

STRATFORD GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION WINTER 2007 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS! Here's what's going on (and not!) around our Homes Association.

I. ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE LEEs.

We had a wonderful Holiday party this year as the guests of the Lee's on Ward Parkway. Not only did they invite us into their lovely home for the party, but provided all the refreshments, a lovely band and an invitation to explore their newly refurbished home. Although the quintessential "Ward Parkway home" on the outside, the interior of the home has wonderful Asian décor and truly astounding technology. Eight miles of wiring! Wow! They were the perfect hosts. All of us thank them for their wonderful and very generous hospitality.

II. WINTER BOARD MEETING.

The Board met on January 29 at Mary Martin's home to address current issues. A quorum was present. The topics covered the following:

- Board Minutes. The minutes for the summer and fall Board meetings were distributed, reviewed and approved. They can be found at the HACCD website.
- Improvements to our Islands. A discussion was had as to the progress on our islands. The Board decided to concentrate this year on the 63rd Street Island as it has the worst appearance. The Board is still investigating an overall plan for the island, including eliminating the use of the current fountain as a fountain and making it into a planter; recasting the fountain in some manner; eliminating the "trough and bottom basin" and replacing it with flowers and shrubs. A final decision has not been made. However, the Board will continue on this project and report on it at the May Annual Meeting. Mary Martin and Jennifer King continue to work on this project. Andy Bredar and Gwen Caranchini are also looking into obtaining more bids for the work. There was discussion that a bid might be taken to remove the broken trough and basin and then perhaps have the Boy Scouts use it as a community project to remove the debris and thus save us some money in hauling the debris away. A bid of \$1,000 has been received for a sprinkler system for that island. Also, although Gwen Caranchini has made multiple inquiries of the City's legal department as to the "ownership of the islands", no response has been had from the City. The Island Improvements will continue over the next several years to be the main focus of capital improvements in the area.
- PIAC. As you will recall, Colleen Kennedy made a presentation last summer to PIAC in the hope of obtaining funding for the 63rd Street fountain project. Unfortunately, we are not on the list for final consideration despite her hard work and wonderful presentation. We will try again next year.

- Snow Plowing. This year the Board once again had arranged for snow plowing with a contract that provided for a one-time price of \$1400.00 to cover all snowplowing for the year. This contract provides that if there is two or more inches of snow, the contractor will plow the streets. We do not sand or use salt because of the expense. We have had two snowstorms that have required snow plowing by our contractor. In addition, the City plows 59th and 63rd Streets and this year plowed Stratford (the reason for the latter is unknown!). Our contractor has informed us, however, that he will no longer offer a contract for a set price. That means that next year we will have to pay for snow plowing by the storm. Since the general charge is approximately \$400.00 per plowing of the streets (and sometimes more than one plowing is needed in a snowstorm), this can be very expensive. This year for example, one storm required two plowings and the other storm required three plowings. There will definitely be an increase in the budget next year for this line item.
- Security. As you know from the information that the Board distributed recently both by notice and email, we have had a series of break-ins in the area since October. At least one of the persons responsible was apparently caught with some of the stolen items on his person. Since that time, we have had no more break-ins. However, we have had several cars broken into while in driveways and as you know from our recent email, a car was stolen out of a driveway. Security costs will not increase for the coming year but we are always looking for ways to increase the amount of security we can obtain for our members. This will be a continuing project of the Board. Because we were able to save money by not having to fund the Annual Holiday party, the Board agreed to use those savings to increase security during the month of December in the SGHA area. We can thank the Lees for that as well! With our new email system, we will be able to alert particular blocks as well as the whole membership as to break-ins, thefts, smash and grabs.
- E-Mail. Thanks to Steve Lyddon and Gwen Caranchini, we have the beginnings of our email system in place. **This newsletter is being emailed to those persons who have given us their email addresses.** Those who do not have email addresses or who have chosen not to share them with us, will have their newsletters *hand delivered to them*. We are trying to eliminate this time consuming chore. If you have not shared your email address with us, please do so by emailing Gwen Caranchini at gwencaranchini@sbcglobal.net. The block captains are being sent the current list of emails for their blocks and will attempt in the next weeks to "fill in the blanks". Neighbors and block captains can use the "street" email addresses to distribute information about the homes association, or block problems, block parties, thefts. These email addresses are not to be distributed to third parties or sold. Please respect the privacy of your neighbors.

We hope to have this project completed over the next several months, but it will be an ongoing project, which the Newsletter Chair will be responsible for maintaining. By emailing the newsletter to the majority of our membership, we will save approximately \$250.00 for each distribution as well as time in distributing the newsletters.

