



ROCK HILL GARDENS

R • G • N • A ROCKHILL GARDENS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Volume 19, Issue 6

<http://www.rockhillgardens.org>

August 2008

Neighborhood Markers Deserve Care

Specific concerns were recently communicated to the RGNA Board of Directors regarding the weeds growing near some of our brick neighborhood markers. Although the footprint of each neighborhood marker is deeded to the city of KCMO, the area immediately surrounding each corner marker belongs to the corner property owner. This area must be maintained according to City Code that determines overgrowth and tall weeds a violation of community standards:

Sec. 48-30. Rank weeds and noxious plants.

Rank weeds and noxious plants allowed to stand at any season of the year upon any lot, tract or parcel of land, or unpaved alley, or along the sidewalk, street or paved alley adjacent to such lot, tract or parcel of land are hereby declared to constitute a nuisance....

Sec. 48-1. Definitions.

Rank weeds means thickets or any vegetation...which is ten inches or more in height, including but not limited to grasses and unattended growths of other plants, bushes and shrubbery. Rank weeds shall not mean trees in excess of six feet in height, cultivated or attended trees less than six feet in height, or cultivated or attended plants, bushes or shrubbery.

Property owners risk incurring a fine and/or a summons to municipal court for code violations that come to the attention of a KCMO Code Enforcement Officer through anonymous complaint to the Action Center.

Happily, most RGNA neighbors do a great job of maintaining their marker areas and they deserve our thanks. If you're concerned about a messy marker area, consider offering assistance to the owner. RGNA Director of Property Management, Sarah Blasi (816-9856) can provide advice on this and other property issues.

Send Us Your Photos

We'd like to include pictures of Rockhill Gardens homes on our Web site at www.rockhillgardens.org. There are already some photos on the site, but please consider emailing us pictures of your home, block parties or anything else that captures the spirit of our great neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch Training

The Neighborhood Services Division of the Neighborhood and Community Services Department is offering a series of two-hour trainings for block watch and neighborhood crime watch groups. These trainings will be available to Rockhill Garden residents free of charge.



Registered groups that send three or more people to these trainings will be able to receive Neighborhood Watch signs for their area. If you are interested in attending, please contact Patrick Tuohey or any member of the RGNA Board.

Times and locations of the scheduled training sessions are available on the Rockhill Gardens Web site.

RGNA Web Site

The Web site, www.rockhillgardens.org, is finished! Visit the site for upcoming events, board meeting minutes, newsletters, and budget items. We also have neighborhood pictures and Web links we think might be useful to residents. Please let us know of other items that would be helpful.

RGNA Board Positions Open

The RGNA Board of Directors needs civic minded self-starters to help with Membership and Crime Prevention.

The Director of Crime Prevention serves as a liaison between the RGNA and the KCPD and keeps members aware of crime trends and preventative tactics.

The Director of Membership publishes the directory and provides new residents with welcome baskets.

Dogs Needing Homes

The Moynihans are moving away and need to find good homes for their two dogs:

Saddie is a 12-year-old, 80 lb. shepard/lab mix. She is very sweet and gentle and good with all ages.

Murdock is a 6-year-old black lab trained as a seeing eye dog, he is good with adults and older children.

Call Janna or Jim Moynihan at 444-7909 for more info.

RGNA Finance

Below is the RGNA budget for 2008-2009 approved unanimously by the Board on July 9. A copy with notes is available on the RGNA Web site (www.rockhillgardens.org).

