

# The Seneca Gardens NEWSLETTER



Proud Member of the Jefferson County League of Cities

April, 2019

## Two Great Balloon Races Return to Bowman Field on April 26 & 27

If you're from Louisville, you probably have memories of going to see the Great Balloon Race, which has been a part of the Kentucky Derby Festival since 1973, when the inaugural event launched seven balloons from Iroquois Park. It's become a staple of the lead-up to Derby, and has expanded to include two races that launch from Bowman Field on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. Each race starts at 7:00 am.

The April 26 event, called the Great Balloon Rush-Hour Race, is a hound & hare format, where one balloon (the Hare) launches 5-10 minutes ahead of the rest of the field (the Hounds) and flies to a nearby clearing and lands, placing a large "X" on the ground for the Hounds to target on their approach. The Hound that drops a marker closest to the "X" is declared the winner.

24 hours later, the balloons will start again from Bowman Field in the Great Balloon Race. It's the same format, and the site of all the balloons launching from Bowman Field is a beautiful site.

If you're new to Louisville, this is a great way to jump into the Kentucky Derby Festival festivities. And because this is Louisville, pack sunscreen, a rain coat, and perhaps a parka.

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

## Seneca Gardens Neighborhood Yard Sale - Saturday, June 1

It's that time of year. Clean out your closets. Round up those unwanted treasures from your basement. Root through your attic and shed for that one piece of furniture you know you'll never re-finish. Drag it & tag it for the annual Neighborhood Yard Sale

- **When:** Saturday, June 1, from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
- **Where:** Seneca Gardens (also in Strathmoor!)

We'll post signs and balloons to attract shoppers.



### Contacts For Seneca Gardens

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Depending on where you live in Seneca Gardens, you can simply step out on your patio to watch the Balloon Race.

## From the Desk of Mayor Brown

### Drainage Issues

First, our board recognizes we have several problems in multiple areas. Second, residents must understand storm water drainage and the handling thereof is totally controlled by MSD. Seneca Gardens, as a small home rule city, has no control over the timing of possible fixes.

Be that as it may, the board did engage the services of an engineer to assess all problem areas and what should be done to resolve our concerns. It will of course take time. In the meantime, the board had our landscape maintenance contractor clean out all rock wells throughout our city; plus, remove the rock that collapsed within a lower “waterway” that runs along Trevilian Way. There will be a lot more to come once we receive the “can do’s and can’t do” report from the hired engineer.

### Street Paving and Pot Hole Repairs

I’m sure several residents noticed the partial street paving and pot hole repairs. Please note this was two separate actions. The partial street paving and speed hump replacement was done by MSD as a result of their Metro Louisville storm water improvement

plan. Please also note that MSD replaced much larger sections than what they previously removed.

The pot hole repairs were done by a different contractor. Please let the board know if there are pot holes the contractor missed.



A recent photo, showing drainage repairs.

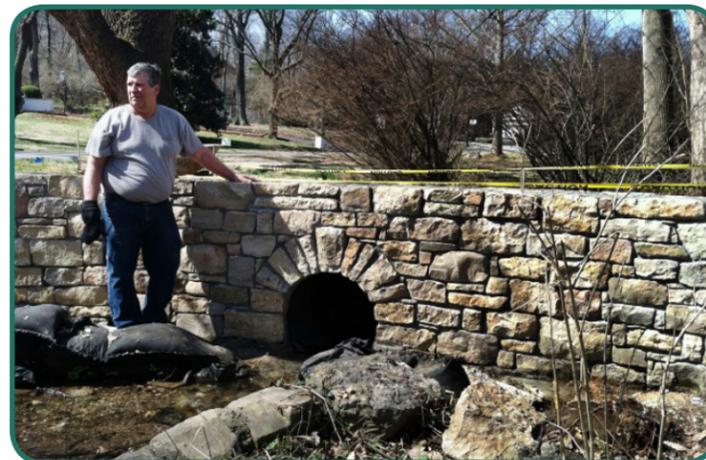
## Seneca Gardens’ Stone Mason, Charles Kelley

Charles Kelley, who has done so much of the beautiful masonry work in Seneca Gardens, has passed away. He began working for our community while under the watchful eye of former Mayor Jim McDonald. Residents can observe and admire Charles’ work throughout our city. Most notable are our stone entry sign and our Park Place Adoption area’s stone bridge, as well as our stoned triangles in several intersections and the Seneca Valley bulkheads.

