



Stratford Gardens Home's Association Summer Newsletter 2009

Greetings to our Stratford Gardens Neighbors! We hope you all had a wonderful spring, and have plans for an enjoyable summer.

Annual Meeting

The Stratford Gardens Annual Meeting was held at Mission Hills Country Club on Thursday evening, May 21st. Paul Mohr started by summarizing the highlights of the past year, Maggie Shine introduced the proposed budget for the new fiscal year, new board members were elected, and the guest speaker was Troy Schulte, the KC Budget Officer.

Troy Schulte spoke on the topic of "The Road Ahead: Insights into the City Budget." Mr. Schulte provided a highly informative and engaging presentation on the city's \$1.3 billion budget and the sources of and allocations of funds. He noted that while Kansas City has been less adversely impacted by economic conditions than most regions of the country, it typically also takes longer to come out of a recession than many other cities. He noted that additional budget cutbacks in 2010 may well be required.

The minutes to the meeting and the approved budget are available for viewing on the Stratford Gardens website at www.ha-kc.org.

Board News

We are pleased to welcome four new members to the board: **Adriana Huntley, Sal Monteleone, Nick Scielzo and Tom Suther**. They replace outgoing board members: Randy Bredar, Paul Mohr and Maggie Shine, and Joy Krug who resigned her position on May 31st (Sal will complete Joy's term to May 31, 2010. He was voted in by the board on July 1st).

The officers were elected at the first board meeting held on Monday, June 15th. The following is a list of the 2009/2010 officers:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Colleen Kennedy | <i>President</i> |
| Tom Suther | <i>Vice President</i> |
| Nick Scielzo | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Phyllis Wilson | <i>Secretary</i> |

The other board members are:

Roger Dutton
Adriana Huntely
Sal Monteleone
Raphael Suarez
Woody Underwood

Financial Update

You should have received your bill for the 2009/2010 dues in early June. If you have not received this, please contact the HACCD office at 913-385-2440. Please pay your bill on time to avoid any late payment fees.

We ended the fiscal year with a budget surplus of \$7,496.52. These funds have been evenly split, with half put into the Capital Improvement Fund and half into the Association Reserve account (a certificate of deposit). Detailed income statements are posted on our association's web site at www.ha-kc.org, under the heading for "Minutes." For further information, contact the association at StratfordGarden@aol.com.

Islands and Common Areas Update

A one (1) year contract for the maintenance of our islands was signed in June. Constant Care is our contractor, and they are responsible for mowing, trimming, fertilizing, and maintenance of the sprinkler systems.

PIAC Island Project

63rd Street Island Improvement Project: In Spring 2008, the Association was awarded a \$29,000 grant from the city's Public Improvement Advisory Committee (PIAC). Project planning has been underway, including historical research; meetings and discussions with city staff, landscape architects, and contractors; physical exploratory analysis and investigations; and development of bid-ready project specifications. The project plans were submitted to the City in June and we are waiting for the approval.

Security Update

Speed Traps

The Metro Traffic Department and our security force have been informed of speeding on a number of our streets, specifically 61st Street, 61st Terrace, 62nd Street and 63rd Street. After discussing our concern with the Traffic Department, they agreed to conduct random speed traps on the above mentioned streets for the first 2 weeks of July. The location, time and street will not be constant and hopefully, it will curtail the speeding in our area. Please watch your speed and do not be caught in the speed trap!

Crime Alerts

As mentioned in numerous emails and previous newsletters, it is our obligation to inform you of any and all crime alerts in our area. We do this via the email system, so those members without email alerts are at a disadvantage. Please be sure to discuss the issue with your neighbors since it would be extremely costly to send out all notices via post, and we want to make sure all are informed and safe.

Security Update – continued

Crime Alerts - continued

There is a website available for viewing crime statistics in our area:

www.crimereports.com

By entering in the zip code “64113” you can view the activity in our area. I am pleased to say that the security patrol and few Neighborhood Watch blocks in our association have minimized crime in Stratford Gardens! Unfortunately, that is not the case with associations east of Ward Parkway.

Reporting Activity

The police have repeatedly and quite strongly requested that if you witness suspicious activity, or are awakened during the night by noise or disturbances; ***do not hesitate to call 911 immediately***. If our patrol officer is on duty, they will be dispatched and given their proximity should provide assistance quickly.

