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The ACORN

OCTOBER 2023

OCTOBER AND THE REST OF THE YEAR

The autumnal equinox has passed, and it is officially the astronomical fall season. Leaves of all colors will soon be on the trees and underfoot. The end of daylight savings time and Halloween loom.

Here come cooler mornings, milder afternoons, and longer dark nights. The frost is on the pumpkin. And before you can blink an eye, Turkey, Santa, News Year's revelry, and – dare we hope – yet another Super Bowl appearance by the lads in Red and Gold. (Go Chiefs!)



This is an ideal time for stock-taking of matters large and small, philosophical, and practical:

Does the car or the lawn need to be winterized? How is the supply of leaf bags and is there a good rake and other tools for the tasks? Is it going to be a winter that is as cold as the summer was hot? – and if so, do I need a new snow shovel, a supply of ice melt, a snow removal contact, or a Sun Belt getaway plan?

Is there anything to do to make the house more cold-weather ready? Like checking the storm windows, adding insulation, changing over the HVAC

system, changing furnace filters, replacing smoke detector batteries, and/or enhancing outdoor lighting in potentially slippery spots?

What is the status of everybody in the household's outerwear? The Norwegians believe that there is no bad weather, there is only inappropriate clothing. With their climate, they know something about that.

On a more philosophical level, end of the year time also provides impetus for reflection.

Did I accomplish my ambitions and aspirations – or at

least further them? There's still time to make progress or finish.

Am I the kind of friend, neighbor, family member, community member, citizen I hope to be?

Do I set a good example, in general, as I go about my activities?

And, finally, and perhaps most importantly, will I be on the "Naughty" or "Nice" Santa Claus Christmas list?

Happy *HallowThanksXmasNewYear* everybody.

Don't forget the pumpkin spice eggnog latte to raise a toast to **Two-Ob-Two-Four**. It's almost here.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: THE VALUE OF AN ACTIVE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

DEAR FELLOW OMG HOMEOWNERS

As I sit down to write this article, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey I've had as a member of our Homeowners Association (HOA) board for several years. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve our community in this capacity, and I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude to the board and all of you, my fellow neighbors, for your unwavering support and active participation.

First and foremost, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated HOA board members. Your commitment to the well-being and prosperity of our community is truly commendable. Serving on the board has given me a unique perspective on the countless hours of hard work, thoughtful decision-making, and effective problem-solving that go into maintaining and enhancing our neighborhood. It's remarkable to witness how our board members juggle their responsibilities with full-time employment and other commitments to ensure that our community thrives.

As my tenure as a board member comes to a close, I'd like to share some insights into the value of an active Homeowners Association. Often, people may view HOAs as just another layer of bureaucracy, but in reality, they play a crucial role in preserving property values, fostering a sense of community, and enhancing our overall quality of life.

PROPERTY VALUE PRESERVATION

One of the primary functions of our HOA is to maintain and improve common areas, ensuring that our community remains aesthetically

pleasing and appealing to our residents, potential buyers, and local businesses. This not only benefits current homeowners by maintaining property values but also makes our neighborhood a desirable place to live, which can positively impact resale values. I have been thoroughly impressed by the board's diligent management of our resources to maintain monuments and landscaping that are distinctive features of our community.



COMMUNITY BUILDING/ SECURITY

Our HOA organizes events and initiatives that bring neighbors together. These gatherings not only foster a sense of community but also provide opportunities for residents to connect, build friendships, and create a strong support network. Whether it's a neighborhood cornhole tournament, dumpster day, or a casual happy hour, these events strengthen the bonds that make living here so special and contribute to the overall security of our neighborhood.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The HOA board is responsible for making important decisions regarding community rules, maintenance, and improvements. An active and engaged board ensures that these decisions are made thoughtfully and fairly, taking into account the diverse needs and concerns of our residents. Since I began serving on the HOA board, I have been impressed by the enhanced levels of communication and transparency in our decision-making processes.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION

In any community, issues may arise from time to time. Whether it's a dispute between neighbors or concerns about maintenance, our HOA volunteers work tirelessly to address these matters fairly and efficiently, helping to maintain a harmonious living environment. Before participating, I did not fully appreciate the true value of the HOA in resolving conflicts and maintaining our community's well-being.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Our HOA carefully manages our community's finances to ensure that funds are allocated wisely. This includes budgeting for necessary repairs, maintenance, and improvements, as well as planning for unforeseen expenses, such as emergency repairs or legal matters.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that an active Homeowners Association is not just a regulatory body but a vital part of what makes our community a great place to live. I am grateful for

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

the opportunity to have served on the board and to have witnessed firsthand the dedication of our fellow homeowners in making our neighborhood the wonderful place it is.

