

Rountree Neighborhood News

July 2011

Chair's corner — Brian Ash

Welcome Neighbors. It's amazing how much progress we've made on improving our neighborhood these past few months. Here's a few highlights:

Our full neighborhood meeting with The City and MSU. Our Rountree Neighborhood Team has started working with The City on tackling nuisance properties. Working on stormwater issues. There's been talk of hosting an organic gardening workshop. Even ambitious projects such as eliminating the train's route through our neighborhood and eventually replacing it with a trail.

We certainly haven't solved all our problems yet, but it's great that people are pitching in and working on solutions. The main way we make progress is by becoming better connected. These newsletters are great, but they are only distributed 4 times per year and information often needs to be disseminated much quicker than that.

Please visit www.RountreeNews.org to see how you can join our Rountree Google group. Join our Rountree Neighborhood Association page on Facebook. I know we're all busy, but the more we stay connected and get to know our neighbors better, the stronger and safer our neighborhood will be.

Keep up the good work.

RNA Board

Chairman	Brian Ash	brianbambino@gmail.com	417-655-7487
Vice Chair	Ken Reese	kreese311@gmail.com	417-869-6049
Secretary	Nancy Chikaraishi	nchikaraishi@drury.edu	417-869-5774
Treasurer	Sara Hollis	sashollis@aol.com	417-818-8179
NW Captain	John Melton	vespacian@sbcglobal.net	417-831-0233

Members At Large

Joanie & Troy Meinhardt	peter12003@yahoo.com	417-459-9578
Bob Keyes	rvkeyes@mchsi.com	417-773-5175

Websites

www.RountreeNews.org - Official RNA Website
Rountree Neighborhood Association on Facebook

What makes Rountree a Great Place To Live?

- *A wonderful neighborhood school*
- *Great Neighbors*
- *Homes with unique charm and character*
- *Beautiful tree-lined streets*
- *Proximity to the university and downtown*
- *A strong neighborhood association*

**Thank You
Springfield Blueprint
for continuing to
support the Rountree
Neighborhood by
providing printing
for the Rountree
Neighborhood News!**

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**Next General Membership Meeting-
Oct 18th @ 7pm
Rountree Library**

Block Captains Update

We continue to make progress in getting our neighborhood covered with Block Captains. Since our last issue, we've added the following volunteers:

Libby Ferguson is covering the 1600 & 1700 blocks of Lombard.

Janice Queen is covering the 1600 & 1700 blocks of Belmont.

Brian Gallagher is covering Cherry St. west of the train tracks.

Jeff Eaker is covering Cherry St. east of the train tracks.

We still have several streets on the northeast corner of our neighborhood that need coverage, but we're making remarkable progress. Here's the job description for our Block Captains:

- Pass out the RNA Newsletters for their area (generally around a two block area).
- Keep the Neighborhood Watch Captain informed of any break ins or suspicious activity in their area.
- Pass along any problems, questions or concerns for their area to the RNA Chair.

Our goal eventually is to have the entire Rountree neighborhood covered with Block Captains and this should lead to more organized RNA newsletter distribution, better communication between neighbors and hopefully better representation by the RNA board to address the concerns of each individual area.

If you would like to volunteer or you think you know of a good potential candidate for us to talk with, please contact our Neighborhood Watch Captain John Melton at 831-0233. His Email address is vespacian@sbcglobal.net. Please let John know if you're willing to lend a hand.

Rountree Neighborhood Team

We have formed a Rountree Neighborhood Team to work with The City on addressing nuisance properties in our neighborhood. These nuisance properties could be eyesores, party houses, too many occupants in violation of our UCD, etc. They will meet every 5-6 weeks with members of these City departments: Neighborhood Conservation Office, Public Information Office, Police Department, Health Department, Building Development Services, Public Works Department, Prosecutor's Office and the Fire Department.

These neighborhood teams have been very effective in solving these types of problems in other areas of the City. Our Rountree Neighborhood Team consists of:

Laura Key - laurakey@sbcglobal.net

Martha Odom - imweezy@mchsi.com

John Melton - vespacian@sbcglobal.net

Bob Keyes - rvkeyes@mchsi.com

Troy & Joanie Meinhardt - peter12003@yahoo.com

While the members of our Rountree Neighborhood Team are public, the properties they are working on are private. We don't want anyone to feel embarrassed for ending up on the list of properties they are focusing on, so we please ask that if you have any feedback on properties you'd like to see added to their list (if they're not already on there), then please contact the members of our Team directly.

They had their first meeting with the City on July 8th. The initial meeting had a steep learning curve as members of the team figured out what they can and can't do, terminology the City uses, how the various departments all work together, etc. There's still a lot of work to be done, but by being determined and creative, our team will do everything they can to work with the City on improving our neighborhood.

