

QUARTERLY GAZETTE

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First Quarter 2005

PRESIDENT

Kathy Schweitzer 576-5891

DISTRICT TRUSTEES

1. Vacant
2. Greg Goodwin 878-0973
3. Kathy Schweitzer 576-5891
4. Karla Reichelt 434-4207
5. Dan Bellows 469-8087
6. Larry Jackson 878-4068
7. Vacant

AT-LARGE TRUSTEES

Sam Craig 576-1514
Jerry Goldberg 434-2566
Brenda Gulledge 453-0148
Skip Hart 434-5489
Joyce Lehman 878-7973
Malcolm Moffat 579-9640
Lynn Reyner 878-9095
Mary Anne Speck 469-1760

Administrative Assistant

Helene Jacobson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just in case some of you have missed the following noteworthy items of late, I thought it might be beneficial to repeat them with some commentary on how they might affect us here in Old Farm Estates:

“Everybody’s got some and nobody wants to keep it”. What is it? Its trash, more specifically ‘solid waste’. St. Louis County commissioned a study by R.W. Beck to look at solid waste issues in St. Louis County and recommend strategies to deal with it. If you’re interested in viewing the report, you can do so online, at the County Health Department’s offices in Clayton, or at the main branch of the County Library. It’s a 295 page report and so far, I’ve gotten to page 95! The thing(s) I found most interesting in it so far are Beck’s recognition that there are multiple companies providing waste hauling services and that the price varies widely among them. (Not that this surprised me). This is most evident in the unincorporated areas of the County where residents contract for service themselves. In municipalities, the costs for this service were usually substantially lower. There is also mention of the continual road deterioration caused by these heavy trash trucks. In addition, the report alludes to the County grant programs for solid waste that are currently only available to municipalities. This was, apparently, not the case in the past.

Among the recommendations included in the pages I’ve perused so far are: that St. Louis County considers contracting trash hauling services on behalf of the residents of the unincorporated areas and that it re-open its grants programs to entities like subdivisions. Again, I’ve only gotten through the first 95 pages so it’ll be interesting to see what the rest of the report has to say. These recommendations however, if taken up by the County Council, could someday lead to a unified trash collection system and grant money access by subdivisions to use for projects or programs. (I can’t wait to finish the other 200 pages!)

“On your left!” If you know that phrase, then you’re probably using the bicycle trail that runs through Creve Coeur Lake park and beyond to the Katy Trail. Great Rivers Greenway is working on a huge series of connecting trails that would allow bicyclists (or ‘blade-rs’ or walkers) the opportunity to ride and roll from Forest Park to Creve Coeur Park with ‘trailers’ to various areas.

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OLD FARM ESTATES DEVELOPING WEBSITE

Yep, we are in the information age and it's about time we have a web site for Old Farm Estates Homeowners.

Our goal is to provide you with up-to-date information about our subdivision, with links, so that you can easily communicate with the Trustees of Old Farm Estates, your neighbors and identify local resources.

Here's what we have initially laid out for the web site:

1. Old Farm Estates Home Page with logo, map and links
2. Pictures and Listing with a Brief Biography of the Old Farm Estates Trustees
3. The Old Farm Estates Subdivision Indentures
4. Calendar of Events
5. Feature Stories e.g., The Gazette Newsletter, Welcome New Neighbors and Announcements
6. Trustee Board Meetings: Agenda and edited Minutes
7. Local Resources: Subdivision babysitters, lawn mowers, and other vendors.
8. Pool Regulations, Hours, and Sign Up
- 9 Upcoming Recreation Events

In closing we would like to thank the two students in Kim Waltemade's Senior Class at Parkway Central High School who are doing all of the work for us in developing our web site. Way to go . I know we will have a great time working with them and will let you know when the Old Farm Estates Web Site is up and running.

That's about it for now, we can't think of anything else to include at this stage. I would like to hear from you if the trustees have forgotten anything.

Submitted by: Lynn Reyner, Trustee At Large (314) 878-9095. douglynn1@earthlink.net

AN EVENING WALK IN OFE

Trekking through OFE on my daily quest for health is like reading a book about our neighborhood. The comforting smells from a fireplace and the odor of onions cooking allow glimpses into someone else's evening. I imagine Beaver's mom in a white starched apron serving warm soup, though, more likely, it's a working mom who just returned from the grocery store after fighting 5:00 o'clock traffic. In the next block, the squeals of children playing street hockey and basketball merge with the barking of a lonely, fenced dog who wants to play, too. Rhythmic thunder rolls out of a teen's car as he drives past. Is he picking up his girl friend or going home after football practice?

