



## HAWTHORNE HAPPENINGS

Spring 2008

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is here! The tulips and jonquils are popping their heads out and that is making me so happy! I so enjoy this season, when our lawns have a carpet of green grass and our flowerbeds are in bloom with beautiful spring flowers. The trees in the neighborhood form a canopy and I see a continuous stream of neighbors and friends out walking. I love this time of year!

Your Homeowner's Board continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis, or more often when needed. We encourage all of you to help us with our community. Please do not hesitate to call any one of us to make comments or suggestions regarding any issues that concern our neighborhood.

At the end of 2008, there will be a few openings for new board members. We would like to encourage each of you to volunteer so that we will have a neighborhood that we can all be proud of.

Please read the articles that our Board Members have written and give us feedback, both positive and negative. We want to give quick response to any problems and hope you will feel the same so that our neighborhood continues to be one of the happiest, prettiest, and safest neighborhoods in Johnson County. I personally am so proud to be your neighbor.

Ruthie Jones, 327-3939



### Request for Board Members

I have just begun my sixth and final year of serving on the Hawthorne Valley Homes Association Board. During that time I have served in numerous positions. In the past three years I have been your Treasurer. Serving in this position can be challenging and brings you into contact with many of the homeowners in the area.

In addition to myself, several other board members will be retiring at the end of this year. Which will give an opportunity for anyone who is interested in serving as a Board member to get involved in their Homes Association. Especially considering the situation we now face in the Nall section of the Hawthorne Valley community, where the path needs attention. We would especially welcome participation from any of the residents along the path. I believe that homeowners interested in this situation should get involved by joining the Board and resolving this issue during their tenure.

Please contact any of the Board members if you're interested in joining. We currently have an open position for anyone interested in joining now.

Ed Soltz

Board member and Treasurer

### Street Maintenance

The City of Overland Park will apply a surface treatment to our streets sometime between May 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008. The surface treatment is called *microsurfacing* and it will provide a membrane to prevent water from seeping into the pavement. It also protects the pavement from exposure to the sun, which can rapidly deteriorate the asphalt. In many cases, the sealants eliminate the need to do expensive pavement patching and adds years to the life of the pavement.

The microsurfacing process requires the contractor to close some streets completely while others will be closed one lane at a time. Closures will last approximately four to six hours until the microsurface has cured enough to allow traffic.

You will receive three advanced notifications prior to the work being started: a letter, which you should have received last month; a postcard, which will arrive about two weeks before the work is scheduled to begin; and a door hanger 48 hours in advance as a final reminder. The door hanger will include a map of closures in the neighborhood, so you know where you may park during construction.

The contractor completing the work for residents South of I-435 is Musselman & Hall Construction. They can be contacted directly at (816) 918-9661 to report any problems with their work.

Please keep children and pets away from the street during construction until reopened and do not attempt to drive on newly sealed streets until they have been opened to traffic.

# Deffenbaugh Guidelines

Over the years, there have been a few changes to Deffenbaugh's service guidelines. Below are the current policies for Kansas residential customers. Please see <http://www.deffenbaughindustries.com> for more details.

**Service:** Your pick up day is Wednesday. All waste must be bagged or bundled (no loose trash in containers), weigh no more than 65 pounds, must be curbside by 7:00am, and placed in one spot. Trash must be placed on the ground. Trash from trailers, trucks, cars, storm drains, etc. will not be removed. All trash must be visible from the street and not blocked by parked vehicles or other items that may restrict crew's ability to remove. Deffenbaugh will pick up approximately up to 10 bags of regular household trash per week. They will also take 2 rolls of carpet per week, not exceeding 4ft in length, 18 in diameter and under 50 lbs placed on ground (carpet cannot be in any type of container).

**Holidays:** The following holidays are observed: New Years Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Should one of these holidays fall on or before your normal pick up day, your waste will be picked up one day later that week.

**Containers:** Preferably, containers are to be no larger than 32 gallons. No plastic, metal or cardboard barrels. No 55-gallon barrels will be emptied. Trash cans that are to be thrown away must be called in ahead of time.

**Yard Debris:** Deffenbaugh will pick up 10 bags or bundles of yard waste per week. Only tree limbs, small bushes, leaves and grass clippings, will be picked up. Any other yard debris will require a special pick up. Branches, tree limbs and bushes should be cut into lengths of 4 feet with a diameter of 4 inches. Bundles should be tied with a diameter not to exceed 18 inches and placed at the curb on the same side as trash, unless compost customer. Bags or bundles should not weigh more than 40lbs each. They will not take yard waste from any container.

**Special Service:** For an additional fee, Deffenbaugh will make a "Special Pick Up" of concrete, appliances, furniture, construction/remodeling debris, carpet if more than 2 bundles, or other unusual items that are not included in your normal service. Please call their office for details. This includes sod and/or dirt and rock.

Please respect these guidelines as most of them are established to prevent injury to the trash collectors, who have difficult and thankless jobs.

Deffenbaugh is usually very quick to resolve issues and concerns about their service. Please call them at 913-631-3300 with your inquiries or comments. Their office hours are 8:00am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

## Quick Notes

- The "Yard of the Month" is awarded on the first of every month June—September and on October 15th for our Halloween Yard of the Month. To nominate one of your neighbors, email [hawthornevalley@yahoo.com](mailto:hawthornevalley@yahoo.com) or call Ruthie Jones.
- The city offers a no-charge large item collection every other year. We were included in last year's pickup, so our next one is Spring 2009.
- The city has started spring tree trimming so branches do not hang over the sidewalks. Trees planted between the sidewalk and street are on city property and they have authority to trim them as needed.
- The Hawthorne Valley Homes Assoc. sponsors a neighborhood garage sale every other year. This was done in 2007, so the next Homes Assoc. sponsored garage sale will be Spring 2009.
- For those of you who walk your pets, remember that if your prize puppy (or any other pet) leaves a mess in a neighbor's yard, you are responsible. Don't leave the house without a plastic bag.

## Bridge Closure

The bridge that leads to our park area from Tomahawk Creek Parkway is closed due to an instability of the columns that support the bridge. The Master Association is in the process of hiring a contractor to correct this. Unfortunately, we do not know how long this bridge will be closed. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

To help residents have access to the path, we are considering asking the city to continue the path at the bottom of the hill on Rosewood to the bike path. If you live on the East side of Rosewood, please contact Ruthie Jones to weigh in on the issue.