

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dumpster Day

October 12
8:00 a.m.- noon

Leaf Pick Up

October 18
December 13

Annual Meeting

November 17
5:30 p.m.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

January 6

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Patty Jensen could use help on the Social Activities Committee, if you have time and interest, please reach out to her at: pattyjensen10@aim.com

INFRASTRUCTURE WORK IN OMG

This summer an ad hoc Infrastructure Committee documented major street, curb, and sidewalk deficiencies in Oak Meyer Gardens. This documentation included descriptions of needed work and photographs. The problems were reported to the Kansas City’s 311 Service. OMG Board President, Valerie Schroer also sent a letter along with the committee’s report summary to Kansas City’s new Mayor, City Manager, and Council Representatives. Although we have yet to receive a response from City leadership, our hope is that they will give high priority to fixing the infrastructure needs of our neighborhood.

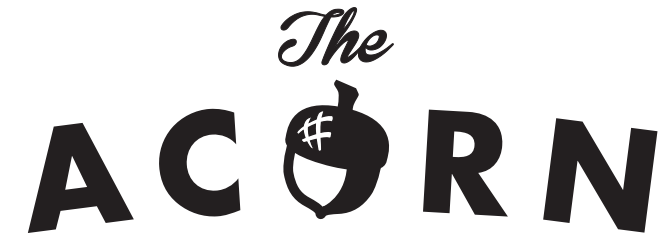
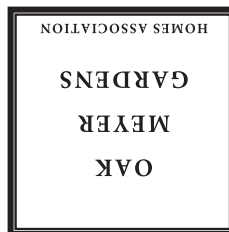
The 311 Service has given responses such as “issues reported are part of the Sidewalk Inspection Program” and suggested that we apply for Public Improvements Advisory Committees (PIAC) funds to fix some of the issues. PIAC money is very limited and is for special projects, so this response was disappointing, as it is a reasonable expectation that our repairs will be covered by general City funds.

Currently, Kansas City has a “GO KC Sidewalk Program” to elevate repair requests and replace sidewalks with the infrastructure bonds program money. Most of OMG has been listed as a Priority 2 or 3. We’re crossing our fingers that many of our sidewalks will be repaired by 2022. You can find more information about the City’s program at: kcmo.gov/sidewalks.

If you have issues that you feel need reported, please go to the 311 website and report so that they may be included in the needs analysis.

OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

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



OCTOBER 2019

A MEMBER OF THE HOMES ASSOCIATIONS OF KANSAS CITY

OMG BOARD

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Valerie Schroer

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

OUR WEBSITE
www.oakmeyergardens.org

FACEBOOK
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/oakmeyergardens/>

CHERRY STREET ISLAND

The Cherry Street island landscaping and hardscaping project is finished. The one element that is missing is a pair of garden benches, which will be donated by someone from the block. They are expected to be in place this fall.



Generally the monuments scattered around Oak Meyer Gardens are friendly portals welcoming people into the neighborhood. The triangle at Cherry and 69th, by contrast, has been a wall that turns its back on the world outside the neighborhood—the opposite of inclusivity. By converting much of the triangle into a stone patio that will function as a seating area and gathering spot, the space is transformed from one of exclusivity to hospitality.

For their part, the plants that surround the patio are also friendly, at least environmentally. Drought-tolerant prairie grasses and native perennials, shrubs and trees have been planted. Once established, they will form a low-maintenance ecosystem that will support bees and butterflies while giving the local humans full-season visual interest.

Thanks to Board member and Cherry Street resident, Jane McQueeny, for spearheading this project, for another Cherry Street resident, Bill Mitchell, for design and leg work, and for landscaper, Pat Thorpe, for his installation expertise. Once the benches are in place, we invite our neighbors (both inside and outside OMG) to visit, linger with lattes or something stronger, and get to know one another.

OMG LEAF PICK UP SCHEDULED

The Oak Meyer Gardens Homes Association will be providing yard waste collection services in addition to Kansas City’s Leaf & Brush collection, on the following dates:

Friday, October 18, 2019

Friday, December 13, 2019

In the event the Kansas City Leaf & Brush pickup falls within the same collection week as either of the two OMG pickups, that OMG pickup date will be moved forward one week. The conditions and terms of the pickups will be posted on the OMG website and our Facebook page, and the parameters for collection are the same as Kansas City’s requirements for its Leaf & Brush collection.

The OMG Homes Association asks all residents to refrain from putting leaves, Sweet Gum Tree “gumballs” and other debris down the storm sewers, as this creates severe blockage issues for our sewers that is very difficult to correct. Also, kindly keep your sidewalks clear of the “gumballs” and branches for our pedestrians, bicycles and dog walkers!



DUMPSTER DAY
Saturday, October 12 from 8-NOON
Brookside campus of Research Hospital
(see inside for details)

LEAF & BRUSH PICKUP
OCTOBER 18
DECEMBER 13

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OMG ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

The annual Oak Meyer Gardens meeting will be held Sunday, November 17th at the Brookside Gardens event space, 624 E. 63rd Street. Social time will begin at 5:30 p.m. The buffet opens at 6:00 with the meeting to follow when people are seated. There are a lot of great things happening in our neighborhood and this is a good time to learn about the improvements. It provides the opportunity to meet new neighbors and to learn how you can become involved with OMG to make it an even a better place to live.

We are asking that you bring a non-perishable item or items to be donated to Harvesters. November is the beginning of the holiday season, and this would be a great way to allow OMG to give back to our community.

