



A MEMBER OF THE HOMES ASSOCIATIONS OF KANSAS CITY

## OMG BOARD

**PRESIDENT**

Stuart Wieland

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Cheryl Burbach

**TREASURER**

Tyler Rognlie

**SECRETARY**

Angela Bennett

**DIRECTOR**

Camilo Fontecilla

**DIRECTOR**

Liza Perkins

**DIRECTOR**

McKenzie Marshall

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/>

**INSTAGRAM**

@oakmeyergardenskc

**EDITORS**

Jon Goodman

**DESIGNER**

Camilo Fontecilla

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Valerie Schroer  
Jon Goodman

# The ACORN

JUNE 2023

## SUMMER IS HERE!

The summer solstice, June 21, 2023 marks the beginning of summer and is the longest day of the year. In Kansas City, our daylight will last 14 hours 55 minutes and 8 seconds. Sunset will be at 8:47 PM CDT.

Summer brings with it some very happy times: school vacations, family outings and vacation trips; outdoor parties and patio/deck barbecues; swimming pools; boating; fishing; and many other joys.

Some thoughts:

With more life lived outdoors, summer evenings are a time to be especially considerate of your neighbors. Limit late night noise. Be conscious of parking congestion caused by visitors. Let your neighbors know in advance if you are planning a large party. Keep your lawn and garden in good shape, but keep in mind garden power tools can be noisy. Be considerate of how early or late in the day you use them.

Since more people will be spending more time out of doors, it is nice to be particularly friendly to those you encounter.

The city parks provide multiple opportunities for picnicking. Although there are no parks within OMG, we are close to several great locations: Arbor

Villa (Edgevale and Main); Holmes Park (69th and Holmes); Tower Park (75th and Holmes); Loose Park (51st to 55th and Wornall); Sunnyside Park (84th and Summit); and of course, Swope Park and the Jackson County Parks. You might need to obtain a permit or reservation – and, of course, leave them

spotless when you are through, please.

Maybe the best part of summer evenings is the joy of ice cream or other frozen desserts. We are especially blessed in that respect:



**Foo's Fabulous Frozen Custard**  
6235 Brookside Plaza

**Baskin Robbins** 101 West 63rd Street

**Betty Rae's Ice Cream** 7140 Wornall (newly purchased by Shatto Dairy)

**Andy's Frozen Custard** 7858 Wornall

**French Custard** 5905 Main – newly opened

**Front Range** Oak at Gregory

And, of course, various frozen treats at the local convenience stores and supermarkets.

So, Happy Summertime. Enjoy it with great enthusiasm and energy. We'll be complaining about the cold weather before you know it.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER: FROM YOUR OMG HOA PRESIDENT, STUART WIELAND

DEAR OMG NEIGHBORS,

There is a lot going on in the neighborhood, so allow me to pass along some of the things your OMG Board and Committees have been diligently working on.

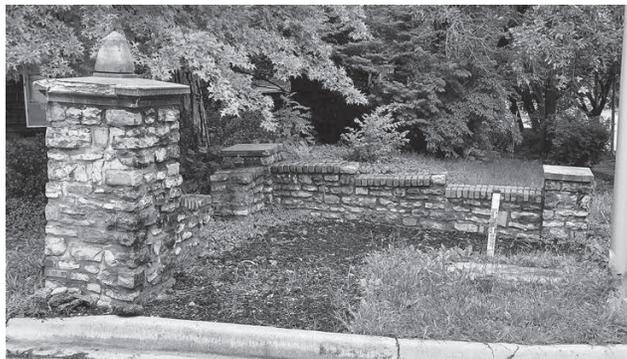
The PIAC (Public Improvement Advisory Committee) award: As you all know, we were awarded funds from Kansas City to remove the old monuments and create beautiful new monuments at each end of 63rd Terrace (at Oak and Holmes). Work is scheduled to begin any day now and will continue through the month of June. Please take the time to check out the progress. The new monuments will include our new "trademark" acorn finials to cap them off; we believe it will be a significant upgrade for OMG and well worth the wait when we have the improvements completed. Due to a construction delay, we have decided to postpone the landscaping improvements at the base of these monuments to mid-September. We will be getting into the hot summer days soon and watering would become prohibitively expensive to keep the new plantings alive.

