



QUARTERLY GAZETTE



www.oudfarmestates.org

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Second Quarter 2005

PRESIDENT

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2. Lynn Reyner 878-9095
3. Kathy Schweitzer 576-5891
4. Karla Reichelt 434-4207
5. Dan Bellows 469-8087
6. Larry Jackson 878-4068
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doing the things that you **have** to do this time of year sometimes takes its toll on doing those things you **like** to do this time of year like....strolling along our sidewalks at a leisurely pace enjoying the soft, spring-time evenings. So please make sure that when you take one of those strolls, overhanging limbs don't bonk you in the head and turn it into something unpleasant. We are blessed with an abundance of mature trees here in the subdivision and sometimes they grow a little too vigorously and hang dangerously low over the sidewalk. Take the time to do one of those things you have to do and check your trees and prune them if necessary to raise those limbs a minimum of 7' from the ground. That way neither you nor your neighbors will be unpleasantly surprised while enjoying this pleasant weather.

The General Subdivision Meeting held on April 27 was very well attended. We probably had one of the largest crowds there in recent memory. To all of those who attended I want to say how nice it was to see you there. Ms. Marcie Davis with Riverbend Homeowners Association was there with some information regarding Maryland Heights and their plan to extend the Maryland Heights Expressway. If they end up doing what she suggested they were going to do, and that is extend it to Waterworks Road and then stop, it might precipitate further traffic on Creve Coeur Mill Road from drivers exiting the expressway. It would probably behoove all of us to make sure our legislators know that the preferable end of any Maryland Heights Expressway is onto a continuation of an extension of 141 North of Olive. This is the last leg of that road that stretches all the way from Arnold northward and seems to be at a stalemate.

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Presidents Message (from page 1)

Mr. Mulenhausler with St. Louis County Assessors Office was also one of our speakers. He explained that his assessors were obligated to visually inspect, from the sidewalk, any property that experienced larger than a 15% increase in its assessed value. If you feel that your house has been overassessed and wish to protest the reassessed value, you can call the Board of Equalization at 615-7195. The appeal forms must be filed by June 20th. You do not have to schedule an informal conference prior to an appeal to the Board. Information regarding this issue as well as about the Homestead Preservation Act and the Property Tax Credit Claim are available from the St. Louis County Library or the Assessors office

Your trustees met with some folks who represent the design team for part of the Great Rivers Greenway (formerly known as the Metropolitan Parks Department).

We heard about a preliminary plan for a part of the greenway that is being called the Centennial Greenway and proposed to be placed over the St. Louis City Water department right-of-way and/or the AmerenUE easement in our common grounds.

Several of us also attended a public meeting held at Craig School on May 17 where this preliminary plan was discussed again. In case you haven't heard of the Great Rivers Greenway at all, it is a planned recreational trail system (walking and biking) encircling the metro area with neighborhood trails branching from it. The Centennial Greenway portion is the part that would stretch from Forest Park to Creve Coeur Park and is the portion that most concerns us here in Old Farm. There is much more to learn about this issue and the trustees are intent on making sure that anything of this nature would be a benefit for, and not a detriment to, the residents of Old Farm Estates now or in the future. If you would like to learn more about this issue yourself, you visit their Web site at www.greatriversgreenway.org.

Enjoy the Spring while it lasts!

Kathy Schweitzer

OLD FARM ESTATES LAUNCHES NEIGHBORHOOD WEB SITE

The Old Farm Estates' Web site is up and running at www.oldfarmestates.org. It contains timely information and a wealth of information about our subdivision.

Check it out for:

- Updates of Timely Information
- A Calendar of Subdivision Events
- Joining the Pool
- Participating on the Swim/Dive Team
- Reading Gazette (Old Farm Estates Newsletter)
- Identify and Contact Your District Trustee
- Attending a Trustee Meeting and Read Minutes of Past Trustee Meetings Meetings
- Old Farm Estates Indentures
- Identify Local Resources

Our neighborhood is just a "click away" -- hope you enjoy.

Lynn Reyner Web Master

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

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

The next general meeting will be held at Thornhill Library - Thursday 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.

SUBDIVISION DIRECTORY

The trustees of the Old Farm Estates Subdivision are looking for residents of the subdivision interested in purchasing an ad in the new subdivision phone directory. Distribution is scheduled for all homeowners this summer. Each ad, measuring 3 ½ in. by 1 ½, costs \$25 will be placed on the front pages of the directory.

Your contribution helps to cover the cost of printing the directory.

If you have a business or a service you would like to advertise in our directory, please call me or send an email.

Home phone: 434 4207
e-mail: r_reichelt@sbcglobal.net

13178 Fourposter Ct.
St. Louis, Mo. 63146
Karla Reichelt

EASTER EGG HUNT

The first all-subdivision party of 2005 was on Saturday, March 26. The weather cooperated and lots of Old Farm residents, their children and grandchildren came and had a fun time. Over 1,000 colorful candy-filled plastic eggs were hidden and the Easter Bunny was there. Coldwell Banker-Gundaker realtors Jim Moll and Kathy Renaud provided attendance prizes. Thanks go to the Old Farm Trustees for sponsoring this event and to Beth Campbell-Blethroad and her group of volunteers for organizing it.

