

OAK  
MEYER  
GARDENS

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

A MEMBER OF THE  
HOMES ASSOCIATIONS  
OF KANSAS CITY

OMG BOARD

PRESIDENT

Valerie Schroer

VICE PRESIDENT

Stuart Wieland

TREASURER

Ryan Mulloy

SECRETARY

Cheryl Burbach

DIRECTOR

Camilo Fontecilla

DIRECTOR

Patty Jensen

DIRECTOR

John Kilby

DIRECTOR

Kevin Marts

DIRECTOR

Brandon Scalf

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

OUR WEBSITE

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

FACEBOOK

[https://www.facebook.com/  
groups/oakmeyergardens/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakmeyergardens/)

EDITOR

Lori Reid

MARKETING

Kala Elkinton

DESIGNER

Camilo Fontecilla

# The ACORN

MARCH 2021

## HOPEFUL NEWS FOR LOCUST STREET

Sometimes it takes a nudge, sometimes a push, and sometimes a group of people to talk loudly for a few years. I think by now we are all aware that the 6800 block of Locust (“upper Locust”) is in desperate need of street repair. The long block is an unsightly and dangerous bumpy web of varying potholes and asphalt patches symbolic of Kansas City’s infrastructure needs. Long-time residents are extremely frustrated with the rapidly declining situation.

For many years the 311 repair requests have only resulted in occasional and poorly filled potholes, further contributing to the street issues. Over the last two years, the 6800 Block Captain and OMG Board of Directors tried a new approach. We have worked together to escalate this much needed street repair request, including demanding supervisor assessments, multiple PIAC funding requests, our city councilman co-involvement, tenacious communications, some outright begging, and not so hopeful rejections from Public Works. We’ve heard a lot of “no’s” while untangling the complicated, overlapping web of city services. We learned the street is officially rated as a zero, meaning it is in need of complete

reconstruction including total removal and replacement. (I know, no surprise.) We also learned this street repair is not in KCMO’s new five-year infrastructure plan that mainly focuses on main arterial streets, with minimal other options.

However, we may have just had a significant breakthrough! Recently we received a message directly from Brian Platt, the new City Manager, prioritizing our 6800 Locust Street block for an

urgent spring or summer street resurfacing! That’s right – a 2021 repair. This is unexpected and fantastic news. We will continue to follow through, ensuring our



Locust Street Zero block stays high on that repair list. While a celebration is in order, we will hold off until we see the trucks pull up - after all, we are the Show Me State. Hopefully, we can all sit in our lawn chairs with a cocktail in hand while proudly watching our taxes at work to finally fix our frustrating neighborhood situation.

A special thank you to Councilwoman Andrea Bough and Councilman Kevin McManus for your assistance in keeping our request alive.

— *By Susan Marks Miller, Locust St.  
Block Captain / 21 year resident*





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

DEAR OMG NEIGHBORS,

One of the attributes that makes Oak Meyer Gardens (OMG) so appealing as a place to live – or move into – is the quality and attractiveness of our common areas – especially our many monuments.

And one of the most important duties of our Homes Association is to provide the upkeep needed to maintain these common areas. Attractive and well-kept plantings in these areas not only provide some of the charm of living in OMG, but also help to maintain our property values.

In our last newsletter, I wrote that the Board plans to make a leveraged application for City PIAC funds to restore our eight, large, gateway markers on 63rd Terrace and on Meyer. If we are successful, these funds would be available in May of 2022. Also, we have learned that performing regular routine maintenance on our markers will be less expensive than waiting until major work is required on them.

Over the past two years, OMG has restored and rebuilt 21 of our existing smaller markers using money mostly from our reserves. With this experience, the Board has developed a preference for one or two masonry companies that we believe provide the best craft at the most reasonable price. Thirty-two of our smaller markers still require major maintenance, something that we hope to provide in the next two fiscal years. One of our preferred

masons has given us an estimate of \$21,000 to complete this work. Once all the monuments have been brought up to a good condition, routine tuck pointing and filling of cracks will be far less expensive – around \$2,000/year. This maintenance will help prevent unnecessary damage caused by the infiltration of water and the freeze/thaw cycle of our Kansas City weather.

