

OAK  
MEYER  
GARDENS

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

A MEMBER OF THE  
HOMES ASSOCIATIONS  
OF KANSAS CITY

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# The ACORN

JUNE 2020

## ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH & OMG HOLD BLOOD DRIVE

The May 20th St. Peter's Catholic Church and Oak Meyer Gardens Emergency Blood Drive started with an idea of Oak Terrace resident, Kate Buster. She heard of the urgent need for blood and since she could no longer give blood herself, she wanted to organize a blood drive. Kate was quick to point out that the drive was a group effort.

Mark Hague of St. Peter's Catholic Church welcomed OMG to partner with them in their blood drive. He handled logistics and coordination with the Community Blood Center (CBC). By the way, St. Peter's hosts a blood drive several times a year so if you missed this one, there will be another! Cierra Pritchett at the CBC assisted in setting up the blood drive. Valerie Schroer, OMG President, helped to coordinate the effort and ensure it was well-advertised on our website



and Facebook page. Dawn Kilby, OMG Block Captain Coordinator, and all the Block Captains worked to get the flyers to nearly every house in OMG. I know there were several others who helped with the delivery of the flyers as well. Sarah Young, an Academie Lafayette parent,

arranged to advertise the blood drive in the Academie Lafayette Online Newsletter. Fed-Ex/Kinkos on State Line even gave a discount on printing the flyers.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to all

those who made this event so successful. We especially thank the donors! The organizers with CBC were thrilled that their goal of 35 pints was greatly exceeded. Through all of us working together, 53 pints of blood were donated. And, an incredible 13 first-time donors rolled up their sleeves and parted with a pint!

## DON'T MISS OUT — TAKE A MOMENT TO GET CONNECTED

Check out Oak Meyer Garden's updated website [www.oakmeyergardens.org](http://www.oakmeyergardens.org). Our website is now the Go-To place for information on OMG services, events, meeting minutes, newsletters, financial documents, governing documents and even some historical documents!

You will need to register when you first log in and then wait a few hours to be approved for activation, as the new website is secure and for OMG residents only. In the future, we hope to include a voluntary resident directory as well as a digital newsletter. Feel free to send comments and questions to the Board on the Contact page.

Please continue using our OMG Facebook page for neighborhood posts and our OMG Buy, Sell, Trade Facebook page for advertisements. To join the OMG Facebook group, go to Facebook.com in your browser and search for the Oak Meyer Gardens Group. Then request to join. Our Facebook group is monitored for content. This is a friendly place!

*To simplify communications, we will no longer be supporting NextDoor.*



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

DEAR OMG NEIGHBORS,

Kansas City, MO City Government has a fund called PIAC. PIAC stands for the Public Improvements Advisory Committee. PIAC is a Committee that was formed to recommend to the City Council capital improvement projects that are important to and requested by the Kansas City neighborhoods.

In September, 2019, Stuart Wieland, our Association Vice President, and I presented our request for funding for two capital improvement projects before PIAC. We requested approximately \$184,500 plus additional funds to be estimated by City Engineering to cover street and sidewalks improvements.

This year, each City Council District was allotted \$4,441,366 for projects. PIAC Committee members representing the 6th District, where we reside, are former Councilman John Sharp, 6th District Councilwoman-at-Large, Andrea Bough, and In-District Councilman and Mayor Pro-Tem, Kevin McManus.

One of our Oak Meyer Gardens applications was to renovate 63rd Terrace

– mill and resurface the street, provide new curbs and sidewalks, and restore the gateway markers on both ends at Oak and Holmes. The second request was to renovate and repair all of the remaining 59 monuments and markers throughout the neighborhood.

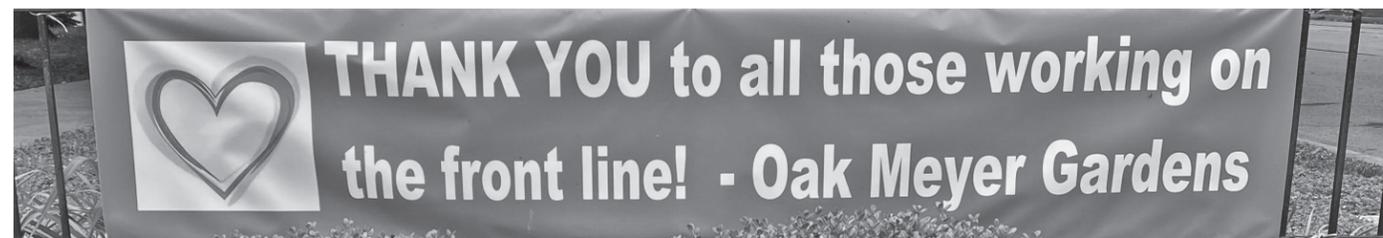
Unfortunately, neither of our requests was successful this year. There is great need for infrastructure maintenance not just throughout the neighborhood, but throughout the City. In fact, the requests totalled an amount over 20 times the budget available, and many of them were more serious than ours.

