a KCATA representative will be on hand to answer your questions on the bus tax renewal, and a representative of Clean Air KC, a smoke-free-workplace advocacy group, will address the smoking ban. School board candidate Airick Leonard West will also be present.

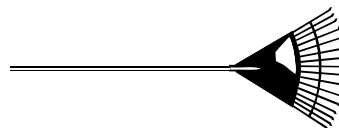
Join us with your questions, concerns, and comments on these issues. **We will meet Tue Mar 25 at 7:30 pm at the Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost.**

The 49/63 CAN Team will be available at 6:30 pm on the 25th for your crime and safety concerns.

Spring Yard Waste Pickup April 18

The city's spring leaves & brush pickup will cover 49/63 on Friday, April 18. Have your bags and bundles at the curb by 7 am, and call 311 on the 19th if they aren't picked up.

The Rules: Limit 20 bags and bundles per household, none over 40 lbs * Paper lawn/leaf bags only, seal only with masking tape * No trash, no grass clippings * Bundles tied with twine only, maximum 2 ft diameter x 4 ft long * No branches over 3" across * In case of rain, cover bags with plastic sheet



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
Streets needing repair
(after hours, call **513-0431**)
Dangerous ice/snow on streets
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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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



The 49/63 Coalition
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COMBAT Anti-Drug
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From the Editor

Time to Keep the Promises

Kansas City's fiscal chickens have come home to roost.

For decades, the city has balanced its budget by putting off infrastructure maintenance and necessary improvements. Decades of this kind of neglect have ravaged our water system. The city's antiquated sewers are an environmental nightmare. Residential streets, curbs, and sidewalks throughout the urban core are crumbling. This chronic funding shortfall is compounded by the city's excessive generosity toward developers through the TIF program.

Now there is a push to rectify the problem. TIF incentives are being given out more carefully, and the city is working harder at cost-effective management. But program cuts are unavoidable.

It is at times like this that the real priorities of our elected city leaders will be revealed. The Mayor and most Council members campaigned on promises to realign the city's focus toward the needs of its neighborhoods. Now, as budget cuts loom, our leaders must decide whether they will do what it takes to protect the mundane, unexciting services—trash collection, CAN centers, newsletter printing, and others—that support the health and strength of neighborhoods. It's time to keep the promises.

And it's up to all of us as residents of our neighborhood to advocate for these basic services at every opportunity. Strong neighborhoods are essential to the long-term health, both social and fiscal, of our city. Let's not let our leaders forget that.

From Your CAN Team & COMBAT Coordinator

Spring: Time to Clean Up...

As winter's snow/ice/sleet/slush storms give way to more temperate weather, the CAN Team wants to remind residents that even though your property stops at the sidewalk, you are responsible for maintaining the parkway between your front sidewalk and the curb.

Please keep this area mowed and free of trash and litter. After all, this little strip of green is your front yard's front door.



...and Not Get Cleaned Out!

Warmer weather, unfortunately, brings out burglars and thieves—especially those looking for a handy open window or garage door.

When you leave your house, be sure your main-floor doors and windows are closed. And don't leave your garage open and untended!



Please keep an eye on your block. If you see someone skulking around who just *might* be up to no good, call 911 with a description. You might be the one to stop a crime!

Please Deliver By March 20, 2008

...News & Announcements, from p 3

pete in the Showcase can call **922-7687** for more information.

The Showcase performance is **Fri Apr 18, 7 pm**, at **Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, 2310 Linwood Blvd.** This event is free and open to the public; community members are encouraged to attend. Winners will be selected in the Youth (age 8-18) and Adult (19 and over) categories.

The next day, **Sat Apr 19**, Showcase winners will give an encore performance at **Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, 4507 Troost.**

The church, along with the Jackson County Safe Family Coalition, will host "**H.O.P.E.**" (Help, Outreach, & Prevention Event), a child abuse/domestic violence prevention fair, from **9 am to 1 pm** on the 19th.

Presenters include Swope Health Services, Higher Connections, Imani

House, CASA (the Court-Appointed Special Advocates program), Metro Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, Hope for the Families, Women's Employment Network, the Rose Brooks Center, Foster Grandparents Program, Gifted Hands, Mid-America Regional Council, and Footprints.

The Family Empowerment Showcase is supported by a grant to Swope Health Services from the Jackson County Safe Family Coalition.

Keep Up with Neighborhood Events on 49/63's Website

You can get updates about neighborhood meetings, community events, and more at the 49/63 Coalition's website, www.4963.org.

The event calendar on the website will contain updated event information not necessarily available in this newsletter.

Back issues of the newsletter are available in PDF

format; we will add more issues as time and storage space permits.

The website is a good place to find links to city services, detailed event descriptions, and more.

The 49/63 Coalition is grateful to the creative talent and tireless volunteer efforts of Josh Hamm, 49/63's