

# AROUND THE BLOCK

Shoal Brook II Neighborhood Association

Building Pride in Our Neighborhood

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010

## UNSUNG HERO

Nearly everyone in the neighborhood has seen her at one time or another and more than a few have regular conversations with her. She wears many hats and has several titles; the most fitting seems to be, "Neighborhood Ambassador", our very own, Susan Fair.

Susan has lived in the neighborhood since 1988 and was a teacher at Winnwood Elementary until her retirement in 2006. She was on the neighborhood association

steering committee and was elected as the first association secretary in 2008. Susan loves to walk and is, more often than not, the person who single-handedly delivers the neighborhood newsletter. It was during her walks through the neighborhood the plight of the ailing pin oaks came to her attention and she became the impetus behind the association's efforts to save the trees.

Susan is always willing to do whatever is necessary to make sure the things that needs to be done gets

done. She is a good neighbor, a good friend and a wonderful neighborhood asset. The association owes her a great debt of gratitude for her many concerns and volunteer efforts on behalf of the neighborhood, which is a better place because of her. Thank you so much, Susan, for all you do.



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Susan Fair is the new activity chairperson. Thank you, Susan
- We are looking for a new newsletter editor.
- The construction going on at Happy Rock park is to extend the sidewalk from NE 72nd St. to the park. It will eventually connect with the trail system thru Maple Woods.

The next general membership meeting is scheduled for Jan. 19, 2010.

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST WINNERS

The Shoal Brook II Neighborhood Association held its second annual Holiday Lights contest. This year's winners are:

Best Overall—The Bryants, 3501 NE 77 Terrace (\$50 Hy-Vee Gift Certificate)

Most Elegant—The Satters, 3606 NE 78th St. (\$25 Hy-Vee Gift Certificate)

Bright Lights—The Stigalls, 3602 NE 78th St. (\$15 Hy-Vee Gift Certificate)

Holiday Spirit—The Armilios, 3412 NE 78th St. (\$15 Hy-Vee Gift Certificate)

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to the judges. Happy Holidays!

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Winter Wonderland  
Fun

RESPECT OUR  
FELLOW  
NEIGHBORS.  
SLOW DOWN  
AND DRIVE  
SAFELY.



Don't let this happen to  
you.

## COMMENTARY BY A RESIDENT NEIGHBOR

While the summer months have past and the kids aren't playing in and about our 'hood, winter is approaching like the "speed racers" in our 'hood. Ice and snow will pack the streets, with the sleds swooping down the three hills in our "circular speedway." It would be great for all of us to RESPECT the safety of our fellow inhabitants.

During the past several months, our neighbors have observed, complained and reported of our own area residents putting the pedal to the metal throughout our humble 'hood. Rumors abound of the "ghost waving a checked flag."

Please take heed to this kindly reminder: our 'hood should be one of kindness, peace and tranquility instead of speeding cars and trucks using the four cul-de-sacs as "pit stops" for the race to get home.

Although it may not be smart, safe or lawful for the kids to play in the street, (a kindly reminder to the parents), it isn't any smarter, safer or more lawful for the drivers to hit it hard on the straight-aways, turning corners on two wheels. So far we have been LUCKY, no kids have

been hit, no head-on collisions occurring on the turns, no parked cars have been "creamed", no mailboxes or fences demolished, front yards "plowed" or an "unwelcomed vehicle landing at one of our front doors.

Let's **R-E-S-P-E-C-T** our neighbors and fellow tired and weary travelers of the roadway. Here are some simple reminders that Aretha Franklin forgot to mention in her hot selling single:

**R – Roll** through the 'hood too fast. Speed may cost you that hard-to-come by "dough-ray-me" (\$). When the police department receives complaints, traffic crews are sent out to monitor, write tickets and slow down "street rockets". It is not uncommon for the neighbors who are "hot - rodding" down the road to get "nailed" for "bustin" the speed limit.

**E – Eliminate** the possibilities of an accident. Let's all pay attention to our driving, obey the 15 mile per hour speed limit. Cars and trucks are not made to stop on two wheels, especially wheels on one side of a vehicle.

**S – Safe** streets are everyone's responsibility.

Parents please monitor where children are playing and the drivers operating their vehicles with the 'hood in mind.

**P – Play** it safe, don't take any chances. Children can walk out between parked cars and our neighbors may be pulling out of a driveway.

**E – Enjoy** the view of our 'hood. Take the time to "cruise" to your humble abode. During the summer, smell the flowers; in the winter enjoy the crisp fresh air. No one wants to smell the odor of freshly burning rubber from speeding cars or burning brakes.

**C – Courtesy** should be our calling. Neighbors looking out for neighbors help keep our 'hood livable, friendly and safe.

