

MPNA GRAPEVINE
FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2009 EDITION
BI-MONTHLY
MAPLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
4937 N. FREMONT
KANSAS CITY, MO 64119
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The MPNA meets the third Tuesday of every month. The February 17 and March 17 meetings are at Maplewood Elementary School and the Board of Directors meet first Tuesday of each month at the Tower View Baptist Church.

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THE MPNA GRAPEVINE

Local Businesses

The businesses you see advertising in our newsletter pay the postage to make mailing our publication possible. Support their business and mention you saw their ad in our Neighborhood Newsletter. Their support is important to us and our support is important to them. They provide excellent products and services. We encourage you to support these businesses near Maple Park. We want them to be successful and to stay with us. It really does make a difference where you spend your money.

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Up Coming Events

Maple Park Neighborhood Association provides an invaluable service to this community. We provide many services that otherwise would not happen. Two cleanups per year are done by this organization. We mail about 800 newsletters directly to the homes of our members, keeping them informed. Our web site is the best in the city by far. It gets six to nine thousand hits per day. I still find that amazing. We work directly with KCPD regarding neighborhood crime and protection. We work with our City Council Members. As you know there is a big budget crunch going on right now in Kansas City. We have direct access to Deb Hermann and she keeps us informed. The City Manager's action line is a great source for completing neighborhood improvements, and we make good use of it. I haven't even mentioned the many volunteers who give so generously of themselves helping our neighbors do everything from fixing appliances to assisting with yard work. You have heard a lot in the news lately about companies that are tbt (too big to fail). We are titf (too important to fail).

I said all that because three members of our board of directors have terms that expire in May of this year. Pat Foiles, (secretary) Leslie Knudson, (treasurer) and Larry Knudson (president) are coming to the end of their second year of service. The board meets on Feb 3rd 2009, at Tower View Church at 7:00 pm and discussion of succession of officers will be on the agenda. If you have thoughts about this please feel free to attend this meeting. You will be allowed to speak and we will listen. Further discussion will be the main subject at the membership meeting on Feb 17th 2009, at Maplewood Elementary School at 7:00 pm. As usual all of you are welcome and encouraged to attend. Food will be served and door prizes drawn for.

The board wants to start now because we don't want to show up for the May meeting and have no one to elect. As I said in the beginning MPNA is vital to this neighborhood. It must continue. We have to find a way to interest new people and show them

Chili Dinner at January Meeting

At the January meeting on the 20th we had an all you can eat Chili dinner. It was a fundraiser and we charged \$5.00 per person. It was a rousing success as we raised \$135.00. Many people brought Chili and all of the accompaniments and helped with the setup and cleanup. We have no shame.

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We charged them anyway. There was lots of desert.

As you all know we no longer have a regular source of funding. The grants are gone. We must raise money to stay in business. Any and all ideas will be considered by the board and brought to the membership for the final decision. Please share with us ways you know of or have used in the past that worked to raise money.

Continued: Upcoming Events

the satisfaction that comes from really doing something that positively affects Maple Park.

Larry Knudson, MPNA President

Summary of City Manager's Budget Recommendations

The City stands at a fiscal crossroads. The decisions made through this budget process will set the course for the City's future.

(Wayne A. Cauthen, City Manager)

Recommended Personnel and Compensation Changes for FY 2009-10

A salary freeze for city employees. The freeze will save the City more than \$5.8 million.

A reduction in workforce. Anticipates the elimination of 300-400 vacant and filled positions in General Fund supported funds. A total savings of \$15.4 million.

A reduction of employee benefits. The savings from this change is \$9.9 million.

Recommended Continued Funding for Infrastructure Maintenance

An additional \$5 million from non-sales tax resources to meet the capital maintenance needs of the City.

Nelle Belle's Diner

150 NE 69 Hwy
Claycomo, Missouri

Dixie Edwards
Owner

Recommended Increases in Programs and Initiatives for FY 2009-10
Fund estimated debt service for economic development. 7.2 million

Increased contract mowing of vacant lots. \$250,000

Improved animal control services. Outsourced to Private Management will save \$200,000

Creation of a Housing Department. This new Housing Department consolidates the minor home repair and weatherization efforts currently in Neighborhood and Community Services as well as the housing planning and monitoring program currently housed in City Planning and Development.

Recommended Program Changes and Reduction for FY 2009-10

Reduction in the curbside recycling program. Reduce from weekly to bi-weekly pickup. Saves 2 million.

