

# Greenhaven Neighborhood Association

February 2009

## UPCOMING GREENHAVEN EVENTS

### February Events

- 2/16—Flag Day
- 2/17-7 PM  
Greenhaven Neighborhood  
Association Monthly  
Meeting @ NNI

### March Events

- 3/17-7 PM  
Greenhaven Neighborhood  
Association Monthly  
Meeting @ NNI

### April Events

- 4/21-7 PM  
Greenhaven Neighborhood  
Association Monthly  
Meeting @ NNI
- 4/25-Neighborhood  
Garage Sale

Your Neighborhood Area  
Representative is:

Phone:

Please contact them regarding  
neighborhood association issues,  
comments, or concerns. They  
would be happy to assist you.

## Greenhaven Holidays Recap

### The Party

The night was full of wonderful surprises, including the NorthCare Hospice Caring Hearts singers who caroled as guests arrived. This was followed by a group of High School students led by one of our previous neighbors, Karla Lee and her daughter Jessica.

There were about 40 people who attended this year's party, all whom brought delightful appetizers, desserts, and nonperishable foods for the Kansas City Rescue Mission. Keely Norris, Activities Chair, did a wonderful job collecting fabulous prizes for the Holiday Bingo games.

Both NorthCare and KC Rescue Mission have thanked the generosity of neighborhood for their gifts.

### The Lights

There were close to 50 homes that lit up the neighborhood during December. One of the many wonderful characteristics of this neighborhood is the holiday displays that people put out for all of the holidays, including Christmas.

This year's holiday lights competition was difficult for the judges. With that, the following people received prizes for most spiritual, brightest, or most creative holiday lighting displays.

Most Spiritual  
The Hernandez  
Family

Most Creative  
The Dierking Family

The Brightest (Tie)  
The Schneiter Family  
& The  
Rasmussen/Wochner  
Family

### The Baskets

Many thanks have been sent for the wonderful holiday baskets that our Neighborhood Services Program put together this year. Margaret Minor chairs this program and spent long hours purchasing, packaging, and distributing this meaningful gifts to our neighbors who are elderly, disabled, and are grieving.

Margaret also had help from Keely Norris and Norma Hale, who got and decorated the boxes. Dwight Sampson, Gene Hankins, and Jim and ElizaBeth Clayton also pitched in by helping Margaret deliver the baskets to our neighbors.

Thank you Margaret for all of your hard work and to all those who helped her.

## Richard Sayles Article from KCMO Police Department Newsletter

After 26 years on the department, Captain Richard Sayles decided that with retirement, he needed a change. He wanted to do something other than police work, so in 1998, he took a job as the Operations Manager of St. Charles Parish Church/School in Kansas City. It was definitely different.

"The experience was character-building," the retired captain said. The work experience and operation of the facilities was much different from that of the KCPD. Anything that needed doing, he did himself. That included finances, payroll and responsibility for the facilities. After working there for about five years, he got the itch for police work again, so he accepted a position with the Platte City Police Department. Starting as an officer in 2003, he worked his way up the ladder to his current position as Chief in 2005.

Life isn't all about work for Richard Sayles and his wife, Marlesia. Family also is a very important aspect in their lives. Before her death in 2002, Sayles made a promise to his dying sister, Linda. He promised that he would always take care of her daughter, Julie. And so as promised, after Linda's death, Richard and Marlesia welcomed a new daughter into the family: their niece, Julie. When asked about his children, Richard responds by talking about his three grown sons and one grown daughter- Julie.

He says that almost everything that he and

Marlesia do revolve around their kids and nine grandchildren who live in Kansas City, Topeka, and Oklahoma. He added that while their youngest son was in the service, he and Marlesia traveled around the country visiting him at different locations where he was stationed.

"Patrick was stationed in some really nice places while he was in the Army - nice vacation spots like San Francisco, Florida, and Maine. We really enjoyed those trips." With tongue in cheek he added, "Of course it was our family duty to visit our son while he was in the service; it was the right thing to do."

With their son now out of the Army, he says they'll have to rethink their vacations.

Retired Captain Sayles also volunteers several hours each month for a very special



**Retired Captain Richard Sayles with his son Eric and grandson Ashton.**

cause. Fourteen years ago, while driving down the interstate, he spotted a billboard advertising a need for volunteers in Clay County as Juvenile Court-Appointed Special Advocates. Knowing that children often do not have anyone representing their interests in abuse, neglect, or abandonment cases, he decided it was something he wanted to do. As a CASA (court-appointed special advocate) he investigates circumstances surrounding child abuse cases and sometimes testifies in court.

In each case, he follows the child through the entire process.

In addition, he has served as the president of the Friends of Clay County CASA for the past three years. The group helps to provide things for the kids that they otherwise wouldn't have like dental care, clothing and even parties; things to make their lives a little more comfortable.

## Upcoming Greenhaven Neighborhood Programs

### FLAG DAYS

Dwight Sampson coordinates this program that celebrates nationalism and support of our troops. Volunteers spend about 20 minutes at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Feb. 16th to

honor Presidents Day. To volunteer with this very meaningful program, please contact Dwight at 816-453-2368.

### Neighborhood Garage Sale

When starting your Spring

Cleaning, don't forget Greenhaven will hold it's neighborhood garage sale in April. So instead of pitching your junk, keep them for the sale. Your junk may just be someone else's treasure.

## Miscellaneous Neighborhood News

### New Neighbors

Please make the Randy and Tracy Carter family at 5300 N. Agnes feel welcomed.

### New Arrival

Let's all welcome the newest neighbor, Ayodeji Nilson, the new son of Ryan and Eniola to the neighborhood.

### Get Well Wishes

Go out to Bee Derus. Not to worry, just a small tumble and Bee is already up and running.

### Congratulations!

Way to go, Andrew Hatfield, on the rare and prestigious nomination to be a candidate

for the Naval Academy bestowed on you by Senator Sam Graves.

### Area Representative Needed

Area 1—this area includes the north side of 54th Street, Circle Drive, and Indiana north of 54th Street.