



Stratford Gardens Home's Association *Winter Newsletter 2010*

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are keeping warm during these very cold days of January.

Oktoberfest

The SGHA Oktoberfest, which was held on Saturday, October 3rd, was a huge success! We had great weather, food, drink, music and with nearly 100 neighbors in attendance we had tremendous participation! Thank you to Adriana Huntley for her hard work in organizing the event, and to all those who helped her with the planning and set up/clean up. Particular recognition is due Adriana's husband, Jarrod, for his expert manning of the grille!

Holiday Party

The Holiday Party held on Thursday, December 10th at the home of Sean and Karen Miller was also another wonderful party. The party was enjoyed by 55 members, although we had a number of no shows- no doubt attributable to the brutally cold weather and the snow. We'd like to express our deepest gratitude to the Miller family for their gracious hospitality and the festive atmosphere in their beautiful home. Also, a special thank you is owed Woody Underwood for arranging the catering from Avenues Bistro and for taking care of the beverages.

Financial Update

As of December 31, 2009, our budget is in balance. Detailed income statements are posted on our association's web site at www.ha-kc.org, under the heading for "Minutes."

A few homeowners – ten (10) of the total membership – have not paid their dues for 2009-10. Of those ten (10), four (4) members currently have liens placed on their homes, and at the last board meeting, we approved the placement of liens on the homes of two (2) more members. The remaining four (4) members who are delinquent in their dues will be receiving letters to remind them of their obligation. Since all projected revenue for the homes association is budgeted to meet our basic services, such as regular security patrol, snow plowing, and island maintenance, it is important that we continue to collect all dues.

Islands and Common Areas

With winter upon us, the maintenance of the islands is on hold until the spring. During this down time, plans for island upgrades and common area plantings are being researched and discussed. Some of the ideas being investigated are 1) providing electrical service to the Huntington/61st Street island and the 62/63rd island, 2) having a rain sensor installed on both these islands to reduce the water expense, and 3) replanting the common area at State Line and 63rd Terrace. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns regarding our islands and common areas, please send an email to StratfordGarden@aol.com or contact Raphael Suarez at rsuarez1@kc.rr.com.

PIAC Update

The PIAC project plans for the island and fountain improvements (State Line at 62nd Street and 63rd Street) have been approved by the city and a contractor has been selected for the work. Hoffman Cortez of Kansas City will be doing the “hardscape” improvements to the island as soon as weather permits. Contractors for irrigation and landscaping are being consulted and will be selected in time for the spring start. It’s great to see this project actually moving forward after so many years!

Membership

The membership directory project was slightly delayed, however is back on track and we should have the new directories to you by the end of February.

Crime Alerts/ Security Update

Since the last newsletter, very little crime has occurred in our area. Our security patrol continues to send us monthly reports (which are emailed to all members) and at this time, there is very little to report. Yet, this does not mean we can let our guard down! Officer Parsons continues to remind us to be vigilant, which is our best defense as home owners and neighbors.

Simple measures can deter crime, such as placing outdoor lighting or motion detectors, keeping doors and windows locked, storing valuables out of sight, not leaving cell phones/PDAs etc, in your car and not leaving an unoccupied and unsupervised car with keys in the ignition or worse still with the engine running. And, please, look out for your neighbors as well, and *always* call 911 if you see any suspicious activity.

Snow Plowing

It has been a busy season so far for our snow plow contractor, Ray Wynn! To date, he has plowed more this season than probably the past two seasons in total. As a reminder, he will plow after 2” of snow has fallen, and will plow all streets from the south side of 59th Street up to and including 64th Street. There was some confusion about the inclusion of 64th Street, but that has since been corrected.

In order for Mr. Wynn to properly clear the streets, please do not park any cars on the street before or during a storm. When cars are on the street, it is impossible for him to do his job.

If you have any questions or concerns about the snow plow contract, or the condition of your street, please contact Woody Underwood at 523-8356.

New Members

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

<i>Shane and Bronwyn Neeowen</i>	<i>1236 West 62nd Street</i>
<i>Nicholas and Andrea Panzino</i>	<i>1221 West 61st Street</i>

For More Information . . . Remember to check out the Stratford Gardens website listing at: www.ha-kc.org. Select “Missouri Associations”, then “Stratford Gardens”.