As my term on the board ends, I encourage each of you to consider becoming more involved in our HOA, whether by volunteering your time, attending meetings, or participating in our community events. Together, we can continue to nurture and strengthen the bonds that make our neighborhood a truly exceptional place to call home.

Thank you once again for your support and for allowing me the privilege of serving our community. Here's to many more years of prosperity, camaraderie, and the shared pride of calling our neighborhood home.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Burbach

Outgoing Vice President & OMG Board Member

NEW 63RD TERRACE MONUMENTS

The rebuilding of the 63rd Terrace Monuments at Oak and Holmes is finally finished. We hope you like them. This has been several years in the planning and execution, but we were able to get the City to pay for the majority of the stonework through the Public Infrastructure Advisory Committee. Oak Meyer Garden's commitment to the project was \$10,000. The City paid for the remainder at around \$64,900. Stonework is amazingly expensive. The replacements are almost identical to the previous markers in order to match the work throughout the neighborhood, but now they are in much better shape. We have new landscaping ordered to be installed from Messenger's Lawn and Tree this autumn.



WELCOME

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

Margaret and Kevin Hart

Colin and Catherine Green

Shannon Huffman

Michael Mallouk

Brendan and Erica Hangauer

**Jerome Bodenhamer
and Kyle Goebel**

Kelsey Wright

Wellan and Christine Cowan

Daniel O'Donnell

Victor and Karen Juliana

NEW CHOW OPTIONS

The available offerings for food and beverage in the immediate OMG area has broadened a bit in recent days. These are some of the new alternatives. Several new places are open – or set to open shortly. Here are a few highlights.

PIZZA TASCIO WALDO

409 W. Gregory Blvd.
(816) 442-7032 | www.pizzatascio.com/order-now
Open Sun-Thu 11am-9pm | Fri-Sat 11am-10pm

New York Style pizza, by the slice or by the pie. Dine in or carry out. Third party delivery. Beer and wine on premises. Dining area and outside tables.

The owner has a proud assertion: “We believe our ingredients are literally THE BEST money can buy. We set out to feed our community what we desire to feed our own family: the best! We humbly put this pizza up against any of the old school NY pizzerias in New York. This pizza has all of our heart and soul in it and it’s our pleasure to serve our community something we are so very proud of!!!”

MEDDY’S BROOKSIDE

6301 Brookside Plaza
(816) 708-0211 | www.meddys.com
Open Mon-Sun 10:30am-10:00pm

Wichita based small, growing chain, offering Mediterranean delights. Already open in Corinth/Prairie Village. The new location, formerly Panera, offers quality ingredients, local produce, quick service, great food, and adult beverages.

HEMMA HEMMA

7122 Wornall
www.hemmahemma.com

In the space that was formerly District Pour House, and for many years The Romanelli Grill.

This is a brick-and-mortar restaurant that is an expansion on what has been a “meal prep and delivery service focusing on fresh, seasonal, unique, nourishing meals that feel like you made them yourself at home.”

BACARO PRIMO

323 E. 55th St.
(816) 381-6084 | www.bacaroprime.com
Open Mon-Thu 11am-10pm | Fri-Sat 11am-11pm

Former location of Café Europa. The new place features a menu that is Italian inspired, but driven by Midwestern seasonality, centered around a rotating selection of Italian and domestic salumi and cheese options. It also offers pastas, salads and other options. Reservations might be advised.

Have you completed the #9PMRoutine?

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



As our cover article suggests, the Holiday Season will soon be upon us. Sadly, this also means that there will be an increased number of opportunists driving or walking through our neighborhood in search of an unlocked vehicle or an unsecured door. To help prevent crime, our Metro Police Officers suggest that we use the reminder above to carry out a 9:00 o'clock return daily. You can even ask your virtual assistant to remind you to do this.

