



# LONGFELLOW HERALD

Newsletter of the Longfellow Community Association

JULY 2008

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

## STEERING COMMITTEE AND GENERAL MEETINGS FOR JUNE AND JULY 2008

The general meeting was held at the Ronald McDonald house on June 2. Karen West and Micki McCaffrey presented information about a **scholarship fund** opportunity for our neighborhood. A motion was made to contribute money to the scholarship, motion passed. More information about the scholarship will follow in the newsletter. Discussion was held to address a concern about the **Rockhill Tennis Club** and the Rockhill neighborhood group asking for a letter of support. A motion was made to table the discussion until more information could be obtained, motion passed. **Yard sale** signs were being placed to advertise our neighborhood yard sale and door hangers were available. Treasurer's report was given and all bills are paid. **CAN officers** are not available for every meeting, as they will no longer be paid for their time. Residents are encouraged to contact our CAN officers by email or phone. **NPC** reports rental inspection will start in Kansas City on June 16 and we should expect a notice before inspections start in our area. The property at 2608 Campbell is being referred to the dangerous buildings due the owner's failure to respond to codes violations. Discussion was held on the property known as the **Narcissist**, located at 3035 Harrison. It was reported that 12-15 calls to the police are made each week on criminal activity. A motion was made to table discussion for one month until statistics are available to support the nuisance code being applied to this property, motion passed. **Dumpsters** were scheduled for June 21. Discussion was re-opened about the **Rock hill tennis club** by a concerned resident. A motion as made to support ordinance 080281, without it being read. Motion passed with some dissention. **Elections** were held. More information will follow in this letter. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

A general meeting was held at the Ronald McDonald house on July 7. Two nominations were made to fill openings on the steering committee. **Elections** were held and the openings were filled. **CAN Officers** report the Narcissist at 3035 Harrison would transition to an extended stay hotel this month. More information will follow. The LCRA **development district** plan is being delivered to the planning commission in September and presented to the city council in October. **KCPL Substation** discussions continue for our area and several suggestions on locations are being suggested. An update on the **scholarship fund** was given. A motion was made to support a fund raising effort, passed. A discussion was held on the **parking** concerns in the north end. More information will follow. Feed back on the neighborhood **yard sale** was given. More information will follow. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

**DUMPSTERS WILL BE AT THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE AT 27 TERR. AND CHARLOTTE ON 8/16.**

## View from the President's Truck

Greetings from Allen Norman, President, Longfellow Community Association, to all who are patient enough to read this, especially to our neighbors who live, work, study, or play in this wonderful, diverse part of Kansas City's Downtown Crown Center area. We can all be proud of our past and excited about our future! We are fortunate to live in:

- A neighborhood which has been housing Kansas City's spirit since the 1880's
- A quality downtown place to live,..... on the bus lines!
- A downtown neighborhood,..... with trees, yards, & parks

Our Hospital Hill cares for you, and the Longfellow Community Association cares for your neighborhood environment and quality of life. Many of our residents benefit from the UMKC Medical & Dental Schools which work in conjunction with Truman Med Center and Children's Mercy Hospital. We find comfort in living only minutes from Truman's Level One Trauma Center.

We congratulate and celebrate the success of 4 of our neighborhood entrepreneurs. Get out and meet your neighbors:

- Robin, at the Filling Station, serving beverages, lunch fare, and baked goods, at 30<sup>th</sup> and Gillham
- Mark, Randy, and Michael at You Say Tomato at 28<sup>th</sup> and Holmes. After Sunday brunch, check out our new community playground at Longfellow School across the street. It is a good example of what can be accomplished when we work together as a community.
- Enrique Gutierrez and family, longtime residents of Longfellow, with Teocali Mexican restaurant and bar, 2512 Holmes, featuring traditional Mexican food prepared by his mother
- The Seed (Mediterranean fare) is growing, in the 2900 block of Cherry

As Longfellow and Kansas City residents, some of the challenges we are facing are:

- The rising cost of energy, including electricity, natural gas, and gas for our cars. We are fortunate that our location gives us a positive transportation advantage, as we look ahead to the future.
- The need to expand the public transit system to better serve all of Kansas City. I think many of us in Longfellow take our close & economical public transit for granted.
- The need to improve the 100-year plus Kansas City sewer system, which is necessary for good health for the whole city.
- The need to continue improving our infrastructure and street scene. We will be having an open discussion about a comprehensive storm water control, landscaping & streetscape beautification for the entire neighborhood. Get involved!
- The need to maintain the quality of our houses and parks.
- The continuing need for public safety. In Longfellow, we are fortunate to have a relatively low crime rate which, for the most part, is limited to preventable minor thefts. In spite of having one of the lowest crime rates in the city, we all need to continue to be watchful and cautious. Pick up! Lock up! Light up! Call up!

I thank everyone for having confidence in me to be your new President. There is much for all of us to do, property owners and tenants. It is our community and our city. Please get involved! Got ideas? Want to serve and help? Contact me at 816-914-5549, anorman@kc.rr.com, or go to the web at LongfellowKC.org.