Unfortunately, our PIAC request for this year's City Budget was turned down due to cost. We had requested new sidewalks, curbs and driveway approaches for 63rd Terrace between Oak and Holmes. Construction costs were estimated to be \$754,000, which would have been a sizable percentage of our District's entire PIAC allotment. The Board will continue to pursue this project through other avenues.

The Beautification Committee recently replaced 17 dead or dying

boxwood shrubs within our monument areas and planted summer annuals in 6 urns throughout the neighborhood. Additionally, Bridging the Gap, an organization that is dedicated to renewing our city's dwindling tree canopy, has planted almost 80 trees in OMG and nearby Armour Hills. If you would like to have a free tree planted along your street this autumn, please contact them. Learn more at: <https://bridgingthegap.org/>

The Social Activities Committee has been busy with activities that bring



us together for fun and neighborly socialization. The donut truck was a huge hit as it doled out hundreds of mini donuts at Cherry and Rockhill on the morning of April 15. Dumpster day was, as it always is, a strong draw for the OMG community, and we have three full dumpsters to prove it. An OMG trivia night is in the works, so stay tuned for more information on how you can show off all that knowledge that you've acquired. The Ice Cream Social and Annual Cornhole tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 16 from 2-4 p.m. and has enjoyed huge participation in our neighborhood for the past few years. We scheduled it in September this year so hopefully it will be cooler

than in years past. Come out and win some cash. There are prizes awarded for first, second and third place finishes, and, of course, free ice cream to enjoy for all.

The Communications Committee has put together another informative issue of the Acorn, and they are hard at work making our OMG website and Facebook page full of great content and graphics. Be sure to sign up for the website at [www.oakmeyergardens.org](http://www.oakmeyergardens.org). You will automatically receive a monthly digital newsletter to help keep you up to date on all things OMG.

Finally, it is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Security Committee Chairman, Jed Robey, who has served OMG for the past two years in that capacity. While sad to lose a great Board member and his delightful wife Sara, we are happy to see Jed and Sara moving forward in

their lives for Jed's new position in Denver, CO as a firefighter. We wish them the very best in their new city. We have openings on the Security Committee and Board. If anyone reading this is interested in becoming a member, please contact me at: [swieland@oakmeyergardens.org](mailto:swieland@oakmeyergardens.org).

We as a Board continue to strive to make our neighborhood beautiful, friendly, safe and a wonderful place to live. We are always interested in hearing your feedback at [hoa@oakmeyergardens.org](mailto:hoa@oakmeyergardens.org).

Stuart Wieland, President

# MEET OUR BOARD: ANGELA BENNETT

Newly installed OMG Board Member Angela M. Bennett has been a neighborhood resident for 27 years.

As an OMG Board Member, she is interested in preserving the integrity of the neighborhood, ensuring the security and beautification of OMG, and furthering communications within our community. This is just the most recent accomplishment for her. She has had a life of involvement, activism, community engagement, and leadership.

Angela graduated from UMKC with two Bachelor of Arts degrees: political science and in radio, TV and film. She also earned a Juris Doctor (law degree) from UMKC in 1977.

In 2006, Angela was unanimously elected Board President of The University of Missouri Board of Curators. She previously served as Board Vice-President. Appointed to the University of Missouri Board of Curators in 2001 by Gov. Bob Holden, as Board Vice-President, she was Chair of the Executive Committee and a member of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. She has served on the Missouri Bar Association's Board of Governors; as President of the UMKC Alumni Association; and the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. Some of her other Board tenures include: Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey; Starlight Theatre; Girl Scouts; and MOCSA.

She is the proud grandmother of 3-year-old Elliott who

is the child of her son Jon B.C. Gray and daughter-in-law Hailey M. Gray.

Angela is a retired attorney and previously worked as the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Region VII and "Of Counsel" in the law firm of Lathrop & Gage, LLC. Prior to her position as Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, Kansas City Office, Curator Bennett was employed by the Kansas City law firm Lathrop & Gage LLC. for seven years.

Other posts she has held include: Assistant District Counsel and Chief Environmental Attorney, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City, MO.; Assistant Attorney General for the state of Missouri; Assistant County Counselor for Jackson County, Missouri; and Complaint Officer, Human Relations and Citizens Complaints, for Jackson County.

Angela Bennett is a member of the UMKC Trustees, the Missouri Bar Association, the Jackson County Bar Association and the Association for Women Lawyers of

Greater Kansas City. She also is active in a variety of civic organizations as well as the Centennial United Methodist Church.