This doesn't mean that we are throwing in the towel; we are just getting our feet wet.

I intend to discuss the PIAC applications with our City Council Representatives to determine if we can repackage them in a way that might give us a better edge. We will also consider including the renovation of the streets, curbs and sidewalks for the area south of Rockhill in this year's applications. However, it is highly likely that the City Council will want us, as a neighborhood, to participate more in the upkeep of our common property.

In this past fiscal year, the Board allotted \$45,430 out of our reserves for repairs and maintenance on several of our smaller pedestals that were most in need and on updating many of our plantings throughout the neighborhood. This amount will likely be depleted this year. Knowing that maintenance is ongoing, and that each pedestal should be revisited at least every 5-6 years, the Finance Committee is considering establishing a fund that we can draw from each year; the Board will be investigating what this might look like. The \$2,000 per annum budgeted now is far from sufficient to maintain our stonework and statuary at the level it deserves. In the next year or two, it may be necessary to consider raising dues that will enable this. Perhaps by having more skin in the game when it comes to caring for our smaller monuments the City might be more amenable to funding our larger projects. I would love to hear your thoughts on this. Please feel free to provide feedback through the Contact page on our website – [www.oakmeyergardens.org](http://www.oakmeyergardens.org).

  
Valerie Schroer, President



## NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

We have recently heard of several neighbors who make Oak Meyer Gardens a better place to live because of their acts of kindness. A Locust Street resident is assisting several neighbors by bringing meals, mowing their lawn, and taking time to visit. Hearing of Kate Buster and all those who assisted with the recent Blood Drive give us another reason to love Oak Meyer Gardens. We are certain there are many more great neighbors out there too!

We encourage you to continue looking out for one another during these unprecedented times. If you are in need of assistance, feel free to reach out to your Block Captain. Each Block Captain should have a "list of helpers" ready to assist you. If you do not have a Block Captain or are unsure who your Block Captain is, contact Dawn Kilby. She can be reached at [dawn.m.swenson@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.m.swenson@gmail.com) or (816) 401-4118.

## OMG GRADUATES

**Congratulations to our Oak Meyer Gardens Graduates! We wish you much success and happiness!**

**Maya Bair** is graduating from Notre Dame de Sion High School and attending Regis University in Denver.

**Emily Cory** is graduating from St. Teresa's Academy and headed to St. Louis University in the Fall.

**Julia Flores** is graduating from St. Teresa's Academy and going to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Colleen Freeman** graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a BS in Chemical Engineering.

**Phoebe Fridkin** is graduating from Notre Dame de Sion High School. She has been accepted by MU and also made the cheer team.

**Vinnie Kuzava** is graduating from Rockhurst High School.

**Aubrey Makar** graduated from the University of Dayton with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Graphic Design.

**Elyse Makar** is graduating from Notre Dame de Sion High

School and plans to attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

**Hattie Miller** is graduating from Lincoln College Preparatory Academy and receiving an Associates Degree from Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley. She will be attending William Jewell College.

**Gabby Ong** graduated from Truman State University with a degree in Psychology.

**Matthew Ong** graduated from Bishop Miege High School and plans to attend the University of Dallas.

**Ryn Puckett** is graduating from Lincoln College Preparatory Academy and attending Missouri State University.

**Brendan Safley** is graduating from Rockhurst High School and attending college in Iowa.

**Ethan Waterman** is graduating from Rockhurst High School and attending Mizzou.

## YES, RADON GAS IS A PROBLEM IN OAK MEYER GARDENS

### What is radon?

Radon is a tasteless, odorless gas produced by the natural radioactive breakdown of the traces of uranium in soil, rock and water. Radon concentration is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L).

### How does it get into our homes?

As uranium breaks down, radon gas is constantly released by each soil granule into soil air. Air pressures within the home pull soil air, containing radon, from below the foundation into the living spaces through cracks and pipe penetrations. It is diluted somewhat by fresh air that is naturally pulled in around leaky windows and doors, and then is distributed throughout the home passively by simple mixing of air, or actively by heating and cooling equipment.

### Is it dangerous, and at what level?

#### How does one test for it?

A high concentration of radon gas can be dangerous. There are no immediate symptoms from exposure to radon. The danger is due to long-term exposure. After smoking, radon is the second

leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. The National Academy of Science indicates that about 1 in 10 lung cancer deaths may be caused by radon gas each year.

