

Around the Block

The new look of the Shoal Brook News!

Shoal Brook II Neighborhood Association

Building Pride in Our Neighborhood

April 2009 Issue 4

Official Business

Our next general meeting will be held at the Meadowbrook Methodist Church on April 28th, at 7:00pm.

Our guest speaker will be Parking Patrol Officer Thomas Higgs. He will be discussing parking concerns in the neighborhood and distributing copies of Kansas City's parking ordinances. Other issues being discussed are included on the attached meeting agenda.

We know everyone is busy and time is at a premium but we sure hope to see you there. If you need transportation to the meeting, contact Trish Martin at 816-468-7993.

Upcoming Events

Back by popular demand and in celebration of earth day, the most immediate neighborhood event is dumpster day!

On April 25, 2009 a dumpster for leaves, brush, tree limbs and other such yard waste will be available in the top cul-de-sac from 8am to 12pm or until it is full.

Two board member seats are up for election at the July membership meeting. If you would like to be nominated as a candidate for one of these positions, please contact one of the following nomination committee members:

Mark Macken 816-420-0788

Linda Satter 816-468-8885

Nancy Colvin 816-853-7194

Please note: the Shoal Brook II general membership meetings take place quarterly and not every other month as was mistakenly printed in the last issue of this newsletter.

If you miss out on the neighborhood's dumpster please note the city's brush pick up day is May 6th.

The annual neighborhood garage sale is Saturday May 16th. It has been scheduled to coincide with Claybrook's neighborhood garage sale to help improve traffic. Ads will be placed in the Sun Tribune.

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If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, email your submission to mitziloar@yahoo.com or you can send it to gregmel@att.net Here are some suggestions:

- Recipes
- Announcements births, weddings etc.
- A "How To" or DIY article
- Joke or Funny Story

Announcements

Spring is in the air and new babies are on the way! Heidi and Ian Lyman are expecting a baby girl in early August.

If you see Mark Macken congratulate him and wish him luck. He is expecting his first grandchild in June!

Congratulations also to Mike Satter who will be tying the knot this summer.

David Loar and his partner were selected to receive the nation's "Top Cop" award in Washington DC. Each year only 10 officers from across the country get honored with this award for outstanding service.

Trish Martin was elected to the the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council. She will be working to build support & commitment to neighborhoods throughout the city.

On a more somber note, the neighborhood lost a familiar face this last week. Many of you may be familiar with Linda Satter's happy-go-lucky pair of Golden Retrievers, Bella and Maddie. Sadly Maddie recently lost her battle with cancer. Our condolences go out to the entire Satter family. She will be missed.

Show Me the Money

Despite current federal, state and local budget woes, there are numerous grants and public services that you may be eligible for.

Clay county home owners that meet certain income guidelines may qualify for up to \$4,500 in grant money for home improvement projects such as roof, windows, furnace, a/c, plumbing, electrical, soffit and fascia and gutter repair.

Up to \$1,000 is available through the Clay County senior services handyman grant to those residents over the age of 60 who meet certain income guidelines. Medical expenses can be directly deducted to adjust your gross monthly income when determining eligibility.

Summer youth volunteers will be available starting June 16, 2009 for 8 weeks to help with minor home repairs, yard cleanup, house painting, gutter clean out etc. The home owner must provide the necessary supplies and a neighborhood volunteer must be present. There are no income guidelines.

For more information or to apply for any of these programs, contact Janet Shaffer at NNI at 816-454-2000

Whether you qualify for grant money or not, the federal government is offering a \$1500 tax credit to those who replace, windows, a/c or furnace systems with energy star efficient units.

First time home buyers can qualify for 10% of their

purchase price or \$8,000 (whichever is less) in tax credits from Uncle Sam. The state of Missouri goes one step further and will give qualified buyers their tax credit money up front to use as their down payment.

Brush drop off at the city's site on Duramus is now free again. They are no longer charging money to take your leaves, grass and other yard waste there but you must be a Kansas City resident and not a contractor.