| | <u>2009 Budget</u> | <u>2008 Actual</u> | <u>2008 Budget</u> | <u>Variance: Actual vs. 2009</u> | <u>Variance: 2008 vs. 2009</u> | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| Revenue: | | | | | | |
| 30100 | Membership Income | 6,035.00 | 5,985.00 | 5,695.00 | 50.00 | 340.00 |
| 30300 | Interest on Investment | 673.00 | 672.68 | 662.00 | 0.32 | 11.00 |
| 30500 | Other Income | - | 900.00 | 74.00 | (900.00) | (74.00) |
| 30500 | Grants | - | | | | |
| 30502 | Newsletter Income | - | - | - | - | - |
| 30503 | Social Activities Income | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Revenue | | | | | | |
| | | 6,708.00 | 7,557.68 | 6,431.00 | (849.68) | 277.00 |
| Expenses: | | | | | | |
| 50100 | Administration | 1,747.00 | 1,680.00 | 1,565.00 | 67.00 | 182.00 |
| 51920 | Marketing/Membership - Cards | 250.00 | - | 250.00 | 250.00 | - |
| | Variable Admin (Billing) | 150.00 | 150.00 | - | - | 150.00 |
| 50400 | Insurance | 340.00 | 340.00 | 350.00 | - | 10.00 |
| 50700 | Postage | 390.00 | 374.77 | 176.00 | 15.23 | 214.00 |
| 50200 | Meetings | 50.00 | 34.66 | 24.00 | 15.34 | 26.00 |
| 51930 | Social Activities | 2,430.00 | 1,742.54 | 2,100.00 | 687.46 | 330.00 |
| 51920 | New Neighbor | 273.00 | 272.57 | 150.00 | 0.43 | 123.00 |
| 51900 | Garage Sale | 50.00 | - | 50.00 | 50.00 | - |
| 51934 | Directories | 300.00 | 284.39 | 204.00 | 15.61 | 96.00 |
| 51936 | Newsletter | 840.00 | 315.00 | 720.00 | 525.00 | 120.00 |
| 52000 | Stationary & Supplies | | - | 124.00 | - | (124.00) |
| 52400 | Other | | 37.25 | - | (37.25) | - |
| Total Expenses | | | | | | |
| | | 6,820.00 | 5,231.18 | 5,713.00 | 1,588.82 | 1,107.00 |
| Net Income/(Loss) | | | | | | |
| | | (112.00) | 2,326.50 | 718.00 | 1,608.50 | (890.50) |
| | Retain - Net Income /Revenue | -2% | 31% | 11% | | |
| | Membership Statistics | 241 | 239 | 228 | 2 | 14 |

RGNA Meeting Minutes Summary for July 9, 2008

Board Members:

Present: Martin Tennant, John Cigas, Patrick Tuohey, Sarah Blasi, Kristen Williams, Janie Weeks, Christine Ritchie

Absent: Ronda Sprick

Others Present:

Kristian Foster-Reynolds, resident

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order by Martin Tennant at 7:09 pm
The Board corrected and approved the June 11 minutes;

Crime Prevention

- Resident David Swartzbaugh is still looking into the police report on the destruction of the marker at 72nd and Holmes so the Association can bill repairs to the rental car company's insurer;
- Sarah Blasi is collecting bids on rebuilding the marker;
- Kristian Foster-Reynolds said she attended a United Way sponsored seminar on applying for grants and that the RGNA does not qualify.

Communications

- Patrick Tuohey commented that the new RGNA Web site is available and ready to go live;
- Christine Ritchie will track down the name of the Internet hosting provider;

- Patrick requested that board members review the site and offer feedback.

Finance

- Christine presented the budget requests made by the RGNA directors, which resulted in an approximately \$1,700 deficit due largely to newsletter printing and distribution costs;
- John Cigas suggested that printing be done through Park University, which offers significant savings to non-profit organizations;
- A \$50 per newsletter distribution fee was retracted;
- These steps brought the allocation for the newsletter to around \$900 a year;
- The Board reduced a few other expenses so that the total projected deficit for 2008-09 is around \$100;
- Since this includes a one time charge of \$300 for new block party signs, the Board considered this a manageable budget and it was approved unanimously.

Property Management

- The Board spent a few minutes discussing nuisance properties, but didn't come to any real conclusion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Neighborhood Preservation

Take a walk through Rockhill Gardens...most of what you see will make you proud of this neighborhood and everyone who works so hard to keep their property maintained and beautiful. However, some properties have been allowed to fall into disrepair—either through an inability to keep them up or through outright neglect.

Kansas City's Neighborhood Preservation Division is charged with enforcing the nuisance code to "improve and stabilize neighborhoods, protect property values and promote a healthier and safer environment." You can reach them by phone at 513-9010 or on the Internet at

www.kcmo.org/neigh.nsf/web/npdhome.

Looking the other way while a property falls into disrepair is not a matter of minding one's business, it can lead to significant personal and property damage and even an increase in crime.

