

Spring '08  
News

# The Willow Whisper

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2008

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## Annual Homeowners Meeting

Plan to attend the 2008 annual meeting of The Willows Homeowners Association. The meeting will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at Holy Family Catholic Church. We will meet in Room 109, located on the main level in the church. The meeting will start promptly at 10AM.

## Neighborhood Pool Party

Help kickoff the 2008 pool season by celebrating at the pool with your neighbors on June 28th from 5PM to 9PM

The Association will provide Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Soda and condiments for the event. You are welcome to bring a side-dish if you wish, or just show up.

Our Social Committee Lead is planning the event. Please send her an e-mail at

[social@thewillowshoa.com](mailto:social@thewillowshoa.com) and let her know how many are planning to attend so we know how much food to purchase. We look forward to seeing everybody there!

### DO YOU KNOW BBQ?

We can use a few good cooks to demonstrate their amazing grilling abilities to the fellow members. Please let us know if you are interested in displaying your talents. Contact her at [social@thewillowshoa.com](mailto:social@thewillowshoa.com)

### Reminders:

- ALL Association Dues Should be paid in Full
- Pool Opens May 24th at 11AM
- Annual Member Meeting May 31st @ 10AM
- Pool Party June 28th 5PM—9PM

## Committee Volunteers Wanted

We need volunteers for all of the committees in the Association. If you are at all interested in serving the Association, please make every effort to attend the annual meeting scheduled for May 31st at 10AM. We need help with the following committees; Architectural Control, Social,, Grounds, Finance and Improvements.

# Landscaping Tips

Home Care | Spring Edition

## Fact to Remember: Green lawns and professional looking landscaping increase home value!

Everyone wants their home to appreciate in value and be a source of pride, something worth coming home to. The same is true of our neighborhood. We all need to work together to green our lawns and install a few plants each season to have a great place to come home and see our neighborhood home values go up. If your neighbor's street appeal needs improvement let them know and offer advice, a poor looking home next door only reduces the value and appeal of your home. Few people may realize that landscape and a maintained lawn can add up to 15% to the value of a home and significantly increase the owner's ability to sell the home quickly when it is time to move.

■ **To get more use out of the landscaping** and help make it a personal goal to complete, consider focusing your efforts on creating inexpensive outdoor living space that is perfect for entertaining family or friends, it may also come in handy when time to sell. Completing a simple brick/stone patio or porch with shade trees and landscape will give you an excellent three season room or overflow space.

■ **Take a photo looking at your house from the street** and decide if you would really want to buy it from the photo. Make sure the grass is green and maintained, the house is visually framed with landscaping, and the paint and driveway are in good condition.

■ **To improve the lawn**, mow and trim weekly, it should take less than an hour for any of the homes in our area, when you have completed mowing place an inexpensive sprinkler in the front and back yard and run for another hour. Watering twice weekly would be ideal, but if you can spend about an hour to mow and turn on the faucet, you will have a great looking green lawn. Every six to eight weeks buy a fifteen dollar bag of fertilizer in a 3-5 step program and spread it over your yard.

■ **To begin a landscape** you could solicit a few ideas from local landscape contractors, contact the neighborhood association's architectural committee, or sketch a few ideas yourself. Consider framing the house with a few trees in mulch or rock beds and then add a few shrubs and perennial flowers with color and varying to create depth and scale in the beds. Remember as you design that the first thing anyone will see of your home is the view from the street and the front walk, commit the first basic effort in these areas for maximum impact!

■ **Get lots, spend little!** Remember, the goal is to add useable front or rear porch space with patios and landscape and dress up the appearance of each home in the area with lawn care and planting beds. Another positive reason to act now: properties are usually taxed on indoor square footage and lot size, so improving the outside doesn't result in a bigger tax bill, just a bigger home value. Much of the work you can do yourself with just an hour or two each week, nurseries will help you select plants at no charge and looking at a digital photo of the house will help you realize what really needs work. If you have home equity or would rather hire a professional, taking a few bids from local installers can be an excellent, obligation free, option as well. When all of us continue to care for our neighborhood and properties and spend a few dollars each month on improvements we will all see the benefits to our neighborhood and even financial bottom line!