You will see elsewhere in the newsletter that we have a new landscape maintenance contractor. Through our bidding process, we have discovered that we should set aside more money for this expense. Previously we had budgeted \$11,000 to cover both landscape maintenance and plantings. This year we will use most of our budget just for the contractor.

The Board plans to gradually make improvements to the plantings in the common areas around the markers – mostly with perennials that return each year and spread, and by maintaining the boxwoods for winter greenery. We started this effort two years ago by dedicating \$15,000 from our reserves for improvements. We still have \$6,640 of these reserves which should carry us through the next two to three years. We would like to have the budget to continue these improvements thereafter.

We have a large and energetic Board of Directors that has identified several great ideas for OMG if the

Membership agrees. One idea is to provide salting of the streets in addition to snow plowing. The cost for this is \$350 per occurrence. We have a small committee investigating the possibility of establishing the OMG neighborhood as an Overlay District with the City. The purpose of this is to protect the neighborhood from development that does not match its current character. Fees for this are \$4,000. Finally, we would like to identify the boundaries of the HOA with attractively printed metal markers on the utility poles. We are in the process of researching this.

I mention the expenses throughout this article because most all of them are beyond what we can afford with our existing dues. On average, each owner pays about \$65/year for the services our HOA now provides, whereas our surrounding HOAs pay dues of \$120-150 per year. The Board would like to be able to provide additional services to the OMG Members. Paying an extra say \$30 per year would still be a reasonable amount for dues. This would move us a long way towards being able to both maintain and further enhance the OMG neighborhood as a desirable place to live. As always, the Board would like to hear your feedback – [hoa@oakmeyergardens.org](mailto:hoa@oakmeyergardens.org)

  
Valerie Schroer, President

## WELCOME

to everyone who chose to call Oak Meyer Gardens home in 2020!  
Below is a list of our “new” neighbors.

Ashley Winterowd  
Joshua Jameson  
Evan & Miranda Craft  
Matthew Beck  
Diane Nahajzer  
Allison & Scott Griffin  
Jeffrey & Julia Chapman  
Corinne & Alex Meier  
Mitchell & Amy Ross  
Adam & LaVon Hamilton  
Robert Jordan  
& Jonathan Quigg  
Shannon Knopke  
Patrick Weldon

Tyler J. Perkins  
& Liza M. Mussatto  
Brandon Scalf & Michael Cox  
Scott & Lisa Albright  
Michael & Heather Russo  
Jedediah Robey & Sara Koulouris  
Brian & Bonnie Thomas  
Andrew & Courtney Petersen  
Timothy & Catherine McLane  
Kevin Watson  
Bradley Carr & Courtney Lies  
Nicole Edwards  
Jennifer & Jason Dean  
Jonathan MacVarish  
& Erin Barnard

John Linton & Helen Heffner  
James Warren  
Whitney Fay  
David Dahm, Jr.  
& Karina Parrish  
Lyle & Jennifer Gregory  
Osvaldo Granillo  
Anna Sieckhaus  
Silvia L. Honda &  
Charles Andre D’Ablaing  
Vangiessenburg  
Joseph Hand  
Kelcee & Jace Allen  
Lauralyn Bunn & Fredrick Hsia  
Charlie Moretina

## SHARING OMG GOOD NEWS

Congratulations to **Jennifer Calvi & James Price** on their engagement! Plans are underway for an October wedding in Isla Mujeres. We wish you many years of wedded bliss.

**Kate Buster** was honored for her community service with Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care’s Grief Support Team. She is a 70 over 70 Honoree named by KC Shepherd’s Center. Thank you, Kate for all you do for others!

We have heard that **John Kilby** was just recognized for his outstanding work at Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate. He was #1 in units sold & houses listed for 2020 as well as #2 as an individual agent for 2020!

Have any good news to share for our next newsletter?  
Please send it to [hoa@oakmeyergardens.org](mailto:hoa@oakmeyergardens.org)

## ADOPT A PEDESTAL!

It may still feel like winter outside, but spring is just around the corner. Many of us are already planning new designs for our flower beds, and the Beautification Committee is beginning to plan updated plantings for a handful of our monument areas. If any OMG member with a green thumb has run out of room in his or her yard, please consider adopting the common areas at either end of your block. It will brighten up the neighborhood and may provide a fun family or block project. You provide the perennial flower design, labor and watering; the HOA will pay for the plants and compost. Please contact



either Stuart  
Wieland  
([swieland@oakmeyergardens.org](mailto:swieland@oakmeyergardens.org)) or Matt Wright  
([mdwright86@gmail.com](mailto:mdwright86@gmail.com)) to discuss details.



