



Neighbors

November 2007 Vol. 33 No. 10

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-emergency 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

www.4963.org

(816) 333-4963

Thanksgiving Potluck and Meeting, Nov 27, 6:30 pm

Join Us for Dinner!

Your neighbors invite you to the 2007 edition of the 49/63 Thanksgiving potluck meeting, **Tuesday, November 27, at 6:30 pm** at the Rockhurst Community Center, 54th & Troost. We will provide smoked turkey, coffee, and water. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, salad, or dessert to share, as well as table service for your household.

Our CAN Center police officers should be on hand with information and advice on crime and safety matters, which could be valuable to know as we enter the holiday season.

We hope to see you there!

We're Looking for a COMBAT Coordinator

After her second tour of duty as 49/63's COMBAT Coordinator, Ruth Austin is retiring in early 2008. We are looking for the next COMBAT Coordinator.

This position is covered by a contract between the 49/63 Coalition and the Jackson County COMBAT Commission; the contract is funded by the county's quarter-cent anti-drug tax.

The Coordinator works with neighborhood residents, the 49/63 CAN Center, law enforcement, city, county, and other community agencies to bring about a decrease in crime, drug activity, and disorder in the neighborhood.

Applicants must have strong interpersonal and writing skills, and must be able to attend some evening and weekend meetings.

This month's "From the President" column on p. 2 may give you a better sense of what this job is about.

Persons considering applying for this position should send a letter of interest to **Renee Neades, President, 49/63 Coalition, 5309 Woodland Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110**. Alternatively, letters may be sent by e-mail to pres@4963.org.

The 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Trash & Recycling Schedule

Sat Nov 24 - Fri Nov 30 - Fri Dec 7 - Fri Dec 14 - Fri Dec 21 - Sat Dec 29 -
 Sat Jan 5 - Fri Jan 11 - Fri Jan 18 - Sat Jan 26

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



**49/63
NEIGHBORHOOD
COALITION**

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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

No December newsletter

Jan '08 Dec 28 Jan 18

Feb '08 Feb 1 Feb 21

From the President:

One Tough Job

Soon 49/63 will lose our current COMBAT Coordinator, Ruth Austin, who will retire in early 2008. Of course that means we are looking for someone to fill the position when she leaves.

The Coordinator's job is not an easy one. It often requires long and irregular hours. A normal working day is one where you try to accomplish miracles with very meager resources. Communication with the public is an essential part of the job that can be a joy – and can require the patience of a saint.

We are looking for someone for this position that knows and loves this neighborhood. This job truly offers an opportunity for someone to make a positive difference in people's lives. Interested? Let us know!

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

From Your COMBAT Coordinator and CAN Center

Update on Burglaries

We've had a spike in burglaries in recent months, but thanks to neighbors who pay attention and call 911, and excellent support from UMKC Police, Rockhurst Security, 49/63 CAN Officers Shillcutt and DeFreece, and KCPD Metro Patrol Division, the number of burglaries in 49/63 is dropping.

There have also been an encouraging number of arrests—due to good police work, as well as attentive neighbors who share information and work with police and other crime fighters.

Come to Court!

*If you can get away from work or home during the day and want to support police, prosecutors, and 49/63 residents at court hearings for area offenders, call the CAN Center at 333-4963 to find out more. Neighborhood residents who come to court can make an impact on sentencing of these offenders *just by showing up*, even if you don't speak a word as a witness.*



The volunteers who stand up for 49/63 at court deserve our thanks and our help. Supporting the neighborhood by going to court takes some time, patience, and a willingness

to accept some of the complexities and frustrations of the criminal justice system.

Our CAN team does its best to stay on top of the scheduled court appearances of offenders who have been active in 49/63. If you're interested in supporting the neighborhood by coming to court, give the CAN Center a call at 333-4963. E-mail is useful for staying in the loop on court cases, because court dates and times can change suddenly. That's part of the patience factor.

Safety Suggestions

***Lights On!** Our neighborhood has a lot of dark spots. It is time to light up, look alive, and look like we are paying attention.*

Keeping your porch light on doesn't just deter burglars from hitting your house. Lights are also a courtesy to your neighbors who arrive home after dark: criminals have fewer dark places in which to lurk, and the block doesn't have a scary, deserted look. Turn on those lights!

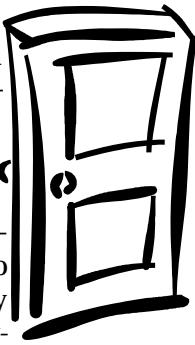
***Knock Knock—Who's There?** Never open a door if you don't know who is outside that door. What used to be considered rude behavior is now simply prudent. It is okay to yell through a door, to peek out a window first, or to simply refuse to open the door at*

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...COMBAT/CAN, continued from p 2

all. (A wide-angle peephole/viewer for your front door is a worthwhile \$5-to-\$15 investment in your personal safety.)

Whether or not you answer the door, if you don't recognize the visitor, please continue to watch what they do and where they go after they leave. If they seem even a *little bit* suspicious or out of place, make a mental note of their appearance and **call 911** immediately with a description.