Next Meeting....New Ronald McDonald House, 2500 block of Cherry, next to Longfellow Park, Aug. 4, 2008.  
Hope to see you there. Your neighbor, Allen Norman, President

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

A scholarship fund is being created through MCC Foundation and will be available for someone in our area to attend a junior college in KC. Fundraising events will be held and all contributions are appreciated. A team of four women are training for a marathon in Ireland that will raise funds. Another fund raising event will be on Sept. 27, called the Dublin/ Longfellow scholarship fair. This is sponsored by You Say Tomato and will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> Street between Charlotte and Holmes. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

## **CAN OFFICERS**

Our new CAN officers are Nathan Van Vickle and Adam Bailey. They will have the same CAN phone number. Be sure to say HI to them as they patrol our area. We welcome them and wish them success. Remember to call them with any suspicious activities to help improve the safety of our area.

## **PLAN DOWNTOWN KC**

Several members of the community association attended a forum at Union Station to develop ideas and give input to improve life in downtown Kansas City. All 11 neighborhoods between the river and 31<sup>st</sup> street are considered downtown, so we, as an area, have a say in what happens to our surroundings. Seven major areas were discussed, including how to bring in more businesses, improving the quality of life for residents, and how to improve unity between the areas. More

meetings are scheduled and updates will be provided.

## **YARD SALE SUCCESS**

Local participants reported the second annual Longfellow/ Dutch Hill neighborhood yard sale as a success. Most agreed the shoppers were plentiful and the weather could not have been better. Thank you to Sandae Custard for her continued efforts to make this event a success. Many of the yard sale signs are missing and we would like to have them returned if possible. Since they can be reused each year, it is important to get them picked up. If you have one, please contact any steering group member or visit the Longfellow website to ask for someone to pick it up. Thank you to all who helped make this a success and project a positive image for our area.

## **NEW WEB SITE PAGE FOR SAFETY**

If you log on to our neighborhood web site at [www.longfellowkc.org](http://www.longfellowkc.org), you will see a new addition to our site. Thanks to our communications team, there is a page for residents to notify other neighbors of criminal and suspicious activity. This page is not monitored by the police and does not substitute for a police report. What it will do is let everyone know what is going on and what we need to be attentive to. You can also get a weekly report on crime by reading the Neighborhood Watch section of the KC Star on Wednesdays. We are in the Central Patrol section.

## ELECTIONS

Annual elections were held in June for the twelve positions available in the Longfellow Community Association.

Nominations were accepted and the following persons were elected with a majority vote.

President- Allen Norman

Vice President- Bobbi McCanse

Treasurer- Dan Nash

Secretary-Kim Dixon

Steering Members:

Brian Spoonemore

Share Bane

Andre DuBroc

Nancy Norman

Lisa Pelofsky

Karen West

Kena Wolf

Sandae Custard

## STUDENT PARKING

Most residents in the north end of the area (Dutch hill) have had problems for years with the students from UMKC dental and hospital schools parking on the streets. As a result, residents have no place to park if they come home during the day and repair companies cannot easily access customers. This issue will be addressed in August at the general meeting. If you have any opinion or input, we want to hear it. Please contact Kim Dixon at 471-7919 before the next meeting. Options for resolving this issue will be presented in Aug.

## NARCISSIST

The property called the Narcissist is located at 3035 Harrison. It was originally zoned to be an extended stay hotel. It has been used as an apartment building for many years and has recently become an alleged problem for crime and code

violations. The owner has decided to return it to an extended stay hotel and is currently evicting residents for non-payment. In the past 3 months, it was reported that the police had responded to 225 calls to that property. As a result, the newly adopted nuisance ordinance is being applied to the owner and building. The police need our help. For residents in the 2900 and 3000 blocks of our area, we ask you to watch for additional or increased foot traffic to the 3000 block of Harrison. We are trying to avoid possible prostitution and john activity at the new hotel. If you notice an increase in pedestrians who seem to head for the hotel, please contact the CAN Officers at 816.719.8297. Please leave your name and phone number so they can contact you if they have questions.

## HELP INDEX

CITY SERVICES.....	311
POLICE.....	911
Non-emergency.....	234-5111
CAN Officers.....	719-8297
Nathan Van Vickle.....	nvanvickle@kcpd.org
Adam Bailey.....	abailey@kcpd.org
TIPS hotline.....	474-TIPS 474-8477
NPC.....	npc@longfellowkc.org

## BOARD/STEERING MEMBERS

Allen Norman, President. ....	914-5549
Bobbi McCanse, Vice P.....	842-3707
Dan Nash, Treasurer.....	561-5476
Kim Dixon, Secretary.....	471-7919

Share Bane	Lisa Pelofsky
Karen West	Andre DuBroc
Brian Spoonemore	Nancy Norman
Kena Wolf	Sandae Custard