On the next street the high pitched eeeeeeeeee of an electric saw says the brown house is being repaired or updated. Rounding the cul-de-sac, I pass an elderly couple holding hands out for their evening walk. We exchange hellos and politely continue our walks. The lone streetlight flickers on while the gaslights wake up one by one up and down the street. In the distance, a lawnmower hums --- someone making use of the last bit of daylight. Back on my block, I see a clutch of neighbors discussing the weather in the middle of the street. I wave at them and check the mail. It's a good feeling to belong to a neighborhood.

Mary Anne Speck

OLD FARM DIRECTORY TO BE UPDATED

The Old Farm Subdivision phone directory was last published in 2003 (blue cover). The directory is very useful in that it not only contains the phone numbers and addresses of Old Farm residents, but also a map of the subdivision and other information concerning the trustees, the pool, and who to call with problems concerning your home. The trustees would like to publish an updated directory in 2005. The directory would then be distributed to Old Farm residents only.

We want the new directory to be as accurate as possible. In order to accomplish this, we need all residents to register any changes by sending the new or corrected information to Malcolm Moffat.

Send letter or note to: 13212 Greenbough Dr. 63146

E-mail the changes to: mimoffat@swbell.net

- 1) New residents should send him their name, address, and phone number if they wish it to be published in the directory.
- 2) Any resident who has a new phone number, or whose number was incorrect in the last publication, should send him their new number.
- 3) If you no longer want your number published in the directory or want it included this time when it wasn't before, send that information to Malcolm.
- 4) If there is no change in your number or your desire to have it published, you don't need to do anything.

We hope to have the new directory printed and distributed by summer so it is important that you e-mail your current information to Malcolm by March 15.

We are also looking for sponsors to help support the financial cost of printing this directory in return for some advertising. If you look in the front cover of your 2003 directory, you will see examples of those local businesses which sponsored the last printing. If you are interested in such a sponsorship, please e-mail Malcolm. Sponsorships cost \$25 each. The trustees want to thank Malcolm for volunteering to organize the new directory and also any resident who decides to support this project with a sponsorship.

Karla Reichelt

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Trustee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. These are January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13. - **All these meetings are at Center for Spiritual Living located across from the Thornhill Library. Do not park on the library lot.**

Two general meetings will be at Thornhill Library - April 27 and October 13.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of each month

An opportunity to talk and meet with your trustees. Our meetings are informal, all residents have the right to ask questions, and express any concerns.

PARKWAY FERN RIDGE PROPERTY CHANGES?

Kathy Schweitzer, President of the OFE Board of Trustees, received a call from John Siemers, Parkway Schools Assistant to the Superintendent For Operations, called Kathy to ask for a meeting concerning a possible change to the Fern Ridge Property use. Kathy invited Mr. Siemers and Diana Stewart, Parkway Schools, Community Affairs to Kathy's home Monday, December 20 for the meeting. Anticipating changes that could affect OFE, she invited Dan Bellows, OFE Trustees Treasurer and George Smith, former OFE Trustee President to attend the meeting. Rumors for the past several years were that the School District might sell the property to a developer that would have a marked effect on OFE residents, particularly those adjacent to the Fern Ridge property

The good news was just the opposite. Mr. Siemers presented a proposed plan to provide more space for parking school buses at the Central High School area by moving their work trucks to the Fern Ridge area. Mr. Siemers presented an aerial photograph of the area to show what part of the property was being considered for use. The present facilities included three buildings: the east building that is used for high school classes, and southwest and northwest buildings that are vacant. The northwest building and the adjoining basketball courts are the proposed facilities intended for use. A fence around the intended area would be installed. The current entrance and exit would be used. The use by the trucks should not create a traffic problem since their exit and entrance would normally be at times of low traffic rates. Because of the elevation, trees and location the added activity would be of little notice to OFE residents.

