



WHAT'S NEW?

This is a publication for residents of Red Oak Hills to keep us up to date on our community and to provide a forum for sharing information.

JANUARY 2012 ISSUE

THE PISTOLE FAMILY



Amber and Sean Pistole moved to Kansas City six and a half years ago from Pittsburg, Kansas and most recently took up residence at 17819 West 66th Terrace. Amber volunteers at Westside Family Church and Sean works for Mid-America Cardiology at KU Med as a Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer. They have two daughters, Elyse who is seven years old, and Charley Grace who is three years old. The family are Pittsburg State fans and proud that their football team were national champions. Sean likes all sports and plays golf and softball and the family likes to go boating. Amber likes to shop and do activities

with her girls. Their favorite cuisine is Mexican and they like to travel to Disney World.

ROH DUES

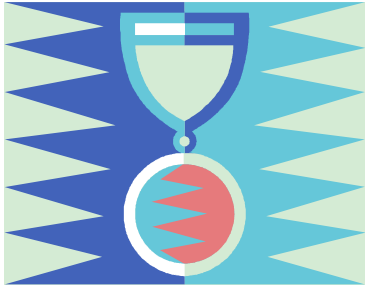
Dues statements have been sent. We were able to maintain annual dues at \$300 a year due to some cost savings from vendor services. Dues are payable by Feb 15. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact the HOA Treasurer, Jill Peterson, and she will work something out with you.

The dues statement contains some survey questions that will help the Board in making decisions. Please help us by answering. Everything is confidential. Many families have relatives living with them temporarily. For the survey, please only count permanent people.

In our budget of \$70,800, 50 percent goes for Deffenbaugh trash pickup and 24 percent is designated for grounds maintenance. Next year's rate for trash pickup per household is less than \$12.50. Individual contracts for homes not within a HOA are more than twice that and new individual contracts will be much more.

REMINDER: TIDY TOWN IS MAY 5

COUPONS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES



Thank you all who have come by my house and dropped off unwanted and expired coupons to be mailed to military family members. In 2011, we sent a total of \$37,231.51 in coupons to those families! All those clippings sure add up quickly. I will be continuing to send these in the new year and again thank all those who have come by and added to this total.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, I have a plastic tub on my front porch that you can drop the circulars into any time/day. I will also be happy to stop by and pick up what anyone may have. Please just drop me an email. You may view additional information about this program at www.ocpnet.org.

Thank you all!
Laura Shamhart
17233 W 70th Street
laura.shamhart@att.net

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Although Red Oak Hills is primarily a very safe neighborhood, several incidents have been reported that make it apparent that we still have to be vigilant about unknown people and cars. And with more young families with young children moving in, we all need to be more aware. Cris Loomis-Nay on Vahalla Ct., presented the need for a Neighborhood Watch Program to the Board and received total support. Cris has offered to be the Watch Coordinator and we appreciate her initiative and service to the neighborhood.

The first step is to find people willing to serve as Block Captains for 10-12 homes. Retired folks, people who work out of their homes, or people who are around their neighborhood a lot are needed to make this program work. We have 264 homes in Red Oak Hills. Would you be willing to learn about being a Block Captain? We would need 25 or 26 people. Please call Cris at 962-9119 or 962-6685 (cell), or send her a message at loomisnay@gmail.com. You may also contact Gary Turner at 268-4513 or email him at gturner@kc.surewest.net.

We have been considering a calling tree in case of emergencies. It may be that a calling tree will work within a Watch Program. Please support this program if you are able to participate.

RED OAK HILLS YARD WASTE

Johnson County adopted a new Solid Waste Code in 2010. Many of the new requirements are already incorporated in the City's Trash and Recycling Ordinance. What's new is that effective January 1, 2012, the new County Code prohibits yard waste

in the landfills. Haulers can still collect your yard waste curbside but they must take the material to a composting facility. Haulers will charge extra to do this.

At this time, the Red Oak Homes Association Board has elected not to contract with Deffenbaugh to pick up yard waste. The service would cost \$2 per household per month or \$4200/year. Our belief is that the majority of homes would not have yard waste to be picked up on a regular basis. We still have time to consider other viewpoints so if you want to express an opinion come to the board meeting Feb. 7 or contact any board member.

JOHNSON COUNTY YARD WASTE OPTIONS



You may also choose to decrease your yard waste in alternative ways. Whichever method you choose to handle your yard waste, here are some options and a few things to think about:

Homeowners can individually contract with Deffenbaugh for a monthly charge of \$5.95 for 9 months. You have to contract for the full 9 months of March through November. No pickup is available in Dec, Jan, and Feb. You will only be able to use paper bags or bundles of branches. If you have a low frequency of use, you might

consider 3 or 4 residents cooperating with a single pickup point and a single contract.

Research has shown that you can mulch up to six inches of leaves into your lawn. It is best to have your blade sharpened and to mulch frequently throughout the fall season. Be sure and have your mower blade sharpened before the fall season to ensure effective mulching.

Visit Johnson County's [website](#) about grass-cycling and composting.

If you want dispose of your own yard waste, the City of Olathe now allows non-Olathe residents to drop off yard waste at their composting facility located at 127th and Hedge Lane Monday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a fee. Charges for this drop-off location can be found on Olathe's [website](#).

Here are some things that are not permitted:

The Shawnee Municipal Code prohibits anyone from depositing debris or yard waste of any kind into the street, or curb and gutter. This includes the common areas of the homes association. Grass clippings that are discharged by lawn mowers or dumped onto the street, curb or gutter, or in creeks or streams, stop up storm drains and prohibit optimum flow. Mowers should discharge grass back into the yard not onto the streets. During hard rains, blocked storm drains back up water into the street causing flooding of streets and property. In addition, yard waste dumped into our streams and ponds can cause increased natural bacteria growth (blue-green algae) which can release toxins that can be harmful if ingested by humans and pets. Increased bacteria growth also uses oxygen in the water that can cause fish to die. If you see this kind of dumping, please notify the Public Works Department at 742-6230.

CLASSIFIEDS

If you are a resident and have something to sell or you have a service like babysitting or lawn mowing, you can send an e mail to Gary Turner for possible inclusion in the next newsletter.

BABY SITTING	Bali McPheeters, 913-766-6682. Bali is a junior at Northwest who lives on Clairborne Rd.
PET CARE/ PET SITTING	Carter McPheeters, 913-766-6682. Carter is a runner who will run your pet or just care for your pet.

ROH RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Have a favorite recipe you want to share? Email nkoporc@att.net and you may be published.

BROWN BAG APPLE PIE

1 (9 inch) pie shell, unbaked
1 large brown paper bag

TOPPING

1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine

FILLING

4-5 cups tart apples, sliced
1/2 cup sugar
2 tbsp flour
1 tbsp lemon juice
1 tsp cinnamon

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. To make the topping, blend topping ingredients with a pastry blender or knife to consistency of corn meal.

To make the filling, combine filling ingredients and spread in pie shell. Sprinkle topping evenly over apples. Place in a large brown paper bag and seal with paper clips.

Place on a large cookie sheet for ease of handling. Bake at 400 degrees for one hour. Cut away the bag and cool.