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CURIOSITY

Back in the bad old days of the Dark Ages – or before the internet took over our lives – the itch of curiosity was much more difficult to scratch.

Those of us of the Boomer set were taught to use the card catalog, encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, guides to periodical literature, magazine and newspaper articles, government documents, and numerous other collections of facts, figures, data, etc. We lived with 3x5-inch index cards to record information.

That was then. Now, just about anything you might ever want to know – for whatever reason – is available in nanoseconds through your computer or “smart device.” That makes curiosity about “stuff” much more easily pursued. As time wasters go, things such as sports statistics, obscure movie and TV information, geographic information, celebrity gossip - you name it, are probably in the top ten – maybe the all-time champ of ways to waste time.

And that is without social media black holes to fall into. One of my favorite obscure trivial web sites is the internet movie car database. (www.imcdb.org). With it, you can look up cars in movies – either by car make and model or by

movie. It even includes information on the Star Wars Land Speeder X-34 and the 1982 DeLorean DMC 12 from the Back To The Future series.

Facts, figures, specifications, old sports stats, popular culture trivia – all of these are great stimulators of curiosity. But, I think it has been found that what most people are most curious about is other people.

This issue of The Acorn is going to showcase some of our Neighbors of Note. The people featured are a small segment of the overall population of Oak Meyer Gardens – as you will see when you look at the OMG By The Numbers article, based on census data. And there is



also a short write up on how to research real estate – possibly the second greatest area of current curiosity – especially in what continues to be a robust housing market. And, we have included some suggestions about how to be politely curious when communicating with other people.

And, don’t overlook the joys of “ego surfing” – using a search engine for your own name.

Keep your eyes open and look around.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER: YOUR NEW OMG HOA PRESIDENT, STUART WIELAND

DEAR OMG NEIGHBORS,

I'm very excited to have the opportunity to serve as OMG's President for the next year, and I am fortunate to be taking over after our immediate past-President, Valerie Schroer, due to the great shape in which she has left the association. Thankfully, Valerie has agreed to remain on the Communications and Beautification committees where her continuing efforts will be well-utilized.

As for my connection to OMG, my wife Kyra and I have lived at the same address on Cherry Street since November of 1986, a whopping 36 years! We raised our two girls, Kellyn and Caroline in this house and they are now both living in Austin, Texas - Caroline with her husband Matt and daughter Palmer, and Kellyn with her prized dog, Polly. I have been an attorney in Kansas City since 1984, and in addition to having a full

time law practice, I have been the municipal prosecuting attorney for Oakview, Missouri since 1989 and the municipal judge in Claycomo, Missouri since 2003. You might wonder why a south-Kansas City attorney practices law in Clay County, Missouri. After law school, I applied for positions all around the City, and landed a job at a firm in Clay County (didn't know where Clay County was at that time) and I have remained there ever since.

We have a very energetic and engaged Board of Directors and I can't wait to see what we can do as a team for our neighborhood. I'd like to mention each of them by name and welcome you to get to know your Board: Cheryl Burbach is the current Vice President and is on the Social Activities Committee; Tyler Rognlie is the Treasurer and is the Chair

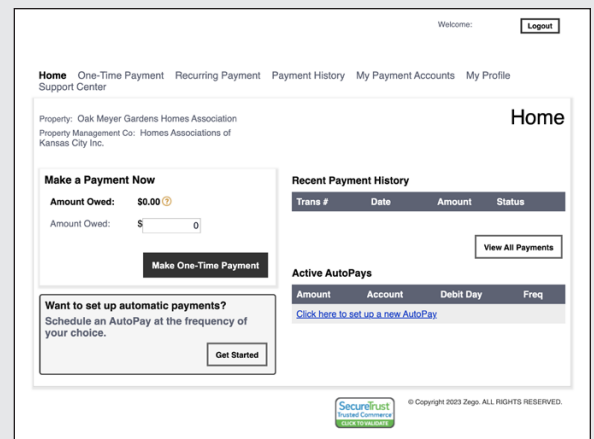
of the Finance Committee; Angela Bennett is the Secretary and is on the Security Committee; Becca Hageman, Kenzie Marshall and Liza Perkins are co-chairs of the Social Activities Committee; Camilo Fontecilla is on the Communications Committee; Jed Robey is the Chair of the Security Committee; and yours truly is the co-chair of the Beautification Committee.