Look for the next Home Update for more home basics targeted to each seasons needs!

Sources: Scotts.com, Money.com

## Board of Directors Position Available

Are you interested in serving as a Board member on The Willows Homeowners Association? If so, you MUST attend the annual Homeowners meeting on May 31st.

We will accept nominations of members in good standing and vote for the vacant position of

We are sad to announce that Hal Bailey has moved and will no longer be a member of the Board.

Vice-President during the meeting.

The Board wishes a heartfelt "Thank You" to Hal Bailey for his hard work and dedication to the Association.

We appreciate all of Hal's efforts, especially for his help with the Pool Management and Grounds Maintenance.

Best of Luck to you, Hal!

# Maplewoods Parkway Extension

The Maplewoods Parkway Project is being conducted by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department to extend Maplewoods Parkway from NE 96th Street to NE 108th Street.

Improvements will include:

- Realignment, Widening, Paving, Curb & Gutter Lighting and Storm Sewer Improvements
- Widening will include Landscaped Medians to enhance the Parkway System
- Roundabout Intersections
- Side Road Improvements
- Sidewalks and Bike Paths

Improvement goals include improving safety, increasing operational capacity and preparing for future development.

## Project Schedule

**Preliminary Design**—Develop basic construction details, including horizontal and vertical roadway alignments.

**Public Meeting**—Design details and right-of-way acquisition needs will be discussed at the public meeting. An opportunity for public comment is provided.

**Refine Preliminary Design**—Fully develop all of the construction details, including roadway, drainage, utilities, lighting and landscaping features. Finalize Right-of-way and Construction limits. Finalize property entrance locations.

**Right-of-Way Acquisition**—The appraisal and acquisition process begins. Property owners will be contacted by staff from the City's Office of Property & Acquisition, and needed right-of-way is acquired.



Maplewoods Parkway Extension  
From NE 96th Street to NE 98th Street

## Have You Checked Out Our New Web Site?

If by chance you haven't noticed, we have redesigned our Web site.

You can find interesting facts about the Association, information about the area, local attractions, legal documents, up to the minute news, sports and horoscopes. We even have a Games section to test your skills.



Future enhancements will include an electronic version of our newsletter, a Community Forum, and more.

You will soon be able to view our new boundary map provided by one of our members at no cost to the Association.

Do you have thoughts and ideas for the site?

Feel free to send your suggestions to our Webmaster by visiting our site at [www.TheWillowsHOA.com](http://www.TheWillowsHOA.com) and click on the Contact Us link.

## Pool Facts

Pool Identification Cards are required for admittance to the pool and will be made available for all homeowners that are current with their Association Dues.

Cards can be picked-up from the lifeguard on duty during

regular pool hours.

If you would like to schedule an after hours pool party, you may sign up with the pool lifeguard on duty.

Regular Pool hours are 11AM – 9PM daily.



Spring '08 News

The Willows Homeowners Association  
1723 NE New Mark Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64155

E-mail: Newsletter@TheWillows.com

THE WILLOW WHISPER

Communicating News of our  
Community

Check us out on the Web  
[www.TheWillowsHOA.com](http://www.TheWillowsHOA.com)

The Willows Homeowners Association is comprised of 296 single-family homes in Kansas City, North. All Board Members and Committee members are a volunteer group of residential property owners, just like you.

It is our goal to make an Association that provides value to its members and a strong commitment to better our community.

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Are you interested in writing an article for The Willow Whisper? If so, please drop us a note at the Web site and let us know. It is our plan to publish the Newsletter quarterly, so all literary help will be greatly appreciated. You can also send us your article for submission to:

The Willows HOA 1723 NE New Mark Drive Kansas City, MO 64155

The Willow Whisper, Newsletter for  
The Willows Homeowners Association  
1723 NE New Mark Drive  
Kansas City, Missouri 64155

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INSIDE