Still think one dollar won't buy you much? For \$1 you can buy a bus ticket to St. Louis, Chicago, Minneapolis and several other select cities on megabus. For more details and locations visit their website www.megabus.com/us

A great neighborhood consists of great neighbors. Great neighbors consist of people that largely have one thing in common. . . Respect.



Self proclaimed neighborhood codger watchers, Ray Barber and Tom Jacobsen help each other out from time to time.

In doing research for this newsletter, I asked several people what they thought made a good neighbor and the answers all boiled down to one word R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Here are some of the more common suggestions I heard:

Reduce your speed in the neighborhood. Parents, concerned for the safety of their kids repeatedly complained about cars going too fast. If you are the parent of a teen driver, be aware of your child's driving habits. One resident stopped a neighborhood car driven by a highschool friend of the resident teen as it was racing around our block, power sliding around the corners.

Empower each other. Lend a hand, trade services, scratch each other's backs etc. I repeatedly heard neighborhood residents complement their neighbors for lending a helping hand on a variety of occasions.

Settle disputes calmly through good communication. Remember you can catch more flies with honey than vinegar. Sometimes the best way to settle a dispute is simply to grit your teeth, take a deep breath, smile and be NICE. You might be surprised how often the other party is unaware of their offense.

Property maintenance was another popular compliment &/or complaint that I heard from people. One suggestion that was made by a resident is to investigate the cause if you are concerned about your neighbor's lack of maintenance. Perhaps they lack the tool or expertise or physical ability to complete the necessary task. Perhaps you can help. Property maintenance benefits everyone.

Empathy for your neighbor's situation can go a long way towards easing hard feelings or even creating friendships. Before taking too harsh a stance, it never hurts to put yourself in their shoes.

Children should be accountable too. Many neighbors love that we have such a great network of kids in all age ranges. You can see most of the neighborhood kids playing together around the block on nice days. However, not everyone's yard is a playground.

Some neighbors complained about property damage and destruction of landscape by kids at play. Most people I talked to about this felt that while it was probably unintentional, it is still unacceptable. It cost money and takes time to repair damages made from bikes, balls and scooters.

Talk to your kids about appropriate and safe places to play. Talk to your neighbors, get to know them and let them know you. Talk to your board members if you have ideas to improve our community.

Remember, those who respect themselves, respect their property. Those who respect their own property tend to respect other people and their property.

Recipe of the Quarter - Lemon Supreme Pound Cake

submitted by Trish Martin

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For the Cake:

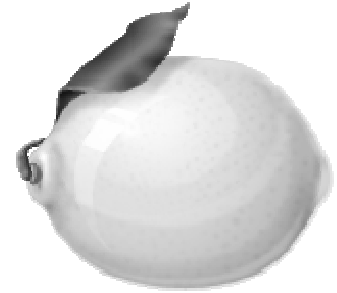
1 pkg lemon cake mix
1pkg instant lemon pudding
¾ C. oil
¾ C. water
3 eggs

For the Glaze:

2 C. powdered Sugar
1/3 C. lemon juice

Mix the cake ingredients thoroughly and pour into a greased and floured 9 X 13 pan. Bake according to directions on cake mix box.

While the cake bakes, sift powdered sugar and mix with lemon juice to make the glaze. When cake is done, poke holes in warm cake and pour glaze over it.



Shoal Brook II Board of Directors

PRESIDENT - Trish Martin 816-468-7993 Pmartin2164@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT - Dave Severnuk 816-468-4165

SECRETARY - Susan Fair 816-436-8619

TREASURER – MJ Loar 816-589-1589 mitziloar@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE - Danny Taylor 816-436-5687

Helpful #'s

Janet Shaffer at NNI 454-2000

**Compost Connection
816-761-8300**

**Mast Ambulance
nonemergency 816-924-0600**

**Check out our website at
www.neighborhoodlink.com/kc/sbii**

**Mayor Mark Funkhouser
816-513-3500**