

**Upcoming Events**

**Summer Social**  
 Sunday, June 23  
 4:00-7:00 pm

**Ice Cream Social**  
 Sunday, August 4  
 1:00-3:00 pm

**Second Dumpster Day**  
 Saturday, October 12  
 8:00 am – Noon

**Annual Meeting**  
 Sunday, November 17  
 6:00 pm Start  
 (Tentative Date & Time)

**New Website Manager**

We have an official website manager! Mike Ardis has graciously volunteered to maintain and update the Oak Meyer Gardens website. He has great experience as Senior Director of Communications, Technology and Publications for the International Association of Assessing Officers. Mike will be brushing up the appearance of the website and making it more user-friendly as he adds pull-down tabs and new categories. One addition is a short calendar of events on the home page for quick reference of important dates. Starting with this fiscal year, we are adding financial documents to the website in order to provide greater transparency to the members. And please check out the Draft Strategic Plan under the "About OMG" tab. The Board met in January to develop this plan as a goal and a guide. We hope to have it finalized this summer.

**Upgrade to Plantings**

Wouldn't you like to see something besides miniature boxwood bushes and liriopse at the endcap pedestals and large islands? The Beautification Committee is working on a multi-year plan to upgrade and replace many of these plantings with species that are native to the Midwest. The purpose of this is two-fold. There will be a variety of hardy perennials that do not have to be replanted yearly, and their blooms will attract butterflies. Because they are native, once they are established and have formed a deep root system, they should rarely need watering. Perennials are more expensive than annuals, but they are much more durable and live longer. We hope to get some of the more deficient pedestal areas replanted this year, several perhaps in the spring and others in the autumn. Be aware that we may be calling on Members who live near these areas to keep an eye on the plants and water them as needed until they are established. Unlike annuals, it will take them several years to fill in and fully bloom. We also ask that when you take your dogs on their daily walks to please keep them away from the plants. We all love our pets, but their urine is very damaging to plants, and this is an investment for all to enjoy.

JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER

OAK MEYER GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION  
 4200 SOMERSET DRIVE SUITE 216  
 PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS 66208



JUNE 2019

A MEMBER OF THE HOMES ASSOCIATIONS OF KANSAS CITY

**OMG BOARD**

**PRESIDENT**  
*Valerie Schroer*

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
*Stuart Wieland*

**TREASURER**  
*Dawn Kilby*

**SECRETARY**  
*Jane McQueeny*

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**  
*Jerry Rowan*

**Director**  
*Kevin Marts*

You may contact any of our board members at the following e-mail.  
[hoa@oakmeyergardens.org](mailto:hoa@oakmeyergardens.org)

**WEBSITE**  
[www.oakmeyergardens.org](http://www.oakmeyergardens.org)

**FACEBOOK**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakmeyergardens/>

**President's Corner**

Member involvement has been nothing but exceptional these last six months, and the progress that is being made in Oak Meyer Gardens (OMG) only confirms that. Our Committees have been very busy. The Beautification Committee is working on multi-year plans for the upgrade of our plantings and the continued maintenance of the monuments and markers. The Finance Committee is working on recommendations to collect delinquent dues to help fund these expenses. The Communications and Activities Committee is busy planning our regular events, but most importantly, it is working hard to establish a Block Captain program, which we hope will make two-way communication between the officers and the members so much easier. Currently, communication methods are very fractured, with some members relying on Nextdoor, others on Facebook, while there is a third subset that do neither. We hope that the re-establishment of the OMG newsletter will help to fill in the gap. We encourage everyone to focus on the OMG website as THE source for official OMG information. Our neighborhood website is oakmeyergardens.org.

**Sculpture Cleaning**

On Saturday morning, April 6, Paul Benson with "Adopt a Monument" came to OMG to educate the Beautification Committee and several other volunteers on how best to care for and clean our monuments and markers.

In order to prevent damage, the group used a gentle biocide to kill the algae and mildew, and then clear detergents with soft plastic brushes to finish the job. They learned never to use muriatic acid or acidic cleaners that can cause damage to the sculptures or concrete.

They also worked on the sculpture at 69th and Cherry and two urns at 65th Terrace and Cherry. The results were quite remarkable. There are plans to purchase products in the future to continue the cleaning.

If anyone is interested in helping to clean the endcaps on their block, please contact Matt Wright, chair of the Beautification Committee at [mdwright86@gmail.com](mailto:mdwright86@gmail.com).



## Monuments and Markers

As you can see throughout this newsletter, the Beautification Committee has been very busy this year. In addition to planning an upgrade to plantings, they have been photographing and cataloging our 63 street endcaps and islands. Yes, there are 63! One mason representative we contacted for bidding purposes commented that he thought we had more sculptures than Mission Hills! The Committee is working to put together a long-range plan to continue the cleaning, maintenance, and upkeep of these structures. They have identified a priority list and are receiving bids. The damaged pedestal at 66th and Cherry will be rebuilt right away. Another immediate priority is replacing the stolen statue at Rockhill Road and Oak.

The monument at 69th and Cherry and its plantings have been an ongoing disappointment to the members who live there. The wall doesn't appear to be original to the neighborhood, and it sits on top of a sewage manhole. The Beautification Committee has recommended that this marker be removed and replaced with a stone marker of greater significance, one that will frame the existing sculpture on the north side and allow a brass identification marker be placed on the south side. This monument would be moved further north within the island where it would be protected from any future work on the manhole. The island would be redesigned as a small park area that includes traditional and native plantings.