This is an open call for any members of our community to apply to serve on one of our standing committees: Finance, Nominating, Social Activities, Beautification, Communications and Security. Contact any of the Board members to inquire at hoa@oakmeyergardens.org. I look forward to getting to know more of my OMG neighbors and serving as your HOA President over the coming year.

Stuart Wieland, President

IT'S EVEN EASIER TO PAY DUES ON-LINE

There is now a direct link from the home page of the Oak Meyer Gardens' website to pay one's dues on-line. Just go to www.oakmeyergardens.org and click on the green "Click Here to Pay Your Dues" button. You will need to set up an account with the service provider - PayLease - before paying. (PayLease does charge you a small fee.) Just be sure to have your Oak Meyer Gardens account number handy. You can find that in the upper right-hand corner of your annual invoice.



NEIGHBORS OF NOTE

Any community is a collection of people, bound by some common factor or factors.

In Oak Meyer Gardens, we start with geography. But, we seem to have a common sense of being bound together by some other forces. We have various forms of pride:

Pride in our own families. Pride in our collective neighborhood. Pride in our own homes and lifestyles. And, pride in those around us.

This issue features a selection of Neighbors of Note. These

are people who live among us and are of more than passing interest.

Several are new members of The OMG Homes Association Board – but their activities and enthusiasm would make them noteworthy even if they had no involvement with OMG HOA.

So, have a look at these people. And, think about others who live here who are also of great interest. And, if you think about it, let us know for future issues of OMG Acorn.

CLOSE UP ON ANTHONY LADESICH

While back Anthony Ladesich (rhymes with 'radish') was asked to provide a “verbal selfie” of fewer than 100 words. He did a superb job. However, it barely provides enough insight into his many talents and accomplishments..

Verbal Selfie:

"Husband to Morgan McBride, luckiest boy alive, dog dad to Charlie Byrd and Ellie Mae, left leaner, filmmaker, writer, director, musician, songwriter, traveler, owner of too many records and a bunch of stupid guitars, bicycle tinkerer, avid walker/urban hiker, loves nothing more than having a good solid laugh, craves conversations with strangers, gastro-tourist, keeper of sandwich secrets, knower of hidden tacos, favorite film: Raiders of the Lost Ark."

Although charming, that wasn't quite enough, so we wanted to provide you more information:

Anthony grew up in South KC, went to Center Schools, graduated from UMKC with a degree in American Studies, toured in a rock band, worked at several TV stations and production companies, and honed his craft as a video creative artist.

He established a company named: Mile Deep Films. As he explains it, “You can go a mile wide and an inch deep (which covers a lot of ground but doesn't begin to scratch the surface of what the story means) or you can go an inch wide and a mile deep.” Anthony prefers to go a mile deep to tell stories that profoundly resonate with the audience. These stories dig down to find a deeper purpose.



His work has been widely lauded: industry recognition, including multiple Emmy Awards; a prize for the best short film at the Manchester UK International Film Festival; and he has produced award winning television commercials as well.

He was the director of the Sprint TV campaign that featured the former Verizon – “can you hear me now” guy.

Other works completed include: “The Elmwood Strain”; “Two Sisters”; “Be it ever so humble, there's no place”; “The Icarus 1”; “The Secret Story of Toys”; “Studio A”; “Cowtown Ballroom, Sweet Jesus”; and “Forty Five: The Search for Soul;” the web series “LOVEsongs,” “REPO” and “Six Month Chip”; and music videos for Shiner, Pedaljets, Giants Chair, and Koney.

Among his many other current projects, he is currently working on the documentary film, “Beat Your Heart Out: The Story of The Zeros”, the new scripted podcast “Corvalo”, and the animated series “Balthazar & Snirt”.

Anthony's wife, Morgan McBride, works remotely for a large communications corporation on the West Coast as a human resources specialist. They met as teenagers, went their separate ways, and reunited – permanently – more than 25 years later.