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES UPDATES

OCTOBER SOCIAL GATHERING AT BKS

Enjoy a local brew and get to know your fellow OMG neighbors at BKS Artisan Ales on Wednesday, October 11th, from 5-7pm. The first 25 individuals in attendance will receive a free beer. BKS Artisan Ales is located at the corner of 63rd & Holmes.

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.



CORNHOLE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The 3rd Annual OMG Cornhole Tournament was held on September 16th. A big thank you to Zach and Kala Elkinton for organizing the tournament and providing the cornhole boards and bags.

Non-Corn Hole enthusiasts were also pleased to come gather for the annual OMG Ice Cream Social, with Dave's Frosty Treats providing the frozen goodies. Winners of the Cornhole Tournament were:



1ST PLACE
Ashlyn Reed & Tyler Perkins



2ND PLACE
Jake Reed & Ron Anielak



3RD PLACE
Kala Elkinton & Joel Steinkamp



FALL DUMPSTER DAY

The OMG Fall Dumpster Day will be Saturday, October 21, from 9:00 am-noon (or until dumpsters are full)! Please note the later start time. There will be trash and yard waste dumpsters, a metal scraper, and a Goodwill truck accepting donations. Dumpsters will be located in the southwest parking lot of HCA Midwest, Brookside Campus on Holmes Street.

Acceptable Goodwill Donations

- Household Items
- Furniture
- Clothes and Accessories
- Electronics

Prohibited Dumpster Items

- Construction Trash
- Tires
- Paint
- Fuel Containers
- Medical Waste
- Batteries
- Hazardous Waste
- Chemicals
- Concrete

If you would like to volunteer to help at Dumpster day, please email Kenzie at, kmarshall@oakmeyergardens.org

MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO DISPOSE OF LEAVES AND BRUSH THIS AUTUMN

Oak Meyer Gardens is working with Compost Connection again this year to provide a neighborhood Leaf and Brush Pickup. The date is Friday, November 10. Each household is limited to twenty paper recycle bags or brush bundles doubled-tied in twine and limited to 40 pounds. Please have your yard waste out by 7:00 AM. This is your dues at work.

The City is having two autumn leaf and brush pickups this year. The first is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th, and the second one is scheduled for Thursday, November 30th. If you have any yard waste you would like to get rid of earlier, Oak Meyer Gardens will have dumpsters available on Saturday, October 21st. And finally, if you aren't interested in doing all that bagging and don't mind paying a reasonable fee, Envision Lawn and Tree will come to your house and vacuum up all leaves you have raked to the curb. Envision has designated two discount days for Oak Meyer Gardens, but you are free to hire them at any time. Just go to <https://EnvisionLawnandTree/oak-meyer-gardens/> to sign up.



**Open
7 days
a week!**

TASTING ROOM HOURS

Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu: 4 to 8pm

Fri/Sat: 1 to 8pm

Sun: 1 to 6pm

**6th Anniversary
~SAT, OCTOBER 21~
Parking Lot Party**

633 E. 63rd Street | Kansas City, MO 64110

(corner of 63rd & Holmes)

