



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

Becca Hageman

DIRECTOR

Liza Perkins

DIRECTOR

Jed Robey

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

OUR WEBSITE

www.oakmeyergardens.org

FACEBOOK

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

INSTAGRAM

[@oakmeyergardenskc](https://www.instagram.com/oakmeyergardenskc)

EDITOR

Jon Goodman

DESIGNER

Camilo Fontecilla

The ACORN

OCTOBER 2022

NEIGHBORS

“There are no dull people. There are only untold stories.”

If you live in an urban environment, the good news and the bad news is that you have neighbors.

Sometimes, they will help shovel your snow, retrieve your package deliveries, and pay attention to potential problems on the street.

Or, they may make too much noise, park inconsiderately, have loud and rude dogs, let their grass grow too long, not keep up their property and be hostile and unfriendly.

Religious scholars tend to agree: Treat others as you wish to be treated. That is said in many ways, words and thoughts. And, in analytical religious teachings, they add: All else is commentary.

There once was a small town in Georgia, which had a sign at the city limits: “Pleasantville: 275 wonderful people. And one sorehead.”

We live in a neighborhood of nicely built and nicely kept homes. But we do lack expansive spaces and large lots. So, we are all in this together.

Which brings us to the question of neighbors and neighborliness.

1) Do you know the families (and their pets) living around you?

2) Are you aware of their well-being?

3) Have you had pleasant exchanges with them?

4) Would you be comfortable asking for a small favor? Or granting one?

5) If something untoward were happening to them: illness, calamity; distress – would you be aware and assist appropriately?

6) Do you consider yourself to be a good neighbor?

7) Do you see them as such?

8) Have you reached out to any new people who have moved in near you?

9) Have you wished well to any who have moved on?

10) If not, why?

There is an old adage: If you want a friend, be a friend.



That certainly can apply to the idea of neighborliness.

This issue of OMG takes a look at Jewish Family Services, located on East 63rd Street. It is a not-for-profit, nonsectarian social agency where one can give help – or receive it.

Take a moment and ponder on how you can be a better neighbor – then act on it.

You’ll make Mr. Rogers happy – and make things better for all of us.

Please send any “good neighbor” stories to the OMG Acorn: hoa@oakmeyergardens.org.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER: WHO IS OAK MEYER GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION?

DEAR OMG NEIGHBORS,

New Board Members bring fresh ideas and a boost of energy. This was one of the reasons behind updating the 1927 Oak Meyer Gardens Bylaws to include term limits. With that in mind, I must announce that I will be terming out as of this November, and I do have mixed feelings about it. It has been a wonderful experience of getting to meet and work with so many different Members of OMG. They have become my friends. But I have to admit, I am looking forward to a bit of a break.

I am also excited to announce that we have three new and very qualified candidates for the Board this November. Your annual ballot, mailed

in early October, should include a short introduction of each. I invite you to visit with and get to know all of your Board Members better by attending the Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 17th. (More information is elsewhere in this newsletter.) At that meeting there will also be a very important vote to update the Bylaws regarding term limits. Currently, Board Members are limited to two terms of two years each. The Board would like to increase the length of terms to allow for three, two-year terms. We believe that this would make succession planning easier.

Although I am rolling off the Board, I do plan to stick around if the new

Board will have me. We have a bit of momentum in updating and developing our HOA communications, and I would love to be a part of fleshing this out by serving on the Communications Committee. A new president will be writing this column in future newsletters, so while I still have the chance I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered in any large or small way to make Oak Meyer Gardens such a wonderful community in which to live. You all are great!

Valerie Schroer, President

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING IN NOVEMBER

Please consider attending the Oak Meyer Gardens Annual Members Meeting. It takes place Thursday, November 17th, from 7-8:30 PM in the basement of St. Peter's Church at the corner of Holmes and Meyer.

On the agenda is a Q&A session with City Councilwoman Andrea Bough. Also, Tiffany Moore, a member of the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Committee will give a short presentation on two proposed ordinances, one regarding Residential Infill Development and the other on Accessory Dwelling Units and how they both might affect our neighborhood. Besides finalizing the voting of the new OMG Board Members, there will be an important vote to



amend the Bylaws. The purpose of the vote is to expand the two-year term limit for Board Members from two to three terms. It is hoped that this will make succession planning for officers easier. Finally, there will be Committee reports for the past year.

The meeting will end with a drawing for a free year's membership. Dessert and drinks will be served.

