

The Seneca Gardens NEWSLETTER

Proud Member of the Jefferson County League of Cities

November, 2017

A look back at the history of Seneca Gardens

About Seneca Gardens

Seneca Gardens is a sixth class city in Jefferson County, situated between Woodbourne Avenue, Carolina Avenue, Taylorsville Road, Bowman Field and Seneca Park. Its park-like atmosphere, tightly woven community and central location have made it popular with homeowners since its initial development in 1922.

Although completely surrounded by the City of Louisville, Seneca Gardens is self-governed through the election of a Mayor and four Commissioners. Appointed positions – clerk, attorney, treasurer, engineer, and forester – complete the team, whose function is to represent residents in providing basic services and preserving the beauty of our community.

With the single exception of Keneseth Israel Synagogue, all buildings within the city are residential. There are 242 single-family structures, 28 duplexes, and one triplex. All multi-family dwellings are located on Broadmeade Road, except one duplex on Trevilian Way. 2010 census data reported Seneca Garden's population at 696 people.

The early history of Seneca Gardens

The following is intended to provide residents and friends of our city with an appreciation of the history of Seneca Gardens. *continued on page 3, "A look back"*

If you have changes to your contact information, as it appears on the mailing label, notify us at info@senecagardens.com

Save the date: Light Up Seneca Gardens! Sunday, November 26

Join us for our newest holiday tradition, Light Up Seneca Gardens! on Sunday, November 26th, at the corner of Seneca Valley Road and Trevilian Way.

We will have light snacks, desserts and hot coco, along with horse carriage rides and holiday carolers. Plus, a visit from SANTA CLAUS himself! Our festivities will begin at **4:00 pm**, we will light it up at dusk and wrap-up around **7:00 pm**. Bring the whole family and celebrate the holiday season with us!



Contacts For Seneca Gardens

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From the desk of Mayor Brown - Google Fiber update

As some of you know, AT&T's fiber optic is now available in Seneca Gardens. Google Fiber is available in some areas of Jefferson County, but not in Seneca Gardens. What's so good about fiber optics? Simply stated, transaction speeds downloads and channel changing will be 10 times faster than your current Internet/TV arrangement, but that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Where is Seneca Gardens regarding Google's 1 Gig service? As mentioned, some areas within the old Urban Service District (USD), Old Louisville, can already sign up. Seneca Gardens, as well as most members of the Jefferson County League of Cities (JCLC), did not agree with the USD's comprised installation process. Google was going to use AT&T poles to run their fiber lines, and Seneca Gardens and JCLC Members agreed to this application. However, AT&T tried to delay this process. To offset any delay, Google decided to bury their fiber lines within public roadways. The problem is, Google is only burying cables two inches below top of the asphalt surface. USD agreed to the two inch process, but Seneca Gardens and JCLC Members did not. State Guidelines call for eight inches. An addendum to Seneca Garden's original Google agreement was developed where we and other JCLC Members are asking Google to hold cities harmless "from any and all losses to Google Fiber equipment trenched in the public right of way at depths of less than 6 inches". Google is currently reviewing this addendum.

If you're interested in 1 Gig service, you might want to delay your decision a bit longer. If you would like more information about this significant improvement, I suggest going to ATT's and Google's website.

SIDE NOTE: Solicitation in Seneca Gardens is **NOT** allowed without a permit from Seneca Gardens and Metro Louisville. Permits must be displayed by solicitors. If a solicitor does not have the proper paperwork, please contact the Strathmoor Police Department at (502) 432-8900 or strathmoorvillagepolice@gmail.com.

Fall Gathering 2017 a great success despite gray skies

Our Fall Gathering was a huge success despite the less-than-ideal weather. It was good to see so many SG neighbors talking and laughing and getting to know one-another. We hope you all enjoyed this event., and if you weren't able to make it this year, we hope you'll add this fun event to your 2018 calendar.



Our signature horse carriage rides were as popular as ever

We served a delicious meal from Morris's Deli that was topped-off by a bounty of homemade goodies. We enjoyed our signature horse carriage rides, along with fantastic music from the Bluegrass Relic Band.



Members of the Bluegrass Relic Band

Property tax notice

The 2017 property tax notices for the City of Seneca Gardens have been mailed to all residents. Payment is due in January, 2018. If paid after March 15, 2018, there is a 6% penalty and 6% interest fee charged.

Make checks payable to "City of Seneca Gardens," and mail them to P.O. Box 5217, Louisville, KY 40255

Did you miss our last newsletter? Visit www.cityofsenecagardens.com and click on NEWS and INFO-NEWSLETTERS on the far right-hand side of the page.