Serious consideration will be given to re-examining the idea of a fee-based trash and recycling program.

Reduction of streetlight maintenance. 25% reduction saves \$850,000.

Parks and Recreation Programming.

Reduction of neighborhood pools. Three neighborhood swimming pools and one community center pool are recommended for closure at a savings of \$170,000. Ashland, Arbor Villa and Westside neighborhood pools are recommended along with the outdoor pool at Line Creek Community Center.
Closure of Marlborough Community Center at a savings of \$207,944.

Consolidation of City's Youth Program.

Consolidation of the City's management and acquisition of property.

(816) 452-8226

Chinese Garden Restaurant

Dine In and Carry Out

405 NE 69 Highway
Claycomo, MO. 64119

Suspension of the tuition assistance program and supplemental director's retirement benefit.

Reduced contribution to regional amenities. 15% reduction to American Jazz Museum, the Kansas City Zoo, the Liberty Memorial, the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center, and the City's contribution to the Jackson County Sports Authority.

Recommendations for Budget reductions include Police Dept., Fire Department and MAST.

Recommended Reduction of Public Safety Funding

Reduce Police operating budget General Fund funding for the Police Department in FY 2009-10 at \$175.6 million or 5.0% lower than FY 2008-09 budget.

Reduce Fire operational cost. \$2.4 million reduction or the equivalent of the closing of two fire companies be removed from the Fire Department budget

Recommended Revenue Increases for FY 2009-10

Increased water and sewer rates. This proposed budget recommends a 10% increase in water rates, and a 12% increase in sewer rates for the upcoming fiscal year. The impact of the rate increase on the average customer

Continued: Budget Recommendations

The MPNA Annual Christmas Dinner

We had a really bad break with the weather on the night of our annual Christmas dinner. It was snowing and sleeting with a promise from the weather people of worse to come. Turkeys and hams were already in ovens. Beans were baking. Potatoes were boiling. Deserts made. Guests already invited. We conferred with each other and decided the show must go on. It was too late to cancel.

We partied as planned. A large group of volunteers arrived early and decorated beautifully. Much food arrived and was arranged tastefully and with great care. Christmas music played, guests arrived, and a great time was had by all. Al-



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Richard Nigro, President

though we had a smaller crowd than usually attend these dinners, we spent time visiting with old and new friends and we thought it a success. Twenty nine winning names were drawn for door prizes the best of which was a \$50.00 gift card donated by (Larry Heng) Festival Foods. All of the prizes were very nice and the winners loved them.

The smaller crowd made for lots of leftovers. We donated a ton of food to City Union Mission. We also collected the soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, lotions etc that people save from motels when they travel and we gave them a large box of these items as well as canned food, gloves, sox and various and sundry items that our neighbors brought that night. Thresa Glenn and Ruth Huneycutt drove to the mission the next day with our donation. Ruth and Thresa assured us that the people there were thrilled to receive these items.

As always this year, in spite of tough economic times, our neighbors were more than generous in donating enough money to buy fourteen Angel Food Boxes which we donated to families in the area. We got names from Damian Moses, the SRO at Maplewood School. Richard Taylor, Cecil Green, Leslie and I delivered these the Saturday before Christmas. I have been involved with this tradition for four years now and it's always the highlight of my holiday season. The looks on the faces of the children is really priceless. It's just a box of food, but to those who may not have any it's pure gold. Here's a very big thank you to all of those who made this possible. You know who you are. You are truly special people and I'm proud to know you and count you among my friends.

Larry Knudson, MPNA President

Continued: Budget Recommendations

would be \$4.79 per month. These rate increases will generate approximately \$10.4 million in new revenues

Public Hearings on the submitted budget—February (no day listed)

This information was taken from a Kansas City budget recommendation from City Manager, Wayne A. Cauthen to Kansas City Mayor, Mark Funkhouser, dated January 15, 2009. Due to the lack of space here, this is a VERY, VERY short and incomplete summary of what may be to come in Kansas City. If you would like the complete budget recommendation from Wayne Cauthen to the Mayor, please go to the website www.maplepark.org, find Kansas City Government in the menu on the left. Select 2009-10 Budget Recommendations. You may download the full recommendation there. If you do not have internet, you may call the MPNA and a paper copy will be provided for you.

We have all heard of the Kansas City Budget shortfall. It is clear that overspending with not work. This year seems to be much worse than last year. Soon, we may have either reduced services or increased taxes. We may have to make that choice.