



STRATFORD GARDENS

newsletter



JUNE 2016

TRASH REMINDERS

Trash, yard waste and recycled items are to be placed at the curb *no sooner than* the evening prior to pickup day.

Please properly store trash. It is each homeowner's obligation to clean up waste should the bags break open.

PARKING

Having a party? Doing a project? Please ask your guests and contractors to park on *one side* of the street so emergency vehicles can still get through.

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL

We are always seeking more volunteer hosts for a neighborhood social, and would love to see one this fall. The event is BYO, so hosting only requires you to open up your home to your friendly neighbors for a few short hours. If you're interested, please contact Mallory Robins at malloryengler@gmail.com.

BOARD UPDATES

As we begin a new year on our Homes Association Board, we would like to thank **Maggie Shine**, our outgoing President, for two years of strong leadership. You did a fabulous job, Maggie! While we were sad to see Maggie go, we are excited to announce our new board President, **Phyllis Wilson**. Phyllis is a native of Kansas City and is excited to be of service to the neighborhood in this new capacity.

We are also thrilled to welcome two new members to the board this year, **Steve Abend** and **Brooke Smith**. Steve and his wife, Barbara, have been Stratford Gardens residents for 22 years; Brooke, her husband, Jeff, and their two boys have lived in the neighborhood 3 years.

Our homes association and board remain committed to maintaining and enhancing our neighborhood with activities such as the social hours held last year as well as our annual Holiday party. In addition, island improvements with new lighting and landscaping, safety patrol by off-duty policemen, and snow removal are some of the activities that keep the neighborhood vibrant and a great place to live. Thank you to all of the neighbors who attended our Annual Meeting on May 19th. For those who missed it, the minutes are attached.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We are fortunate to live in one of the best neighborhoods in the city, and your dues are crucial to keeping it that way, especially during the summer months as we maintain and improve neighborhood islands. Statements for 2016-17 dues were mailed to all households in late May, and a big "Thank You!" to the households who've already paid. For those who haven't yet, you may mail in a check (be sure your address is printed on the check or written in the memo line, along with "Stratford Gardens") to Homes Associations of Kansas City, 4200 Somerset Dr., Ste. 216, Prairie Village, KS 66208, or you may pay electronically at www.ha-kc.org (use the "Pay Online" link along the right side of the page).

BLOCK PARTY: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

SAVE THE DATE! We're thrilled to announce the return of the Stratford Gardens Block Party! You asked for more family-friendly events and we've listened! Mark your calendars for Monday, September 5th from 5-7 pm. **Brooke Smith** and **Mallory Robins** are taking the lead on planning this event. Look for further information coming soon on what to bring; we'll be asking each block to bring a different food item to share. The proposed location is the intersection of Huntington and 61st at State Line. To get the roads blocked off appropriately, we'll need signatures from at least 60% of the neighbors in this area—thus look for us knocking on your door in the next month. We appreciate your support and can't wait to celebrate with food, friends, and lots of fun games for the kids. If you're interested in helping to plan, please email Mallory at malloryengler@gmail.com.

ISLANDS UPDATE

We are currently applying for PIAC (Public Improvement Advisory Committee) funds to help cover the costs of installing electricity and sprinkler systems on the 63rd St. and 60th Terr islands. New landscaping is also needed on both of these islands. We hope to restore the fountain on the 63rd St island so that it functions again as a working fountain, and appreciate your patience as we continue to improve these neighborhood assets.



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ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Stratford Gardens Annual Meeting, Thursday May 19, 2016, at the Carriage Club.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Maggie Shine. Maggie introduced Kevin McManis 6th District Councilman. Councilman McManis introduced himself, as well as his responsibilities and territory. He covers from 59 th Street all the way south to Cass County. The biggest issues he currently sees in our district are crime, public safety and sidewalks. All of these items are important to current residents. He sees the largest growth in the 6 th district in South Kansas City. There has also been significant growth along 63 rd Street east to Troost. He also discussed the recent opening of the Street Car and the Smart City initiative.

A resident asked what was going on with the Meyer Circle fountain. Councilman McManis responded that the fountains are no longer in the city's budget and are maintained with donations. The Meyer Circle fountain is in need of repairs, and they are currently raising money for this. Councilman McManis also brought up the Public Improvement Advisory Committee. They allocate \$4 million in improvements for each district. He encouraged the Stratford Garden HOA to apply for this funds.

Maggie then introduced the Board to the residents. Mary gave an update on the islands. Improvements that are completed at the 61 st Street Island include lights, sprinklers, electricity and new landscaping. The 63 rd Street Island is next on the list for improvements. In order to bring electricity to the island and add new landscaping and bring the fountain up to working order will be \$16,000-\$20,000. The 60 th Terr and Ward Parkway Island would be next in a few years. In addition to the island improvements, Mary brought up that it is important to keep up with the landscaping at the main intersections of our neighborhood. It was also brought up that the investment in the electricity for the sprinkler system is a savings in the long run. Currently the sprinklers are run on battery packs that die frequently. It is not noticed that the batteries are dead until plants start to die. Each time the batteries are replaced it costs \$600. Resident Paul Mohr brought up that at the 63 rd Street and Stateline Island holes will need to be plugged where it had previously been drilled. Mary indicated that this scope was not included in the bids.

Robert gave the Treasure's report. Current dues have not been increased in 10 years. Labor/cost of living has increased 20%. In 2015 the HOA had a surplus. In 2016 there are several expenses that need to be considered: With the new islands, there is an increase in utility costs, improvements to the islands, Holiday Party, and added cost of security. With these additional items Robert suggested a \$25 increase of HOA dues per household. This is approximately \$5000.00.

Resident Steve Abend asked where this money will go. Robert explained that it will go to the added utilities and security costs. Resident Joan (?) made a comment that the board has done a great job with improvements. Tom Suther made a comment that we need to invest in our neighborhood. Robert then made a motion to approve the \$25/household increase. Paul Mohr 2 nd . Robert then made a motion to approve the Capital Improvements for the island at 63 rd Street and Stateline which is budgeted at \$16,000-\$20,000. Gregory McGraw made a motion. Mary Martin 2 nd.

Maggie addressed the residents and asked if there were any questions. She also asked if there were any volunteers for the board. Robert Flynn volunteered to remain on the board. Steve Abend volunteered to be on the board.

Maggie adjourned the meeting.

If you received this newsletter on paper, we do not have your email address. Your neighbors who have supplied emails received this on June 24, 2016. Please send your email address to phyllisw@kansascityhomes.com. Let's save on postage and paper!