



The ACORN

APRIL 2013

A MEMBER OF THE HOMES ASSOCIATIONS OF KANSAS CITY

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YEWS ARE OUTTA HERE ISLAND VEGETATION UPDATES

The recent hot and dry summers have been hard on the yews planted in the OMG islands surrounding our rich supply of monuments. The yews are getting old and woody, which makes them easily stressed. They will be replaced with new plantings that will be heartier – as well as younger – than the yews.

OMG resident Lance Putnam, a longtime landscaping specialist and new business owner (Putnam Landscape: putnamlandscape.com) submitted the winning proposal and will be starting work in late March or early April.

Putnam will place a total of 151 new shrubs, choosing Green Velvet Boxwood, a low-maintenance evergreen shrub popular throughout the United States. Green velvet boxwood is a hybrid that combines the hardiness of Korean boxwood with the pleasant color and delicate leaves of English boxwood. The foliage will retain its rich green color throughout winter. It is a plant that is vigorous with a rounded form if left unsheared.

The contract calls for Putnam to remove all yews, and also remove all leaves and debris from the area around the monuments. Then, they will plant the green velvet boxwood, create a new edge along the curb and sidewalk, and then add hardwood mulch.



CALLING ALL GARDENERS YARDS NEEDED FOR THE OMG GARDEN TOUR ON JUNE 15

OMG resident, Sarah Snodgrass, is organizing our very first OMG Garden Tour and we need participants to sign up.

The gardens don't have to be perfect or over-the-top. This is just a fun way for neighbors to share gardening tips and see new and interesting plants and landscaping. We are hoping to feature a minimum of five OMG gardens on the tour, and they can be any type of garden: flower, vegetable, shade, perennial, annual, or even just great general landscaping. Please email Sarah at sarahkc@gmail.com, if you would like your garden to be included in the tour.

This will be a simple, free event where all of the featured gardeners will open their gates to OMG neighbors from about 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 15

All participating garden addresses will be posted on the Facebook group and the neighborhood website (www.oakmeyergardens.org) two weeks prior to the event. !



DUMPSTER DAY

Saturday, June 1 from 8-12

St. Peter's Parking Lot
(accessible from Holmes, by 64th Terrace)
We need volunteers - call Aaron Wright 523-6787

LEAF & BRUSH PICKUP

APRIL 11

see website for more details

GOOGLE FIBER COMING TO OAK MEYER GARDENS THIS SUMMER!



As many of you are aware, Oak Meyer Gardens is one of the fiberhoods in KCMO that qualified for Google Fiber service during their 2012 rally. Installation for Google Fiber service is scheduled to begin sometime this summer, but you will still need to select a plan before the service can be brought to your home. So what now?

Next Steps: If you pre-registered for Google Fiber service during their rally in 2012, be sure to choose your plan before the summertime at google.com/fiber. Didn't pre-register during rally? No worries - you can still sign up and select a plan. However, if you do not choose your plan before their deadline, Google Fiber cannot commit to coming back to Oak Meyer to hook up your house in the future.

Your concrete deadline will be announced when Google Fiber is closer to installing in your fiberhood. Stay tuned on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/GoogleFiber] or on their official blog [www.google-fiberblog.blogspot.com] for updates.

If you have any questions regarding Google Fiber in your area, feel free to contact Christina: ckomonce@google.com.

AND THE WINNER IS

This year's Holiday Lighting Contest in OMG was won by Sean and Tara O'Sullivan, on Cherry Street. Sean is on the creative staff at Hallmark and Tara teaches at St. Elizabeth School. They have lived in OMG since 2010. Sean is also the new art director for The Acorn.

Their win was no accident. Sean reports that Tara buys lights after the holidays for pennies on the dollar. When they moved into the house, he installed galvanized nails to mount the lights. And, he uses an eight-foot paint roller extension pole to hang and remove the lights.

This not only keeps him closer to the ground – a wise and safe plan – it also reduces the number of times he has to move the ladder.

The award gave the O'Sullivans bragging rights – and a \$25.00 gift card to Waldo Hardware, 126 W 75th St.

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Who are you and what do you do?

I am a hospice social worker, retired from but still working as a volunteer, for Kansas City Hospice.

Where did you grow up?

Clay Center and Colby, Kansas.

Where else have you lived?

Ponca City, Okla., Houston, northern Minnesota and, for ten years before moving to Kansas City, Hamburg, Germany.

How long have you lived in Oak Mayer Gardens?

Twenty-five short years.

Best part about living here?

The great neighbors and the style and feel of the neighborhood. It is "comfortably old" by U.S. standards.

Biggest downside of living here?

I am a bit concerned about the prospect of having a three story school extension being built across the street from me.

Notable personal achievements?

I wrote, edited and published a comprehensive guide for English-speaking foreigners living in Hamburg. Updated versions are still in print. I am also proud to have earned an MSW (Master of Social Work) as an adult, returning student.

