



49/63 NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition — Kansas City, Missouri
www.4963.org (816) 333-4963 Vol.34, No. 8: September 2008

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

News & Announcements...

Bulky Trash Pickup: The New Rules

It's official: As of Sep 1, KCMO no longer has monthly or bimonthly bulky trash pickups. Instead, residents will need to schedule a pickup. To make an appointment, call the city's Action Center by dialing **311** from a land-line phone or **513-1313** from a cell phone.

There will be a **15-item limit**, and anything which can be put in a bag like regular trash will not be eligible for bulky-item pickup.

Bulky items include refrigerators, stoves, freezers, dishwashers, dryers, sofas, desks, tables, lawn mowers and carpet.

The City does not consider an item as bulky if it can be accommodated by regular trash service. Bags, boxes, vacuum cleaners, small electric appliances, and fans are **not** bulky items.

Residents with renovation and construction debris should contact a private solid waste company.

For a complete listing of the City's rules on bulky item collection or for information about regular trash, recycling and solid waste collection, visit www.kcmo.org/trash or call the Action Center.

Service related questions about a scheduled pickup should be directed

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Trash & Recycling Pickup

Fri Sep 19 - Fri Sep 26 -
Fri Oct 3 - Fri Oct 10 -
Fri Oct 17 - Fri Oct 24



General Meeting, Tue Sep 23

Light Rail, 49/63 Board Elections

Kansas City continues to move slowly and contentiously toward some kind of improved public transit.

Mayor Funkhouser has argued for a metro-wide light-rail system to be created all at once. This approach has put him at odds with supporters of a "starter line" which would lie within KCMO and be extended in later stages into other areas.

The starter-line supporters won the first round. What will appear as a tax issue on this November's ballot is a 14-mile line running from about I-29 and North Oak, through downtown KC to the Plaza area, east along Brush Creek and south along 71 Hwy to about 63rd St.

At our September 23 meeting, a speaker from Kansas City Light Rail, a group affiliated with the KC Area Transportation Authority, will present the plan which is up for a vote in November. Plenty of time will be reserved for your questions and comments.

We will also hold our 2008 Coalition board elections. Anyone at least 18 years old who resides, is employed, or owns property in the 49/63 neighborhood is eligible to vote and to serve on the board.

We will meet Tuesday, September 23, 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.

Pet Spay & Neuter Clinic Looks at 59th & Troost

The vacant back portion of the city-owned MAST building on the northeast corner of 59th & Troost may soon have a new use.

Spay & Neuter KC (on the web at www.snkc.net) is a nonprofit offering subsidized pet spaying/neutering to KC residents who might otherwise be unable to afford it. The need is clear: for every human birth in the US, seven dogs and cats are born.

SNKC emphasizes that this site will *never* become an animal shelter; no animals will ever be kept overnight.

The city will invest over \$200,000 in upgrading the 6,400-sq-ft area (now just a garage) into finished space.

At its Sep 10 meeting, the 49/63 board voted to endorse this project. We agree with the City and SNKC that this facility will be a "plus" for our neighborhood.

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-DI-G-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
City website..... www.kcmo.org
(including Action Center report form)

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



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From the Editor

Rockhurst: Moving Toward Partnership?

Our August 26 general meeting was one of the best-attended 49/63 meetings in years. No surprise—the main topic was Rockhurst University's campus master plan, still in its early stages. The planning consultants wanted neighborhood input... and they got it.

The consultants used a series of maps to give a planner's-eye view of the present campus and its surroundings, talked about the assets and challenges posed by the site, and compared Rockhurst to college campuses elsewhere. (An interesting statistic: The ratio of campus parking spaces to students is within a few percent of the norm for peer institutions in similar urban settings.)

Most audience members who spoke live in a neighborhood abutting the campus. Many of these residents described their frustration at what they see as Rockhurst's arrogance and disrespect toward neighborhoods and its occasional duplicity in its statements to neighborhood leaders and residents. There was widespread skepticism about whether neighborhood input would be given any weight through the rest of the planning process.

There were some encouraging signs, however. Rockhurst officials who were there acknowledged that the University needs to be more transparent in its dealings with its neighbors.

An example: Master-plan documents on Rockhurst's website have been available only to members of the Rockhurst community through password-protected access. One Rockhurst administrator told a neighborhood resident that he would consider making master-plan documents and graphics—even those at a draft stage—available to the public, including neighborhood residents.

There is hope. Ten years ago, neighborhoods under threat from UMKC fought back with a bruising publicity campaign. Eventually UMKC learned that partnership beats domination, and now the two sides enjoy a better—if not perfect—relationship. We hope that Rockhurst can absorb this lesson more quickly and follow a less painful route toward partnership with its neighbors.

The CAN Team / COMBAT Coordinator column will return in the October newsletter.

...News & Announcements, from p 1 to the 3-1-1 Action Center within 24 hours of the collection date.

Coalition Neighborhoods Adopt School

Many residents in eastern 49/63 know of Troost Elementary, at 59th Street and Forest Avenue.

