

Waldo Homes Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Waldo Homes/Neighborhood Association – January 2009 Issue

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

President: Michael Donegan ♦ 943-1700 ♦ president@waldohomes.org ♦ Editor: Newsletter@waldohomes.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009

Refreshments for January Meeting

If you would like to volunteer to bring refreshments for the January meeting, please call Michael Donegan at 816-286-9095.

At the Last Meeting – Mike Donegan

Council Woman Beth Gottstein, At Large 4th District, visited with us over coffee.

Ms. Gottstein opened the conversation by saying her request to join us was intentionally timed to happen when she was not asking for election votes or anything, unlike what seems to be the usual case when representatives meet with organized voters.

The biggest issue facing the council, said Gottstein, is the start of the budget process that comes in January, a task made tremendously difficult due to the looming 80 million dollar deficit.

Gottstein reported that, while serving on a health insurance task force, she found that the line item for city workers health insurance is 72 million dollars to cover 5,000 employees! She said that cost will be tackled by the city converting to a self insurance program phased in beginning next year.

Gottstein said she was able to get the separate City and Police Department Personnel Offices employees to meet jointly to discuss duplicated efforts and cost savings, something never done before.

Asked about the new bulky item pickup program, Gottstein said the program has lots of problems and that what the public works department has been doing is different from what was promised when the council approved changes. She said more changes and improvements would be coming.

Gottstein said she does not favor new sales taxes. She said she thinks the city is going to seek federal funds to pay a large part of the cost for new storms sewers. She said she was glad that the council has been able to rework the storm water and sewers program in a way that uses a “green” approach. She said the first phase of the project will apply green solutions to the highest and largest watershed in the Ivanhoe Neighborhoods

Agenda for the next meeting

January 10, 2009 10:15 AM – Waldo Library –
Come early, doors open at 10:00 AM.

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|-------------------------------|-------|
| • Welcome – M. Donegan | 10:15 |
| • Minutes – A. Kurtenbach | 10:20 |
| • Treasury Report – T. Gordon | 10:25 |
| • CPAC Report – D. Harris | 10:30 |
| • New Business | 10:35 |
| • Old Business | 10:45 |
| • Refreshments – | 10:55 |

area. This will cost millions less than a huge storage tank that was part of the original design.

Asked whether the Mayor’s dispute with council over using his wife as a volunteer gets in the way of getting things done, Gottstein said it was a very unfortunate situation but not that big a deal. She said that the Mayor, under the city charter, is just one of the 13 members of council. She said the rest of the council is able and willing to work together to tackle city problems.

WHA Pot Luck Dinner – February 10, 2009

A WHA pot luck dinner is being planned for the evening of Tuesday, February 10. The dinner is being organized by Dowe Harris.

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 PM (doors will be open at 5:30 PM)
Place: Broadway Methodist Church, 74th & Wornall
Fellowship Hall
Bring: A covered dish

Parking is available south of the Church. Please enter the building on the south side under the blue awning.

Guests are welcome.

At the Nov Meeting – Mike Donegan

Susan Stanton, the Interim CEO of KCTV Public Television, and a past leader of various non profits, said she was born and raised and has lived in the Waldo area. She considers it a great place to live.

Stanton described the day care, learning and health care services Operation Breakthrough gives to 650 children. She said it is the largest program of its kind in Missouri. She became a volunteer teacher and programs supporter when asked by two religious sisters who founded the program.

Asked about the KC Public School System's future, Stanton (a past member of a public schools task force) did not have specific solutions or cause for hope. Stanton said some very good schools exist, citing Hartman, the new SW High School program, and Lincoln College Prep.

Asked about plans for the vacant Bingham School, Stanton has not heard of any. She said the school board members who quit did so partly because the board majority refuses to let go of vacant buildings

Armour Oaks Senior Living Community – Martha Dromey

Two of WHA's long time member couples – the Wiedermanns and the Duncans – have moved to Armour Oaks. A representative from Armour Oaks visited our December meeting. We have been aware of the new construction at the location formerly known as Amour Homes for some time. The new 48-unit independent-living apartment building, The Parks at Amour Oaks, opened in December. One- and two-bedroom apartments are available.

Dowe's Dilemma Over! – Mike Donegan

Recall that Dow Harris told Councilwoman Jan Marcason that he found himself "too late and too early" when he phoned the city for a bulky item pickup?

Anne Kurtenbach, and the one or two of you out there who actually read the water bill inserts, know that the

rule now is you can make a reservation with a call that is **48 hours in advance!**

Phone number to reserve is 311 or 513-1313. Other rules are no bags or boxes and other guidelines. Go to www.kcmo.org/trash for a list of acceptable items.

Holidays / Commemoration Days – Martha Dromey

Some of these days will be holidays for some of us.

Whether it is a holiday for you or not, it is important to remember the reason for the holiday.


Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968). My dictionary lists him as an American clergyman and civil rights leader. While most of us did not attend the "March on Selma" or the "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, these were significant events in the Civil Rights movement. If anyone has any personal stories about these events, we would like to hear them.

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) – 16th President of the United States (1861-1865). This was the period during and immediately after he Civil War.

President's Day – February 16 – A day to honor all US Presidents.

George Washington (1732-1799) - American General and first President of the United States (1789-1797)

St. Valentine's Day (February 14) – A day for doing something special with or for your loved ones and a day for sending Valentine greetings. St. Valentine was a third century Roman priest and martyr. According to my reference material, the sending of valentines goes back to a pagan custom which had nothing to do with St. Valentine.

January 2009 Waldo Homes Association						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 WHA 10:15 AM Library
11	12	CPAC 4 PM  13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20 WHA News- letter Articles due to Editor	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2009 Waldo Homes Association						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 CPAC 4 PM WHA Potluck Dinner	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 See Feb 10 WHA Potluck Valentine's Day
15	16 President's Day	17	18	19	20 WHA News- letter Articles due to Editor	21
22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25 Ash Wednesday	26	27	28

Return Service Requested

*Waldo Jones/Neighborhood Assn.
P.O. Box 8573
Kansas City, MO 64114*

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