SG residents enjoying a friendly game of corn hole

We added a new event that's sure to be a hit for many Gatherings to come: our corn hole tournament drew out the competition for some, and we awarded our winners with a small token of appreciation for competing. Of course, the kids enjoyed our new jump house addition and our halloween contest.



SG ~~thous~~ children lining up for the costume contest

Thanks to everyone who pitched-in to make this such a special event. If you would like to help make the event even better next year, we would love to hear from you at info@cityofsenecagardens.com.

We want to read your stories...

In addition to milestone events, we are looking for regular contributors to the newsletter. If you would like to write a regular article to the newsletter, send us your idea and we'll get in touch. As always, we are looking for stories, photos and other noteworthy items our neighbors would enjoy. Contact Andrea Edelen at andreaedelen@icloud.com.

A look back at the history of Seneca Gardens



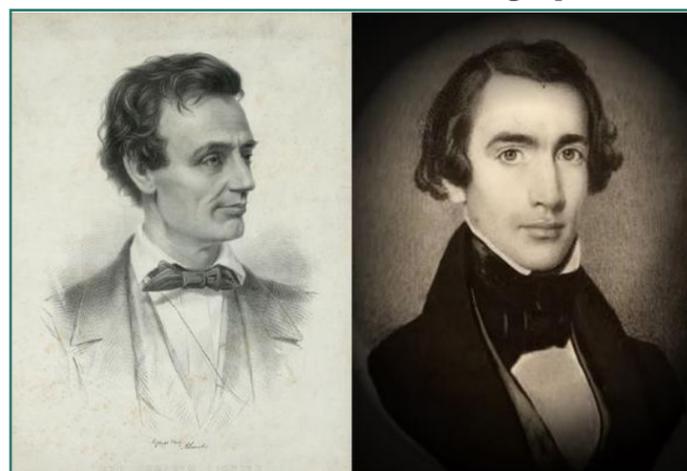
Plans for the Seneca Gardens development, 1922

dens and region surrounding us. Our hope is that a greater understanding of the context of our city will inspire greater pride and volunteerism, for the purpose of making Seneca Gardens and even better place to live.

Before Seneca Gardens was settled by Europeans, it was a favorite hunting ground for the region's Native American tribes. Game animals that supplied food and hides for clothing frequented Beargrass Creek. Tribes used the hills overlooking the creek as staging areas, where they prepared for the hunt, then brought their prey back for processing. Arrowheads, pottery and other artifacts have recently been found within the city limits.

Years later, Judge John Speed and his second wife, Lucy Gilmer Fry, who had family ties to Thomas Jefferson, purchased a large tract of land that included Seneca Gardens. In 1810, the Speeds built a home at the Southern end of their estate. Farmington, as it was called, gained a reputation for hospitality as the Speeds entertained a variety of guests, including volunteers of the War of 1812 and a future president.

Abraham Lincoln was a close friend of Judge Speed and



Abraham Lincoln visited Joshua Speed at Farmington, his family's estate that contained much of what became Seneca Gardens.

Lucy. Lincoln stayed with the Speeds for three weeks in 1841 while he courted Mary Todd, of Lexington. Lincoln and Joshua's brother James engaged in long discussions of the problems facing the country. James, who stood strongly against slavery, would be named U.S. Attorney General in Lincoln's second administration.

Throughout the first half of the 1800s, the Speeds sold-off sections of their estate. Jacob Wetstein, a German gardener, purchased tracts of land from Judge John Speed that included much of what is now Seneca Gardens. He built his home there in 1846 and established Wetstein Community Church on the corner of his property that faced Taylorsville Road. Wetstein actively participated in the Underground Railroad.

The remainder of Seneca Gardens was purchased by Paul Discher, listed in the 1871 Louisville Directory as a "huckster." His family, along with Wetstein's, developed the communities of Broadmead and Seneca Gardens in 1922.

Seneca Gardens incorporated in 1939, after the City of Louisville refused to annex it, suggesting that the community would cost more in services provided than tax revenues generated.

Our sincere thanks

You may have noticed some fresh paving on the streets of Seneca Gardens. That's because Derby City Paving filled some potholes and repaired some road damage free of charge to the city.

What may have seemed like a small gesture to them is a big deal to us, and we thank Buddyjohn Stanley, the owner of Derby City Paving, for being a good neighbor.



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Be sure to like our "city of Seneca Gardens" Facebook page and keep up with what's going on.