



## *Stratford Gardens Home's Association Fall Newsletter 2008*

---

Greetings to our Stratford Gardens Neighbors! We hope you all are having a wonderful fall.

### **Holiday Party**

Once again, Benny and Edith Lee, residing at 6300 Ward Parkway have graciously offered to host the party in their home. It will be in early December. Watch your mail for the date. More details will follow!

### **Board News**

A vacancy is pending on the Board due to the resignation of Jennifer King, who will serve on the board through the end of December 2008. Jennifer has been our contact with the contractor that does the common area and island maintenance. Any member interested in serving out the balance of Jennifer's term, which ends May 2010, please contact us at [StratfordGarden@aol.com](mailto:StratfordGarden@aol.com).

### **Financial Update**

As of August 31, 2008, our budget is in balance. Detailed income statements are posted on our association's web site at [www.haccd.org](http://www.haccd.org), under the heading for "Minutes."

A few homeowners – only 12 of the total membership – have not paid their dues for 2008-09. We kindly remind this handful of non-payers that all projected revenue for the homes association is budgeted to meet our basic services, such as regular security patrol, snow plowing, and island maintenance. A projected income shortfall through the end of the fiscal year in May (currently \$5,571.90) means we may have to cut back some services in order to maintain a balanced budget. We encourage everyone to pay their dues so that we may all share in the benefits of our small community.

Your all-volunteer Board remains focused on cost-effective measures and the conscientious use of your funds, whether by obtaining multiple bids for capital improvements and services, providing free labor and materials to the islands' upkeep, seeking outside sources of funding (e.g., city PIAC funds), and utilizing e-mail to reduce postage costs.

For further information, contact Maggie Shine (816) 444-4264.

## **Islands and Common Areas**

We hope you agree that the appearance and health of the common areas and islands have never looked better! Our maintenance contractor is Constant Care of Kansas City, Missouri.

Planning and engineering work is occurring for the renovation of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Island project. You may recall that this year the Association successfully secured City assistance for the project with \$29,000 in public PIAC funds. The board is currently consulting with the City on a cooperative agreement that will allow the Association to oversee and manage the project. Actual construction work is likely several months away.

## **Crime Alerts/ Security Update**

A couple of burglaries occurred in neighborhood homes during the summer, one of which happened in the evening when the family was at home. Sporadic reports have also been received by the Association regarding suspicious activity, including door-to-door solicitors, moving in and around our neighborhood. Also, some thefts reportedly have occurred at home construction or renovation sites. If you know your home will be empty for a period of time, or if your house will be vacant and undergoing renovation, you may want to let us know. We will inform our security patrol to keep an eye out for your home. Please contact us at [StratfordGardens@aol.com](mailto:StratfordGardens@aol.com).

With daylight hours growing shorter as we head into the fall, we caution all homeowners to take care around their homes. If a theft or problem occurs, please call 911 and file a police report. The police cannot track crime patterns if crimes area not reported.

A new online tool allows you access to a searchable database that maps reported crimes. You can view crimes by type, date, and even time. The site also offers a crime alert service, if you choose, where you can sign up to receive crime alerts via email. By entering your home address and indicating the types or crime and a radius/area you'd like to monitor, the site will alert you when crimes occur. Access this site at [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com) and there is no charge.

Vigilance is the homeowner's best defense. Simple measures can deter crime, such as placing outdoor lighting on motion detectors, keeping doors and windows locked, storing valuables in your car out of sight, and not running your car's engine without you in it. And, please, look out for your neighbors.

## **Fall Leaves and Cleanup**

It is that time of year again for falling leaves to not only look beautiful, but to clog up our gutters and storm drains. Please be sure to clean out your gutters and any storm drain on your property every time you mow or rake leaves.

## **Tree Plantings**

Fall is the perfect time to plant a tree that beautifies your yard, helps nature and that can provide energy efficient shade for your home in the summer. The Heartland Tree Alliance website, at [www.heartlandtreealliance.org](http://www.heartlandtreealliance.org), lists tree species that are well-suited to the Kansas City area – as well as those trees that don't fare well in our particular climate. This helpful web site also includes useful tree planting tips and care information.

## **Membership**

Please welcome the following members to Stratford Gardens who arrived since the last newsletter:

Henry Chen	6148 Ward Parkway
Ward Shaw & Marcy Anderson	1205 W. 60 <sup>th</sup> Terrace
Tim Caniglia & Shonnie Robbins	1248 W. 61 <sup>st</sup> Terrace
John & Diana Mullen	1232 W. 62 <sup>nd</sup> Street
David & Jenny Kim	1215 W. 64 <sup>th</sup> Street
Steven Mitchem	1243 W. 64 <sup>th</sup> Street

**In memoriam** – We are sad to report the passing of a few long term residents of Stratford Gardens. They will be greatly missed.

Anita Dixon (Sept. 2007)  
Mrs. Hugh J. Mathews, Jr. (Summer 2008)  
Joyce Dreier-Hagood (Sept. 2008)  
Mimi King (Summer 2008)

***For More Information.*** . . . Remember to check out the Stratford Gardens website listing at: [www.haccd.org](http://www.haccd.org). Select “Missouri Associations”, then “Stratford Gardens”.

If you have any questions as to the Board, its operations or meetings, we ask that you directly contact any the officers or directors by phone, or by email to [StratfordGarden@aol.com](mailto:StratfordGarden@aol.com).