

Fe  
**Neighborhood News**

Your Meeting Information

# Neighborhood News

## 2007 Downtown Holiday Lighting Festival

By Sherry Martin  
Unified Government

The Downtown Holiday Lighting Festival was a huge success. Hundreds of people gathered to enjoy the festivities which included Mr. & Mrs. Claus, goodie bags for the kids, holiday movies, moonwalk, crafts for the children, and trees decorated by Neighborhood Groups.



Pictured above is Darin Johnson (Grandson of Sherry Martin Liveable Neighborhoods) with Mayor Joe Reardon. Darin was thrilled to meet Mayor Reardon at the Downtown Lighting Festival.

Cindy Cash was the first speaker of the evening and master of ceremonies. The highlight of the evening came when Mayor Joe Reardon and Olympic Medalist, Melissa Hylton threw the switch that lit up the Mayor's Christmas Tree, followed by greetings from Mayor Reardon, Unified Government Commissioners, Katie Horner KCTV 5, Jose Burciaga KC Wizards, Brian Waters KC Chiefs, BPU Board Members, and other elected of-

ficials. Winners of the neighborhood group tree decorating contest were also announced at the event. The Grand Champion was Riverview Neighborhood Group, Most Festive Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Group, Most Unique Prescott /South of Central, Most Fun St. Joseph Watchdogs. South Argentine, and Neighbors Who Care. Best Representative of the Neighborhood Historic Westheights, and South Turner. The celebration also featured performances by the Jingle Bell Choir, Wyandotte High Marching Band, Children's Choir, JFK Drill Team, Salvation Army Brass Ensemble, and Tamburitizans. If your organization would like to participate in the 2008 Holiday Festival contact Liveable Neighborhoods at 913-573-8737.

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### Christmas Tree Disposal



Tree drops will be located at City Park, Leo Alvey Park, Eisenhower Park and the ball field parking lot in Wyandotte County Park from Dec 26<sup>th</sup> to Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Signs will be installed in each park at the proper drop location. Trees must have all lights, ornaments and tinsel removed from them prior to being dropped off. The Parks Department will use these trees to create compost for its landscaping activities.

## “Recycling is the right thing to do”

By Kirk Suther  
Unified Government

Why should we recycle? Some of the benefits of recycling are that: (1) Recycling saves landfill space. (2) Recyclables are used as raw materials for new products. (3) Recycling saves natural resources. (4) Recycling saves energy and reduces greenhouse gases. (4) Recycling also creates jobs and strengthens our economy.

Recycling saves energy and reduces greenhouse gases. Recycling one ton of aluminum uses only 8 BTU's of energy. In contrast, using bauxite ore to make aluminum takes 229 BTU's of energy. It takes 28 times more energy using the natural resource bauxite ore versus recycled aluminum. When using recycled aluminum it reduces the gas of sulfur dioxide which is created by using

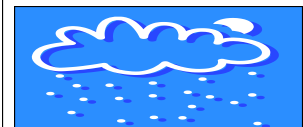
bauxite ore.

Sulfur dioxide helps to cause acid rain.

Recycling also helps to strengthen our economy. In a study done for the National Recycling Coalition in 2001; at that time, 1,121,804 people were employed by 56,061 businesses. These businesses had \$36.7 billion in annual payroll and had \$236.3 billion of annual revenues. “Recycling is the right thing to do.”

### Mayor Reardon's First Floor Fist Friday

Mayor/CEO Joe Reardon's next "First Floor, First Friday Program" will be held Friday, January 4, 2007, 12:00 pm until 2:00 at Wyandotte County Court House 710 N. 7<sup>th</sup>. Citizens wishing to meet one-on-one with the Mayor on a specific issue will have the opportunity to spend up to five minutes to discuss the issue. For more information please call the Mayor's Office at (913) 573-5010.



**Free Removal of Debris from Storm. All debris should be taken to the curb for pick-up. Please call 573-5400**

## Unified Government Neighborhood Assistance Grant

By Sherry Martin  
Unified Government

The Unified Government Neighborhood Assistance Grant provides funds for neighborhood improvements. The grant encourages citizens to take an active role in organizing their neighborhoods and prioritizing neighborhood needs.