What they may not know is that this school (like many others) has many students whose families are often not able to provide basic school supplies for their children. Teachers and administrators often have to use their own funds to purchase much-needed school supplies.

The Troostwood and Troost Plateau neighborhoods, along with Rockhurst University, are stepping in to help.

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Both neighborhoods are pledging funds from donations collected during neighborhood clean-up events and other sources to help Troost Elementary teachers purchase school supplies and other materials.

The initial idea came from Troostwood resident Eric Duncan; the Troost Plateau organization soon stepped on board, as did Rockhurst University when Community Liaison Alicia Douglas head about it.

If you're interested in helping out, look for a donation box at community-sponsored clean-up events, or contact the Coalition at **333-4963**; anything you can donate will help.

Solve Disputes the Smart Way – Mediate!

All of us in the Coalition enjoy our diverse neighborhoods with residents from many backgrounds. But it's also important to be able to get along with your neighbors, especially when you may not agree on how to solve some basic problems.

The news has been filled too often recently with neighbors who resort to violence to solve problems that could very easily have been solved another way. The city of Kansas City knows how important keeping peace among neighbors is and has another solution – mediation.



Mediation is a voluntary and *free* service available to all residents, and it's very easy to start the process.

One of the parties in the dispute contacts the city's Human Relations Division to request mediation; a trained mediator will then contact both parties to set up a meeting.

Once both parties agree to mediation, they meet with a trained mediator – a neutral third party who can listen to both sides of the dispute. Anything discussed during mediation is kept confidential.

Mediation allows both parties in a dispute to agree to a solution that satisfies *both sides – nothing is imposed upon them by the mediator*. Mediation is a quick process, and is designed to keep many disputes from ending up in the courts, which can be both costly and time-consuming.

To find out more about mediation, you can contact Kansas City's **Human Relations Department**, located at 414 E 12th Street (City Hall), on the 4th floor. Call them at **513-1836**, or visit www.kcmo.org/humrel.nsf/web/MediationQA to learn about the mediation process.

Join Us at the Crossroads

It may be hard to believe, but the 49/63 Coalition has been going strong since 1971. In that time, it has achieved many of the goals it set out for itself. Our neighborhoods are stronger, safer and cleaner and have become attractive, desirable places for people to call home, thanks in no small part to the tireless efforts of those many hundreds of volunteers who have made up the Coalition over the past decades.

We still have many challenges, though. Old ones still linger, and new ones seem to pop up every day. Who could have predicted nearly \$4-a-gallon gasoline, global warming, and the need to “go green”?

This past spring and summer, the Coalition Board of Directors has spent many hours thinking about a very simple question: what important issues can and should the Coalition tackle in the future? We have our own ideas, but we think you do, too, and we'd love to hear them.

Our website, www.4963.org, has a tab labeled “Crossroads”, and it serves as a forum for soliciting ideas from our constituents. We've already received some very valuable and helpful comments, but we want to hear more.

Anything and everything is fair game; any issue that you're concerned

CALENDAR

RUCC: Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost

TYG: Troostwood Youth Garden, 52nd & Paseo

Every Sat 9:00 am- 3:00 pm	Garden Market, TYG. Fresh, local, organic produce at reasonable prices
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September

23 / Tue 6:30 pm	CAN Team forum, RUCC
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23 / Tue 7:30 pm	49/63 General Meeting and Board Election, RUCC. Topic: KC's Light Rail plan , presented by Kansas City Light Rail group
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October

04 / Sat 9:00 am	Troost Plateau meeting, RUCC
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04 / Sat 10:00 am	Troostwood meeting, Coffee Break, 5400 Troost
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08 / Wed 7:30 pm	49/63 Board meeting, RUCC
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28 / Tue 7:30 pm	49/63 General Meeting., RUCC. Topic TBA
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Got news?

Send it to us at news@4963.org !

Issue	Deadline	Delivered
Oct	Oct 4	Oct 24
Nov	Nov 8	Nov 28

about is probably someone else's concern, too. 49/63 contains an amazing cross-section of Kansas Citians – it might be the most diverse neighborhood organization in the city, and we think that this diversity can help us refocus the Coalition's future efforts.

Help us help you! Go to “Crossroads” and give us your thoughts. It's simple – just fill our comment box with your ideas and click “Submit.” We don't ask for any personal information; all we're after is your creativity and critical thinking about the neighborhood and the Coalition.

Your newsletter editor thanks 49/63 webmaster Josh Hamm for his extensive help in preparing this issue of *49/63 Neighbors*.



Blast From the Past – Troost Avenue, 1940

Many of us are familiar with the collection of photographs of Kansas City buildings taken by the Jackson County Tax Assessor's office back in 1940 and now housed at the KC Landmarks Commission offices.

A recent trip into the 49/63 Coalition archives yielded about a dozen of these photographs – all taken at various points along Troost.

The pictures on this page are just a sampling of these

photographs; more are available for viewing on our website at www.4963.org.

Neighborhood residents have provided more images from this collection; if you have any photographs from this series *or any other old photographs of the neighborhood* and would like to share them with others, contact webmaster@4963.org and we'll see that those images are scanned in and placed on the site.