## AN INTERVIEW WITH LONG-TIME OMG RESIDENT KATE BUSTER

*Kate, we live next door to each other so I already know a little about you. You told me you lived in Germany from '78 to '87 and wrote a book to help Americans moving to Hamburg integrate – which is still being updated to this day. What's the biggest difference between then and now?*

When we first moved there, it was difficult to meet Germans, as they were very formal. It has become much, much more relaxed since then. I still communicate a lot with friends in Germany and they tell me that things are now less regimented. With globalization, Germany is not so insular. It is sad to see some customs disappear, however.

*You're a longtime resident of Oak Meyer Gardens. Do you have any interesting facts about the neighborhood other people may not know about?*

There's hearsay that the land OMG is on was part of a land claim by a relative of Daniel Boone's. I can imagine it was very appealing back in the seventeen and eighteen hundreds, when it was prairie and forest. Oh, and I once had a neighbor that would climb up high up in a tree, into the foliage, and talk



to the people passing below, startling them. Sometimes he would throw firecrackers! He would also take his gun up there, saying he was protecting the neighborhood. He was a nice guy, just a little strange. I think every block needs some eccentric people to make it interesting!

*And what's the biggest change you've seen in the years you've lived here?*

The biggest change has to be Academy Lafayette purchasing the school, which was empty & rundown beforehand. There are also more families. It used to be that as soon as couples had children, they would move to Johnson County. And it's getting friendlier all the time – maybe it's thanks to the active board. What I would say is missing in the neighborhood is more

integration, which would make a big difference.

*I'm aware you volunteer for the Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care's Grief Support Team. What has the experience taught you?*

What I get out of it is how resilient people are, even people who don't think they're going to be. When I was working for hospice as a social worker with patients, that always struck me – the generosity of people letting us into their homes, and their resilience. I've always very proud of people. It gives me hope and encourages me to follow that example and keep on keepin' on!

*A hawk perched on a very low branch near your patio last year. What's the most memorable animal encounter you've had in OMG?*

Some years ago, there was a golden eagle in one of the trees across the street. It makes a hawk seem small! That was quite amazing. Other than that, it's foxes, raccoons and possums. There was a white squirrel in my yard for a couple of years. I'm a big nature lover, a gift from my mother. I think it's so cool to see nature in the city.

*Thank you, Kate!*

— By Camilo Fontecilla



**Spring renovations coming soon:**

*Wine taps*

*Spirits & cocktails*

*Retractable front windows*

*Order food and beer to go at our new, Online Store at  
[www.bierstation.com](http://www.bierstation.com)*

# Convenient + Affordable Curbside Glass Recycling



**Sign up at**  
**[www.glassbandit.com/omg](http://www.glassbandit.com/omg)**



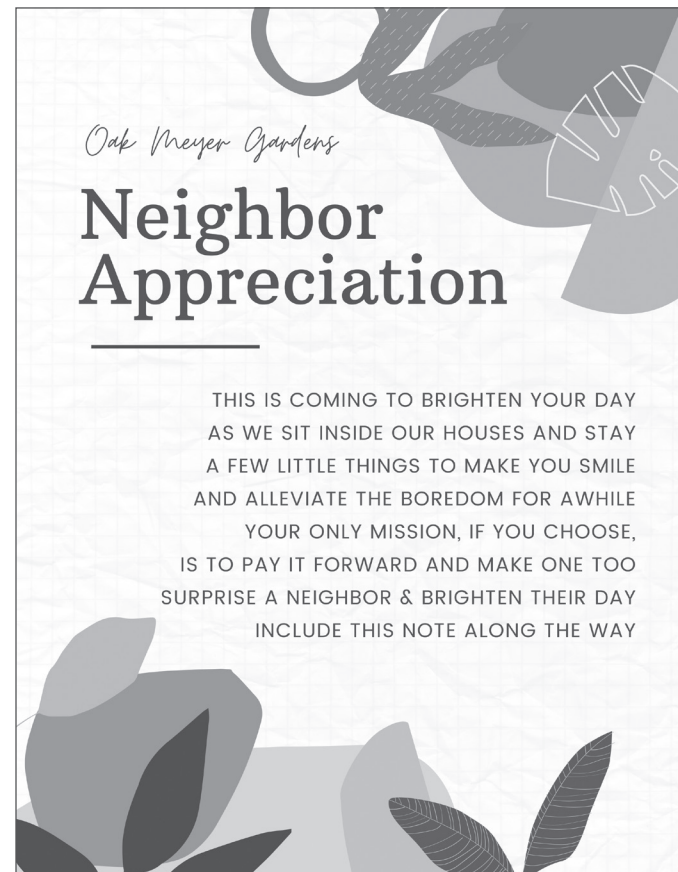
# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April is Oak Meyer Garden's Spirit Month to Kick-off Spring