Networking may be the best revenge. If you are victimized by crime in any way, warn your neighbors and call the CAN Center at 333-4963 so trends can be more quickly identified. Share as much information about the incident as possible.

Write everything down so you remember the facts that need to be shared... where, when, what, how, and any descriptions that might help to catch them or help other people know what watch for. Burglars and thieves tend to "work" particular blocks for several days or weeks. Your information could get them caught when they come back.

News & Announcements

Wanted: Your Story!

Have you lived in the Kansas City urban core for the past quarter-century or more? If so, you have lived through some interesting times here in our city, and you have a story to tell.

For the past three years, the 49/63 Coalition and the UMKC Writing Center have teamed up to preserve the stories of urban Kansas City residents—their lives in urban neighborhoods, their experience of school desegregation, and their memories of bygone KC institutions.

UMKC students trained in oral-history methods work in pairs to conduct and record interviews with area residents. These interviews are transcribed and catalogued at UMKC's Western Historical Manuscript Collection, the home of many of the 49/63 Coalition's own founding documents.

This all-volunteer effort, called the *Community Narrative Project*, has worked with professors and students from literature, history, and education classes to conduct interviews with about 50 residents of 49/63 and other urban-core neighborhoods.

The only qualifications for interviewees are that you have spent at least 25 years in the Kansas City urban core (the part of KC between the river and roughly 75th Street), and you are willing to share your experiences and insights.

Interested? Call Steve Eklund at **590-1926** or the 49/63 office at **333-4963**. Participants

generally do two or three interviews, each around a half hour to an hour long. You and the student team can do the interviews at your home or any other mutually agreeable location.

Second Leaf & Brush Pickup Dec 14

If your trees didn't get around to dropping their leaves in time for you to bag them up for the city's November yard waste pickup, you'll have another opportunity to get rid of them on **Friday, December 14**.

The rules are the same: Limit of 20 bags/bundles, under 40 lbs each, paper lawn bags and twine for the bundles.

If the city misses your pickup, dial 311 to reach the Action Center and let them know your address.

Thank You, UMKC Grounds Folks

Next time you drive past 54th & Troost, take a look at the area just south of Coffee Break. Until about a month ago, this UMKC-owned parcel was just another weed-strewn vacant lot surrounded by a chain-link fence.

Thanks to the efforts of Steve Jenks, UMKC's Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, and his crew, this UMKC-owned site has been cleaned up, the fence is down, and some

News & Announcements, continued on p 4...

Calendar

RUCC— Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost



November

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

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

December

1st (Sat): Troost Plateau meeting, 9 am, RUCC

1st (Sat): Troostwood meeting, 10 am, Coffee Break, 5400 Troost

12th (Wed): 49/63 Board meeting, 7:30 pm, RUCC

14th (Fri): Leaf & brush pickup

28th (Fri): Bulky pickup

January 2008

5th (Sat): Troost Plateau meeting, 9 am, RUCC

5th (Sat): Troostwood meeting, 10 am, Coffee Break, 5400 Troost

9th (Wed): 49/63 Board meeting, 7:30 pm, RUCC

22nd (Tue): 48/63 General Meeting, 7:30 pm, RUCC. Topic to be announced

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



Check our website, www.4963.org, for more other updates and additional events

Please Deliver By November 24, 2007

...News & Announcements, continued from p 3

attractive landscaping has been added. This parcel has been transformed from an eyesore to pleasant sight along the Troost streetscape.

UMKC's 49/63 neighbors are grateful for the positive impact these improvements will have on the appearance of our neighborhood's Troost Avenue frontage.

Trouble Paying Your Mortgage?

Are you one of the millions of American homeowners who are in peril of defaulting on a mortgage and losing your home? If so, NeighborWorks America, a national nonprofit which supports many community development efforts, may be able to help you.

To find out, get in touch with NeighborWorks' **Homeowner Hotline** by calling **1-888-995-HOPE (995-4673)**. This phone is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also get in touch with the Hotline through the Web, at www.995hope.org.

A counselor will listen carefully, but *not* judgmentally, to your situation—whatever it may be—and work with you to put together a written action plan to manage your finances. If necessary, the counselor will assist you in communicating with your mortgage company.

Your counselor can also put you in touch with local Kan-

sas City housing or employment agencies, as well as other area resources. Because NeighborWorks has partnerships with so many local agencies (they are a major funder of our own Neighborhood Housing Services agency at 59th & Troost), they know how to help you reach the right resources here in Kansas City.

There is no charge for this service.

Dec 8 Holiday Market

Coffee Break at 54th & Troost is sponsoring a **Holiday Mart and Fashion Show** on **Sat Dec 8**, from 10 am to 2 pm. The show, featuring apparel by Janay A Handmade and other local designers, begins at noon.

The Holiday Mart includes a number of local vendors, including some amazingly creative craftspeople from right here in the 49/63 neighborhood.

Food Drive Helps Pantries

The annual University Academy Food Drive, which covered many parts of 49/63, produced over 500 grocery sacks of donated food and personal care items.

Donated goods were collected November 10, and distributed to the food pantries of St. Francis Xavier, St. James United Methodist, and St. Therese Little Flower churches.