She has also received numerous honors, including the UMKC Alumni Service Award and the Mid-Continent Council of Girl Scouts' Woman of Achievement Award. She also received the Service Award from the UM-Kansas City Law Foundation.



## TREE PLANTING PARTNERSHIP A GREAT SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent tree planting partnership. The program was a tremendous success! Our previous newsletter indicated that Oak Meyer Gardens was partnering with Bridging the Gap's organization, Heartland Tree Alliance, to provide and plant free trees within the City's street easements. All one had to do was promise to water them. In total, Heartland Tree Alliance planted nearly 80 new trees in our neighborhood and the immediate surrounding area!! This increase in the tree canopy will only add more value and beauty to our neighborhood. If you missed the spring sign up, you can still sign up for the fall planting! Visit [bridgingthegap.org/heartland-tree-alliance/treesforkcmo](http://bridgingthegap.org/heartland-tree-alliance/treesforkcmo)



# ÉIRINN GO BRÁCH, AND SLÁINTE

**K**ansas City is kind of an Irish town. According to the Irish Center, 250,000 people in the Kansas City area claim Irish heritage. This is the second largest ethnic component in our area.

Of course, there are people who are Irish – as in Irish-Americans and people who are Irish – as in born and bred.

Shaun Brady, one of the two principals of Brady & Fox - Kansas City Irish Restaurant & Lounge, at the corner of East 63rd Street and Rockhill Road is a full-scale Irishman, as well as a talented chef and restaurateur.

great potables; friendly service by trained staff, and the occasional music event on the first, third and fifth Saturdays of any month. (Check the schedule.)

The great potables include a properly pulled pint of Guinness Stout (there is an art to it); an inspiring collection of Irish whiskey brands – in all ages and styles; and other beers, wines, and spirits.

The kitchen's output shows a clear loyalty to the best of Irish cuisine: hearty pies of meat and vegetables; fish and chips; bangers and mash; and the like. But the Kansas City



*Graham Fox & Shaun Brady in their restaurant*

Brady was born in The Republic of Ireland in County Tipperary. He actually has a painting of the family home on the wall of the establishment.

Ending up in the U.S. and in the food business, Brady worked at Ambassador Hotel, Brady's Public House and Conroy's. Along the way, he met Graham "Fox" Farris, who grew up in Olathe, and they have worked together for a decade.

Opening their latest place in March 2022, they are working to bring the best tastes of authentic Irish cuisine to Kansas city.

Brady & Fox is not merely a restaurant. It has the best aspects of a true Irish Public House about it: good food;

connection can also be seen. They offer KC IRISH MAN, which the menu describes as "Our play on KC BBQ Burnt Ends." It uses corned beef.

The best tradition of Irish hospitality is summed up in the classic Gaelic phrase *Céad Mile Fáilte*, which means "one hundred thousand welcomes." In a well run hostelry like Brady & Fox it refers to the people who will provide you with sustenance as well as the other guests, who on most days, will share in the conviviality.

If you stop by this local gem, you will most likely meet Shaun, Fox, and Shaun's young son Seamus, who frequently helps out around the place and is a bit of a charmer – like his dad.

# MEET OUR BOARD: MCKENZIE “KENZIE” MARSHALL

**K**enzie lives on Cherry Street with her fiancé. She has lived in the neighborhood for three years. Her fiancé, Jen Essel, became a resident of Oak Meyer Gardens in 2008.

Kenzie (at right in photo) is a born and raised Nebraska Husker. She grew up in Kearney, NE and graduated from University of Nebraska – Lincoln and moved to Kansas City when she had the opportunity to transfer with the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Kenzie works as a Senior Development Manager for ACS and plans fundraising events with local high school students. She enjoys working with students, seeing them improve their leadership skills, and helping them make a difference in the fight against cancer. She has worked for ACS for more than 8 years.

Newly elected to the OMG Board, Kenzie is interested in helping with neighborhood events to connect community members with one another. She also looks forward to assisting with the beautification of our historic neighborhood.

In her free time, she enjoys playing pickleball, trying new



## WELCOME

to everyone who chose to call Oak Meyer Gardens home in the past seven months!

Below is a list of our new neighbors.