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL 5 – 9: GIFT A NEIGHBOR

This is a way to show one or two neighbors some extra appreciation. Just print the Neighbor Appreciation note which can be found on OMG's website or Facebook page, and decide on a small gift. An example of a gift could be a nice note, a candy bar, a candle, or a bottle wine. Place the note and treat near the neighbors' front door when they are not around. You can ring the doorbell, but be sure to run, so they don't see you! This is all anonymous, of course. If you are gifted, place a thank you sign on your door. Only one gift per house. The point is to pass it on. Use the same note you receive to Gift a Neighbor.



### APRIL 12 – 16: SPRING DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

Decorate your front door with signs of Spring. This is something the whole family can do. Judging will take place the morning of Saturday, April 17th. Prizes will be awarded to the first three places.

### APRIL 19 – 23: NEIGHBORHOOD SCAVENGER HUNT

Enjoy a leisurely walk around OMG. The Scavenger Hunt List is available on the OMG website and Facebook page.



### SATURDAY, APRIL 24TH – DONUT TRUCK

Cowtown Mini Donuts Food Truck will be in OMG from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. Their full-menu will be offered. Mini packs come in 4 donuts for \$3.00, 6 donuts for \$4.00, 8 donuts for \$5.00, and 12 donuts for \$6.00. It will be parked in front of 416 East 66th Terrace. Here is the website to check out the flavors: [www.cowtownminidonuts.com](http://www.cowtownminidonuts.com)

Since they are minis, they can't hurt the waistline!

### APRIL 26 – 30: CHALK THE BLOCK

Let's make Oak Meyer Gardens come alive with color! Decorate your walk with a Spring theme.

Have fun and show your OMG spirit!!

# MATTIE'S FOODS OPENS IN OMG

What started as a craving for nachos and a need for a perfectly balanced and full-flavor vegan queso, has quickly evolved into a go-to spot on the corner of 63rd and Holmes, right next to our neighborhood favorite BKS Artisan Ales. India Pernell and Arvelisha Williams started their business serving up plant-based cashew queso to their favorite spots after realizing there was a need for it in the market. Their goal is, and has always been, to be able to eat their favorite things while maintaining their vegan lifestyle.

Pernell and Williams opened their brick and mortar location in the fall of 2020, continuing growth from their popular food truck. Keeping their business inclusive has continuously meant that guests at any point in their plant-based journey are welcomed by the crew at Mattie's Foods.



The menu is full of favorite comfort food items. Guests will find items like a "brisket" sandwich, a hearty breakfast burrito, buffalo mac and cheese and gluten-free spicy nachos. The biscuit sandwich is a fan favorite, with "egg", "sausage" and a strawberry jelly that brings everything perfectly together.

Or, when you head to Mattie's, try the nachos that inspired the movement. They'll make you want to pick up a jar of the cashew queso to take home with you. The menu is fairly small, but there's enough goodness to keep guests coming back to try something new week after week. The restaurant is open Wed-Sat for breakfast and lunch. Learn more at [mattiesfoods.com](http://mattiesfoods.com).

— By Kala Elkinton

The Law Office of  
**STUART D. WIELAND, L.C.**  
And "Of Counsel" Norton & Norton, P.C.