You can see much more of the work of Anthony Ladesich on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/user3393125>

There is an especially wonderful film about our own neighbor, Académie Lafayette.

WELCOME

to everyone who chose to call Oak Meyer Gardens home in the past seven months!
Below is a list of our new neighbors.

**Courtney Burke & Douglas
Ainjard**

Arturo Babick

Andrew Tremonti

Warren & Audrey Kuhn

Stephen Gregory

Michael Danaher

**Spencer Liolios
& Richard Enlow**

Lauren Allen

**Joshua Dobken
& Diana Ossa Sierra**

**Kristen Johnson
& Timothy Doran**

Amy Gottberg

**Lucas Oehlerking
& Jenna Jantsch**

Jordan Kane

Stephanie Lynne Pierce

Michael & Angelique Mauldin

Douglas Kueker

Grant & Jillian Hodges

Andre Bonnet & Emily Thorne

Tim & Monica Blando

**Meghan Behrends
& Brian Ruiz**

Michael & Mary Bartell

James Louque & Robert Ayers

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A GREAT WAY TO LEARN THE INS AND OUTS OF THE CITY

Curious about how your Kansas City, Missouri government works? Want to learn from City staff how to improve your community? The City's Community Engagement University is a free eight-week program designed for active community residents looking to learn more about City services and how it relates to their everyday professional and personal lives. Sign-ups for the Spring 2023 series of Community Engagement University will be opening soon!

The class summary is as follows:

- Week 1: Local Government 101
- Week 2: Dollars and Sense
- Week 3: In Your Neighborhood
- Week 4: Business, Travel, and Tourism
- Week 5: Building Our City
- Week 6: Clean Communities
- Week 7: Healthy Mind, Body, and City
- Week 8: Keeping Our City Safe

Visit <https://www.kcmo.gov/programs-initiatives/community-engagement-university> for information about signing up or to learn more.

LONG ROAD LEADS TO MEYER BOULEVARD

The life of a military family involves numerous relocations. For the family of Bill and Marge Eckhardt and their two sons, it included stops in California, the Washington DC area, several locations in Germany, and Carlisle, Pa.

William "Bill" Eckhardt is a Colonel, U.S. Retired, and was a senior officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, the section of the Army concerned with military justice and military law. He had many distinguished assignments in that service, including, as a young officer, Chief Prosecutor of My Lai war crimes cases. He also served as both a prosecutor and defense counsel in Vietnam and Germany in the late 1960s.



When the family returned to the U.S. for his work at U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. he explains that he had to "Re-Americanize" his family after their life overseas.

After his thirty-year career in the Army JAG Corps, Bill retired. The family chose Kansas City and Bill became affiliated with UMKC School of Law. His work there included: Director of Urban Affairs Outreach; Clinical Professor of Law; and Teaching Professor of Law. His affiliation with the University of Missouri may have been preordained. His uncle, Willard Eckhardt, was a long-time law professor at University of Missouri (Columbia) School of Law, and also served as Dean of the Law School for eight years.

Bill Eckhardt observes that his family has been responsible for helping teach law in Missouri for well over sixty years.

When Bill began his work at UMKC Law, Marge – a professional educator – joined the team at J. A. Rogers Middle School, part of Kansas City Public Schools and

located on the east side, near Blue Valley Park.

Bill Eckhardt received his B. A. from the University of Mississippi and his law degree from University of Virginia. His family, with origins in Illinois, had relocated to Mississippi, where his father was on faculty. At the strong urging of the Dean of Ole Miss Law School, Bill went to University of Virginia, where he graduated with honors.

The Eckhardts report that their time in Kansas City has been quite pleasing. As fans of the theater and of concerts, they find the offerings here to be every bit as wonderful as what they were able to experience in both San Francisco and Washington – and far more affordable.

With his view of Meyer Boulevard, Bill sees the neighboring families as they escort their children to St. Peter's – for both school and mass. He believes that St. Peter's is a major part of the "glue" that holds the neighborhood together.

Both physically and intellectually vigorous, Bill can frequently be seen on his lengthy walks around the neighborhood, when he is not at home working on another book, reading multiple newspapers, or visiting one of Kansas City's many estate sales.