**Ashley Altman and  
Ryan Lempka**

**Anthony Barillo and  
Jesse Mackenzie**

**Neil Miller and  
Sarah Soden**

**Jake and  
Mikaela Gaston**

**Eric and Shelby Doyle**

**Humberto Martinez**

board games, and spending time with her little sister from the Big Brother Big Sister program. She's an Oktoberfest enthusiast and looks forward to hosting her own backyard Oktoberfest each year. The things she loves most in life are her family, friends, and being outside.

Together, Kenzie and Jen have a dog, Ellie, and a cat, Dexter. Aside from spending time with their beloved animals, Kenzie and Jen also like to attend KC Current soccer games, love to travel, enjoy spending time with their nieces and nephews, and are busy planning their wedding that's in September.

You can usually find Kenzie in their backyard playing fetch with Ellie or around the neighborhood on her Vespa. Friends often describe her as easygoing, funny, thoughtful, and good at board games.

## MILLIE & CHARLIE

Scott and I took some time for our hearts to heal after losing our last dog (Dagwood) passed away. On December 26, 2020, on a whim, I decided I was ready to just look and we came across a dog that had just come in as a stray. We placed an early bird hold on her and then came home to prepare the house for a dog again. The Millie we took home was extremely shy, fearful, scared and emaciated. She did not have an easy start to life. It took months of rehabilitation, training, patience and unconditional love for her to become the dog she is today. She is fat, happy, silly, loyal, playful and sweet. She still takes a little while to warm up to humans but she has come leaps and bounds from the beginning and we are very proud parents. Millie brings so much joy into our lives. Her zest for life makes it



impossible to have a bad day. She reminds me to wake up appreciating each day, take the opportunity for a walk, take a nap, and remain loyal to those you love.

Charlie is our miracle cat we adopted 7 years ago after losing my beloved cat of 22 years! Charlie was diagnosed with the deadly FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis) last summer. We opted for an experimental treatment that required 3 months of painful injections but we are 5 months post treatment and he is considered cured at this point! Charlie is 7 years old and my silly and playful monkey! Charlie and



Millie love to play together and are often chasing each other around the house. I'm so grateful to have more time with my kitty!

– Kaye Ness & Scott Troyer

## LOUIE THE GINGER CAT

Our ginger cat – Louie – is about 18 years old. This is an estimate since he was a stray. The vet's guess at that time was 2-3 years old. He lives on 64th Terrace with Valerie Schroer and Michael Brock. He was part of a bad gang that included two other male ferals. While those two were very wild, he was a lover boy, so sadly, may have been dumped or turned out. (Don't ever turn out of cat; they usually die within two years from disease or accidents.) The bad boys went to live on a farm in Lawrence, while we continued to feed Louie outdoors. We assumed he came from a cat colony on 63rd Terrace. We had heard that a person there was getting the cats neutered and

vetted. His ear was tipped, indicating he had already been neutered. Because he exhibited quite the alpha male dominance to our two existing females,



we continued to care for him outdoors – that is until we found him barely able to walk one day. We think he had been

kicked by a former neighbor who was afraid of cats. The ER vet diagnosed a broken pelvic bone, and Louie became mostly an indoor cat. Louie is very doglike in his personality and loves to be around people. He visits the neighbors and begs treats from them. In his day, he was quite the squirrel hunter. He would hide behind the backside of a tree when a squirrel was descending, and then grab it once it hit the grass. He is too slow to hunt now, but he still loves to lie in the sun outdoors. He uses his scratching post often since he knows we'll give him a brisk backrub each time he uses it. He has us well trained.

– Valerie Schroer

# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES UPDATES

## DONUT AND COFFEE SOCIAL

The HOA board hosted a donut and coffee social on April 15th. Over 80 households stopped by, enjoyed free donuts, and socialized with fellow neighbors. HOA Social activities are a great way to get to know more OMG residents and we hope to see you at our next event.

## DUMPSTER DAY

The spring dumpster day was a huge success with over 128 households participating. New this year, residents could conveniently donate items to Goodwill as they dropped off their yard waste and garbage. A special thank you to OMG resident, Susan Miller, for organizing the Goodwill donation truck. Mark your calendars for the Fall Dumpster Day; Saturday, October 14th, 9 AM – Noon. Please take note of the new time! This change was made by the city.

## CORNHOLE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, September 16th | 2 – 4 PM

Location TBD

## OAK MEYER GARDENS TRIVIA NIGHT

This fun upcoming event is in the works. Keep an eye out on the OMG Social Media for upcoming details.

## HOA VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in getting more involved with the HOA? Follow the QR code below, complete the interest form and a board member will contact you about future opportunities.