Parking is available on the street or in the school parking lot behind the school off Charlotte. Enter through the southeast, north, or northwest doors of the

church and go down the stairs. There is also an elevator at the north entrance.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Although it wasn't a seventy-year tenure in office, our own Valerie Schroer is passing out of office as President of Oak Meyer Gardens Home Owners Association. She has been limited to two terms, as per our by-laws.

Valerie has been an active and engaged President, bringing both the discipline formed during her engineering career and her commitment to make things better for her neighbors to her time in office.

As we transition from Valerie to our most likely next HOA President, Stuart Wieland, we wanted to take the time to reflect on some of the results of her time as President.

Before she even became involved as an officer, she rewrote the HOA bylaws. The starting point was the original 1927 charter – so, as you might suspect, there was some modernization and updating needed.

Once holding the gavel, Valerie enabled strategic planning with a comprehensive mission statement and expanded the board from four to nine members, increasing the participation of residents – and lowering the distance between board and constituents. People are now more likely to know who is serving on their board.

An additional step to increasing broader participation was the establishment of standing committees: Finance, Nominating, Social Activities, Beautification, Communication, Security, and the recruiting of members to serve.

To also increase the effective communications among the residents, the board also moved website from a personal server and to a commercial one. In other communications improvements, the board also re-established The Acorn newsletter; set up an OMG Instagram account; hired a communications manager to put us on a path to keep OMG social media up to date and to get out the word on OMG services, events, community news; updated the website to include security encryption; and expanded that website to include financial documents to provide transparency and awareness of HOA financial affairs.

Valerie also made it a priority to expand and enhance the Block Captain Program. These near neighbors are responsible for keeping the word flowing to and from the residents and the board.

In a world of rising costs and rising complexities, The OMG Homes Association needed a little more funding to fulfill its mission. So, Valerie and the board led a drive to increase the dues. The residents voted to endorse this action. As a result, the HOA has the resources to provide new landscaping and regular maintenance for our more than 60 monuments and markers. We were also able to hire a professional landscaper to assist with this program.

Working with the City of Kansas City, OMG applied for and received a \$67,845 PIAC grant to rebuild the gateway monuments on either end of 63rd Terrace. These were seriously degraded and had to be reconstructed and partially relocated for safety and improved access to the street.

As President, Valerie also regularly attended neighborhood events with our City Council representatives in order to let them know who Oak Meyer Garden is and to make sure they are aware of our needs as a neighborhood. She also tried to keep the membership notified of city-sponsored events that would benefit the HOA.

Because a community works best when all participate fully and

fairly, the board under Valerie's leadership, addressed the issue of outstanding unpaid dues. This initiative reduced the amount of dues in arrears that some residents owed.

Like every other community, people come and people go. But now, when they come to OMG, they are welcomed by a community member with greetings and a gift. This is not a "big deal," but it does help ease the transition to a new home – and can get our new neighbors aware of the nature and spirit of our HOA.

During her time in office, Valerie worked to re-energize the OMG HOA to better serve the membership at a higher level. It has been a constant effort – and the community spirit seems strong.



Valerie Schroer (center) during a recent board meeting with board candidate Tyler Rognlie (in red) and board members (from left) Becca Hageman, Camilo Fontecilla, Stuart Wieland & Cheryl Burbach

GOOD NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY

One of the organizations on East 63rd Street in OMG is a branch office of Kansas City's Jewish Family Services.

This social agency provides essential human services for people facing challenges in everyday life or times of crisis – regardless of faith, age, culture or lifestyle.

If you are in need of any of these services, you can reach out to JFS through 913-327-8250 or email navigator@jfskc.org. All services are by appointment.

If you are in a position to help others, there are numerous ways that you can participate at JFS. Their online volunteer application provides greater detail: jfskc.org/volunteer/contact Volunteer Engagement at (913) 730-1410 or volunteer@jfskc.org.

But some of the ways that people can give their time, energy and abilities, include: accounting; administration; advocacy; board governance; corporate connections; craft/art; data entry; education; finance; fundraising; leadership; marketing; outreach; project management; strategic planning.



JFS Brookside operates a Food Pantry. Volunteers sort donations, stock shelves, assist clients in shopping, deliver to homebound clients and pick up donations at local grocery stores. If working in the pantry isn't for you, consider hosting a food drive through your business or organization: www.jfskc.org/food-pantry/

Assisting older adults is important at JFS. Through the JET Express Volunteer Driver Program, you can help older adults remain active and independent by taking them to the places they want and need to go including doctor's appointments, the grocery store or to meet a friend. JET Express volunteers choose the rides that fit their schedule through a convenient online system. Requirements to be a JET driver are minimal, but you must be 21, have your own vehicle and car insurance.