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE: LISA PELOFSKY

OMG Resident Lisa Pelofsky comes by her activism and desire to achieve in a natural way.

It originates with her entire family.

Father Joel Pelofsky has been a member of the City Council of Kansas City, Mo., a member of the Kansas City Public Schools - School Board, a practicing attorney, an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Jackson County; a Federal Bankruptcy Judge and a Trustee in bankruptcy for the Federal Government, twice appointed by the U.S. Attorney General.

Her mother, Brenda Pelofsky, has been a well-known and respected fundraising professional for more than three decades. She served as a founding board member of the Health Forward Foundation as well as numerous other non-profit boards. She established a fundraising firm that is a predecessor to Byrne Pelofsky and Associates, the organization that Lisa and Jeffrey Byrne established.

Both Jeffrey and Lisa share CEO responsibilities for the firm.



Lisa attended American University in Washington, DC and also worked on Capitol Hill as a Congressional staff member. Upon returning to her hometown of KC, she worked at UMKC.

As a fundraising professional, Lisa has created and maintained extensive connections at the local, state, and federal levels, and has built steadfast relationships with top funders.

Recent projects that she has led include: a new nursing school for Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri, a community center for Morningstar Development Corporation/Morningstar Baptist Church, numerous athletic fields for Kansas City Public Schools, Metropolitan Community College Health Science Institute, a drive-through pharmacy for Swope Health implemented during Covid, expanded housing services for Amethyst Place, Golden Valley Memorial Hospital Cancer Center, and others.

Lisa has a "hidden talent": She collects cars, and one of her most recent acquisitions was a 1984 Jeep Scrambler that features a Rosie the Riveter design.

WATCH FOR 63RD TERRACE GATEWAY MONUMENTS REBUILD

In May of 2022, Oak Meyer Gardens was chosen to receive \$67,845 in City infrastructure money specifically to rebuild the gateway monuments on either side of 63rd Terrace at Holmes and at Oak. This was after applying for and presenting before the City's Public Improvement Advisory Committee the previous year. The HOA hired D&D Construction, but the project was delayed due to their busy schedule. The work is now to begin in early April of 2023, and we are quite excited to see this large masonry improvement in Oak Meyer Gardens.

You may recall, after receiving quotes very early on, it was obvious that the condition of the existing monuments was irreparable, and the least expensive way to fix them was to rebuild them. The project's expense was beyond the HOA's budget, but after applying over several years for City funding, we finally were successful. The new monuments will be very close in design to the existing 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 crumbling, historic column caps was cost prohibitive - see the caps at Holmes and 63rd Terrace - we will replace all four with a six-inch, limestone cap that has a nice wash and a large acorn finial. We think you will be pleased with the design.

Before this work begins, Messenger's Lawn and Landscape, our maintenance contractor, will be removing the old landscaping in front of each monument. This should happen in late February or early March. And once the masonry work is completed, new landscaping will be installed.

As a final note - you may have noticed some dead or dying shrubs within some of the recently new landscaping. These plants are covered under contract. You will be happy to know that Messenger's will be replacing them in early spring.

JOHN KILBY

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BABA'S PANTRY ON 63RD STREET EARNS TOP ACCOLADES FROM NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

If you haven't breezed into Baba's Pantry yet, you're missing out according to Bon Appetit magazine's list of best new restaurants in the country. After Bon Appetit curated a "top 50" list of their favorite new restaurants back in September 2022 and Baba's made the cut, a line began to form out the front door. Everyone seeking to indulge in the velvety smooth hummus that the Bon Appetit editor found so compelling. Soon after, the list was whittled down to the top ten – with Baba's making the cut.

The colorful door front opened its doors on 63rd street in 2021, with a small menu of Palestinian-American eats and a deli counter with grab and go dips, pickled accoutrements, labneh, mazza and of course Turkish Coffee. Baba's Pantry was opened by the entire Kamal family and you'll see their Palestinian roots in the menu and throughout the entire vibe of the café.