*Dumpster Day volunteers L to R: Kenzie Marshall, Jed Robey, Michael Brock, Tyler Rognlie and Camilo Fontecilla*

# SPRING PHOTO ALBUM





Cheryl BURBACH

### About Cheryl

- Partner at Hovey Williams LLP
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*<sup>®</sup> for 2023 and named "Lawyer of the Year" in Copyright and Trademark Law for Overland Park, Kansas

OAK MEYER GARDENS  
RESIDENT

Hovey Williams  
Intellectual Property Law

TRADEMARK PROSECUTION, LICENSING, LITIGATION

10801 Mastin Boulevard, Suite 1000  
Building 84 Corporate Woods  
Overland Park, Kansas 66210  
913.647.9050 | Direct 913.232.5037  
www.hoveywilliams.com

H&W *Where Ingenuity Thrives*<sup>®</sup>

# JOHN KILBY

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
REAL ESTATE AGENT



**UNDER CONTRACT!**

"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



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

## A DOG NAMED BLUE

**B**lue is a Silky Terrier mix, about 11 years old. He was adopted through the Silky Terrier Rescue website. He holds court at Oak Terrace. His servants are Jon and Jill.

Blue had been fostered a Silky enthusiast for about a year, with up to ten other dogs, near Columbia, SC. When we were ready for a new dog, it took only seconds on the website to fall head over heels for him.

The karmic kismet was enhanced by the fact that we were planning to travel through that area on a trip to the sea shore – and a personal connection to South Carolina.

When we met him in South Carolina, we took him to our vacation rental on Topsail Island, NC. He immediately loved the beach. Two weeks later, he had to endure a two-plus day drive to get back to KC. But he has returned to Topsail (by car) every year since. It is his favorite place, too.

Blue never passes an opportunity to begin a dog walk and is also reluctant to conclude one. He has a series of set itineraries around the extended neighborhood that he follows on a non negotiable logic known only to himself. So, of course we humor him.

– Jon Goodman



## SALLY THE RESCUE DOG

**S**ally lives at 6814 Rockhill Road with her human sister Claire, cat sister Olive, and parents Hannah & Joel. She is about 9 years old.

Sally spent the first year of her life on the streets of Tijuana, Mexico, where she ended up in a kill shelter. A wonderful rescue in Portland, Oregon, saved her life and brought her to Portland to be adopted. We lived in Portland at the time and it was love at first sight when we met sweet Sally. She was very underweight, scared and missing hair from an apparent burn, but she quickly warmed up and became a member of our family who never causes any trouble!

A recent DNA test showed that Sally is:

- 17% Pit Bull Terrier
- 17% German Shepherd
- 14% Dalmatian
- 9% Boxer
- 5% Doberman Pinscher
- (and 12 more breeds!)

Sally is the best big dog sister we could ever ask for and plays so gently with her crazy human toddler sister. Sally enjoys being outside and you may often find her chillin' in the front yard on a nice day. Please don't hesitate to give her pets! She is the sweetest girl you'll ever meet and loves a belly rub.

– Hannah Steinkamp

# MEET OUR BOARD: TYLER ROGNLIE

**T**yler Rognlie grew up in Topeka, Kansas, studied economics at KU in Lawrence, then headed straight to Kansas City to make his way in life. He says he knew that there would be more here: more excitement, more opportunity, more of what he was looking for in life. Tyler, a new Board Member and Treasurer of the OMG Homes Association, was spot on in his thinking.

He tells about a “meet cute” encounter with a woman at a dog park near Union Station. The dogs got along, and so did Tyler and Desiree.

At this point, they have lived in Oak Meyer Gardens for seven years, on Rockhill with their 2-year-old son, Peter. The entire family can often be found strolling around the neighborhood and frequenting nearby breweries and restaurants.

Tyler is the Director of Property Tax Compliance for a global tax consulting firm. He works remotely for their Scottsdale, AZ office.

Desiree grew up around Lebanon, IL, before later moving to The Lake of The Ozarks, when her father took a job at the Tan-Tar-A resort there. She is currently the Assistant Director of The Professional and Career Development Center in UMKC’s School of Law. She previously had worked as an academic advisor at UMKC and worked in similar areas at Drury University in Springfield, where she earned both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree.

Peter is also a UMKC Roo, attending the Berkley Center on the UMKC campus.