The Committee plans to have a special members meeting in the near future in order to present their plans and recommendations as well as get feedback. Once scheduled, this meeting will be posted to our website and social media. If you would like to be sure to be included in an email about this meeting, please leave a message through the "Contact" tab on the Oak Meyer Gardens website: oakmeyergardens.org.

## Changes on OMG Board

Last year the members voted in three new board members. Unfortunately, two of them had to move on for personal and career reasons. When Clint Hooper resigned early in the year, Dawn Kilby agreed to return for one year. She had resigned with her term incomplete due to the uncertain demands of other volunteer work. Michelle Moses recently resigned to move their family to Phoenix in order for her husband to take advantage of a wonderful employment opportunity. The Nominating Committee proposed that Stuart Wieland fulfill the remainder of Michelle's term. His name had come up last year for consideration. Stuart is an attorney who has practiced law in Kansas City for the past 34 years, and his emphasis is in civil litigation. He will be a great addition to the Board. Laura Katz has also recently resigned from the Board due to family and employment commitments. We are in the process of looking for a new Board Member to fill this vacancy.

If you have or you know of a neighbor who has the time, talent, or interest to serve on the Oak Meyer Gardens Board or one of its Committees, please ask them to consider it. The more people who are involved, the stronger our neighborhood community will be. Please contact Jill Adams, our Nominating Committee Chair with their name. Our Nominating Committee can then reach out to them to discuss the opportunities and commitment involved. Jill can be reached at [jilladams@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jilladams@sbcglobal.net) or (816) 520-8348.



*Jill statue at 66<sup>th</sup> and Cherry.*

## Block Captain Program Returns

Although the Block Captain program has been around for quite some time, it has returned to OMG with an updated purpose. Current Block Captains will be welcoming new residents to our neighborhood and serving as a contact for any questions or concerns. They will also help to disseminate neighborhood and HOA information. Expanding interest and information regarding block parties is another priority for this program. With help from Carol Cowles, 11 of the 21 needed Block Captain positions have been filled. You can find a list of our current Block Captains below. Feel free to reach out to them if you have any questions or are interested in organizing a block party.

If you have any interest in being a Block Captain, contact Carol Cowles at (847) 846-3450 or [carolcowles63@gmail.com](mailto:carolcowles63@gmail.com).

## Neighborhood Block Captains

### *Caroline Arnsmeier*

6730 Kenwood Avenue  
[caroline.c.eaton@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.c.eaton@gmail.com)  
(314) 276-0869

### *Joshua & Kasey Bowles*

6855 Cherry Street  
[bowles.joshua@gmail.com](mailto:bowles.joshua@gmail.com)  
770-878-8188 (Joshua)  
[bowles.kasey@gmail.com](mailto:bowles.kasey@gmail.com)  
949-212-6987 (Kasey)

### *Jane Cory*

6645 Locust Street  
[jjkecory@gmail.com](mailto:jjkecory@gmail.com)  
(816) 213-8840

### *Meghan Freeman*

632 E. 66th Terrace  
[meghan.freeman5@gmail.com](mailto:meghan.freeman5@gmail.com)  
(913) 787-5545

### *Danielle Grotheer*

409 E. 66th Street  
[dannie.grotheer@gmail.com](mailto:dannie.grotheer@gmail.com)  
(816) 739-0729

### *Michael Hammontree*

412 E. 66th Terrace  
[mhammontree@ambassadorhc.com](mailto:mhammontree@ambassadorhc.com)  
(214) 808-9813

### *Laura Katz*

6810 Rockhill Road  
[katgirl@kansascityhomes.com](mailto:katgirl@kansascityhomes.com)  
(913) 226-7191

### *Dawn Kilby Swenson*

6848 Oak Terrace  
[dawn.m.swenson@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.m.swenson@gmail.com)  
(816) 401-4118

### *Christie Makar*

627 E. 65th Street  
[christiedmakar@msn.com](mailto:christiedmakar@msn.com)  
(816) 922-0143

### *Susan Miller*

6848 Locust Street  
[susanmillerkc@yahoo.com](mailto:susanmillerkc@yahoo.com)  
(816) 210-0852

### *Laura White*

6735 Oak Street  
[laurawhite09@yahoo.com](mailto:laurawhite09@yahoo.com)  
(913) 221-1361

## OMG Committees

**Nominating Committee:** *Jill Adams*

**Finance Committee:** *Dawn Kilby*

**Beautification Committee:** *Matt Wright*

**Communications and Activities Committee:**  
*Carol Cowles and Zoe Kinney, co-chairs*

The Oak Meyer Gardens Homes Association is seeking individuals who are interested in serving on one of the above committees. Contact Jill Adams at [jilladams@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jilladams@sbcglobal.net) or (816) 520-8348 if you would like to volunteer.

## OMG Babysitter Bank Starting!

If you are a babysitter in the neighborhood or in need of a nearby babysitter, please share your contact info with Zoe Kinney ([zkinney@hotmail.com](mailto:zkinney@hotmail.com), (315) 428-0218). There may be future opportunities for babysitting certification, as well. Stay tuned...