**T – Time** stands still when accidents occur. Time needs to roll on, even though we're all getting older. Remember, time cannot be rewound or undone.

**RESPECT** our fellow neighbors. Slow down, drive safe and we'll all take part in a safer Shoal Brook 'hood.

## EDITORIAL—THE BROKEN WINDOW THEORY

There is a theory developed in the housing industry known as the “broken window” theory. It lists the characteristics of a deteriorating neighborhood as:

1. Accumulated trash, broken windows, and deteriorating exteriors begin to appear in the neighborhood.
2. As a result of the broken windows, the neighbors begin to feel vulnerable and are less willing to address signs of

deterioration.

3. As a result of the deterioration, vandalism and offenders become bolder, causing neighbors to withdrawal even more and thereby inviting in offenders from outside the area.

There are signs the broken window theory has become a reality in our neighborhood: trash in the streets, newspapers not picked up, yards not

maintained, and house exteriors rotting and unrepaired.

Unless these issues are addressed in a timely manner, the decline of our neighborhood will continue. Please be a responsible member of our community and take care of your homes. Let’s all work to keep out little neighborhood the best little neighborhood around.



A broken window is only the beginning to a deteriorating neighborhood

## ENTRANCE MONUMENT UPDATE

Several neighbors have expressed their desire to have a more inviting entrance to our neighborhood. The SBIINA board agrees with you and, while it may not seem so, we are working on a solution. The city requires us to secure several permits and provide insurance coverage in order for us to install an entrance monument in the city’s right-of-way. Those costs alone

amount to several hundred dollars.

We’ve made a request of the city for any information regarding the demolition of the original entrance sign. We have also requested funding from the city to help us with our efforts. We will keep you informed regarding any progress with either of these requests.

We’ve only had one design submitted for the entrance monument. Your input is greatly desired and we look forward to some imaginative suggestions being submitted.

We hope we can have an attractive and attracting entrance to our neighborhood in the very near future. We thank you for your patience.

WE NEED YOUR  
HELP. SEND US A  
DESIGN FOR THE  
ENTRANCE  
MONUMENT

## DID YOU KNOW.....

Andy Falco (3401 NE 77th Terrace) married his fiancé, Angela, Nov. 21, 2009. We wish them the best as they start their married life together.

Our neighbors John Booth, Bob Brenneman and MJ Loar’s father are facing major medical challenges. Please remember them in your

thoughts and prayers. Let us know if you’d like us to hold up someone special for you.

Joe Barry has a new John Deere riding lawn mower and he did an excellent job helping his neighbors with their leaf removal efforts. Joe is willing to help those physically unable to manage the task on their own. Our many

thanks to Joe for being such a good neighbor.

MJ Loar has had to give up her duty as our newspaper editor. We are sorry to see her go. Thank you, MJ, for volunteering so much of your time and talents to our efforts. We are looking for someone to take over her fine journalistic efforts, SOON.

Board member Danny Taylor will, for a small fee, do a bang-up job of snow removal of your driveway with his snow blade equipped 4-wheeler. He clears the snow all the way to the opposite side of the street, making it easier to get out of our neighborhood. Call Danny at 436-5687 if interested. Thanks, Danny.

## GOOD HOUSEKEEPING'S CORN PUDDING

### Ingredients

1 can(s) (14.75-ounce)  
cream-style corn  
3 cup(s) (from about 6 ears)  
fresh corn kernels or 1 bag  
(16 ounces) frozen corn  
1 container(s) (16-ounce)  
sour cream  
3/4 cup(s) cornmeal  
3 large eggs, separated  
Salt and coarsely ground  
black pepper

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees  
F. Grease 13" by 9" glass or  
ceramic baking dish; set  
aside.

In large bowl, combine  
cream-style corn, fresh or  
frozen corn kernels, sour  
cream, cornmeal, egg yolks,  
1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/2  
teaspoon pepper.

In small bowl, with mixer on  
high speed, beat egg whites  
until stiff peaks form. Fold  
whites into corn mixture;  
pour into prepared baking  
dish.

Bake pudding 45 minutes or  
until edges are set and center  
jiggles slightly. Let pudding  
stand on wire rack 10 min-  
utes to set before serving.



### THE NEW LOOK OF THE SHOAL BROOK NEWS

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[NEIGHBORHOODLINK.COM/KC/SBII](http://NEIGHBORHOODLINK.COM/KC/SBII)

BUILDING PRIDE IN OUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD

### Contact Information

President—Trish Martin 468-7993

Vice-President—David Severenuk 468-4165

Secretary—Susan Fair 436-8619

Treasurer—Mitzi Loar 468-1989

Board Member at Large—Danny Taylor 436-5687

### Helpful Numbers

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Poison Control 1-800-222-1222