Another way to assist older adults is through JFS' Help@Home, an aging in place program. Volunteers help with simple chores such as hanging pictures, putting together a bookshelf, changing light bulbs, or providing computer support or home organizing.

If you have a background in law, The Attorney Referral Project is a volunteer option. The project is currently looking for attorneys with expertise in elder law, social security and disability issues to assist clients with legal matters. If you are interested in this opportunity, please volunteer@jfskc.org.

And, of course, as is the case will all nonprofit, charitable organizations, tax-deductible contributions are always welcome.

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

Thinkers of all types attempt to sort humans into categories, boxes, or buckets.

Between sociologists, psychologists, social psychologists, pollsters, demographers, journalists, politicians, and philosophers – armchair and real – there are almost as many categories as there are people.

The truth the is: no one person is just one thing.

We all have many ways to identify who we are, what we do, what we believe in and what is important to us.

It is an interesting exercise to define oneself by identification tags.

As a hypothetical example, one might think or say:

I'm a Jayhawk.

I grew up in Cleveland.

I never eat shellfish.

I was raised Baptist.

I always vote.

I never vote.

I love 70s disco music.

I can't stand opera.

You get the picture...

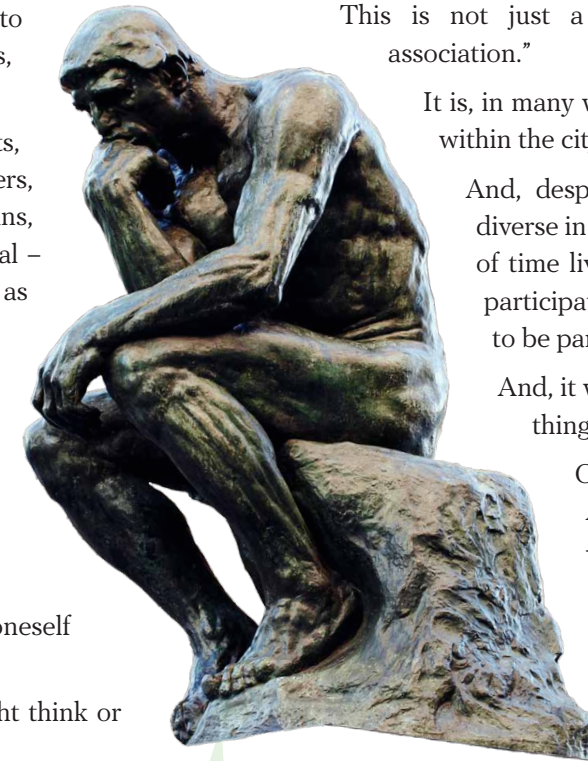
The purpose of this or any other plan to group people can fall short for a number of reasons. The main one is that not one of us is just any one identity tag or belief system. We are all the product of complex ingredients, some of which may be self-contradictory.

Yet, even in fluid times like these – where work, social activities, patterns of behavior, means of communications and just about everything else – have been subject to major disruptions – some core things hold firm.

There is one "tag" that just about every person reading this can apply to their thinking:

I live in Oak Meyer Gardens.

This "identification" isn't – or shouldn't be – just a matter of geography.



This is not just a neighborhood or a "homeowners association."

It is, in many ways, a community – or even a "town" within the city.

And, despite that fact that OMG people are diverse in many ways – age, family status, length of time living here, ethnically, etc. – we are all participating in something that we have chosen to be part of: a community.

And, it would seem, we can, and all should do things – little and larger – to make it better.

One thing is to be nice and kind. Another is to participate in activities – either on a block-wide or community wide basis.

And the final thing – and most important thing is: be pleased that you live here, encourage others in that pride – and maybe even recruit future desirable neighbors.

Watson & FRIDAY

UNIQUE ASSISTANCE

Professional Help for Life Maintenance

Time saving services to help establish and maintain a well-organized and well-managed life

- Household Accounting
- Medical Bill Auditing
- Office Organization
- General Recordkeeping and Management
- Special Arrangements

...and Much More

WATSON & FRIDAY IS BONDED AND INSURED
HOURLY FEE BASIS

Jill Adams & Jon Goodman

(816) 520-8348

watsonfriday.jill@gmail.com

buying or selling
IN OAK MEYER GARDENS?



