



The 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition
5309 Woodland Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64110

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US Postage Paid
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 4544



January, 2010 Issue 36.1

neighbors.

a publication of the
49/63 Neighborhood Coalition

Please deliver by 22 January 2010



the backpage

Emergencies	911
49/63 Office/CAN Center	816.333.4963
49/63 Website	www.4963.org
CAN Center Police Officers	816.719.8199
Aaron Shillcutt/Chris DeFreece	
KCPD - non-emergency	816.234.5000
Report a crime tip	816.474.TIPS
Complaint about police	816.889.6640
Fire Department - non-emergency	816.513.1700
Gas Leak - leave house immediately!	800.582.0000
Power line down	888.544.4852
48 hours before you dig	800.DIG.RITE
Utility assistance	211
City website	www.kcmo.org
City Services	311 (816.513.1313 - cell)
311 e-mail	actioncenter@kcmo.org
Codes Inspector - Matthew Keeney	816.444.6103
UMKC Security	816.235.1515
Rockhurst Security	816.501.4010
Animal control	816.645.8018
For more links, go to www.4963.org	

Safe Haven at Rockhurst

In the wake of the tragic murder of a local high-school student on the southern border of Rockhurst University, school officials would like to remind neighborhood children and parents that the **Rockhurst University Community Center** at 5401 Troost Avenue is an officially-sanctioned **McGruff Safe House** for children who need help or feel threatened by an emergency.

Campus Security is also headquartered in this building, and children can use them contact a parent, friend or relative to help them out in any situation where they might feel unsafe.



Printing for this newsletter was provided at no cost by the **Neighborhood and Community Services Department**, Kansas City, Missouri.

Online Survey Needs Input from YOU!

Please take a few minutes now to complete the Coalition online survey; log onto www.4963.org and click on the "Survey" link to be taken to a brief questionnaire outlining some of the issues facing the Coalition. Your feedback will help us tailor our efforts to more effectively serve our community.

Troost Plateau Neighborhood to Hold Elections in February

At its next regularly-scheduled monthly meeting in February, the Troost Plateau Neighborhood Association will hold its annual elections for officers. All positions will be open: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. For a complete description of each position, you can read the Association's by-laws on its website at www.troostplateau.org.

All residents of Troost Plateau are eligible for election into office. The Troost Plateau neighborhood runs from 54th to 59th Street and from Troost Avenue to Paseo. No special qualifications are required - only a willingness and an enthusiasm to help out in your community to make it a better place to live and work.

The February meeting of the Association will take place at **9:00 a.m.** on **Saturday, February 6th** at the Rockhurst University Community Center at 5401 Troost Avenue.

Newsletter Distribution to Undergo Changes

Almost all of us have been affected by the recent economic downturn, and the 49/63 Coalition is no exception. We have been forced to cut back on the programs and services we provide to the community, and those cutbacks are now affecting how the Coalition prints and distributes its *Neighbors* newsletter.

This issue will be the *last* issue that every member in the Coalition - some 3300 homes and businesses - will receive free at their home or place of business. Even with free printing provided to the Coalition by the city (and that may change with the next budget), it costs the Coalition almost \$500 in postage and mailing materials every time it prints a newsletter.

Beginning in February, 2010, newsletter distribution will be handled by

the general meeting

Tuesday, 26 January 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost Avenue
Crime Update from CAN, Metro Police



Join us on January 26th for the Coalition's general meeting, which will be hosted this month by the neighborhood CAN (Community Action Network) and COMBAT representatives. The highlight will be on crime prevention information - a timely topic with the many break-ins, assaults and robberies throughout the neighborhood, along with a very tragic and senseless murder of a young high-school student.

Featured will be a Metro police patrol "roll call" with police officers, along with a discussion about property crimes facilitated by a representative from the Metro Property Crimes unit; new tactics are being employed to combat property crime, and the police will share progress updates. Many informational handouts will be on-hand for residents, and refreshments will be provided.

Don't forget to attend the CAN Open Resident meeting at 6:30 p.m., immediately preceding the general meeting - CAN team members and neighborhood police will be on-hand to share recent crime information and take questions from neighbors.

way of three main distribution methods. The **first method** - already available - is online at the Coalition website www.4963.org. Current and past newsletters are always available in pdf format at our website.

The **second method** will be for residents to pick up their newsletters at certain locations throughout the coalition; the Rockhurst University Community Center at 5401 Troost has graciously consented to be the first pick-up point for the newsletter, beginning in February.

The **third method** will be by subscription - this will be the *only* way that you can still get a newsletter delivered to your home or place of business. For only \$10 a year - less than a dollar an issue - you can have the newsletter delivered directly to you.

