

Waldo Homes Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Waldo Homes/Neighborhood Association – March 2008 Issue

P.O. Box 8573 ♦ Kansas City, MO ♦ 64114 ♦ www.waldohomes.org

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At the Last Meeting – by Tammy Gay

At the February 9 meeting I announced the first of a series of meetings called “**A Community Conversation on Education.**” Laurie Hines explained that this is the first in a series of meetings to be held around the city in an effort for the public to become informed and involved in public education and the school board. This first meeting will be held **Tuesday, February 19, at Broadway United Methodist Church at 74th and Wornall, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.** Several School Board members and candidates will participate as panelists and city council members will be there to open the conversation and be involved in support of this series of conversations. This first meeting will help us learn about the school board, its duties, its members and their perspectives and will provide time for your written and verbal questions and answers. I also brought to the group a question from the city housing codes prosecutor about how neighborhoods would like to see codes violations handled. The process has recently been changed from providing a warning letter with 10 days to correct a violation to immediate prosecution without a warning. Given 3 scenarios to present, it was brought to my attention that there is not enough background information to have this discussion. I’m working on getting that information and we’ll discuss this at a later meeting. Our speaker was Airick Leonard West, a candidate running for the open at-large position on the Kansas City Missouri School Board. If you couldn’t make the meeting but would like more information, check out his website at www.KCU4EA.org.

Newsletter Costs and Suggested Remedy

The current practice is to issue the Newsletter monthly and mail it to every member. This has been considered as one of your benefits of membership. Since we no longer have grant money to fund our special projects, we need to look at expenses. The cost just for postage for the February mailing was \$43.87. On an annual basis, postage alone would amount to about 33% of each member’s dues. If we add the cost of printing, the cost goes up to 45%. If those of you who use e-mail would consent to receiving your Newsletter by e-mail, we believe we can reduce the cost considerably. **If you are willing to receive your Newsletter by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Newsletter@WaldoHomes.org.**

McGonigle’s Market is Planning to Renovate/Expand – by Tammy Gay

I held a focused group meeting (13 people) on February 11 where Mike McGonigle and Andrew Osman, a real

Agenda for the next meeting

March 8, 2008 10:15 AM – Waldo Library

- Welcome – M. Donegan 10:15
- Minutes – A. Kurtenbach 10:20
- Treasury Report – T. Gordon 10:25
- CPAC Report – D. Harris 10:30
- Announcements – M. Donegan 10:35
- Old Business – M. Donegan 10:40
- New Business – M. Donegan 10:50
- Adjourn Business Meeting 11:00
- Speaker – Amy Coffman, Candidate for State Legislature 11:05 – 11:35

estate broker, talked to us and showed us a drawing of Mike’s plan for changes at his corner market at 79th and Ward Parkway. Mike and Andrew have been talking with all of the neighborhoods in the Waldo area about the changes being planned as well as the City and the Parks Department. Mike owns the 4 houses down the street (Mercier) from the store. They are currently rentals and will be removed. In that area he plans to put in a new building that will house a bakery/coffee shop/sandwich shop that will belong to McGonigle’s and also 3 or 4 other specialty shops that are congruent with the current business. No check cashing, liquor store, convenience store type businesses. Mike and Andrew were open to questions and even suggestions. Most of the folks there supported the planned changes. Two people appeared to be very much opposed. If you would like to see the drawing, I have several here. You can come by to pick one up (please call first 333-4410) or send me an email at President@WaldoHomes.org and I can send it to you that way.

Waldo Area’s Name – by Jen Lewis

Ever wonder how Waldo got its name? It’s from David Waldo; doctor, trader and eventually banker. He lived originally in Independence but acquired land all over the KC Metro area. He opened up a branch of the St. Louis Southern Bank in 1857 which was the 1st charter bank in Kansas City. When the Governor ordered the Missouri Banking Act 3 years later Waldo was faced with a choice: either convert to a confederate supporter or ally with banks who were. Realizing this would put the bank’s assets within easy reach of the confederate

government, Waldo made a surprising third choice. He refused and hid the banks assets.

Dressed as a woman, Waldo hung bags of cash under the dress and had a male friend "escort" him on nightly rides. The drives ended out at his Westport farm where Waldo hung the money in the water well. The coins stayed there until the war moved on. Many forces both rebel and union tried to find the money but due to the area's location by the Big Blue River it was never captured. Not a single cent was lost due to Waldo's courageous actions. This helped the area get back on its feet after the war. Waldo helped build the Grain Co. that still sits at 78th & Wornall. For more details, check the Feb. issue of *Missouri Life*. Our honorary mayor Laurie Hines and our new fountain were also mentioned.