CALL YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REALTOR®

BECCA HAGEMAN

contact cell 479.461.5007
office 816.280.2773
becca.hageman@compass.com



COMPASS REALTY GROUP  Scan me

SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL & CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT



JOHN KILBY

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REAL ESTATE AGENT



RECENTLY SOLD

Welcome to the neighborhood
Grant and Paige Naschke

"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**

REAL ESTATE

VOTING ELECTRONICALLY ON THE OAK MEYER GARDENS WEBSITE

Save a stamp! Below is a step-by-step guide on how to vote for new and renewing board members using our website.

I AM REGISTERED ON THE OAK MEYER GARDENS WEBSITE

- 1) Have your OMG account number handy, which you can find on your yearly dues invoice
- 2) Visit oakmeyergardens.org
- 3) Look for the large VOTE! orange box at right of the home page
- 4) Click on the box; if you are already registered on our website, you will be taken to the login page
- 5) Login with your website credentials; if you don't know them, please reach out to hoa@oakmeyergardens.org and we will provide them to you
- 6) After logging in, you'll be taken to the voting page, where you can follow the simple instructions

I AM NOT REGISTERED ON THE OAK MEYER GARDENS WEBSITE

- 1) Visit oakmeyergardens.org
- 2) On the menu bar, look for the Log In option at far right and click on it
- 3) On the login page, scroll down and you will find a new user registration form, which you will need to fill out
- 4) Once complete, please give us a couple of days to process your registration
- 5) Once your registration has been approved, please follow the steps on the box to the left

OMG IS ON INSTAGRAM!

Follow us on Instagram for fun neighborhood photos of our events, gatherings, board meetings, seasonal decorations, candid shots and more. Just open the Instagram app or go to Instagram.com and start following @oakmeyergardenskc.



If you have any images you'd like us to share on our page, please be sure to send them to hoa@oakmeyergardens.org!

*Your Ad
Here*

THE ACORN IS ACCEPTING ADS!

You may notice another change to the newsletter – ads. We are now including ads to help defray the cost of the newsletter. If you would like to promote your business to an educated and interesting group of people, please consider posting an ad in The Acorn. It is currently published three times a year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
hoa@oakmeyergardens.org

BLOCK CAPTAINS MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORHOODS BETTER

OMG has an active block captain program. If your block does not have a captain, you might relish the job.

In theory, the Block Captain Program is designed to keep residents connected and familiar with each other on a block-by-block basis. Under the program, a volunteer “captain” is designated for each block. The block captain maintains a directory of current contact information for each resident on the block. The intent of the program is to enable and encourage communication between neighbors, especially in the event of an emergency.

In the real world, the block captain is a messenger, a cheerleader, a social chairperson, and a friend.

Carol Cowles on Locust Street reports:

“Locust Street Block Captain Program seems to work fine. We are a joyful and cohesive two blocks. We have welcomed newcomers and new babies, helped one another through some tough times and act like the good neighbors that we are.”

Dawn Swenson, on Oak Terrace is a longtime block captain, and current “captain of the captains:”

“I really do feel like the block captain program can be a wonderful tool to communicate information quickly to the neighbors of OMG. I also feel it’s an important part of a

block captain’s job to help plan the block parties. What a wonderful way to meet new neighbors and visit with some you haven’t seen for a while.”

Meghan Freeman also provided a great deal of information:

“I serve as the Block Captain for 66th Terrace between Holmes and Cherry. I enjoy the role.

“We lived in this neighborhood years ago and loved it. When our children grew up and moved away, we were excited to return. We are older than several of our neighbors, although there are a few who are older than us. We really enjoy being supportive of the young families as we were once those families.

“We have a text group to share information. We plan gatherings together. This summer I hosted a triple baby shower for three new moms to be. Last fall we had a progressive dinner.

“We are fortunate to be a part of this unique community and we don’t take it for granted. We recognize that the way to retain a safe, stable community is to know and support the neighbors.

“Our first year here we organized a block party and invited the two adjoining block captains to join us. It was a fun event and it was valuable to extend the party beyond our block.”

BEER IN THE HOOD

BKS Artisan Ales (63rd & Holmes) was awarded a gold medal at the 2022 Great American Beer Festival (GABF) competition, presented by the Brewers Association®.