Tyler talks with great enthusiasm about OMG. He recognizes the strong sense of community – not just near neighbors – but in a broader sense as well.

Although he does report that the people nearest to their home have become very special friends and are regarded as their “chosen family.” In the summertime, they enjoy the amenities of the “Rockhill Resort” at neighbor Karlene Witt’s house. They share holiday events, have progressive dinners, and frequently share and enjoy each other’s company.

This includes his next-door neighbor with whom he has frequent “discussions”, as they find themselves on opposing sides of a number of life’s questions. Even their ideological differences, Tyler explains, don’t spoil the friendship – it just adds a little spice to the food for thought they offer one another.

As a Board Member of OMG, he is striving to make a positive impact on the neighborhood, advocating for efforts and amenities that will ensure OMG’s legacy as a desirable place to live. Tyler is working to ensure that the HOA continues to deliver amenities and programs through efficiently spent funds. He is actively working on an initiative to aid with replenishing the tree canopy in the neighborhood as our canopy continues to

age. More on that initiative will be communicated in the coming weeks.



## #9PMROUTINE Lock up. Make it a habit.

- Remove valuables from vehicles
- Lock vehicle doors
- Close & lock all exterior doors
- Turn on exterior light



# FOR THE KIDS: SUMMER MAD LIBS

Once upon a time in the Oak Meyer Gardens neighborhood of Kansas City, it was a bright and sunny summer day. The kids in the neighborhood were excited to embark on a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ adventure. They decided to start their day at the local \_\_\_\_\_, which was surrounded by beautiful \_\_\_\_\_.

As they arrived at the \_\_\_\_\_, they noticed a \_\_\_\_\_ playing near the \_\_\_\_\_. The kids were amazed by its graceful movements and \_\_\_\_\_ feathers. They named it \_\_\_\_\_ and followed it as it led them to a hidden \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the garden.

Inside the \_\_\_\_\_, they discovered a magical \_\_\_\_\_ that granted them three wishes. The first wish was to have an endless supply of \_\_\_\_\_. As soon as they made the wish, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ truck magically appeared, offering all their favorite flavors.

For their second wish, the kids wished for a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ water slide that twisted and turned through the \_\_\_\_\_. Instantly, the \_\_\_\_\_ transformed into a water wonderland, with a \_\_\_\_\_ slide that seemed to go on forever. They spent \_\_\_\_\_ hours sliding and splashing, \_\_\_\_\_ and having the time of their lives.

With their final wish, they asked for a \_\_\_\_\_ hunt. The \_\_\_\_\_ were said to be hidden somewhere in the \_\_\_\_\_. The kids followed the clues and searched high and low until they discovered a chest filled with \_\_\_\_\_.

Exhausted but content, the kids returned home, carrying their newfound treasures and memories of an unforgettable summer day in Oak Meyer Gardens. They couldn't wait to share their adventure with \_\_\_\_\_, eagerly anticipating the next exciting summer escapade in their beloved neighborhood.

## *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

# WILY (NOT WILE E.) COYOTES

**F**orget everything you've learned from Road Runner cartoons about the coyote (*Canis latrans*) a species of canine native to North America. It is smaller than its close relative, the wolf, and way more intelligent and resourceful than the cartoon character would have you believe.

The coyote has a widespread habitat in North America and that has grown to include urban and suburban areas, including our own. For this reason, the presence of the coyote can present a potential problem.

They are not usually threatening, but they are not totally without unpleasant consequences for man and beast.

"A lot of people don't like coyotes. They've got a negative connotation," said Joe DeBold, a wildlife biologist at the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Coyotes usually don't try to harm humans, and DeBold said coyote spotters should feel grateful. According to DeBold "the coyote is the Einstein of the wildlife community. They're one of the smartest animals you have across the landscape. They're very keen and they're very sly." Still, you should take precautions to avoid unnecessary run-ins. Most coyotes avoid humans, but some have habituated to urban life and won't mind your company.'

Hungry coyotes should have ample prey in our area: rabbits and other small mammals and rodents make nice meals for them. As to humans, they are more afraid of us than we are of them.

Coyotes will only attack if they feel threatened or trapped, if they're protecting their young or if they're diseased. If you see a coyote, continue acting normally and make sure it's keeping its distance. Don't run off. DeBold says "You should show no fear because we're already bigger than them. Even the smallest person is bigger than a coyote."



Small dogs and cats, however, should be considered at risk. There are some simple strategies to mitigate that risk:

Coyotes may try to attack cats and small dogs, particularly from January to March when prey are scarce.

Kansas State's Juju Wellmeyer says that coyotes don't associate a cat with a cat. All they know is that it's not much bigger or the same size as a rabbit. They cannot reason in their mind that this is a cat, this is a dog,

this is a rabbit. They're just seeing it as the size of the animal they're eating. To reduce food attractants in urban and suburban areas:

Never hand-feed or otherwise deliberately feed a coyote.

Avoid feeding pets outside. Remove sources of pet food and water. If feeding pets outside is necessary, remove the bowl and any leftover food promptly.

Never compost any meat or dairy (unless the compost is fully secured).

Maintain good housekeeping, such as regularly raking areas around bird feeders, to help discourage coyote activity near residences.

Remove fallen fruit from the ground.

Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids. Only place the cans curbside the morning of collection. If you leave trash cans out overnight, they are more likely to be tipped over and broken into.

Bag especially attractive food wastes such as meat scraps or leftover pet food. If it is several days before garbage will be picked up, freeze the food temporarily or take it to a dumpster or other secure storage container.

In dry conditions, water can be as alluring as food, so remove water bowls set outside for pets and make watering cans unavailable. Wellmeyer recommends keeping cats inside and not letting dogs out unattended, especially in the evening.

Cats can be at risk. Coyotes primarily eat small mammals such as mice and rats, but will also prey on slightly

# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH COYOTES

larger mammals such as rabbits and groundhogs. Approximately the same size as a groundhog or rabbit, free-roaming outdoor cats may also be seen as eligible prey items by coyotes. It is important to note that attacks on cats are normal coyote behavior and do not indicate a danger for people.

The only way to protect cats from coyotes (and the other dangers of outdoor life such as cars, disease, dogs and other wildlife) is to keep cats indoors (or only let them outside in a secure enclosure or when accompanied by a person and under the control of a leash and harness).

People who feed feral cats are often concerned that coyotes might prey on the cats. These concerns are well founded, as coyotes will be attracted to both the outdoor pet food and the cats themselves as prey. Although there is no sure way to protect feral cats from coyotes, the following tips can be helpful: Feed cats only during the day and at a set time—and pick up any leftovers immediately. Provide escape routes for cats.

Coyotes aren't going away – and neither are we. The best plan is to coexist with them, be careful and wary, and take all the necessary steps to protect yourself, your property and you pets.

And, at the same time, be on the lookout for coyotes receiving packages from ACME.

**N**EVER run away from a coyote! Natural resource authorities say it is best to haze them to keep them afraid of humans.

Hazing is a method that uses deterrents to move an animal out of an area or discourages an undesirable behavior or activity. Hazing can help maintain coyotes' fear of humans and deter them from neighborhood spaces such as backyards and playgrounds.

If the coyote doesn't leave at first, continue approaching him and/or increase the intensity of your hazing until he runs away. If he runs a short distance away and then stops and looks at you, continue hazing him until he leaves the area completely. If a coyote returns after you've successfully hazed him or her, continue to haze the coyote as you did before. It typically takes only one or two times to haze a coyote away for good.

Contact authorities and do not interact with a coyote whom you suspect of being sick or injured. Although coyotes are skittish by nature and generally aren't aggressive towards people, engaging animals who are sick or injured can result in unpredictable behavior.

## HAZING METHODS

Using a variety of different hazing tools is critical because coyotes can habituate to individual items, sounds, and actions. Yell and wave your arms while approaching the coyote. Use noisemakers (e.g. your voice, whistles, air horns, bells, soda cans filled with pennies or dead batteries, pots and pans banged together). Use projectiles (e.g. sticks, small rocks, cans, tennis balls, rubber balls). Try other repellents (e.g. hoses, water guns with vinegar water, spray bottles with vinegar water, pepper spray, bear repellent, or walking sticks).



FRIDAY JULY 7  
KCMO Trash Amnesty/No-Tag  
Pickup (up to 12 bags)

JULY DATE TBD  
Trivia Night!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16  
Ice Cream Social &  
Corn Hole Competition  
2-4 PM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14  
OMG's Fall  
Dumpster Day  
9 AM-Noon

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27  
KCMO's Fall Curbside  
Leaf and Brush Pickup  
NOVEMBER DATE TBD  
OMG Annual Meeting

---

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

NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2023

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