Everything from the bright colors in the sign on the door, to the photos on the wall, to the textiles and the warm smiles behind the counters. They've kept the menu small, which is a sign of a restaurant really getting it right. In addition

to the now infamous hummus, they also serve up falafel, kebab and shawarma, as well as several salads that include a refreshing tabouli. They've got fries seasoned with their own special seasoning, delicious homemade sauces and crispy fried pita chips. And we haven't even gotten to dessert yet. Choose from Yusra's perfectly sweetened hilbah, or a classic and layered Juju's baklava. So when you go, go hungry, and

plan on grabbing some pantry items to take home with you as well – it'll be too hard to say no!

– Kala Elkinton, freelance writer for The Pitch



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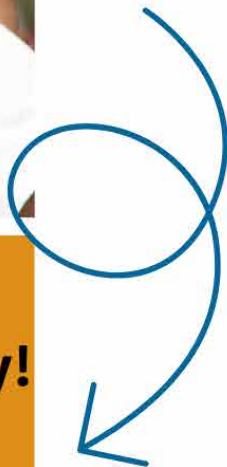


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TELL US ABOUT THE SPECIAL PETS IN YOUR LIFE

In our June issue of The Acorn, we would love to focus on the wildlife and domestic animals that live among us. With that in mind, we need your help. If you have a special pet whose story you would like to tell, please let us know more about it. Here is some information that would help us.

- Its name and age
- Family it lives with
- Street on which it lives
- A unique characteristic it has
- How it came to live with you

- Any special experience it has had
- Some of its favorite activities or food
- A digital photo of your pet

If there is a special wild creature that lives near your home, we would love to learn more about it as well.

Please email any of the above information, or something else special about your pet, along with a photo of your pet to HOA@oakmeyergardens.org. Please be sure to send the name of a person to contact in case we have additional questions.



WANTED: PEOPLE WHO REMEMBER JIMMY CARTER AND RONALD REAGAN

The OMG Board wants to find out if there is interest among residents who are “AARP Eligible”, or approximately 50 years old or older, to join together for a social evening and networking mixer.

The plan is to assemble those with certain shared life experiences – mostly Baby Boomers it would seem – to sip and chat and renew old friendships and make some new ones as well. To be clear, this is not about nostalgia

or looking backward. It is just as much about today and tomorrow.

Plans are very preliminary – but we would like to know if you’re interested. If so, please drop an email note to: hoa@oakmeyergardens.org.

If you have a specific suggestion as to where and when we might have this social event, please mention it in your note.

“GEM” FROM LOCUST STREET IS RISING OPERA PERFORMER

When Ted and Lisa Dibble moved onto Locust Street in 1997, their two-year-old daughter, Ruby, already had a strong sense of her life’s ambition: singer, especially of the operatic variety.

Now 27 years old, Ruby Dibble seems well on her way to fulfilling that dream in a big way.

Educated at Académie Lafayette and St. Teresa’s Academy, Ruby acted in The Rep’s A Christmas Carol, attended The Lyric Opera’s summer camp, and sought and found other opportunities to further her craft and ambition as a young Kansas Citian.

A mezzo-soprano, Ruby was a Lyric Opera of Kansas City/UMKC apprentice artist. She graduated from The Oberlin Conservatory of Music, at Oberlin College, a private liberal arts college in Oberlin, Ohio. It was founded in 1865 and is the second oldest conservatory and oldest continually operating conservatory in the United States.

Ruby is currently studying at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and has been selected to further her education at The Juilliard School in New York City. She will spend her summer at The Aspen

Music Festival in a new program under the direction of Renée Fleming and Patrick Summers.

That program provides a unique and premier-level opportunity for developing opera singers by combining performance with intensive individual instruction and mentorship with two of opera’s leading performing professionals.



Ruby also recently competed in the Metropolitan Opera’s District Laffont Competition which was held at UMKC. Twenty-seven singers from all over the country competed and there were three winners and two Encouragement awards. The winners move on to Regionals in Tulsa. Ruby was one of the winners. The winners

in Tulsa in February move on to the Semifinals in NYC.

In conversation, Ruby explains that being an aspiring opera singer requires total engagement. In addition to being able to sing vocally demanding roles, there is the need to be convincing as an actor. And, the body must be kept well-tuned and well-toned as well. However, too much fitness is a disadvantage.

