

President's Letter for August 2009

Dear Neighbors,

I would just like to say how proud I am of all the neighbors who have made the decision to work for this neighborhood. Every month our numbers are getting larger and larger as participation grows. In life there are always excuses why we can't do one thing or another, but we must never tire of doing the right thing. Looking out for one another and joining together to make Manheim Park a better neighborhood is the right thing. We are at a crossroads, we can continue to allow the problems of the past to keep us disjointed and isolated or we can grab the opportunity that is in front of us and make a change from the past. I read a quote the other day from Thomas Edison and it said, "Most people miss opportunity because it shows up dressed in overalls and looks like work". I will not lie to you there is work ahead of us, but no one person has to do it all by themselves. If each of us is willing to do a little we can make Manheim Park a safer, healthier, and stronger neighborhood.

We have people who are willing to help us from all across this city and nation. We have resources that we have never had before to make changes and to make a difference. The folks from Rockhill Homes have agreed to begin to partner with Manheim Park starting in September by joining us for our 1st Saturday neighborhood clean-up. We will be meeting at the Manheim Green Park on 40th & Virginia at 10:00AM where we will be having a cook-out while we walk the perimeter of our neighborhood gathering up trash and debris. This is the type of community and neighborly involvement that can change the old divisions of this city. We can no longer allow a street, or race, or ignorance, or economics to keep us separated from each other. Because underneath all of the labels we pick up as we go through our lives we are all just humans. And as humans we owe each other certain things, not white things or black things, not rich things or poor things, but human things.

I pray that if you have not joined us yet, that you will allow yourself to dream to believe that together we can make a difference. Manheim Park needs you, this city needs you, and of course I need you. If you would be willing to join with me a few hours a month I guarantee that there will be no obstacle we cannot overcome. There will be no barrier that we cannot break down. We have completed the Urban Renewal Area Plan and have submitted it to the city. Now comes the work to take it from paper to reality. I have put together a "Green Team" to put together a 5 year plan to make Historic Manheim Park the greenest neighborhood in the world, but we will need your help to do it. Going green will mean jobs, a healthier and safer neighborhood and a healthier planet.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 1st Saturday clean-up on August 1st at the Manheim Green Park on 40th & Virginia at 10:00am and then at the upcoming meeting on August 8th at the Immanuel Lutheran Church at 4205 Tracy at 10:00am.

Rodney Knott
President
Historic Manheim Park Association
Neighbors Working Together To Revitalize and Preserve
Our Historic and Diverse Neighborhood and To Improve Our Quality Of Life