Hobbies/pastimes/passions?

Drawing and painting with water colors. Cooking and baking. Reading in a wide range of types and genres. Armchair travel. And, of course, children, grand kids and grand dogs.



OMG Resident Kate Buster

Would you like to recommend someone
for Know Thy Neighbor?

Contact The Acorn Editor, Jon Goodman
at (816) 805-1723
or OMGacornnews@gmail.com

NOSTALGIA TRIP

By Jay Cooper

A native of Kansas City and a neighborhood lad for much of his adolescent and adult life, Jay Cooper was a long time top rated radio personality in Kansas City (Dick & Jay on KY-102). He currently lives in the Tampa Bay area.

Seven years ago, I was visiting Kansas City and stopped to walk around J.C. Nichols Elementary School (now Academie Lafayette). The school was where I had spent eight years, learning everything from 'rithmetic to the correct way of holding a fountain pen. I still cherish the 1959 photograph of our 7th Grade class standing on the auditorium stage dressed ready for the world with smiling scrubbed faces, yet not realizing that our home town would soon become a victim of suburban sprawl. Lost in my romanticizing, I stubbed my toe, looked down and found a piece of brick which had fallen from the southeast corner of the building.

It is a remarkable brick. It holds 87 years of children laughing, yelling, playing games, even crying. It holds a World War, when families brought aluminum and grease to a big collection bin. It holds towering stacks of twine-wrapped newspaper. It represents community. It holds history of many Kansas Citians who had the privilege and pleasure of growing up in the area of Oak Mayer Gardens, and the surrounding Brookside area.

I took this chunk of dirt-covered, burnt-orange brick home with me and put it on my bookshelf.



Putnam Landscape Maintenance & Design
is offering our fellow Oak Meyer
Gardens neighbors **25%** off your
fertilization program and landscaping.

- Landscape Maintenance
 - Lighting
 - Tree work
- Sprinkler Maintenance
- Spring and Fall cleanups
 - Drainage

Give us a call **816-825-1148**
Putnamlandscape@gmail.com

MEET THE ACORN



This issue introduces a new look and editorial direction for The Oak Meyer Gardens quarterly newsletter. It is now called The Acorn.

Our intention is to expand the depth of coverage of our neighborhood and expand and enhance our sense of shared community.

The Acorn is written by twenty-year plus OMG resident Jon Goodman and designed by Sean O'Sullivan, a relatively recent addition to OMG (2010).

President Clayton Snodgrass and the OMG Homes Association Board will continue to play have an oversight role.

We are welcoming comments and written columns. You can contact us through email: OMGacorn-news@gmail.com.

We hope you like what we are doing – and give us information and advice to make it better in future issues.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thu April 11

Curbside Brush & Leaf
Pickup

Sat April 20

Earth Walk - City Market
<https://www.bridgingthegap.org/earthwalk/>

May 3, 4 and 5

Brookside Art Annual

Sat May 18

OMG Neighborhood
Garage Sale

Tue May 21

OMG Open Board Meeting
St. Peter's Legacy Center 6:30 p

Sat June 1

OMG Dumpster Day

Sun June 9

OMG Summer Social

Sat June 15

OMG Garden Tour
See Article for details

OMG, KC, AL MEET ABOUT TRAFFIC

Representatives of OMG's neighboring charter school, Academie Lafayette, met with association President Clayton Snodgrass, active resident Jill Adams and three functionaries from Kansas City, Missouri, government (traffic engineering and enforcement) at the school on Thursday, April 4. The agenda was to find solutions to traffic, congestion and safety concerns.

The school was represented by Head of School Elmane Mbengue and Director of Communications Katie Hendrickson. Kansas City Police – Traffic Enforcement Supervisor Rita Garcia, and Romero Geroche and Jerry Nelson from Traffic Engineering also attended.

After extended discussions about the nature and extent of the problems caused by the daily student drop offs and pick-ups, the group came to the following agreements involving changes in parking and traffic patterns on 69th Street, the school's northern bordering street.

On 69th Street from Oak Street to Cherry Street, the road will be posted "No Parking Bus Stand." This will allow parents to drop off and pick up students on that side of the street, only. Parking restrictions, which will be enforced, will allow momentary stops to allow passengers to exit or enter the cars.

The North Side of 69th Street currently has limited areas of legal parking. However, when these currently legal spaces are used, passage along 69th Street is choked. In addition, there are frequent violations of the legal parking areas. As a result, the group is recommending a change of the North side of 69th Street to "No Stopping, Standing or Parking Anytime."

This new designation means that any car that is not actually moving will be considered to be in violation.

To become effective, the residents of the area ,must complete a petition and submit it to city government. Then, the city will enact an ordinance that will designate the new parking regulations. Residents having any questions are invited to contact Jill Adams (jilladams@sbcglobal.net) or President Snodgrass (mistersnodgrass@gmail.com).