Rountree Supports Neighborhood Business Owners

The RNA newsletter often profiles local businesses. If you would like to have your business profiled in a future Rountree Neighborhood News, please submit your story to brianbamino@gmail.com. All stories need to focus on your ties to the Rountree neighborhood in addition to the business.

Zen in The Heart of Rountree

Imagine an urban oasis of pure bliss located just around the corner of Cherry and Pickwick. Zen 3 Spa and Bodyworks adds an element of international culture and individuality to the historic avenue. Over the past 11 years, owner Laurie Knowlton has maintained her massage business inside the charming walls of this Spanish-style home at Pickwick Place, and within the past four years she has grown into a full service spa.

You may know Laurie, as she is an active neighbor in Rountree. Laurie lives just doors down from her spa in Rountree. You can catch her whisking between Zen 3 and her second business Pickwick Underground Framing located across Cherry Street. Zen 3 Spa offers a variety of massage techniques, hydrotherapy treatments, and spa services.

About 4 years ago, Elle Feldman, another local neighbor, joined the team as an independently contracted licensed esthetician providing the spa with facials, body wraps, and waxing services through her business Lavare Face & Body. Within the past year, Feldman has also opened Elle's Patisserie on Cherry St. where she sells truffles, pastries and French pressed coffee.

In April 2010, Zen 3 expanded the service menu to include manicures and pedicures. Charlotte Johnson, independently contracted licensed nail technician at Zen 3 and owner of Harmony Nail Studio, still considers herself the new kid on the block even though she has lived and worked in Rountree for the past year. Since beginning, she has provided clients with baby-bottom feet and quality nail treatments that include Vegan Spa Ritual, OPI Axxium Gel and Harmony Gelish Polish products.

Laurie Knowlton takes pride in the business that she has developed over the years. She always enjoys seeing new and familiar Rountree neighbors at the spa. She welcomes all to experience balance through meaningful change through the diversified menu offered at Zen 3.

Drop by Zen 3 Spa or Pickwick Underground Framing and introduce yourself to Laurie Knowlton.

For more information please visit:

Zen 3 Spa and Bodywork

619 S Pickwick Ave

417-866-9363

www.zen3massage.com



Rountree Elementary Fundraiser

Rountree Elementary has been a cornerstone of our wonderful neighborhood since 1917. The most recent evidence of that excellence is the effort the teachers and staff of Rountree have made to become a certified Primary Years Program (PYP) school. Rountree has gained the reputation as one of the most desirable schools in the area, as evidenced by the recent growth of its student body. Amazing things happen within the walls of Rountree Elementary which will help prepare these children to become future well rounded citizens, business owners and community leaders.



You may have noticed the recent work being done to install air conditioning in the school. Despite intensified fundraising efforts of the PTA, there is still a significant monetary shortfall to properly address grounds maintenance, improvements and deficient playground equipment. Recent consultation visits by experts estimate that in excess of \$50,000 is needed to provide a respectable playground for the school. Since Parks & Recreation taxpayer funds are not slated to be released in assisting with these improvements at Rountree in the near future, the Rountree PTA is asking for your assistance, help and support.

Best of all, you can help by having fun. **OWLALOOZA!!** On Tuesday, August 23rd, the Rountree PTA and RNA are expanding the annual back-to-school BBQ into a free concert by music group Big Smith and a silent auction, with fun and games for all ages. Meet the Teacher is from 5:30-6:30pm. Food will be served at 6:00 with all activities starting at 6:30. A wide range of fun for all ages will include a dunk tank, pop toss, bounce house, carnival ride, silent auction, karaoke, as well as many more activities and surprises.

There are several ways to get involved: Participate - Come join us for this unprecedented event filled with friends and fun. Purchase meal and game tickets now to save. Want to just come listen to music? Come join us, a large turnout is expected so parking will be limited. Be a sponsor - Sponsorships are available for families and businesses. Meal and game tickets are included with sponsorship levels. Donate - Donate or buy an item from the silent auction. Many great items are being donated – Cardinal tickets, spa packages, artwork by neighborhood artists, even front row parking or seating at evening events at the school.

The school grounds are our neighborhood green space. It is where people play with their kids in the evenings, walk their dogs, play soccer, and is also a gathering place. The school motto is “Rountree – Our School – Our Neighborhood”. Together we can make this happen. Please contact the Rountree PTA today for more information via email at owlalooza@gmail.com or on Facebook at Owlalooza Rountree.

Rountree Neighborhood membership funds go to support neighborhood efforts such as the newsletter, trash pick-up and social events. We are hoping that everyone eligible for RNA membership will join.

YOUR SUPPORT WILL MAKE THIS GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD EVEN BETTER!

SEND BOTTOM PORTION WITH PAYMENT

ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS: Individual--\$5, Family--\$10, Business--\$25

MAIL TO: Sara Hollis, 1326 E. Delmar St., Springfield, MO 65804

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ROUNTREE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION