



# LONGFELLOW HERALD

Newsletter of the Longfellow Community Association

January 2009

Mailing Address: LCA, 909 E. 30<sup>TH</sup> St. Apt 12, KC, MO, 64109

Web site: [www.longfellowkc.org](http://www.longfellowkc.org)

Meeting Place: New Ronald McDonald House, 25<sup>th</sup> St. and Cherry, first and last Monday of every month.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

A new committee has formed for the neighborhood to increase the participation in area activities and business. Our focus is building a stronger, more engaged, membership. Please contact Andre DuBroc, 816-645-1591, [adubroc1968@hotmail.com](mailto:adubroc1968@hotmail.com), if you want to join us or if you have ideas. A membership/welcome package is just one of the ideas being discussed. Won't you join us in building a strong alliance?

## **SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**

As of January, the fund for the scholarship program has risen to \$8300. They need \$6,000 to be endowed. Please consider a donation, if you choose to support a scholarship for our neighborhood students to the local community college. Donations can be made at [www.longfellowteam.org](http://www.longfellowteam.org). The Longfellow team participated in the marathon event in Ireland and did very well. We congratulate them on their hard work and continued dedication to providing such a wonderful gift to one of our neighbors.

## **PARKING UPDATE**

As you know, the north end of the neighborhood, Dutch Hill, has been a favorite site for students and faculty of the schools and hospitals to park. It has been difficult, if not impossible, for service trucks to find a place to park. Residents who leave and come back during the day have no place to park in front of their houses. To remedy this problem, a petition has begun to circulate to require any cars on the street to have a permit. The businesses on Holmes will not be affected, as we do not want to inhibit their livelihood in any way. Charlotte, Cherry, and Campbell Streets from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> are the target area. The residents will be required to pay \$10 per year per vehicle and renew it annually. Any visitor will need a pass and they will cost \$2.00, available at city hall. Any car without a permit will be towed. Service trucks are not required to have a permit. If we do not achieve 100% of the required signatures, which we expect, a hearing will be held for residents to voice their opinion. A vote will be held and the majority wins. If you live in Dutch Hill on one of the affected streets and want to sign the petition, please contact Mr. Earl Reynolds at 2552 Charlotte St. It has not been submitted yet so there is still time to sign it if you so chose.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD WEB SITE**

If you have not visited the neighborhood web site, we encourage you to do so. There is an abundance of information available for residents. There is a safety section available for residents to enter information for their neighbors to read about suspicious activity in the area. There is a main page with upcoming events posted. There are sections for tax abatement, a calendar of scheduled meetings, past and present Herald editions,

downtown planning information, and Neighborhood Preservation. Several sites are still under construction but will be up and running soon. If you think of anything you would like to see on the site, please let us know. It is there for all of us to strengthen our community.

### **DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT / TAX ABATEMENT**

The development district passed through the city council with flying colors and we can now submit applications for our properties for tax abatement. As a recap, the neighborhood has been compiling a plan for the properties south of 27<sup>th</sup> street to Linwood to help with home improvements. It has been two years in the making but we have succeeded. Any property owner can submit an application for \$ 120.00 for home repair that is at least \$5000.00. Upon completion of the projects, you can be evaluated for tax abatement. The home repairs can be inside or outside. Redecorating does not count, unfortunately. However, if you are replacing a roof, doing electrical or plumbing work, wall repair, gutters, painting, etc., you can qualify for tax abatement. Contact Bob Long at the EDC and he will help you with the process and answer you questions. Projects that have already been started still qualify so make that phone call and get a break!!

The State of Missouri, KC Power and Light Co., and Mo. Gas Energy also have programs to reimburse you partially for the cost of purchasing a high efficiency furnace/air conditioner. Contact both entities and find the best deal for you if you are replacing your heating/AC units this year.

### **TRIANGLE PARK**

In the south end of the neighborhood, at 30<sup>th</sup> and Cherry, is The Filling Station, a coffee shop and much more. The grassy area around the building is called Triangle Park. It has a sculpture, tree, and a doggy waste bags station. This park is currently under the control of a 501c Non -Profit Corporation. The owner of the property wants to give the piece of land to the Longfellow Community Association. Several discussions have taken place concerning the taxes, upkeep, liability insurance, future ownership, and other points of interest concerning that area. We are continuing discussions at general meetings and all opinions are welcomed. More information will follow as it becomes available.