bksartisanales.com

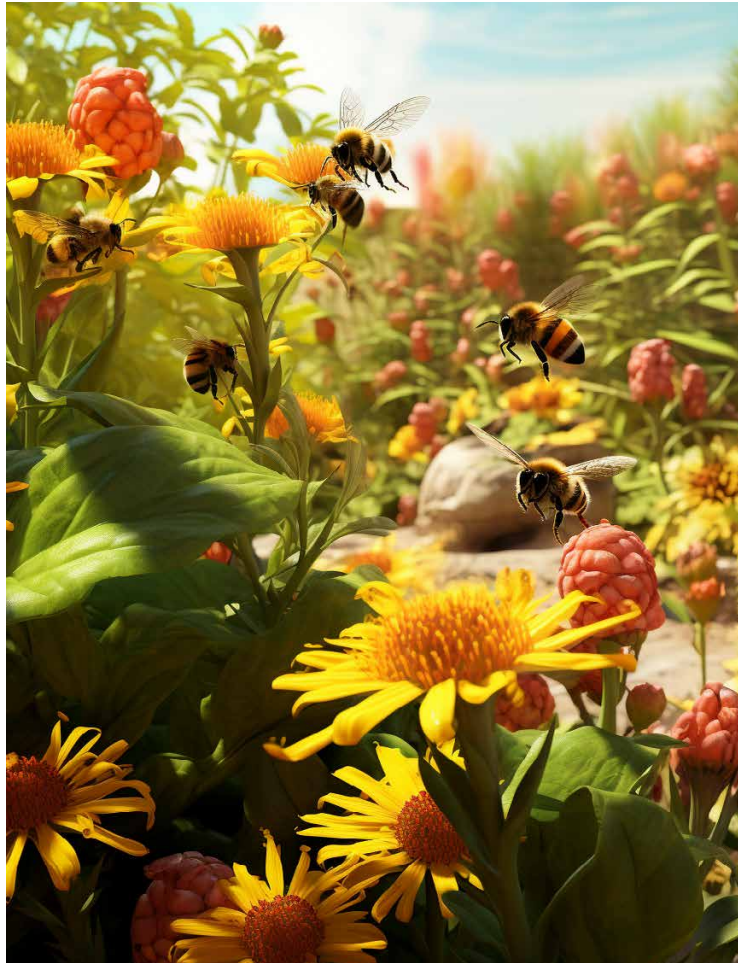
HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARKS

As an OMG resident, a Missouri naturalist, and a family person I get distressed about the environmental issues these days. Whether you believe in climate change or not, one must agree that the impact humans have had on the earth's ecosystems has been negative. At some point if these ecosystems do not exist, humans will have more difficulty surviving. A recent effort I have found in the US that everyone can help and participate in is called Home Grown National Park.

The mission and call to action is to have land owners return parts of the land back to their native ecosystems, which would help the planet stop or reverse the negative effects of climate change. There are enough lawns in this country that, if a small percentage were converted, the area would exceed the 20+ millions of acres of the National Parks in this country. Doug Tallamy is the co-founder of this effort. See the link to the HGNP web page.

By converting our lawns back to the original Missouri native plants, we would attract the insects, then bring back more birds and other

wildlife. These patch works of prairie would help link and reconnect our ecosystems. As beautiful as lawns can be they are very sterile of life and require much more work to care for. As we pour water on them,



fertilize and spray chemicals, we are effectively negatively impacting the environment and providing no diversity for the original life that exists in Missouri. The native plants of Missouri's original grand prairies

once established are hardy and resistant, requiring less maintenance and no mowing, spraying, etc.

The other major advantage is that we can each do our part without government approval or decisions. As I struggle to see our country or other nations make any agreements on carbon credits, renewable resource goals, support recycling, infrastructure improvements, etc., each of us can proceed to do our own part. There are multiple resources in Kansas City to help convert your lawn. I have placed some links below to those sources.

I wanted to share this because one of my hats I wear is that of a Missouri Master Naturalist. It is a program supported by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri Extension Office. With my training, I help support 25 partners in the KC area through our chapter, Osage Trails. My thought is that it would be wonderful if OMG HOA could support this and perhaps model it for other surrounding HOAs.

*- Bob Dearth
64TH TERRACE*

Homegrown National Parks: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

HGNP Promotion Video: <https://hgnp.wpengine.com/videos/>

Grow Native: <https://grownative.org/>

Missouri Prairie Foundation: <https://moprairie.org/>

Master Gardeners: <http://www.mggkc.org/>

Missouri Master Naturalist Program: <https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/missouri-master-naturalist>

OCTOBER 11
OMG Social at BKS Ales

OCTOBER 19
City Leaf and Brush Pickup

OCTOBER 21
Fall Dumpster Day

NOVEMBER 10
OMG Leaf and Brush Pickup

NOVEMBER 13
Envision's OMG Leaf
Vacuuming Discount Day

NOVEMBER 16
OMG Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 30
City Leaf and Brush Pickup

DECEMBER 4
Envision's OMG Leaf
Vacuuming Discount Day

JANUARY 3
Christmas Tree Pickup

Please visit
www.oakmeyergardens.org
for additional details

OCTOBER 2023
NEWSLETTER

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