- Dues. We continue to have outstanding dues, some for several years. Options were discussed about collection. If you still owe dues, please call Maggie Shine at 444-4264. and make arrangements to pay them. Without timely payment of dues, we cannot fund our security, maintenance and capital improvements.
- Block Captains. The Board is in need of Block Captains for the following: Ward Parkway, State Line and 64th Street. Please let Mary Martin know.
- Garage sale. The Board is coordinating with other homes associations in our area to have a “mammoth” garage sale day” in this area in the first week of June. A date will be forthcoming. Colleen Kennedy is heading this up.
- Easter Egg Hunt. The Board determined we will not be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt this year. Easter is early and last year it was very rainy. We encourage blocks to host one themselves.
- New Directory. A new directory will be printed in the spring of 2008.
- Annual Meeting. Another location is being looked at for the Annual Meeting other than Country Club Christian and the Carriage Club. Refreshments including “beverages” will be served this year. The date will be early May before graduations start.
- By-laws Amendment. The Board discussed amending our by-laws at the upcoming annual meeting to allow the Board to vote on issues by email in addition to telephone and in person meetings. Paul Mohr will be drafting this resolution and it will be a part of the Annual Meeting/Election Notice. A review will also be made to determine whether amendment is necessary to allow other “Formal Notices” to the membership to be made by email, such as the Annual Meeting and Election notice. If so, that amendment will also be made. Until such time as this is done, the Election Notice will be hand delivered this year.

III. ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS

The Board discussed the upcoming Annual Meeting, which in accordance with our By Laws must be held in May.

- A date in early May will be chosen for midweek. Look for the Annual Meeting notice in your mailbox during the first week of April.
- A location is currently being explored other than County Club Christian or the Carriage Club where alcoholic beverages can be served in addition to refreshments.
- A speaker is wanted for this event. Any one knowing of someone that might be of interest to our Homes Association, we ask you to contact Mary Martin.
- Turnout. Last year, we barely had a quorum at the Annual Meeting. We encourage all our members to attend the annual meeting to get to know your neighbors and hear about the issues.
- An amendment of the by-laws will need to be voted upon this year. This Amendment will be distributed as part of the Annual Meeting Notice.
- There will be two Board positions open. The terms of office are for three years. The terms are staggered so that we always have new members as well as the “seasoned” members! Please contact Mary Martin if you are interested. If there are only two persons who apply for the open positions, then the Board

will just ask that these persons be approved by the full membership. If more than two persons apply for the open positions, then there will be a vote of the membership. Board members must be owners of a home in the Stratford Gardens Homes Association. Board members cannot be renters. The biographies of potential Board Members will be part of the election notice.

- Please remember that only one member of a household may vote at the Annual Meeting.

IV. For your continued information, you may check the following website to see newsletters, board minutes and other Country Club Homes Association information at www:haccd.org. Select "Missouri Associations", then "Stratford Gardens". HACCD Tel No. 816-523-2440. The following is the current Board and their assignments.

Mary Martin	President	333-2649	maryfmartin@yahoo.com
	Island Maintenance		
Paul Mohr	Vice President	444-2869	paul_f_mohr@hud.gov
	Property/Snow & Security		
Maggie Shine	Treasurer	444-4264	maggie@maggieshine.com
	Finance/Budget		
Beth Chu	Secretary	523-4133	pcandbmc@yahoo.com
Gwen Caranchini	Newsletter	361-4718	
	Garage Sale		gwenaranchini@sbcglobal.net
Diane Bradshaw	Membership	361-5971	ddbradhsaw@kc.rr.com
Randy Breder	Island Improvements	361-6020	randy.breder@jedunn.com
John Tso	Complaints	333-7547	jtso5@yahoo.com
Colleen Kennedy	Social	822-7447	kennedykcmo@aol.com
	Membership		
	Garage Sale		
Steve Lyddon	Ex officio member	444-1901	slyddon@kc.rr.com

Current Block Captains

Huntington	Joy Blake-Krug	1227/ 363-9268
Stratford	Beth Zobrist	1232/ 333-8573
59th Street	Barbara Iaquinto	1205/ 444-5809
60th Terrace	Colleen Kennedy	1215/ 822-7447
61 st Street	Mary Martin	1228/ 333-2649
61st Terrace	Laurie Moone	1287/ 363-1435
62 nd Street	Gwen Caranchini	1203/ 361-4718
63 rd Street	John & Dee Franken	1227/ 822-4083
63rd Terrace	Adele Scielzo	1238/ 822-2112
64th Street	Colleen Kennedy	/ 822-7447

State Line Block Captains

5925 VACANT
6015 Kennedy
6025 Kennedy
6155 Moone

Ward Parkway Block Captains

5930	Zobrist	6200 Caranchini
5940	Blake-Krug	6300 Franken
6010	Kennedy	6330 Scielzo
6020	Kennedy	6344 Scielzo
6030	Martin	6400 VACANT
6110	Martin	6124 Moone
6120	Moone	6130 Moone
<u>6148</u>	Caranchini	