While we regret having to make these changes, two positive results will, we

hope, make them worthwhile. One direct result will be that more and more Coalition resources will be freed up for more of the programs and services that the Coalition provides for its residents.

Another positive benefit will be that the Coalition will be able to go back to printing the newsletter monthly. Last year, we experimented with bi-monthly printing in an effort to save money, but that often delayed getting important information about Coalition and community-related events into the hands of residents in a timely fashion. With this new system, meeting times, dates and topics will be more accurate and more up-to-date.

We hope you appreciate these changes and ask for your patience as we adapt this new system to a rapidly-changing economy.

calendar

February

6/Sat/9:00 a.m./RUCC, 5401 Troost
Troost Plateau N'hood Ass'n meeting
6/Sat/10:00 a.m./RUCC
Troostwood N'hood Ass'n meeting
10/Wed/7:30 p.m./RUCC
49/63 Coalition board meeting
23/Tue/7:30 p.m./RUCC
49/63 Coalition general meeting

March

6/Sat/9:00 a.m./RUCC
Troost Plateau N'hood Ass'n meeting
6/Sat/10:00 a.m./RUCC
Troostwood N'hood Ass'n meeting
10/Wed/7:30 p.m./RUCC
49/63 Coalition board meeting
23/Tue/7:30 p.m./RUCC
49/63 Coalition general meeting

April

3/Sat/9:00 a.m./RUCC
Troost Plateau N'hood Ass'n meeting
3/Sat/10:00 a.m./RUCC
Troostwood N'hood Ass'n meeting
14/Wed/7:30 p.m./RUCC
49/63 Coalition board meeting
27/Tue/7:30 p.m./RUCC
49/63 Coalition general meeting

Want to add your neighborhood's meeting to the calendar? E-mail news@4963.org!

from the COMBAT coordinator

Beware Census Scams!

It seems that we can't turn around without bumping into another scam - somebody trying to get sensitive personal information out of us for their own nefarious goals.

The Better Business Bureau, in anticipation of the upcoming Census 2010, is already gearing up to warn everyone of possible scams associated with the Census.

The Census will be conducted either by mail, over the telephone, or by a personal visit by a Census taker.

If a Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a **badge**, a **handheld device**, a **Census Bureau canvas bag** and a **confidentiality notice**. You can always ask to see their identification and badge before you answer any questions. Bear in mind also that you don't ever have to invite anyone into your home if you don't feel safe.

Any Census worker going door-to-door right now is only trying to verify address information, and the only financial information they may gather will be a general question about the household income; they *cannot* ask for your Social Security number, any credit card info, or any banking information. Census workers also cannot ask for any donations.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or at your home for more in-depth Census information. However, there are no plans to contact residents by e-mail, so any e-mails you may receive claiming to be from the Census Bureau are fraudulent. Moreover, you should refrain from opening any links or attachments that may be a part of the e-mail.

The Census is an important tool for the government in determining how to allocate resources fairly across the country, so we hope you do your part in helping them - but you don't have to get taken for a ride when you do!



the coalition

The 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition, Inc.

5309 Woodland Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64110
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The 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition publishes neighbors periodically throughout the year to inform readers of local events, Coalition activities and community issues. We thank the city of Kansas City, Missouri for printing this publication at no cost. The city of Kansas City, Missouri is not responsible for content.

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Joshua Hamm, editor news@4963.org



The 49/63 coalition is a Jackson County COMBAT Anti-Drug Tax funded agency.

Troostwood - New Place, New Faces!

Because of the untimely closing of The Coffee Break, the Troostwood Neighborhood Coalition will meet starting February at the **Rockhurst University Community Center at 5401 Troost Avenue**; the meeting time stays at 10:00 a.m.

This meeting will be highlighted by the election of new officers, so anyone interested in taking a role in helping this lively, active group is invited to attend. All positions are open: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and other chair positions. All Troostwood residents are eligible for election; the Troostwood neighborhood is bounded by Volker Boulevard, Rockhurst Road, Troost and the Paseo.

The 49/63 Coalition is on the web! Go to www.4963.org for up-to-date information and news; you'll also find links to past issues of **neighbors**, a history of the Coalition, bylaws, and a calendar of upcoming meetings and events around town and a very complete list of links to local and national organizations and people of interest to our community.

In Memoriam Ann Palmer

It is with sadness that we note the unexpected passing of long-time Troostwood resident Ann Palmer. While Ann recently moved away from her home on the 5100 block of Lydia, many residents still remember her fondly as a good friend and neighbor.

She is survived by her mother, two brothers, and many other relatives. Anyone wishing to extend condolences to the family may do so online at holmanhowe@embarqmail.com.

We Need You!

