



Kiwaniis Club of Independence Newsletter Judy Luffman-editor

Dates to Remember

- September 23, Roundtable lunch at Ophelia's in the main dining room
- September 23, New Officer Installation Dinner, Comfort Suites near I-70 and the Little Blue Parkway interchange; 6:30 p.m.

Coming Soon

- October 1, Drumm Farm Golf Tournament, 11-5; check with Don Coffman for volunteer opportunities

Birthday

September 22, Scott Roberson

Anniversary

September 21, Gary and Lynn Logan

News about the Next Meeting

There will NOT be a regular meeting next week. All members are encouraged to attend the officer installation dinner Tuesday evening. RSVP to Michael Hahn by email mhahn@gudgellpark.org or phone 521-4069.

Brag Bag

Don Coffman: He honored city employee, Bruce Lowery, for his 39 years of service

Robert Heacock: He complimented Jim Schultz on his tireless efforts to make the city's event center a reality, and the city for catching the vision.

Dan Montgomery: His daughter medaled at a recent track meet.

Tawna Noftzger: She announced her daughter's engagement.

Brian Yarbrough: He bragged about his toddler daughter 'helping' with her infant brother.

September 30 Assignments

Pledge Leader **Sue Ridings**
Song Leader **Don Coffman**
Opening Prayer **Max Ridings**

Announcements

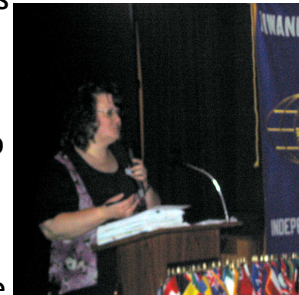
- A roundtable lunch will be held next Tuesday for anyone who would like to eat lunch together, but particularly for those unable to attend the officer installation dinner that evening. Meet at noon in Ophelia's main dining room. Order from the regular menu.
- Don Coffman, Michael Hahn, Bob Haas, and Tawna Noftzger attended this month's Division IV meeting. Don was recognized as the Lit. Governor elect.
- The City of Independence Heritage Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, at McCoy Park. Volunteers are need to staff a booth to help spread the word about Kiwanis. Check with Barbara Langley for time slots.
- Don Coffman and Michael Hahn planned to attend a special meeting with city personnel and other interested members of the community to brainstorm additional volunteer events in Independence.
- *Have you asked someone to visit Kiwanis?*

Habitat for Humanity Described

Due to travel delays Gina Elkins, the executive director for the Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity affiliate, was unable to attend the September 16 meeting. Amy Lingo, the office manager, graciously substituted and brought two young adult AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers, Joanna and Heather, with her.

Ms. Lingo explained that Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit Christian housing ministry seeking to eliminate poverty housing and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

As quoted from the website "In response to God's love, Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity will expand its



housing ministry by building forty homes in the next five years, strengthening community through partnerships that mobilize land, financial, and human resources.”

“It was established in 2004 through the merger of Three Trails Habitat in Independence MO and Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Jackson County.”

Amy explained that there had been six houses built last year for 6 adults and 11 children. Homeowners are chosen from applicants who agree to donate 350 hours of sweat equity on their home and/or others, and who agree to attend mandatory budget and homeowner classes. They apply for zero percent mortgages with Habitat to pay for the materials cost of the home as labor is donated. The funds from mortgage payments are then used to secure more materials for additional homes.

Homes are built where the land has been donated or is affordable. A recent collaboration with the City of Independence has opened a way to build bigger homes than the standard three-bedroom models, and even include basements. This will encourage home ownership for those who needed a larger house.

The next homeowner selection process will be held in October. Amy asked club members to refer candidates to them and to help educate the public about this special avenue of becoming a homeowner.

Find out more and/or sign up to volunteer at a build site in construction or supplying lunch by visiting the website: <http://www.trumanheritagehabitat.org/index.php>.

“Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

News from Kiwanis International

Recognizing that no single organization can provide remedy to the needs of children worldwide, Kiwanis International has joined in a memorandum of understanding with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to foster, nurture, and establish a legacy of serving children, a cornerstone mission for both organizations. Dave Curry, president of Kiwanis International, and Rick Goings, board chair for Boys & Girls Clubs of America, said the partnership “provides great promise for children in communities across the United States.” Under the terms of the memorandum of understanding, Boys & Girls Clubs would encourage its 4,000 clubs in the United States and other nations to:

- Invite Kiwanis members to visit and possibly meet in Boys & Girls Club facilities
- Explore opportunities for joint projects with Kiwanis family members
- Invite Key Club and Circle K members to volunteer in Boys & Girls Club activities, especially education, sports, and recreation programs
- Invite Kiwanis members to serve as judges in the Youth of the Year contest
- Invite interested and qualified Kiwanis members to become board members of the local Boys & Girls Club. Kiwanis International would encourage its nearly 8,000 clubs around the world to:
 - Visit the local Boys & Girls Club
 - Become a sponsor of the Youth of the Year program
 - Host Boys & Girls Club speakers (including Youth of the Year recipients)
 - Invite club staff, board members, and volunteers to consider Kiwanis membership
 - Access opportunities for service at or through the Boys & Girls Club

Additionally, Boys & Girls Clubs and Kiwanis members plan to attend and take part in major events such as conventions, large district meetings, training and educational meetings, and other appropriate meetings. Said Curry and Goings, the partnership brings together two powerful forces to provide to young people:

- A safe place to learn and grow
- Ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals
- Life-enhancing programs and character development experiences
- Hope and opportunity