Its occurrence is relatively high in Jackson County and in many of the surrounding counties. Health Department data indicate that about 1 in 3 homes in Kansas City is estimated to have a concentration above 4 pCi/L. For Johnson County, the estimate is 1 in 2 homes. The EPA and the Surgeon General strongly recommend taking action when the home's radon test results are 4 pCi/L or greater, but homes with levels between 2 and 4 pCi/L still pose some health risks. The more elevated a home's radon level, the greater the health risk to you and your family, with smokers and former smokers at especially high risk. You can test for radon with a simple kit that can be ordered on-line ([www.DrHomeAir.com](http://www.DrHomeAir.com)) for about \$45 including shipping and lab analysis.

### How is it removed? What is the cost?

Radon can be removed with a radon mitigation system. A radon contractor will

core-drill a hole in your basement floor in an area where gravel is usually found under the foundation, near a sewer stack or drain. PVC pipe is inserted into that hole, sealed, and routed from there out the side of the house to a continuously running fan that pulls the radon out from the soil. It is then blown away from the house in a pipe routed to the roofline. The cost is usually around \$900. The radon contractor will test the house after installation of the system for efficacy.

### Things to consider if hiring.

The EPA recommends that you use a state-approved contractor, trained and certified by the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP), to correct radon problems. When hiring a contractor, find one who will come to your house and review the installation with you to avoid miscommunication. Also note that there can be different fan powers that may make the fan noise louder or softer.

Check out these websites to learn more: [health.mo.gov/living/environment/radon](http://health.mo.gov/living/environment/radon) and [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon).

# THE CHILDREN'S PLACE IS MOVING NEAR OMG

If you have recently driven by 6701 Rockhill Road, you have most likely noticed the construction. The Children's Place will be moving there from their current location on 59th Street. The move is scheduled for the middle of September.

If you are not familiar with The Children's Place, they are a specialized trauma treatment agency for children 8 years of age and younger. They partner with children and those in their lives as they heal from life's deepest hurts. Hurt is a word often used by children when they describe pain. All children encounter minor hurts-- like when another child will not share or when they fall. The kind of hurt The Children's Place deals with runs much deeper. These hurts can be child abuse and neglect. It can be living with a parent who is struggling with alcohol or substance abuse or there may be domestic violence occurring in the household. Divorce or the death of a loved one can also be very traumatic to a child. There are many, many forms of hurt for children.

The Children's Place offers four different programs. One of their main services is screening and assessment. Around 80-85% of the kids that come to The Children's Place are referred from the Child Welfare System. Many of them are in foster care. They screen about 350 children per year. Once the assessment is complete, appropriate services can then be recommended. Some kids may not come to The Children's Place for services, but may be referred to other agencies. Each child has a specialized treatment plan developed just for them.

Another major component of their services is the Day Treatment Program. This is their most intensive treatment. This classroom setting offers occupational and speech therapy, socialization and

education among other benefits. It looks very much like a preschool and prepares the child for kindergarten. One of the side effects to trauma is often delayed development, and this program addresses that. Day Treatment is offered to eligible children 1-5 years of age. The Children's Place can currently serve up to 50 kids in this program and provides



transportation to and from the facility. The average time in this program is usually around 15 months, but lately that time has increased to 18-19 months. Polly Howard, VP of Development and Communication contributed this to in part the level of trauma the children are coming in with. One of the criteria to be accepted into the Day Treatment

Program is that the child must have a minimum of three different kinds of trauma or adverse events.

The Children's Place also offers outpatient counseling for children eight and under. No child needing counseling is ever turned away. With the agency being closed due to Covid-19, they have set up telecounseling. This allows teachers and therapists to reach out to the children. The Children's Place is also working to remove any barriers to telecounseling-- helping to provide access to the internet and computers.

Family Support Services is another program of The Children's Place. They have social workers who go into client's homes and work with the caregiver or parent. They help to give them the skills and resources they need to care for the child. Of course, this service is somewhat disrupted due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The Children's Place continues to reach out to families via telephone and messaging.

When the Rockhill Road facility is open, The Children's Place will be equipped to serve 30% more children and families. The move to a larger building will also allow them to rightsize many of their services. For example, occupational and speech therapy is often done in the hallway at the current location. The Rockhill site will have a designated space for both therapies. There are also plans to create a training center there.

The Children's Place is a wonderful advocate for our children. They utilize many volunteers. When our community returns to some sort of normalcy, please consider giving your time to this much needed organization. Once open and allowed, they will also give tours of the new facility.