Summer Parties

With summer parties in full swing, please be considerate of your neighbors with respect to noise, loud music, parking and other disturbances. If you are planning a party, we suggest that you inform your neighbors of the event. Everyone will appreciate the “heads up”. Simple courtesy and neighborliness can go a long way toward minimizing conflict.

Parking is a big issue on our narrow streets, so it will be appreciated if you ask your guests to park in a manner that does not inconvenience neighbors. If you note that parking would prohibit an emergency vehicle from entering your street, notify 911 immediately. As a courtesy we suggest that you inform your neighbor as well so that they don't feel blind-sided by a 911 call.

Social Updates

Oktoberfest

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, October 3rd - for the first annual (hopefully) Stratford Gardens Oktoberfest! Details will follow at a later date, but be sure to mark your calendar for this fun event.

Adriana Huntley is taking the lead on the event and would like to put together a small committee to help her with the planning. If you'd like to help, please contact her at huntleyfamily@mac.com or at 444-4134. She'd really appreciate any and all help.

Social Updates - continued

Garage Sale Update

The neighborhood garage sale took place on June 12 and 13 and we were lucky to have 2 rain free days! Approximately 10-15 households took part in the sale. If you have any feedback regarding the sale, please email Colleen Kennedy at StratfordGarden@aol.com.

Plans are to have the garage sale the same time each year – **the second Friday and Saturday of June**. So, if you missed out on this garage sale, you can plan ahead and participate in next year's event.

HazMat Collection Event

Once again, Stratford Gardens is joining forces with other local associations to offer you a free **Hazardous Waste Recycling** on Saturday, August 29th, from 8am to noon. It will be held at Hale Cook School - 73rd and Pennsylvania. As you clean up your basements and garages, please consider this event for the proper disposal of your hazardous/household waste.

See details below for acceptable items, but please note:

- * 300-car limit (Event ends at noon or when the 300 car limit is met)
- * ID is required (the association has paid the fee to participate)
- * No business waste is accepted
- * No containers larger than 5 gallon buckets accepted
- * Traffic enters on Pennsylvania, exits on Jefferson

Although we are sponsoring the event with other associations, we ask that a donation of 1 can of food (minimum) or \$1.00 be donated for local food pantries.

Finally, we are asked to have a minimum of **2 volunteers** help at this event. The shift is from 7:30 to 11:30 with a mid-event break. If interested, please email Colleen Kennedy at StratfordGarden@aol.com or call at 822-7447.

Items that may be brought to the event

- Antifreeze
- Oil
- Car batteries
- Household batteries
- Paint
- Paint related items like stain or paint thinner
- Tires
- Leaves
- Brush

From 9 - 11 only, a shredder truck will be on site to shred confidential documents.

New Member Update

Please welcome four new members to the Stratford Gardens Homes Association since the printing of the last newsletter:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Arthur & Carolyn Elman | 6344 Ward Parkway |
| Thomas Martin | 1230 W. 61 st Terrace |
| Adam Rehm | 1219 W. 62 nd Street |
| Lori and Elissa Holman | 1211 W. 64 th Street |

Membership Update

In a few weeks, you will receive a Membership Survey. Please take the time to complete this survey and return it to the association in a timely manner. The responses will guide us into the next decade.

Communication Update

The email system seems to be working well. If you are not receiving notices and updates via email, please send us your address. It will keep you informed of issues on a timely manner (such as crime alerts) as well as help the association save on printing and mailing expenses. Send your email address to:

StratfordGarden@aol.com

NOTE: Email addresses are not shared with any other associations or organizations and are kept strictly confidential.

Other News

Bulky Item Pickup

Bulky Items are now picked up by appointment only. In order to secure a date for pick up, go to the following website and fill out the form: www.kcmo.org/bulky. This site details the dates for pick up in our area and the items acceptable for pick up.

Grass Clippings

We have had reports that some lawn care services are blowing grass clippings into the street, instead of onto the lawn. If you have a hired service to tend to your lawn, please ask them to not do this since the clippings clog up storm sewers, which can have serious consequences to you and your neighbors. Thank you in advance for doing your part to help our community

Other News - continued

HA-KC Update

HACCD, now known as the Homes Associations of Kansas City (HAKC), has moved. Their new mailing address and phone number is:

Homes Associations of Kansas City
Suite 216
4200 Somerset Drive
Prairie Village, KS 66208
(913) 385-2440

For More Information. . .

Please note the new email address for our website:
Our Stratford Gardens website can be accessed at: www.ha-kc.org.
Select "Missouri Associations," then "Stratford Gardens."

If you have any questions for 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.