



## *Stratford Gardens Home's Association Spring Newsletter 2009*

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Greetings to our Stratford Gardens Neighbors! We hope you are enjoying the nice spring weather and are looking forward to the May flowers that will be the fruit of April's rains.

### **Annual Meeting**

The Stratford Gardens Annual Meeting will be held at the Mission Hills Country Club on *Thursday evening, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.* (You should have received a postcard notice in the mail.) Please RSVP to the HACCD office (523-2440) by Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a drink and conversation.

Our guest speaker this year will be Mr. Troy Schulte, Kansas City Budget Officer. In the aftermath of the city's challenging budget decisions, Mr. Schulte will provide frank insights into where the city stands on the current budget and what the future holds for police and fire protection, parks maintenance, recycling services, and more.

### **Board Members**

In the last newsletter we welcomed Mr. Larry Wright to the board as Jennifer King's replacement. Mr. Wright has since moved from the neighborhood, and therefore, he resigned from the board in March.

We are very happy to welcome Mr. Raphael Suarez of 1262 Huntington Road to fill this position on the board. He was unanimously voted in at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. Raphael will assume the island oversight responsibilities.

**We are looking for new board members!** Three board members will leave in May when their terms expire, and we'll elect new boards at the annual meeting. At this time, we have two members interested in serving on the board, but we still need one more person for a 3 year term.

Also, due to the resignation of a board member for personal reasons, we need a volunteer to finish out her term until May, 2010 (1 year). If you have an interest in either the 1 year or 3 year term, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at [StratfordGarden@aol.com](mailto:StratfordGarden@aol.com).

## **Islands and Common Areas**

The Association has signed a Cooperative Agreement with the city that will allow us to manage repairs and improvements to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street island. The city is assisting our efforts with \$29,000 in sales tax funding (aka, PIAC). The small island, or “parket,” consists of a nearly 300-year old marble horse trough fountain that J.C. Nichols brought from Italy and includes a stone-lined channel and mirror pond. The design of the mid-1920’s parklet was almost certainly the work of the noted landscape architecture partnership of Hare and Hare. Once the city has approved the Association’s plans, the work will be bid as three separate contracts, one for the fountain and stonework repairs, one for an irrigation system, and another for landscaping.

The firm of Constant Care has once again been awarded the island maintenance contract. This will be overseen by the new board member, Raphael Suarez.

## **Financial Update**

With an annual budget of \$34,754.90, we currently have a net income of \$11,970.64 (March 31 income statement). This will be sufficient to get us through our expenses to June 1<sup>st</sup>. Any monies not used by the end of the fiscal year will be deposited into the Association’s reserves. The 2009/2010 budget will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting and be asked for a vote of approval. For the fourth year in a row, membership dues will stay the same.

Detailed income statements are posted on our association’s web site at [www.haccd.org](http://www.haccd.org), under the heading for “Minutes.” For further information, contact Maggie Shine (816) 444-4264.

## **Crime Alerts/ Security Update**

Widely reported in the news, a cadre of burglars responsible for many household burglaries in our area and adjoining neighborhoods was caught by the police. Police also recovered some \$150,000 in stolen goods.

Our police patrol reminded us, once again, that they’ve happened upon unlocked doors and poorly lit homes in our neighborhood. To deter crime, we urge you to keep your homes appropriately lit, locked (including during daytime), with your garage doors and cars secure, and not leave items out in the open in your cars.

As the police have requested, if you witness suspicious activity, ***do not hesitate to call 911 immediately***. If our patrol is on duty, they will be dispatched.

## **New Members**

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

Robin and Scott Boswell	1240 W. 61 <sup>st</sup> Terrace
Jared Sunh and Kristin VanMeteren	1240 W. 60 <sup>th</sup> Terrace

## **Other News/Issues**

We continue to have parking problems along our streets during special events and parties. Our streets are comparatively narrow and do not allow large cars to be parked on both sides at the same time. Emergency vehicles would literally be blocked from moving down the street. Please have your guests park in a manner where emergency vehicles can access the street. If this problem occurs on your street, first contact the neighbor hosting the party and ask that their guests move their cars. If this is not successful, please call the police to be sure a safe entry/exit is possible on your street.

Additionally, with the season approaching for outdoor parties, please be considerate of your neighbors and respect the evening quiet hours. Normally quiet hours start at 10pm. Notify your neighbors if you expect to have an outdoor party beyond that time. They will appreciate the notice.

## **Recycling Update**

Our neighborhood strongly participates in the city's curbside recycling program, so it was very heartening to hear that *weekly* pickup of recyclables will continue.

Other good news is more items can now be added to our blue bins. The additional recyclables are:

- Cardboard egg cartons
- Clean pizza boxes
- Shredded paper placed inside paper bags and labeled as shredded paper

A list of all materials accepted in the city's recycling program is found at [www.kcmo.org/trash](http://www.kcmo.org/trash).

### **No Call List for Cell Phones**

While not a neighborhood issue, we want to pass along a tip that may help your peace of mind by protecting you from telemarketers. Earlier this year, cell phone numbers became publicly available to companies, so it may not be long before your dinner is interrupted by an unwanted call. The Federal "do not call list" has previously applied only to "land-line" telephones and has now been extended to cell phones. It takes only a minute to opt in and doing so blocks your number for five years. However, *you must call from the cell phone number that you want to have blocked.* To opt in, call the Federal Trade Commission's national No Call List, 888-382-1222.

### **For More Information. . .**

Remember to check out the Stratford Gardens website 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).