*Information gathered for this article was done so with a very interesting and eye opening conversation with Polly Howard, VP of Development and Communications at The Children's Place.*

## HAVE YOU NOTICED THE DIFFERENCE?

The Oak Meyer Gardens Homes Association's Beautification Committee has been hard at work polishing the "Shiny Jewel" that OMG represents to the greater Brookside area! Some of the committee's recent work has included:

- Rebuilding monument pedestal and adding new decorative bowls at Rockhill and Oak
- Rebuilding and refurbishing monument pedestals at 66th and Cherry
- Installing new monument pedestals and repaired statuary at Rockhill and Oak Terrace
- Installing new monument pedestals and statuary at 64th Terrace and Holmes
- Refurbishment of the monument pedestals at the islands at 63rd Terrace and Cherry
- New concrete bench at Rockhill and Cherry
- Replacing 40 damaged/aging boxwood shrubs within the monument squares throughout the neighborhood and installing new mulch



- Planting native plants and grasses at 66th Terrace and Cherry as a test project for future planting designs
- Planting updates around some of the refurbished monument squares
- Planting annual plants, flowers and shrubs in the 14 urns/bowls within the neighborhood
- Introducing the OMG Monument Guild, which will take responsibility for ensuring that the planted monuments and urns are watered and monitored to protect and enhance the beauty of the unique landmarks within our neighborhood.

The Beautification Committee is always looking for ways to further enhance and protect the beauty of our neighborhood, so if you have ideas for improvements or would like to participate in the Monument Guild, please do not hesitate to contact the committee chairs, Matt Wright at [mdwright86@gmail.com](mailto:mdwright86@gmail.com) or Stuart Wieland at [sdwatlaw@gmail.com](mailto:sdwatlaw@gmail.com). Stay healthy and beautiful, OMG!!

## OMG SECURITY COMMITTEE AT WORK

Your OMG Security Committee has been discussing the best crime prevention efforts we can implement with the highest value-to-cost ratio. Obviously locking doors, securing windows, lighting your property, and looking out for your neighbors are all great deterrents to crime, but some have found electronic security to be another great deterrent.

We have reached out to Ring and they are offering Oak Meyer Gardens a one-time discount off each of the products listed in the table to the right. Each and every product you purchase would be discounted \$40. OMG would have to collect orders, money and purchase the Ring components for residents to install. If you are interested, or have any specific questions, please contact Kevin Marts by June 30 at [board1@oakmeyergardens.org](mailto:board1@oakmeyergardens.org). For more information on the Ring products go to [www.ring.com](http://www.ring.com).

A note from one of our own OMG residents and Detective for the Kansas City Police Department regarding doorbell cameras:

*"Doorbell cameras have proven to be an effective tool to aid law enforcement in the investigation of property crimes in Kansas City. In addition to the personal benefit they provide, they also serve to protect your neighborhood in a minimally invasive, but effective way. Personally, I have used my doorbell camera to contest trash not being picked up by the city, allow access to my home remotely to family, confirm Amazon drop-offs when not at home, and assist in identifying a suspect in a spree of burglaries back in December."*

**Detective Jacob Shroyer**  
KCPD/OMG Resident

Device	Retail Price	Discounted Price
Doorbell 2	\$169	\$129
Peephole Cam	\$199	\$159
Doorbell Pro	\$249	\$209
Doorbell Elite	\$499	\$459
Spotlight Cam Solar	\$229	\$189
Spotlight Cam Battery	\$199	\$159
Spotlight Cam Wired	\$199	\$159
Spotlight Cam Mount	\$199	\$159
Floodlight Cam	\$249	\$209
Stick Up Cam Wired	\$179	\$139.99
Stick Up Cam Battery	\$179	\$139.99
Stick Up Cam Solar	\$228.99	\$188.99
5 Alarm Security Kit	\$199	\$159

## ACTIVITIES UPDATE

### DUMPSTER DAY

July 11th  
from 8:00-11:30

SE corner of the Research  
Brookside Campus parking lot

### DAVE'S FROSTY TREATS

August 2nd  
from 1:30-3:00

Located between Oak  
and Cherry on 66th Terrace

Social distancing  
will be practiced

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Please check  
[www.oakmeyergardens.org](http://www.oakmeyergardens.org)  
for additional details.

## MEET MAYA

Maya Bair has certainly been a bright spot in the midst of this pandemic. She created OMG News as a way to bring the community together during our time of isolation. If you are not familiar with OMG News, it is a series of videos highlighting such subjects as sidewalk chalk, pet of the week, birthday shout outs and more. They can be seen on the OMG Facebook page. She has also helped to organize open mic concerts and get the word out about OMG events like our recent blood drive. It has been noted that Maya has a wonderful voice too. Interestingly, her dream career would be touring as a singer. And, if she released an album it would be called Cherry Street.



There is more OMG News to come this summer. Maya loves to receive suggestions on topics to cover so feel free to reach out to her on our OMG Facebook page.

Maya is off to Regis University in the Fall where she is plans to study French, Business and Spanish. There may even be law school in her future.

Thank you, Maya for bringing everyone in Oak Meyer Gardens such happiness through OMG News. We all look forward to the next edition.