Since 1971, the **49/63 Neighborhood Coalition** has been instrumental in maintaining safe, attractive and diverse neighborhoods in the heart of Kansas City.

But we can't do it without **your** support. The majority of our funding comes from neighborhood residents like you, who understand and appreciate the many things that the Coalition does on behalf of the constituents it serves.

Many of you may remember your community prior to 1971 - racially-segregated neighborhoods and schools, real-estate blockbusting the norm, once-stable communities losing long-time residents to the suburbs, a city government deaf to the needs and problems of those who remained, rampant criminal activity terrorizing the streets. The Coalition was founded precisely to counteract those disastrous trends, and while its goal of promoting stable, diverse neighborhoods largely free of crime has been achieved, more work needs to be done.

With your help - with both time and money - the Coalition has been able to co-sponsor a lawnmower repair clinic, stage our traditional Volunteer Appreciation and Thanksgiving Dinners, organize an annual Food Drive in partnership with University Academy, organize and staff many neighborhood "dumpster days" for yard waste and trash collection, and organize and staff neighborhood cleanups in concert with local university students.

The Coalition has printed and distributed thousands of **Neighbors** newsletters, which many of you rely on for the latest information on neighborhood events. We've put together Monthly Membership meetings which feature guest speakers on a wide variety of topics of interest to the neighborhood.

The Coalition has advocated many times in the past year for issues that directly affect you - uncontrolled expansion into your neighborhoods by area institutions, uncontrolled redevelopment of neighborhood property by unscrupulous developers,

and insensitive city zoning policies that affect neighborhood integrity.

Members of the Coalition have been instrumental over the past year in working with Rockhurst University on a major master planning effort to provide a framework for expansion that respects our historic neighborhoods. The Coalition also works with UMKC's Volker Council to provide similar guidelines for the integration of the university into the surrounding community.

Together with CAN (the Community Action Network) and Jackson County's anti-drug COMBAT program, the neighborhood has shut down drug houses, provided alternatives to prison time for first-time drug offenders, taken legal action against irresponsible absentee landlords with poorly-maintained houses, removed over a hundred instances of graffiti - sometimes gang-related - from area homes and businesses, and gone to court to provide testimony against intrusive parties in off-campus student housing.

The Coalition has teamed up with the Southtown Council and Durwin Rice's nationally-known "Tulips on Troost" initiative to help beautify the Coalition's "Main Street" and has advocated for extensive redevelopment of Troost Avenue as a vital artery flanked by two major educational institutions and many area businesses.

That's quite a list! But know that none of this could have been done without you and your support, and we ask you once again to be generous with your continued support of Coalition volunteers and their efforts. The 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition is the oldest continuously-active neighborhood association in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and it has been kept going by people like you who give generously with both their time and their donations. Think how much you have invested in your neighborhood already and know that every dollar you give to the Coalition is reinvested directly back into all of the neighborhoods it represents.

Thank you in advance for your support!



trash/bulky items

Trash pickup for all residents in 49/63 (Oak Street to the Paseo, 49th to 63rd Streets) is on each Friday of the month; in the case of a city holiday, that is bumped to Saturday. Leaves and brush are picked up curbside only on certain city-scheduled dates and cannot be put out with regular trash. Tires and other hazardous wastes are never picked up by city trash and cannot be included with trash or bulky item material. There is a two 40-lb. bag limit; any extra trash bags require city-supplied tags.

Bulky item pickup is done by appointment. You must call the city (**311/816.513.1313** by cell) to schedule a pickup. Bulky items placed at the curb and not scheduled for pickup may result in a codes violation and fine for the occupant. For a complete list of acceptable bulky items and for any questions regarding trash and bulky item collection, contact the city at **311** or online at actioncenter@kcmo.org.

49/63 residents are encouraged to recycle. Weekly recycling is available throughout the community - the only requirement is that you have a city-supplied blue plastic recycling bin. Most - but not all - materials are recyclable in Kansas City. Most plastic, aluminum cans, newspapers and other paper can be placed at the curb. Scrap metal is not recyclable at the curb, and glass can now be taken to RippleGlass.com for complete list of locations) recycling bins for processing. There is no limit on the amount of recyclables, and extra bins can be used, but you must have a blue bin.

please help

Please help us today with your **tax-deductible** donation to 49/63 - it will help pay for this newsletter and the many other programs we sponsor to benefit the community. Mail your completed form to:

The 49/63 Neighborhood Coalition
5309 Woodland Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64110

name _____
address _____
city _____
state _____ zip _____
phone (optional) _____
e-mail (optional) _____

donation amount _____
donations of \$25 or greater will receive free one-year subscription to **neighbors** newsletter.