If a neighbor is struggling with maintaining their front and back yards, perhaps you can offer to help. But if their home is falling apart from neglect, please be sure to call the city and protect the investments of you and your neighbors.

Paid Advertisement

BLANDO MOWING

Making Rockhill Gardens Beautiful One Yard At A Time Since 1996

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---|---|
| Front and back | \$25.00 | • Trimming is free to summer long customers! Leaf raking and general clean up available, please call for quote. | • Rockhill Gardens residents only please. |
| One or the other | \$15.00 | | |
| Bag front and back | \$30.00 | | |
| Corner lots | \$35.00 | • We live right around the corner. Fast and reliable service. | |
| Bag corner lots | \$40.00 | | |

For more information, contact Tom at:
Phone: 444-3407 Cell: 824-1719
Email: tcmsg@aol.com

Crime Report

Residents concerned about crime have several opportunities available to them to help make a difference.

- On the Internet, www.crimereports.com is up and running and anyone is able to review recently reported crime in the Rockhill Gardens area or anywhere in Kansas City, Missouri.
- The Kansas City Police Metro Division allows residents to ride along with officers on any of their shifts morning, evening, or night. Call the Metro Patrol at 234-5520 or visit them at 1880 E. 63rd Street. A background check is required.
- As reported on the front page, the Neighborhood and Community Services Department is offering training sessions for Neighborhood Watch organizations throughout the remainder of the year. Exact dates and locations are available on the RGNA Web site.
- The Community Police Action Cooperative (CPAC) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6814 Troost Avenue at 4 pm to provide information regarding crime in our area.
- The RGNA Board has an opening for Director of Crime Prevention.

Walking School Buses

Parents of children in Rockhill Gardens are starting walking school buses to Academie Lafayette and St. Elizabeth School for the 2008/2009 school year.

A walking school bus is a group of students walking to and from school each day along a set route and accompanied by a parent. (The exact times and routes are determined by the participating families.)

A walking school bus is a great way to pool resources, provide exercise, and build community.

Please contact the parents listed below to include your children in the walking school buses.

Academie Lafayette

Kristian Foster-Reynolds
361-2180
kristianlf@yahoo.com

Beth Schaffer
822-7705
bethschaffer@yahoo.com

St. Elizabeth School

Denise Reavey
926-9005
pdreavey@kc.rr.com

Important Dates

August 8: Outdoor movie in Tower Park, *The Princess Bride*, get there at dusk or just before!

August 8: *American Idol* auditions come to Kansas City. Don't forget us when you go off to Hollywood!

August 12: Community Police Action Cooperative (CPAC) meeting, 6814 Troost Avenue at 4 pm

August 13: RGNA Board meeting, 7 pm at the Waldo library. The Board will be voting on proposed changes to the RGNA by-laws.

August 14: Neighborhood Crime Watch Training, 6:30 to 8:30pm, Northland Neighborhoods Inc., 3015 N.E. Vivion Rd.

If you have dates you would like to add to the RGNA calendar, please contact Patrick Tuohey at 268-1296. Check the RGNA Web site for additional events.

RGNA Officers

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| President | Martin Tennant | 444-5349 |
| Communications | Patrick Tuohey | 268-1296 |
| Crime Prevention | —VACANT— | |
| Events | Ronda Sprick | 333-9265 |
| Finance | Christine Ritchie | 361-6262 |
| Marketing | Kristen Williams | 361-5155 |
| Membership | —VACANT— | |
| Property Management | Sarah Blasi | 361-9856 |
| Public Affairs & Development | John Cigas | 363-7178 |
| Special Needs & Family Network | Janie Weeks | 363-3388 |

Useful Numbers

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Emergency | 911 |
| Police (non-emergency) | 234-5111 |
| KCMO Action Center | 513-1313 |
| Mayor Mark Funkhouser | 513-3500 |
| Councilwoman Beth Gottstein | 513-1616 |
| Councilwoman Jan Marcason | 513-1617 |
| Parks & Recreation | 513-7500 |
| Animal control | 513-9800 |
| Curb and sidewalk repair | 513-7951 |
| Waldo Area Business Association | 523-5553 |
| Waldo Library | 701-3625 |
| Cleaver YMCA | 285-9622 |