“I can’t have six-pack abs,” she explained. “I need more flexibility to be able to fully sing. I have to be careful about diet. Acid reflux is risky for the vocal cords. I have to avoid smoky situations. Alcohol in the days leading up to a performance is also a bad idea.”

She reports she enjoys living in Center City Philadelphia near the Curtis School. Her romantic partner is also in opera, he is a dramatic tenor who also seems to be well regarded.

Parents Ted and Lisa are proud to have nurtured and supported her talent and ambition. They have frequently traveled to her performances. They both understand the artistic and creative life. Ted has been involved with Film and Television Production in Kansas City and Lisa teaches art at St. Teresa’s Academy.

RESEARCHING REAL ESTATE

There are numerous reasons to be curious about the houses you notice. You might want to move. You might have a friend looking for something. You may admire the look and style and want to know more. You may just like the house. Or, you might wonder why someone would do THAT to a piece of property. Maybe you are just plain nosy.

There are some big and basic questions about any piece of residential property:

Who owns it? How big is the lot? How big is the house? What is the assessment?

Have they had any major work done on the house? When was it built? What are the taxes?

How much is it worth? When was it sold? For how much? Is it for sale now?

What does it look like, inside or out? Who used to own it? Is there a lien – or was there one?

Are there – or have there been – any major problems?

The world of residential real estate has become less of a mystery in our time.

If you are curious about any piece of property, the questions above – and more – can be answered quite quickly and somewhat easily with just a wee bit of fundamental research. And, you don't even have to get out of your chair to do the work. It all starts with a tool called "the parcel viewer." Most political jurisdictions have such a device. For Kansas City, Mo., go to Parcel Viewer - City of Kansas City, MO - KCMO.gov and you'll get:

<https://maps.kcmo.org/apps/parcelviewer>

Enter an address or use the interactive map. Move your cursor over the property in question and click.

You will see a wealth of information.

- 1] Picture of the street view
- 2] Any "Code Cases" – like problems
- 3] Permits – construction and modification

4] Owner of record (including their address, which may be different)

5] Any other properties connected to the owner.

6] County parcel number. Click on it and it will take you to tax records, including past years. It also can unlock all the county records. It can also yield the number of bedrooms and baths, year built, size, etc.

7] Legal description.

8] Other information, that includes lot size, etc.

Entering the home address into the search engine box is likely to produce much more information to answer the questions asked above:

If it is or has recently been for sale, there are likely to be numerous pictures. There will be estimates of current value. There might be comparable homes – either currently or recently on sale.

Going to Jackson County property records starts here: <https://aumentumweb.jacksonsongov.org/>

If you have a name, a parcel number, a street address, the legal description of a

property, you can find out just about anything and everything. This would include any liens or encumbrances, dates of sales and parties involved, tax status, etc.

For Johnson County parcel viewer: <https://maps.jocogov.org/ims/>. For Jackson County: <https://jcgis.jacksonsongov.org/parcelviewer>

You can look up a property as it appeared in 1940: Based on the subdivision block and lot info that was found from the Parcel Viewer, they can also find the historical photos!

<https://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/kcpltax>

This short examination is merely the beginning of what you may wish to know – and can find out about any residential real estate in Jackson County, Mo. Other jurisdictions, including Johnson County, KS. Are very similar.

Good luck hunting.



OMG: BY THE NUMBERS

Mid-America Regional Council provided this information. The data is from the American Community Survey 2016-2020 5-year estimates, which is the latest and greatest data they have access to.

Total Population	1,518	Median Gross Rent	\$1,568
Males	55%	Estimated vehicle count	1,152
Females	45%	Bachelor's degree or higher	770
Housing Units	628	Per Capita Income	\$43,975
Owner occupied	71%	Median Household Income	\$51,154
Single Family Detached	83%	WORK FORCE	
Median Value	\$259,400	Management, business, science, and arts occupations	411
Median Year Built	1949	Service occupations	73
1970 to 1979	13%	Sales and office occupations	193
1960 to 1969	15%	Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	29
1950 to 1959	18%	Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	88
1940 to 1949	22%		
1939 or earlier	31%		

MAKING FRIENDS

There is an old saying: “To make a friend, be a friend.” There is a thin line between self-esteem and egotism, but most people believe that they themselves are incredibly interesting. So, upon meeting someone new, it is a good idea to be politely inquisitive. There is a balance between curiosity and nosiness – and it is sometimes hard to know where that line actually lies.

