

# ***Around the Block***

The new look of the Shoal Brook News!

**Shoal Brook II Neighborhood Association**

**Building Pride in Our Neighborhood**

**Volume 2 Issue 1**

## **Election News**

On Monday, August 3, 2009, the members of our association voted to retain Susan Fair as Board Secretary and David Severenuk as Board Vice-President. Their terms will expire in 2011.

The membership also voted to adopt changes to the bylaws allowing for the addition of several standing committees. Copies of the new bylaws were distributed to all neighborhood homes. Those persons who wish to volunteer for a committee should contact any Board member.

We know everyone is busy and time is at a premium but we could not function without those who volunteer of their time and talents. Our many thanks go out to them and we encourage everyone to consider doing the same.

## **New Neighbors**

Our most recent new neighbors are Steve and Sara Elliott. They reside at 3604 NE 77<sup>th</sup> Terrace. We hope they will enjoy our neighborhood as much as we do

and we look forward to meeting them soon.

## **Membership Dues Drive**

Every August begins a new fiscal year for our association. While our \$10 membership dues are not mandatory, without them we would not be able to finance the activities of the association. Last fiscal year we had two dumpster days, our Back-to-School picnic and parade and the Holiday Lights Competition. Some of the same events are in the works for this year as well.

Please submit your dues to any Board member as soon as possible and thank you for your continued support.

## **Good Neighbor Award**

Every year the Kansas City Neighborhood and Community Services Department presents "Good Neighbor" awards to those in the community who promote neighborliness by bringing people together,

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looking out for others and focusing on creating safe and beautiful neighborhoods. This year our very own Ray Barber received such an award. For those of you who don't know Ray, he is a talented, generous, concerned neighbor and a willing handyman who helps maintain the quality and safety of the neighborhood. Ray has painted several of our homes and helped others rebuild their decks. He is also the chairperson of our Welcoming committee. Thanks, Ray for all you do. We're lucky to have you around.

## **\$how 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 for 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.

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 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.

## **Subdivision History**



In the early 1800's, the Federal government gave out land grants to pioneers wishing to settle the western states, Missouri being the most westerly when it became a state in 1821. Clay County was organized in honor of Kentucky statesman and slave owner, Henry Clay. Most Clay County farmers grew cotton, tobacco and hemp; raised pigs, horses and mules and relied on slave labor to help with the farming.

Pioneer Daniel Hughes, a Kentuckian, came to this area in 1823, met and married Elizabeth Woods, a fellow Kentuckian and in 1825 was granted land in Gallatin Township located 3 miles north of US 69 (Vivion Road) on old Antioch Road.

Daniel and others built the Big Shoal Primitive Baptist Church just west of the Hughes farm, so named for the stream that flowed nearby. They also built Big Shoal School to the south of the farm. The nearby settlement of Acme Springs had a post office, blacksmith shop and a small grocery. Another school, Sugar Tree Academy was located at what is now the northwest corner of N. Vivion and N. Brighton.

Descendants of Daniel Hughes owned the original homestead, which once extended from 72<sup>nd</sup> street north to 80<sup>th</sup> street along N. Antioch, until portions were sold in 1974 for the development of Shoal Brook, Shoal Brook II and Claybrook subdivisions.

The original home built by Daniel Hughes is now located at the Shoal Creek Living History Center in Hodge Park.

Information regarding the center can be accessed via the website:

<http://www.kcmo.org/parks.nsf/web/shoal?opendocument>

## Reclaiming Mayberry

Remember that friendly little town created by television where everyone loved their neighbor and the only thing for local police to do was to tend to the town drunk and the occasional stranger passing through? Crime was a non-issue. Everyone in town knew each other and could easily spot a stranger at a neighbor's house that could be up to no good.

Sure, Kansas City is a much larger town than Mayberry. However, if every neighborhood can create its own little version of Mayberry, it may not be a far stretch.

In a way, that's what our community hopes to achieve through our neighborhood meetings and social gatherings. It's important to know who your neighbors are and to care enough about their well-being to take action if you think that they or their property are at risk.

In the same vein, it's important to be mindful of the speed limit and to watch out for children who may be playing in their yards. Kids can dart out faster than a speeding bullet and by doing so, put their lives in danger. The speed limit in the neighborhood is 25 mph EXCEPT on the backside curves of the neighborhood.

**The speed limit there is 15 mph.** Please, please, please obey this speed limit, for the

sake of the children and everyone else's safety.

## News Publications

If you do not subscribe to the KC Star but wish to receive the Wednesday grocery ads, call Beverly at 1-877-962-7827.

If you do not wish to receive the Sun Tribune publication, please call Jane at 454-1814 to cancel.

## Security Audit

Is your house a crime magnet? There has been a rash of breaking and entering incidents north of the river this year. If you have been a victim of one of these incidents or just want to make it less likely for you to become a victim, having a security audit of your home is a good idea.

Police Officer Marcus Smith will come to your home for a free evaluation. Is your home sending a "welcome" to criminals or a "keep out"?

To schedule a security audit, call Officer Smith at 413-3440.

## Youth Friends

North Kansas City Schools

816-413-5470

Volunteers are needed to help students ages 5-18 at your choice of 30 schools.

## Breakfast or lunch buddies:

Come eat with a group of students and participate in an activity of mutual interest. This might include games, reading a story or just talking. Time commitment: 30 minutes weekly for a minimum of 8 weeks.

Tutor: Help students develop self-esteem and confidence to succeed in school by helping them with their studies. Time commitment: 1 hour weekly for a minimum of 8 weeks.

## Guest Reader/Reading Pal:

Read a story to a classroom or listen to children read one at a time in a classroom. Time commitment: 30-60 minutes weekly for a minimum of 8 weeks.

## Before or After School

Activities Friend: Tutor or share a skill such as crafts, drama, or coaching a group of students in a sport. Time commitment: 1 hour weekly for a minimum of 8 weeks.

Morning Greeter: Visit with students in the morning as the wait for their day to begin. Time commitment: 30 minutes weekly for a minimum of 8 weeks.

Call 816-413-5470 for an application.

## **Picnic and Parade**

The 2009 back-to-school picnic and parade will be held Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm in the cul-de-sac by Danny Taylor's house, 3500 NE 77<sup>th</sup> Terrace. The main course and drinks will be provided; bring a lawn chair and a covered dish or dessert.

The parade will start at 4:30 pm and we will once again have the fire and police department represented.

Rain date will be September 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Dumpster Day**

Our next dumpster date is scheduled for Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to noon. We will be sponsoring a trash dumpster this time. All organic and biodegradable materials will be accepted. This year the dumpster will be located at 3400 NE 78<sup>th</sup> St.

## **We're Here for You**

The neighborhood association exists to serve the entire neighborhood. We sure could use your help and input. Please consider volunteering for a committee. Tell us your concerns. Have a suggestion for an activity? Let us know. Our association will only be what we make of it.

## **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](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/kc/sbii)**

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

### **Shoal Brook II Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT** - Trish Martin 816-468-7993 [Pmartin2164@msn.com](mailto: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