At this stage, the plan is only a concept and requires more detail planning and internal approval prior to implementation. Mr. Siemers and Ms. Stewart felt it was important as a good neighbor policy to see if the OFE subdivision would have any objections to the concept before they went any farther with the idea. Since it would again be presented to OFE when the plans were more definitive and since the planned use of the property would remove rumors of selling the property for developing, Mr. Siemers was reassured OFE would have no objections to the concept at this stage. If any OFE resident has any questions or reservations at this point, please contact your Trustees

George H. Smith

OLD FARM POOL

Old Farm Pool membership information letters will soon be sent to your homes inviting you to join this summer. Whether you enjoy swimming, exercise laps, barbecuing, or simply sunning yourself, this is a great way to visit with your neighbors and to give your children something fun to do all summer long. The pool season this year begins on Saturday, May 28, and runs through Labor Day, September 5. The pre-opening Saturdays in May will be workdays. Your help is needed those days, whether painting, sweeping, washing furniture, pulling weeds, etc. For information before your letter arrives, call Joyce Lehman (878-7973).

Membership is open to all residents.

Joyce Lehman

OFE HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, June 12th, we will have another OFE House and Garden Tour from 1-4 pm. There has been a lot of interesting home remodeling going on in OFE so we should have an exciting tour. Several people have told me of the inspiration they have received from the past tours and have made changes to their own home or garden.

We need residents who have done some remodeling to be gracious enough to open their home to us and share their ideas. For example, if you have remodeled your kitchen it is not necessary to have your whole home on display. The way our homes are designed, you could use the front or kitchen entry, thus limiting the access to the rest of your home. If you have remodeled a bathroom, you can close the bedroom doors. If you have added a room, there may be a way to enter just that room, or with limited access to the rest of the home. We do not advertise in newspapers or any other large-area media, so this helps protect your privacy and security. Also, there will be volunteers in each home handing out booties to help protect your floors.

For this event to be a success, we desperately need volunteers. We need volunteers to hand out booties, and be in the homes to allow the owners to also go on the tour. We ask volunteers to serve just half the time allowing them to go on the tour.

Be sure to look for the May Gazette for further details regarding ticket sales. Please call Sue Jackson at 878-4068 to volunteer your home, garden, or yourself!

Sue Jackson

GARDEN CLUB

All ladies are invited to join this group on the second Monday of the month. We meet around noon in members' homes for a presentation or project, or we carpool for field trips to nurseries or other places of interest. For more information, call Shirley Warmbold (434-5115) or Jan Conant (576-7590).

EASTER EGG HUNT

The first all-subdivision party of 2005 will be the Easter Egg Hunt at the ball field on Saturday, March 26. All Old Farm residents, their children and grandchildren are invited to participate. Over 1,000 colorful candy-filled plastic eggs will be hidden and the Easter Bunny will be there. Thanks go to the Old Farm Trustees for sponsoring this event and to the many other volunteers. If you'd like to help with this event, please contact Beth Campbell-Blethroad (878-7176). Jobs include purchasing candy, stuffing plastic eggs with candy, setting up hunting areas, wearing Easter Bunny costume, etc. Kathy Renaud and Jim Moll, realtors with Coldwell Banker/Gundaker, will provide attendance prizes for the Easter Egg Hunt. THANK YOU to them.

Joyce Lehman

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President's Message continued from page 1

I know I ride the trails in Creve Coeur Lake Park and often continue into St. Charles and think how exciting it would be to be able to go in the other direction! (I'm hoping I'll never have to use that bike rack I bought for my car!) Hmmmm, maybe we could use that as a selling point for our subdivision..."See paintings at the Art Museum and have lunch in St. Charles and never spend a dime for gas. What a location!"

"Recycling Reusable Resources" Fern Ridge School, once an elementary school then host site for multiple Parkway programs has just been slated for use as the school district's base for their building and grounds maintenance vehicles and department support. The alternative high school, currently on site, doesn't use all of the available space there and this would free up space at Central to store buses the district will be using to transport students for the Special Education District. Your trustees have met with representatives of Parkway and looked at their preliminary plans for the space.

They are proposing to renovate one wing of the existing building to serve as mechanic and wash bays for servicing their lawn equipment and tractors and a storage area for supplies. In addition, they plan to move their salt supply and material bins to this site. The plans we were shown included some additional paving adjacent to the already paved areas and a fence and landscaping for aesthetics. In all likelihood, given where this area is to be situated, we won't really be able to even see this structure from our vantage point. We will meet with them again before construction to review plans that are more detailed. All in all, though, it seemed like a reasonable solution to their need for bus space at Central, coupled with reuse of an existing resource. They will not be encroaching on the heavily wooded area that abuts many of our homes. Best of all for us, it means, not only will we not be looking at that huge piece of property as a potential development site with all of the issues that this would bring, but the wooded view enjoyed by many of our homes will remain intact.

Kathy Schweitzer President