



LONGFELLOW HERALD

Newsletter of the Longfellow Community Association

MARCH 2008

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

E-Mail: www.longfellowkc.org

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

STEERING COMMITTEE and GENERAL MEETING FOR MARCH

CAN Officers reported there was a robbery near our area and the suspects were arrested in our area while running away from the crime. A landlord who has a building in our area owns a problem property in Hyde Park. A nuisance code is being developed; more details to come in this letter. Car tags were stolen in the 2500 block of Charlotte. Citizens were encouraged to leave their name and either an address or a return phone number when calling the CAN officers cell phone.

The **TREASURER** reported that bills were paid, including legal fees.

DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT committee has been working on the wording of our zoning plan so it includes as many commercial businesses as possible. **NPC**- The neighborhood preservation committee continues to address properties in the area that need to become codes compliant. Ms. **Elsie Quagraine, Codes Officer**, reported that the city was addressing the growing graffiti problem. If you are "tagged", call 311 and the city will take care of it. Any house that has a "Posted" sign on it is supposed to be empty. A recent house fire claimed the life of a man who was in one illegally. Please call 911 if someone is in a house that is supposed to be empty. **NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES** were discussed and the area decided to rent **dumpsters** for three weekends this year, the first is tentatively planned for June 21st. One dumpster will be for yard waste and the other for "stuff"; no hazardous waste please. The second annual **Yard Sale** will be the second Saturday in June. A committee was formed to create a booth for **Troost Fest** on April 19th, and volunteers are needed.

NEW BUSINESS: Cherry Hill Row has two units still available for rent or sale and the finder's fee is still in effect. Some residents expressed a desire to start a community garden. This will be discussed next meeting. An informational letter was read from Councilwoman Jan Marcason about the upcoming election. More information about this will follow.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

APRIL VOTING

Tuesday April 8 is voting day in Kansas City on a variety of topics. There are school board elections as well as three proposals from the city. Question One asks voters to renew the "bus tax". Question Two concerns the "payday loan" businesses in the city. Question Three asks if KC should ban smoking in public places, except in casinos. Councilwoman Jan Marcason provided the neighborhood group with an explanation of Question Two:

"In January of 2007, responding to an alarming proliferation of payday (or short-term) loan establishments in parts of Kansas City and to a general consensus that these businesses have a

detrimental effect on the surrounding neighborhoods and business districts, as well as on the lives of targeted low-income citizens, the City Council passed a moratorium on any new business permits for these establishments, which was extended until September of that year.

Two ordinances were passed by the City Council in the fall of 2007, one of which restricted any new short-term loan establishments from being closer than a mile from an existing one, as well as distance requirements from schools, churches, package liquor stores, etc., and restrictions on gaudy signage. The other one requires short-term loan establishments to obtain a permit annually, with a fee of \$1000 per year. The fee only takes effect if the voters OK it on April 8, 2008. In addition, a notice must be posted stating interest rates and the financial implications of rolling over a loan, etc.

If the measure passes in April, the fees collected will be reimburse the city for the administrative costs related to inspecting and regulating short-term loan establishments in order to ensure that they are adhering to these new requirements, put in place to protect our citizens and our neighborhoods."

Remember to vote early and often!

TRASH/YARD WASTE/ BULKY ITEM INFORMATION

We would like to extend a welcome to all the new residents in Longfellow/Dutch Hill and provide everyone with a refresher course in waste management for our area.

TRASH

Two large trash bags (weight limit is 40 lbs each) and recycled products are picked up curbside on Monday mornings. Trash is set out after 5pm on Sunday and before 7am on Monday. If Monday is a holiday, pick up is on Tuesday. Westlake Ace Hardware and Price Chopper have tags for excessive trash bags and sell blue recycle bins. If your bin is cracked, call 311 for a replacement. Unlimited trash pick up days are on 7/7 and 12/29.

Recycle item list: #1 and #2 plastic item, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, newspaper, magazines, junk mail, catalogues, office paper, phone books.

CAN NOT RECYCLE: pizza boxes, glass, plastic bags, Styrofoam, car liquids bottles, egg cartons, paper towels, plates, etc., gift wrap, tissue, waxed containers (milk, juice) shredded paper, plastic tubs (cool whip, yogurt)

YARD WASTE

April 14 is the first pick up of waste by the city this year. Each house is allowed a total of 20 bundles of sticks and/or sacks of leaves. All items need to be at the curb by 7am. Here are the rules:

- All sacks must be paper; sealing with masking tape is ok. No other tape allowed
- No grass
- No trash mixed in
- Branches need to be bundled with twine or jute rope, no wire.
- Bundles can be no larger than 2 feet by 4 feet, with no branch larger than 3 inches in diameter.
- If it's raining, cover the sacks with plastic, please.

Backyard composting info is available through the University of MO extension services.

BULKY ITEMS:

Bulky trash items are defined as any item over four feet long or weighing more than 40 lbs. Pick up is the first business day of the month. This service is available for single-family homes and for dwellings with up to 6 units. Here are the rules:

- Items placed at the curb no earlier than 3pm the day before and by 7am on pick up day.
- It will be picked up within 3 days, if not call 311.
- Can't be blocked by parked cars, be in driveways, under low wires or branches, or in yards.

ITEMS NOT PICKED UP:

Commercial trash, business trash, closed drums or fuel tanks (must be open at both ends), car bodies, gas tanks, scattered items, and "piles" of stuff. Loose items need to be placed in trash bags and placed with regular trash.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 31 = Steering committee meeting
- April 7 = General meeting
- April 8 = special election in KC
- April 14 = Yard waste curb side pickup
- April 19 = Troost Fest, Noon to 10pm. 5K run at 7am.
- April 28 = Steering Committee meeting
- May 5 = General meeting
- May 26 = Steering committee
- June 2 = General meeting and ELECTIONS for all positions in the neighborhood group
- June 14 = 2nd annual Yard Sale in Longfellow/Dutch Hill
- June 21 = dumpsters at the traffic circle, 27 Terr. and Charlotte St.

YARD SALE

The Second Annual Yard Sale for Longfellow/ Dutch Hill neighborhood is Saturday, June 14th. Signs will be posted and an ad will be placed in the paper. All you have to do is put your treasures in the front yard and wait for the customers to roll in! Volunteers are always needed to help put up the signs. Contact the neighborhood group to volunteer. Last year, we received a lot of positive comments from people who hadn't been to our area for a while and from those who thought we were still a "scary" part of town.

TROOST FESTIVAL

April 19 kicks off the Troost Festival, at 31st street and Troost. There are speakers, booths of all kinds, activities, music, dancing and food for all. It starts with a 5K run around the old Porter plantation (our area is on it) at 7am. The festival opens at Noon and goes until 10pm. It is a good time and fun for all. We hope to see you there.

MORTGAGE HELP AVAILABLE

Times are hard and some people need help with their mortgages. Free help is available through the Neighborhood Housing Services of KC, MO., Inc. They are a non-profit organization that provides counseling and suggestions to people. They are located at 5835 Troost Ave., KCMO 64110. Phone number: 816.822.7703 or 1.888.995.HOPE. Fax: 816.822.7212. They speak both English and Spanish and can be reached on line at www.995hope.org.