The April 8 Contested School Board Election - Meet the Incumbent, Dr. Bill Eddy - By Michael Donegan

Dr. William ("Bill") Eddy seeks a second term on the KC School Board. At the "Conversation on Education" meeting recently held in Waldo he said his vision is to restore confidence in the school board that has been lost after 30 years of bad news and all district schools should be improved to perform like the several high performing schools. He said he is open to new changes, if all students are treated equally and fairly.

Eddy faulted the method of electing six KC Board Members (out of 9) from sub districts. He said because sub district members are elected on ballots cast only within the sub districts, when on the board, they tend to narrowly focus on their sub district interests.

Eddy wants a new state law passed that will elect or choose school board members in a way that will place the focus on the school system as a whole and make the board answer to the entire KC community. Eddy said he wants mandatory training for board members on the proper role of school board member duties.

A life long educator, Eddy was a UMKC professor for many years and then served 12 years as the Dean of the Bloch Business School and as Interim Provost. He left retirement to lead the founding of the new UMKC Center for the City. Eddy is author of many articles and books. He is more widely known for writing *The Complete Guide to More Than 100 Hiking and Walking Trails in the Kansas City area*.

Free Tax Assistance

Free tax assistance will be available to individuals whose income is less than \$39,000 from February 4 to April 14. Please bring drivers license for taxpayer/spouse, social security cards for everyone who will be filed on tax

return, all forms and documentation to verify all deductions and credits to be claimed. For more details see www.kclibrary.org and select "2007 Tax Season." Below are 2 sites close to our area.

The Waldo Public Library, 1201 E. 75th KCMO:
Monday and Thursday 9:30am - 3:30 PM

St. Monica's Catholic School, 5809 Michigan KCMO:
Wednesday - 6:00pm to 8:30 PM
Saturday - 11:00am to 4:00 PM

About our Speaker – by Tammy Gay

Amy Coffman lives in the Waldo area and has been active in public policy for over a decade, most recently as an advocate for AARP in Jefferson City. Amy became concerned that elected officials had taken the faces of their constituents out of their policy decisions. Amy is running for the Missouri State House in our district and intends to make politics personal again.

Time to Go Native! - By Jodi Faustlin

Although the recent weather may not make you think of spring time, this is just the right time to start planning your gardens and other outdoor plantings. The Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the Mid America Regional Council (MARC) all recommend "going native." By going native, they mean choosing plants for your yard that are naturally and historically found in this region.







You may be asking, "Why does it matter what kind of plants I choose for my yard and garden?" Benefits of native plants include better absorption of storm water runoff, which also decreases the amount of water pollution. In addition, native plants have adapted to the climate and dense clay soil naturally over time. These adaptations result in plants that are low maintenance. As a result, you can spend less time working in your garden or lawn, and more time enjoying it.




Examples of native plants include: Buffalo grass, Prairie dropseed, Black-eyed Susans, Common Ninebark, and Prairie Blazing Star

More examples of native plants, more benefits from choosing native plants, advice on gardening, and other tips on how to grow native can be found on the organizations' websites, www.grownative.org, www.marc.org, or by calling MARC at 816-474-4240

Midtown Recycling Center to Close Temporarily

The Midtown Community Recycling Center currently located at 1500 E. 63rd Street will be closed as of Sunday, January 13. It will reopen when a new location has been secured. Midtown recyclers are encouraged to use the [**3 Trails Community Recycling Center**](#) at 91st & Hillcrest Rd.

March 2008 Waldo Homes Association						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2	3 Bulky Item Pick-up	4	5	6	7	8 WHA 10:15 Library
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 	10	11 CPAC 4 PM 	12	13	14	15
16	17 St Patrick's Day 	18	19	20 First Day of Spring 	21 Good Friday	22
23 Easter 	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2008 Waldo Homes Association						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 KC MO School Board Election CPAC 4 PM	9	10	11	12 WHA 10:15 Library
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Passover 	21	22 Earth Day 	24 Curbside Leaves & Brush Collection	25 Curbside Leaves & Brush Collection	26	27
28	19	30 Bulky Item Pick-up				

Return Service Requested

Kansas City, MO 64114

P.O. Box 8573

Waldo Home/Neighborhood Assn.

*Next WHA Meeting:
March 8 ~ 10:15 a.m.
at the Waldo Library*

Whitefield Academy Kindergarten Round Up! - 8929 Holmes, Kansas City, Mo

Wednesday, March 5 - There are two sessions to choose from - Either from 8:30am-11:00am or from 12:30pm -2:30pm.

Whitefield Academy is a classical Christian School. Historically, classical has meant the implementation of the Trivium--Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric--to train the mind, and the Quadrivium--Math and Science--to train about matter, through imitation, repetition, and application. We welcome students from Kindergarten through 12th grade.

For more information, you can call the school at (816) 444-3567 or check out our website at www.whitefieldacademy.org .