

Dear Neighbors,

I am so excited I really don't know where to begin. There are so many exciting things happening in Manheim Park it is hard to know where to start. I want to remind everyone about the second visioning meeting for our Neighborhood Renewal Plan will be Held on May 2nd at the Kaufman Foundation-Kansas City Room at 4801 Rockhill. I also want to remind everyone about the Health Fair/Meet & Greet at the Manheim Green Park at 40th & Virginia on May 16th. There will be lots of health screenings, workshops, and other valuable information. We will also be providing refreshments during the event. This will be a great opportunity to get out and meet your neighbors and become a part of the change that is sweeping Manheim Park. For too long we have been waiting around for others to do what we should be doing for ourselves. If there is trash on your block you cannot expect outsiders to come in and pick it up if you won't pick it yourself. Let us begin to do a better job of picking up after ourselves and watching out for ourselves.

Manheim Park is going Green!

I am pleased to announce that after touring the town of Greensburg, Kansas which was completely destroyed by a tornado in May of 2007 and witnessing the courage and the ingenuity of those townspeople that we will begin a "Green Initiative" in Manheim Park. For those who are not aware Congressman Cleaver announced that there will be a new Climate and Sustainability Center on 47th Street between Troost and Paseo. This new center will house training and research facilities as well as a botanical garden. This new facility will bring needed jobs and development to our neighborhood. I have proposed that we develop two square blocks of new and rehabilitation green homes which will be in walking distance of the center. This will give the visiting public an opportunity to actually view and tour green homes which will showcase the latest and best green technology available. By creating this Green Town in Manheim Park we will be on the cutting edge of green technology and will become a showplace and a model for the rest of the city and the nation. I have begun assembling a "green team" which will be charged with developing a comprehensive and overall plan to begin the process of greening Manheim Park. As this process moves forward I will continue to provide you with details and opportunities to take part in this effort. I believe that by going green we will create development, job, and business opportunities for our neighborhood. I am very excited about these prospects and I hope you are too.

Spotlight on Crime Rally

On May 22nd at 7:00PM in cooperation with the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime and other nearby neighborhoods we will be holding our first "Spotlight on Crime" rally. These rallies will spotlight and show our resolve against crime in our neighborhoods. In order for these events to be successful we will need everyone to come out in support of these efforts. We cannot continue to hide in our homes hoping that the police will remove the criminal elements from our neighborhood. We must say enough is enough and let the criminals know we will not tolerate crime in our neighborhood. It is time that we begin to expect and demand a normal neighborhood. Prostitution, gun shots, and drug dealing are not normal for a healthy and safe neighborhood. But if we don't stand up against the criminals they will continue and our children and our families will be at risk. The time has come for us to stand together and say enough. I know that many of us are afraid because we have had to try and stand alone, but I promise you that if we stand together we will win. "You must not fear them. For the LORD your God himself fights for you"- Deuteronomy 3:22

Thank you all and I look forward to meeting you all at the different events as we begin the process of rebuilding and revitalizing Manheim Park.