Joyce Lehman

FLOWERS

Did you notice the pretty Begonias at our subdivision entrance? Be sure to thank the ladies of the Farm Trails Garden Club for their planting project. For more information on this group and their future events, contact Shirley Warmbold (434-5115) or Jan Conant (576-7590).

Joyce Lehman

OLD FARM POOL

Old Farm Pool membership information letters were sent to your homes inviting you to join this summer. Swim team information was also included. 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 work days when your help is needed painting, sweeping, washing furniture, pulling weeds, etc. For further information, call Joyce Lehman (878-7973).

HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR SUNDAY, JUNE 12th 1 - 4 PM

Tickets can be purchased at the Old Farm pool office during their regular hours, starting Saturday, May 28th. The cost of the tickets is \$6.00 per person, payable in cash only.

Please call Sue Jackson at 878-4068 ASAP to volunteer your home or garden, or serve as a part time house sitter.

See you on the 12th!
Sue Jackson

GAZETTE- GOOD AND WELFARE

OFE resident's number around 1400 (give or take some). We are a multi-aged, multi-talented community. I have been thinking of ways we could mesh our talents and needs as a community and from which all of us could benefit. In spite of my great organization and planning (no smart remarks allowed), there are times when I am caught at the last minute needing help with something. Maybe the same is true for you. Here are some of my thoughts. Let us know what you think.

I remember the days, for example, when finding babysitters (competent or otherwise) was a major chore. I still have nightmares about the time my babysitter developed a horrible case of hives two hours before I was to leave on a two day business trip. More recently, I wanted to open a window during this great spring we have had and to fight off the flies that wanted my freshly baked cookies. After frantically searching the basement for a screen, I found none that fit that window. I lamented the day I had not stopped at a neighbor's house who had posted a sign stating that he was replacing all his original OFE windows and had screens and windows to give away. Then there was the Saturday a few weeks ago when I finally broke out the lawnmower, just hours before a dozen guests were due to arrive for dinner on the deck, and found that it had given up the ghost over the winter. Thank goodness, I had just attended the general meeting at which Lynn had introduced a young OFE resident named Kenny who wanted to mow lawns! Much to my husband's frustration (sometimes), I love to try to do anything my five brothers used to tell me I *could* not do --- for example, re-set a sink or add another electrical plug in the bedroom. I have often wished as I collapsed five hours later after finally accomplishing what surely should have taken no more than thirty minutes that perhaps I should have called someone to help. (The frustration part comes in when we end up still having to call in someone!). If only I had known someone close by . . .

So, here's the thought . . . If you are someone needing help or you are someone who can give help, complete the attached form and mail it to me. We'll work out a way of introducing your needs to the providers. Of course, you can contact the person. Please be patient as we work out the kinks in this process.

At this time, the Web site is not capable of posting your submittals. When the site is available, your permission will be requested prior to any posting.

Thanks, Mary Anne Speck, Trustee at Large.

Your Name: (for trustee contact) _____
OFE Address: _____ Phone: _____
E-Mail address: _____

Article to be printed in the Gazette. Yes No

Gazette submittals will state your name

If yes,

- Use my OFE Address Yes No
- Use my phone number Yes No
- Use my E-Mail address Yes No

1.) List any issues you would like OFE trustees to investigate or explain. This might include **concerns** (for example, speeders or people who cut through OFE), **wishes or wants** (for example, for streetlights, for a party house we could all use, for someone to send out a map of where to find Morrell mushrooms in the common ground --- just kidding).

2.) **Needs** you have (for example, screens for original windows, a great recipe for cooking an exotic dinner, original OFE kitchen cabinets, someone to cut your lawn, or drag those huge boxes from the basement to the street, etc.)

3.) **Skills, talents or items** you have but no longer need that you would share, sell or barter with OFE residents, and optionally, **the price** of your services. (Look at the above list of possible needs -- give you any ideas?)

Detach here and mail back to: Mary Anne Speck, 13275 Hobnail Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146

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STORM WATER PROJECT REPORT
OLD FARM ESTATES AND SEVEN PINES

To restate an old phrase, "We finally see light at the end of the Pipe". Berra Construction Company has made a major improvement on the project since my last report. With the advantage of the recent dry weather, Berra has trucked many loads of fill over the installed pipe on both sides of Weatherfield Drive that makes easy access to the entire project even a short time after a rainfall. This allows the final grading to take place and the building of holding ponds with berms around the six drains for surface water drainage. This also will allow the large retaining wall in Seven Pines and the smaller retaining wall and energy dissipater at the end of the pipe to be constructed, Upon St. Louis County's approval, this will complete Berra's contract. MSD will assume responsibility of the maintenance of the system and St. Louis will be responsible for planning shrubs and trees to meet the Corps of Engineers final requirements. Hopefully, this will be done by the end of spring with the exception of additional planting by St. Louis County in the fall.

George Smith