

BLUE HILLS ESTATES

HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – FALL - 2014



LEAF & BRUSH PICKUP:

Residents who live in SOUTH Kansas City (from 63rd Street, south to the city limit, as well as all residents who live east of Blue Ridge Cutoff) will receive curbside leaf and brush collection the week of December 8-12. Curbside collection will take place on your regularly-scheduled trash day. PLEASE NOTE, the leaves still need to be bagged, residents may NOT simply move their leaves into the street as that comes into play with the city littering ordinance. In addition, the leaves will simply blow back into residences yards. Thank you!

SNOW REMOVAL AND GENERAL THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Our snow plow contract has been approved by the Board for the upcoming winter. We have also been in contact with the city of Kansas City and have been “told” that we are on the schedule for them to plow our streets, we will see how that actually goes? Our contract calls for plowing only if there is two inches of accumulation on the ground. Jim Wilson, our President and the primary contact for snow removal on the Board, will make decisions in connection with our provider about additional services if needed. Jim may be contacted at, jwilson08484@yahoo.com.

We hope all residents understand that the streets are not going to be completely clear, the contract calls for our provider to clear two paths through the streets of our association. The idea is to create an area where vehicles can get traction and make it out of the neighborhood. And in order for them to be cleared, we need everyone to make sure that cars are not parked on the street when it snows, this greatly hampers the entire process and causes problems later on, especially if it freezes. The other reminder we would like to make about this season, and for that fact all seasons, is the speed of vehicles in the neighborhood. A couple of extra minutes leaving our area won't make a difference, hitting a slick spot at 25MPH versus 10MPH very definitely can! THANK YOU!!

WATER LINE REPAIRS CONTINUE:

The city is continuing to replace and upgrade the main water lines along Blue Ridge, spending \$1 billion over the next five years in order to safeguard KC's water quality for future generations so please be patient and extra careful when entering and leaving the neighborhood on the south via St. Andrew Drive. Large equipment will be used possibly restricting travel. Please watch for construction workers and consider alternate routes. The repairs are expected to continue through the spring of 2015.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES 2015

As a reminder, Blue Hills Estates has money budgeted for the next fiscal year for social/neighborhood activities. Our most recent ice cream social was great fun and brought out residents of all ages. Many thanks to all those involved in planning and hosting this event. Please submit your ideas to any of the board members for consideration.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING CEREMONY IN MARTIN CITY

The first annual Martin City Holiday Lighting Ceremony will be held on Friday evening, November 21st. Martin City Business and Community Association members are hosting a fun filled evening with music, lights, cameras, and action. Many of the businesses will have their storefronts decorated with lights ready to brighten up the night. All the lights will officially be turned on at 6:00pm with the flip of a switch, kicking off the holiday season in Martin City.

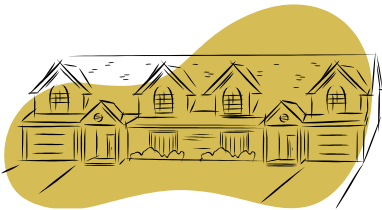
WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL:

It has been many years since we have updated our e-mail distribution list, if you have an e-mail address the Board would very much like to be able to communicate with you in that manner and use those accounts for possible future Newsletter distribution, saving us postage, and urgent messaging if needed. Please simply send an e-mail to, dan.french@yahoo.com with the subject line entitled, "Blue Hills Resident". This list will only be used by the Board of Directors.

BLUE HILLS ESTATES BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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This newsletter is brought to you by the Board of Directors of the Blue Hills Estates Home Owners Association.



Protecting Property Values:

There are two basic strategies for motivating neighbors to help maintain property values: (1) generosity and (2) code enforcement. At any given time either or both strategies may be necessary. The first approach starts with providing a good example and erring on the side of generosity when cutting grass and removing leaves in the vicinity of the property line. If that doesn't work, offering to help or suggesting businesses that offer appropriate services might work. Sometimes the problem is simply that an absent owner doesn't know that their property is not being properly cared for. Ultimately, protecting property values may come down to code enforcement. Choosing to live within the city limits of Kansas City comes with certain obligations. These obligations are summarized at <http://kcmo.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-preservation/common-code-violations/>. Code enforcement can be reached by calling 311 or sending email to 3-1-1.Call.Center@kcmo.org. It might be helpful to attach pictures to the email. Unfortunately, when kindness and communication don't work, code enforcement may be the only solution to protecting property values.



SOUTH PATROL DIVISION-OUR COMMUNITY CONTACT:

Our community interaction officer is MIKE HAMMER out of the KC South Patrol Division with the KCPD. The police department recently teamed up with our South KC online website, "NEXT DOOR," as another way to share information, we encourage you to check it out. However, be aware that the police department is unable to read anything you post in this site UNLESS it is a reply to a post it made, or in a private message. So if you make a general post with a question directed to Officer Hammer or any other officer, they will not be able to see it. But feel free to send him a private message or send an email to; Michael.hammer@kcpd.org or give him a call at 816-672-2828, if he can be of any assistance. Keep in mind that "Next Door" is not intended to be used for emergency situations, to file a police report, or to report suspicious activity to the police. If you have an emergency situation requiring officers to respond, call 9-1-1. For those non-emergency situations, you can call the police at 816-234-5111. As always, please keep a watchful eye for any suspicious activity and call the police if you suspect a crime.

Also, you will see positngs on "Next Door" for the police department from Sarah Boyd, she is a community officer for the whole city.