Here are some gentle suggestions about lines of inquiry. However, there needs to be an awareness of the tone and sensitivity of the dialogue.

Rule # 1: Listen. Pay attention. If you ask a question, listen to the answer and work hard to remember what you are being told.

Rule # 2: Sauce for the goose... Don't ask any question that you would be hesitant to answer yourself.

Rule # 3: It should be a dialogue, not an interrogation. One reason to ask questions is to search for common ground. So, be ready to respond to those answers that reflect on your own background.

Rule #4: Be thinking about how the conversation is unfolding. As you both become more comfortable,

questions that might be considered more “personal” may become valid topics of conversation.

Rule #5: Try to stay away from topics that might induce mild paranoia – like potential answers to online security questions.

Rule #6: Remember context. Your old friend from the “wild days” may be your new friend's Sunday school teacher, attorney, investment adviser, or in-law. Go slow.

Some other suggestions: you can always play the alternatives game: Tiger or Jayhawk? Dogs or cats? Beer or wine? Single or in a relationship? Sean Connery as James Bond or Daniel Craig?

And then there's “who do you know?”

In Kansas City, it is easy to find some points of commonality. And that is always a good start when meeting new people – and determining whether you might become friends.

REGISTER NOW FOR A FREE TREE

One of the characteristics that brings great value to Oak Meyer Gardens is the mature tree canopy that we live under. But trees only live so long, are damaged and removed after storms, or die due to disease, leaving gaps in the shade along our streets. Because of this, the HOA Board has decided to focus this year on encouraging the planting of new trees in the city street right-of-ways.

Oak Meyer Gardens will be collaborating with Heartland Tree Alliance, a program of Bridging the Gap, to provide FREE trees along our neighborhood streets! Bridging the Gap is a prominent, nonprofit organization in the Kansas City region that works to make our area sustainable by connecting the environment, economy and community.

Many of the original trees planted in the early development of our neighborhood have buckled our sidewalks or left refuse in the form of gum balls that are the bane of our walkers. Heartland Tree Alliance partners with the KC Parks and Recreation Department and works very hard to fit the right tree to the right sized green space in order to prevent future damage. They will help you choose the appropriate tree. Trees are planted in the City street right-of-way (ROW); generally this is between the curb and sidewalk, or about the first 12 feet back from the street if there is no sidewalk. There is no cost to you - except for water! Heartland Tree Alliance will provide and plant the tree, provide mulch and install a watering bag! This is a minimum value of \$400. (Watering is recommended once a week with 20 gallons.)



Trees provide significant economic and environmental benefits to our homes and families. Some of those listed on the Bridging the Gap website are the following:

- The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
- Annual energy benefits of KCMO street trees are 9,438,300 therms of natural gas saved/year due to the trees reducing heating and cooling demand for buildings. This covers the annual natural gas usage of about 13,500 homes.
- A single tree can soak up 48 pounds of carbon dioxide in a year and produce enough oxygen to sustain two people.

- The planting of trees means less runoff and erosion, resulting in improved water quality. This allows more recharging of the groundwater supply. In KCMO alone, an estimated 605,702,000 gallons per year of rainfall are intercepted by street trees

IMPORTANT: There is a deadline to arrange for planting during this spring's growing season.

Heartland Alliance will need your commitment by March. You can learn more or request a tree now by going to their website at <https://bridgingthegap.org/heartland-tree-alliance/treesforkcmo/> and filling out their on-line tree reservation form, or by e-mailing them at trees@bridgingthegap.org. They may be telephoned at 816-561-1086.

SATURDAY APRIL 15

Donut Day
On Cherry St.
South of Rockhill
9–11 AM

SATURDAY MAY 20

OMG's Spring
Dumpster Day
8–11 AM

DATE TBA

KCMO's Spring Curbside
Leaf and Brush Pickup

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21

OMG's Fall
Dumpster Day
8–11 AM

Please visit
www.oakmeyergardens.org
for additional details

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2023

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