POSSIBLE SNOW BRIGADE TO START

This winter the OMG Board wishes to investigate the possibility of assembling a volunteer "Snow Brigade." This initiative would enlist able-bodied individuals to clear the sidewalks/driveways of our elderly and disabled residents who are not financially able to pay someone to shovel their walkway. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Board member Stuart Wieland at sdwatlaw@gmail.com. Especially welcome would be those who have snowblowers to use or loan to the effort. We plan to reach out to our members to determine the level of interest in this service.

BLOCK CAPTAIN UPDATE

Oak Meyer Gardens has had a festive summer with several blocks enjoying block parties! Presently, 14 of our 21 blocks have Captains or Co-Captains who welcome new neighbors, are a source of accurate OMG information, and help orchestrate block gatherings. If you have not received an announcement from a Block Captain, it is good to assume no one from your block has volunteered to serve as yet. If you have an interest in assisting with neighborhood communication or community building, please contact Carol Cowles at [847-846-3450](tel:847-846-3450) or carolcowles63@gmail.com.

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Tell everyone a little about yourself

I'm a functioning artist. My major studio is in the River Market; that's where I do my work.

Where did you grow up?

Chicago; I lived there for my first 30 years.

I graduated from the Chicago Art Institute, majoring in painting and drawing. I also lived in New York for 6 years and Indiana for a year. I lived in Japan for a year after receiving a Fulbright Advanced Research Grant.

How long have you lived in Oak Meyer Gardens?

I moved here in 1979. I probably looked at 100 houses before I found this one. I've lived in the Kansas City area since March of 1965.

What attracted you to this area and/or what do you like most about this area?

The beauty of Kansas City. The boulevards, the fountains and the topography are lovely.

Who has had the most influence on your life and why?

I have to talk about influences in my artistic life. Although my style has nothing to do with Henri Matisse, his artistic intellect was a great influence on my art. I'm also influenced by Japanese Art and Japanese culture.

What personal achievement(s) are you most proud of?

My career as an artist.

What are your hobbies/interests?

I don't have a hobby. I love to read. Currently, I am reading *The Polish Officer*, *Lost Horizon* and for the umpteenth time, *Wind in the Willows*.



OMG Resident Ron Slowinski and granddaughter Mia

Have a story or would like to recommend someone for Know Thy Neighbor? Contact The Acorn Editor, Lori Reid at delaneyreid@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Oak Meyer Gardens is undergoing a major renovation of its monuments and markers in order to extend their lifetime through the next 90 years. If we were to do this on our own without raising annual dues, it would take us at least 30 years. Before we even begin to go there, your OMG Board is working hard to find outside funding for this. We have put together two different Public Improvements Advisory Committee proposals (PIAC) and Stuart Wieland, our Vice President, and I presented them before the 6th District Committee at their hearings in early September. PIAC makes recommendations concerning funds that comprise approximately 20% of KCMO's annual \$1B budget. Our first proposal is to mill and resurface 63rd Terrace, replace its sidewalks and curbs and renovate and rebuild the large gateway markers at either end. The work on the markers would cost us \$66,000 alone. Our hope is that 63rd Terrace may be brought up to neighborhood standards at the same time the City is making changes to 63rd Street and Meyer Boulevard to make them more walkable. The second PIAC proposal is to repair and/or rebuild and clean the remaining 50 plus monuments throughout the neighborhood. This proposal requesting \$118,500 covers the balance of the estimate. We have already allotted \$28,000 of our reserves to begin this project. We will provide new native plantings after each monument is repaired. Most of the plantings will be paid for through our annual budget. Because of this, we are considering cutting back on our social activities, or rotating them to every other year.

We need your help. PIAC will decide which capital improvements they will support in November, but each district only has two votes. We will not know the results until April after City estimates are performed on their part, and there is a lot of competition. Please email your support for these projects to the PIAC Administrator, Araceli Magaña araceli.magana@kcmo.org – before the end of October. Also, please let us know of any ideas you may have with how to raise funds for this project, i.e. if you or your employer would like to adopt a pair of pedestals and pay for its initial renovation. Email us at hoa@oakmeyergardens.org with any ideas to fund this project.

-Valerie Schoer

DUMPSTER DAY

Dumper Day is almost here! It is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Dumpsters will be located on the Brookside campus of Research Hospital in the parking lot off of Holmes Road in the southeast corner. There is no charge for Oak Meyer Gardens residents. Others will be charged \$10 per visit. This gives those of us who live in OMG the opportunity to clean out those basements and garages. Chemicals, old paints, and electronics are not accepted. Like last year, we plan to have a metal scrapper there. We will also have a location for giveaway items. If no one claims an unwanted item by noon, it will either be dumped or given to a local second hand store. If you are willing to volunteer for this event, please email Patty Jensen at hoa@oakmeyergardens.org. Your help and time would be greatly appreciated!

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE CONTINUES WORK

The Beautification Committee continues to work on the renovation of several monuments in the neighborhood. The first set of monuments to be completed were the Jack and Jill statues at 66th St. & Cherry St. Similar renovations are anticipated to begin soon at Oak Street and Rockhill Road which will include a new statue to replace the missing statue at the northeast corner. New "Beautification in Progress" signs will be placed in areas that are currently undergoing renovation or will be undergoing renovations in the near future to keep neighbors informed. In addition to monument renovations, the Committee continues to work on new landscaping installation plans for monument areas after renovations have been completed.