Liveable Neighborhoods and Community Policing administered

the grant. In 2007 more than 56 Neighborhood Groups and NBR's were awarded small grants totaling \$30,000.00. To qualify for the Unified Government Assistance Grant your organization must be registered with Liveable Neighborhoods.

Liveable Neighborhood administers the Neighborhood Watch Program. Registered groups receive services that includes copies, newsletters,

fliers, handouts, watch signs, technical support, mailings and assistance solving neighborhood issues and problems. If you would like to register your Neighborhood Group or Homeowner's Association feel free to contact Liveable Neighborhoods 913-573-8737.

## Senior Citizen Utility Tax Rebate

Beginning January 2 through March 31, 2007 senior citizens can take advantage of a **utility tax rebate**. The program offers senior citizens a **rebate** on a portion of the amount of utilities paid during the previous year. Persons applying must be 65 years of age during the entire **tax** year, live in Kansas City, KS, and total income must not exceed \$25,000. If you are eligible your refund will be a total of:

- Gas Franchise **tax** paid to Kansas Gas or Atmos Energy
- 90% of water pollution charges
- 7.9% of water and electricity paid to board of public utilities
- Franchise **tax** (special municipal charge) paid to SBC or AT&T telephone company
- A refund on city sales **tax** (based on income)  
*The maximum refund is \$300.00.*

Applications will be taken at City Hall, 701 N. 7th St. Rm. 260, Kansas City, Ks, Unified Clerk's Office. Eligible persons should bring all gas, telephone, and BPU bills paid during 2006; proof of income, social security statements, interest statements, etc.; and social security number. **Printouts will be accepted.** Please call the Unified Clerk's Office at 573-5260 if you have any questions.

By Liveable Neighborhood



Catapult Online provides 3rd-12th grade students with free individualized tutoring from the convenience of their own homes. The instruction is provided live over the Internet, with certified teachers, on a free computer that we provide. Best of all, when the student completes the tutoring, they earn the right to keep the computer – no strings attached! Thousands of students across America have already taken advantage of this remarkable free service (paid for by school districts under the No Child Left Behind Act). To learn more, call 1-800-417-3125

Source: Catapultonline.com

## Please Join Us !

The Kansas City Kansas Police Department is pleased to announce the opening of the Midtown Policing Unit. The Police department is pleased to invite you to the grand opening of the Midtown Unit.

Monday January 10, 2008  
10:00 am until 2:00 pm  
Indian Springs Mall  
4601 State Avenue (northwest corner)

The Units boundaries are north to the river, south to the river, east to 29th and west to 65th St. The opening of the Midtown Unit is part of the Police Departments commitment to expand additional policing to the community. Major Kevin Steele is the commander, Capt. Gregory Bradley, and Capt. Randy Eskina is command staff of the Midtown Unit.

### Neighborhood News

Watch signs are an effective way to deter crime. Call LN and order watch signs for your neighborhood.



## PROJECT WORKOUT ON WHEELS

Most Americans have a hard time fitting exercise into their schedules, but wheelchair users may also not be sure what exercise they can do. Researchers at the University of Kansas have developed a program, Project Workout on Wheels, to help wheelchair users who aren't currently exercising learn how to start an exercise program and find ways to fit exercise into their daily routine.



Participants who qualify for the yearlong research study must receive medical clearance from their physicians to begin. They will have four fitness evaluations at KU Medical Center, with their transportation costs covered, and receive a small payment for each visit. Participants will learn about many different exercise options, both for cardiac fitness and for strengthening, that can be done while sitting in a chair. They will keep a written log of their weekly exercise to share with the researchers and will get several store coupons as incentives for mailing these back. But more valuable than the monetary incentives are the health benefits of being physically active, such as improved heart health, more energy, greater endurance, better sleep, and feeling better. If you or someone you know is a wheelchair user, have them call Project WOW for more information. The program may help get them rolling in the right direction toward better health. **Project WOW contact information** phone: (913)588-7195; email: [projectwow@ku.edu](mailto:projectwow@ku.edu) web: [www.gerontology.ku.edu/pwow](http://www.gerontology.ku.edu/pwow)