- AUTO AND TRUCKING ACCIDENTS
- PERSONAL INJURY/WRONGFUL DEATH
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS
- TRAFFIC/CRIMINAL



"Experience  
you can  
count on"

FREE Initial Consultation!  
**(816) 453-9LAW (9529)**

## NEW LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR

Oak Meyer Gardens accepted proposals this January for a landscape maintenance contractor. After having received five proposals, the Board chose Messenger's Lawn and Landscape. They come highly recommended.

For your interest, they provide a variety of lawn and landscaping services including landscape design, hardscapes, water features, aquatic maintenance, irrigation systems, holiday lighting and snow removal.

If you see their vehicles around, please know that they are meant to be here.



## KEEPING OUR STORM DRAINS CLEAN & CLEAR

Last fall, Cherry Street resident, Carol Zastoupil organized a small group of volunteers to help clear and mark storm drains. Kate Delehunt, Curriculum Coordinator from KC Water joined the group in front of St. Peter's Catholic Church. She spoke about stormwater runoff and how it impacts water quality and flooding issues in the KC area. The group then walked the neighborhood attaching metal medallions to storm drains and putting door hangers at homes near the storm drains as a reminder that anything on the ground can end up in our creeks, streams and rivers.

The Storm Drain Marking Program encourages individuals and groups to "adopt" storm drains that are near their homes by keeping them free of pollution and debris. Like this group of OMG residents did in the fall, you can mark drains and distribute the educational door hangers to others in your community. This Program is ongoing and is open to all ages. You can learn more at: [www.kcwater.us/education/education-resources](http://www.kcwater.us/education/education-resources). Just click on Outdoor Educational Activities. Anyone interested can



PICTURED (L TO R): Steve Kerrigan with his children Enola and Jude, Carol Zastoupil, and Kate Delehunt

sign up for this program and other activities and lessons at : [water.education@kcmo.org](mailto:water.education@kcmo.org). Carol is very interested in marking additional storm drains as soon as warmer weather is here. If you would like to join her, feel free to text or call her at (816) 686-8235.



**SPRING IS ALMOST HERE!**

**Warmer weather is just around the corner, which means it's a great time to get your yard ready for outdoor activities. Contact us today so we can collect your bagged yard waste.**

**816.761.8300**

**New Customers!**  
Mention this ad and receive 10% discount

## DOGGY ETIQUETTE 101

**T**hou shalt not bark to excess outdoors. Excessive barking is a common behavior problem in dogs. The remedies make sense when dog behavior is explained.

Barking is a genetic behavior that has survival advantages for wild dogs, from which pets are descended. Barking warns pack members of danger, a useful trait for pet owners. Some dogs are overly enthusiastic about protecting homes and sound off when "threatened" by a jogger, another animal, or even a car or the plumber.

Isolation is a serious problem for dogs, which are social by nature. Dogs are genetically programmed to be part of a group. We are our pet's "pack." Isolation from the pack makes dogs bored and frustrated, which leads to excessive barking.

Many dogs bark because there is a restriction to their inborn desire for freedom. Chains, fences, and runs tend to upset dogs - leading to barking. Dogs prefer staying in the house with their "pack." Animals may be "yard dogs" because of undesirable behaviors. A responsible owner corrects his/her dog's behavior for the good of their family and neighborhood.

Solutions to help dogs that bark excessively include:

- Change the dog's environment. Keep the dog indoors; the dog will be happier.



## OUR INSURANCE COMPANY IS BEGINNING TO GRUMBLE

**O**ak Meyer Gardens' pedestals have suffered a plethora of damage this past year. Both pedestals at Holmes and Rockhill were damaged in two separate hit and run incidents, and the north gateway marker at Meyer and Oak was involved in a three-car accident caused by an uninsured motorist. Finally, the south pedestal at 65th Terrace and Oak was toppled by KCMO Water Services equipment while accessing a water valve in order to make repairs. And that was only this past year!

The City paid for the damage they caused at 65th Terrace, but the HOA had to pay the insurance deductible for the other three incidents - a total of \$1,500. This is money that we could have used for improvements to our common areas. In an effort to hopefully avoid future damage to the Holmes and Rockhill markers, as part of their repair, the Board decided to remove the lowest tier of each wall that was closest to the street, the area damaged in each incident.