The beauty and craftsmanship of Charles’ work has done much to enhance the beauty of Seneca Gardens, and his legacy will hopefully endure for many lifetimes. We will miss his gentle soul and dedication to his craft.



One example of Charles’ fine work.



Charles Kelley, at work on a walking bridge.

Did you miss our last newsletter? Visit [www.cityofsenecagardens.com](http://www.cityofsenecagardens.com) and click on NEWS and INFO-NEWSLETTERS on the far right-hand side of the page.

## Our Big Trees Need Good Care, Along with Good Love

by Michael Hayman, Seneca Gardens Arborist

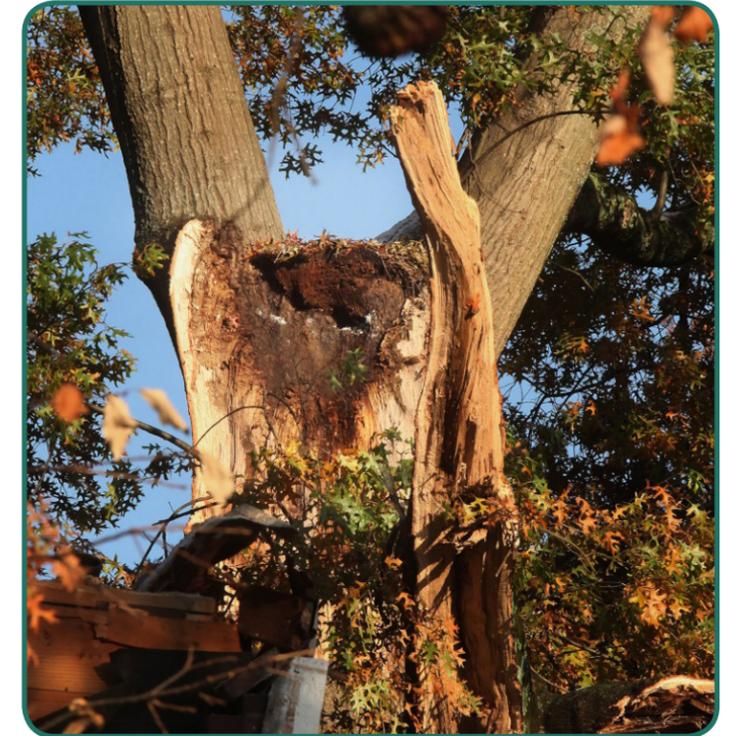
We love our big trees in Seneca Gardens, but after seeing several large trees fail over the last 30 years, I have come to this conclusion: we *have* to be more vigilant when it comes to inspecting our large trees.

My backyard neighbors were vigorous supporters of our tree canopy and practiced safe tree care for their two huge oaks near their house, and yet they were the victims of a massive tree failure. An arborist assured them within the past year that their backyard pin oak was safe, but it failed, causing enormous damage to their home. You may be wondering what could have been done to prevent this failure.

Photos of the tree after the fall show dark stains where major branches attached (see photo at right). That union had been cracked for a long time to cause that dark stain. The arborist should have examined those attachments before declaring it safe. He could have discovered that hazardous break before it happened.

Even when the arborist climbs your tree to remove dead wood, make sure there’s an inspection where major branches divide—that’s where deterioration could occur. Many flaws can be discovered from the ground by a good arborist, but safety requires going into the large trees to examine these attachments.

There are other hazards to be aware of--mushrooms growing from the base, visible rot in the trunk, a shift in the trunk--which can be spotted from the ground. If you have one of our large heritage trees, invest to have it inspected every 2-3 years--from the ground *and* in the canopy.



Point of failure: this is where a large pin oak snapped and fell onto the home of a Seneca Gardens resident.



The damage done

## Got Critters? Read This.

In a neighborhood like Seneca Gardens, with older homes next to forested parks, it happens. Raccoons, possums, and other critters like your house so much, they decide to move in.

When you plan for the removal of these unwanted tenants, be sure that your process includes taking these animals far away from Seneca Gardens. Otherwise, they’ll continue to breed and live in our community...and find their way back to your neighbors’ homes. Thanks!

## Call The Vacation Patrol!

Planning a vacation? Give the fuzz a buzz. The Strathmoor Police Department will gladly stop by and check on your home while you are away.

There’s no need to stop in or fill out a bunch of paperwork. Just give them a call at (502) 432-8900.



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