

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

There is so much happening in Manheim Park I don't know quite where to begin. I want to thank all of the folks who came out and supported our unity clean-up efforts on Saturday; it was a great success and just shows how much we can accomplish together as a neighborhood and as a team. I want to thank our friends from Rockhill Homes, Hyde Park, and the students from the KU architect studio for coming out and pitching in. There is a lot of work ahead of us, but we can have fun doing it together. I want to continue to encourage our residents to become a part of the changes that are taking place, we can't do it without you.

I am proud to announce that the Green Impact Zone (GIZMO) has chosen our neighborhood to house their new offices at Brushcreek & Paseo at the Retired Teachers Union Building. I was honored to be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremonies with three cabinet members from the Obama Administration, Governor Jay Nixon, Senator Claire McCaskill, and Congressman Emanuel Cleaver. The guests also included local politicians and many well-wishers. We have an opportunity before us to change not only Manheim Park but also to become a model for other neighborhoods all across the country. I believe that there are many of us who want to see our neighborhood change for the better, but we have to overcome our frustrations of the past and our fear of the future. We cannot sit back and watch expecting others to do the work for us. This is our neighborhood and while others can provide us with the tools, it is up to us to use them.

As many of you know as part of the GIZMO initiative I have created a "Green Team" for Manheim Park and our goal is to make Manheim Park the greenest neighborhood in the world by 2015. This is an ambitious goal and there are many who say we can't do it, but I believe just like the generation before us who were challenged to put a man on the moon that we can accept and achieve great things. We are Americans; there is nothing we can't do if we set our minds to it. I will be pressing for all the resources necessary to make this dream a reality and I believe we will get them. My friend's resources alone will not make this goal a reality it is going to take you and I coming together and rolling up our sleeves and getting to work. We are developing a five year plan to bring changes not just in saving energy, but also in creating jobs and developing people.

So my friends the time for sitting around and complaining is over. We are getting the tools the question now is will you stand with me and use them? There are those who say we are willing to accept crime, trash, and blight. They say we don't care about our neighborhoods or our children's future. I don't believe that and I will continue to fight to prove them wrong, but I need you to fight with me. I need you to come out and join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 4205 Tracy at 10:00am.

Thank you,

Rodney Knott  
Historic Manheim Park Association President