### **FUTURE TOPICS AT THE GENERAL MEETINGS**

If you wish to participate in our general meetings, some of the topics we will be discussing in the future will be ordering dumpsters for this year, what lawn/repair equipment to buy with our grant money, PIAC funds application, KCPL substation in our neighborhood, triangle park, membership committee, annual yard sale, area scholarships, just to name a few. Please join us the first Monday of every month at the Ronald McDonald House, 25 and Cherry.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If you received this newsletter on your doorstep or picked it up at one of the area eateries, it is because a volunteer took a few minutes out of their month and delivered it. Will you consider donating 20 minutes every 8 weeks to deliver one block worth of newsletters? If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot. Contact Kim at 471-7919 to volunteer.

## Letter from the President

Neighbors, friends, and community partners:

In these challenging economic times, I wish all of you the best for 2009. As you read this, we are well into January. After my more than 15 years of active community involvement, it appears to me that to continue our positive improvement, LCA must reach out and seek a larger community connection. An expanded and respectful two-way city and regional conversation is necessary.

Longfellow/Dutch Hill has stood firm over the last eventful 50 years plus of social and physical change. The landscape has changed. Many blocks of the original area have been cleared and some have had new, positive improvements. For example, we have: Hallmark World Headquarters, Family Justice Center, the expansion of Longfellow Park, two Ronald McDonald Houses, Urban Coeur condos and Triangle Park, Union Hill development with Cadillac Building condos, etc., Nazarene Publishing Company's acquisitions on Troost and Harrison, SAVE, Inc., the new Community Wellness Center at 30<sup>th</sup> and Holmes, continuation of development and expansion of Hospital Hill institutions, including UMKC Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, and Nursing Schools, the Eye Institute, Truman Medical Center, Truman medical clinics and offices, Children's Mercy, Western Missouri Mental Health, KCMO City Health Dept., Longfellow Heights apartments & townhouses, Beacon Hill redevelopment project (with new construction in progress), and the removal of various negatives from Troost Avenue.

We are fortunate to have all these community assets so close! As we look around, we can see much has been done. Thanks to all who have worked for progress, and thanks to those who will continue to do so!

*This is your neighborhood.* What are your expectations for it? Where do we go from here? How can we better structure and proceed with the direction and growth of your Association in order to meet those expectations? What do you see as our assets, both geographic and human?

Please contact me with your input on these questions and feel free to ask any others you may have.

Thank you and Happy New Year,

Allen Norman, President

[anorman@kc.rr.com](mailto:anorman@kc.rr.com)

816-914-5549

## NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES

Neighborhood housing of KC has a wide variety of services available to the citizens of Kansas City. Call them for information on foreclosure counseling, a 1<sup>st</sup> time homeowner class, refinance loan products, and exterior home loans. To apply for a Combat grant or to apply for a Senior Citizen Quad Payment Plan for property taxes, call 881-1413 or apply on line at [www.jacksongov.org](http://www.jacksongov.org).

Garden plots are available at 4233 Forest. Some tools are available with good parking and a play area for little ones. Call the community gardens or contact NHS at 822-7212.

We thank the KCMO Neighborhood and Community Services department for printing this newsletter.

Next newsletter: March 2009.

### HELP INFO

CITY SERVICES.....311  
POLICE.....911  
NON EMERGENCY...234-5111  
CAN OFFICERS.....719-8297  
TIPS HOTLINE.....474-8477

### BOARD/STEERING MEMBERS

PRESIDENT....ALLEN NORMAN ..... 914-5549  
VP.....BOBBI MCCANSE.....842-3707  
TREASURER...DAN NASH..... 561-5476  
SECRETARY....KIM DIXSON.....471-7919

SHARE BANE	KAREN WEST
KENA WOLF	ANDRE DUBROC
SANDAE CUSTARD	LISA PELOFSKY
NANCY NORMAN	BRIAN SPOONEMORE