BKS Artisan Ales was recognized in the English Mild or Bitter beer-style category for its Rockhill & Locust Ale, an English Dark Mild that is mahogany in color with notes of caramelized pecan, toasted bread, figs and subtle chocolate. Rockhill & Locust was the very first beer brewed when BKS Artisan Ales opened in 2017 in the Brookside East neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri.

Rockhill & Locust English Mild Ale was also recently reviewed by Craft Beer and Brewing magazine and was given a 95/100 score by a panel of expert judges. In addition, BKS Artisan Ales was featured in the magazine as a Breakout Brewer.

This is the second year in a row the brewery has been awarded a GABF medal. In 2021, BKS Artisan Ales earned silver in the Juicy or Hazy Imperial IPA beer-style category for its Clouds Double IPA, a New England Style Double IPA .

Let’s all go by the brewery and hoist one in celebration!



CITY AND OMG LEAF AND BRUSH PICKUP DAYS

The City’s autumn leaf and brush pickup is scheduled for Thursday, December 1st. In order to try to spread out the pickups, OMG’s leaf and brush pickup day is scheduled for Friday, November 18. Items must be placed on the curb by 7:00 AM of the scheduled day. Each residence is allowed 20 items in paper bags or bundled brush, double tied with twine. There is a 50 pound limit per item. OMG has partnered with Compost Connection to provide this service to all Members. This is your dues at work.

The HOA continues to encourage people to adopt the storm drains near their homes to keep them free of brush, leaves, and grass clippings. Throughout most of Kansas City, stormwater that runs from roofs, driveways, and streets goes down the storm drains and flows through a stormwater pipe directly to a stream or river. In our neighborhood, we still have the old combined sewers – meaning that at certain points, the stormwater is combined with the sewage from our homes and travels to a wastewater treatment plant. If leaves, brush, or other trash enter the system and cause a blockage, sewage can back up into the basements of low-

lying homes. Please do your part to keep our storm drains free of debris. Be a responsible neighbor and clean the leaves, gumball seeds and brush off the street in front of your home when you rake the leaves from your yard.

ENVISIONLAWN TO OFFER TWO LEAF VACUUM DAYS

For those of you who would rather not do the backbreaking work of filling paper recycle bags full of leaves, you can hire Envision Lawn to dispose of them for you. Envision Lawn and Tree is offering two different days this year. They will come to your home and vacuum up leaves swept to the curb – Monday, November 14th and Monday, December 5th. To participate, just go to their website at envisionlawnandtree.com/oak-meyer-gardens to sign up and pay.

PIAC UPDATE

Good masons have full schedules. This is something we have learned in trying to hire a mason to rebuild the 63rd Terrace gateway monuments. In May 2021, after applying for and presenting at a hearing, Oak Meyer Gardens was chosen to receive \$67,845 in infrastructure money from the City’s Public Improvements Advisory Committee to rebuild these monuments. We earned a higher score from the Committee by committing \$10,000 of our own money towards the project. We have a very good mason on board, D&D Construction. They do a lot of work on the City’s own limestone structures, but their

busy schedule won’t allow work on our project until late autumn or early spring. We will keep you posted.

The new monuments will be very close in design to the older ones. We are keeping the look with the accents in pink granite and the historical red brick trim. The wing walls on the columns will be slightly shorter in width in order to move the columns away from the curbs. And because recasting the original historic pier caps was cost prohibitive – see the caps on Holmes and 63rd Terrace – we will replace all four with a six-inch, limestone cap with a nice wash and large acorn finials. The Beautification

Committee is excited about the design. We hope you will be too.

In the meantime, we have applied for another PIAC grant from the City’s 2023 allocation. We are requesting money to replace the sidewalks, curbs, and driveway approaches on 63rd Terrace. We know that many of OMG’s blocks need updating on their infrastructure, but 63rd Terrace is really in the worst condition, and we have found that our chances are better if we tighten our focus. We have great competition throughout the 6th District, so please keep your fingers crossed. Next year’s PIAC money is awarded in May.

NOVEMBER 3
OMG Social Gathering
at BKS Ales
5-7 PM

NOVEMBER 14
Envision Curbside
Leaf Vacuum
(requires payment)

NOVEMBER 17
Annual Meeting
St. Peter's Church
7-8:30 PM

NOVEMBER 18
OMG Curbside Leaf
and Brush Collection

DECEMBER 1
KCMO Curbside Leaf
and Brush Collection

DECEMBER 5
Envision Curbside
Leaf Vacuum
(requires payment)

Please visit
www.oakmeyergardens.org
for additional details

OCTOBER 2022
NEWSLETTER

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