You can help by checking into any loud noise you hear that sounds like a possible collision with one of our stone pedestals. If you are able to, please get a vehicle description or a license number. Even if the vehicle gets away too quickly, please let us know about the damage so we can get it fixed as soon as possible. The general Board email is [hoa@oakmeyergardens.org](mailto:hoa@oakmeyergardens.org).

- Establish a leadership role with your pet. The dog will find this reassuring. Walk your dog on a leash daily.
- Go through a formal obedience program with your dog. Your veterinarian will be able to provide recommendations.
- Be consistent with discipline (time out in crate, a sharp "no").
- Do not reinforce barking with attention (positive reinforcement).

If barking persists your veterinarian may have additional advice.

— Repeated from an October 2002 Newsletter with thanks to Becky Yockey and the Rockbill Animal Clinic

### KC ORDINANCES

The general ordinance about pet-owner responsibilities says:

No person shall own or keep any animal which by making excessive noise disturbs a neighborhood. Excessive noise [is]... animal noise which is so loud, continuous or untimely as to disturb a neighbor who lives within 100 yards... (Sec. 14-30) Violations are punishable by fines of \$75-1,000, plus impoundment/boarding charges for animals picked up by an animal control officer.



## POETRY PAGE

### 'Twas the Night of the Owl

Twas the middle of lock-down, and all through Oak Meyer  
All the neighbors were stuck inside, some by the fire.  
With nothing to do except binge-watch and eat,  
Many had begun to accept the defeat.  
When out of the darkness, we heard a familiar call  
Of a tree-borne creature with eyes that see all.  
It seemed to remind us of the nature outside  
And planes and Superman and things that may glide  
We each grabbed a hoodie, maybe a leash and a dog  
And headed outside to awaken from our fog  
We waved and we smiled to our well-missed neighbors  
And gathered on the sidewalk, some with party favors  
Where we laughed and caught up, and the fine art of talk  
Our neighborhood Barred owls had reset our clock  
We spied them in our oak trees and they gave us a call  
"WHO cooks for you? WHO cooks for you all!?"

— By Brandon Scalf



### OAK MEYER GARDENS

Auspicious boughs  
Arch so faintly upward  
O'er sloping Tudor roofs  
Echoes of meows  
At the sight of chirping birds  
Offer further proof  
Of Spring's near awakening  
And new hues to take in  
School's in, school's out  
While Zoom rules (and sees) all  
Up Cherry, down Oak  
More neighbors about  
On these days liminal  
No fires to stoke  
And a clock more gentle  
Days and weeks lengthened all  
O to live in Oak Meyer Gardens  
'Tis a pride akin to a Spartan's  
For no matter time of year  
Some form o' beauty shall appear

— By Camilo Fontecilla

Would you like to submit a poem for an upcoming issue of our newsletter? All ages welcome! Please send it to [boa@oakmeyergardens.org](mailto:boa@oakmeyergardens.org)

# JOHN KILBY

## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REAL ESTATE AGENT



"MY FAMILY AND I ALSO LIVE IN OAK MEYER GARDENS, SO I HAVE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE VALUE OF THIS WONDERFUL COMMUNITY AND OUR BEAUTIFUL HOMES."



WITH HOME SALE PRICES  
AVERAGING **32% HIGHER** THAN  
OTHER KC AREA AGENTS,  
BH&G REALTORS ARE POISED  
TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE THE  
GREATEST VALUE FOR YOUR HOME

**Better  
Homes  
and Gardens®**

R E A L E S T A T E

CALL (913) 522-5618 OR EMAIL [JKILBY@KANSASCITYHOMES.COM](mailto:JKILBY@KANSASCITYHOMES.COM)

APRIL 1, THURSDAY  
City Spring Bag and Bundle  
Pickup of Yard Waste

APRIL 24, SATURDAY  
Cowtown Mini Donut  
Food Truck  
(Details on Page 6)

MAY 14, FRIDAY  
OMG Spring Bagged Leaf Pickup  
through Compost Connect

JUNE 12, SATURDAY  
Spring Dumpster Day  
8-11 AM

JUNE 26, SATURDAY  
Summer Picnic

AUGUST 14, SATURDAY  
Ice Cream Social

OCTOBER 9, SATURDAY  
Fall Dumpster Day  
8-11 AM

---

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