



Save The Date: City of Seneca Gardens Neighborhood Yard Sale

Traditionally, we host our citywide yard sale on the first Saturday of June, on the same day as the yard sales in several neighboring cities. It's great fun seeing neighbors outside and it feels great to unload and get rid of what you don't need!

In 2020, this was not possible, due to social distancing guidelines and safety reasons. Our intention is to bring this back in 2021, *assuming there are not any Covid restrictions*. So, save the date for Saturday, June 5th and watch for more information closer to the date.



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Seneca Drive Cul-de-Sac Update from Mayor Brown

First, I want to thank the folks that surround this Seneca Gardens beautification project for their patient oversight. We all agree this project, for one reason or another, has taken far too long. Far more than any involved party anticipated. Nonetheless, I am glad to say it's almost completed.



The "yard side" concrete has been poured. All stones have been appropriately placed and the spacing morar applied. "Street side" concrete is scheduled.

Seneca Gardens' nationally known arborist, Michael Hayman, has decided on the replacement tree for the old red cedar evergreen. Mike chose a Sweet Birch. It will, of course, be green. However, the fall color will be a golden yellow. I should mention that this tree was chosen for its fall color, but more importantly, because its rooting system will not undermine the newly applied pavement. Plus, this particular tree is shade tolerant, which will be important when the existent surrounding trees reach their mature height and width.

Yard Sign Reminder

A friendly reminder about all yard signs. They should be 20 feet in distance from the street, and not placed in the easement. Thank you.



The board would also like to thank Debbie Winbigler and Carolyn Hood. Debbie for her help in the decision to replace the disturbed dirt, and Carolyn for her generosity in allowing the stone to be placed in her yard for way too long.

The board is considering replacing the LG&E light post with landscape lighting.



Sign up for REACH Alert

Don't forget to sign-up for REACH Alert by going to reachalert.com and creating an account. This will keep you up-to-date on important notifications.

Please Permit Me... A Reminder About Building Permits

As residents of the City of Seneca Gardens, we are fortunate to have a wonderful location within our community, being adjacent to Seneca and Cherokee Parks, close to the Bardstown Road business and restaurant district, near Bowman Field, and a mere 5 miles from downtown Louisville. We are also very fortunate to have approximately 700 families living in our City who can brag about our diverse trees and plantings making much of the city an arboretum. All of these add to the value of our homes that are very unique in their own right. Our community includes diverse architecture that range from relatively new construction to some in excess of 100 years old.

We all see value in protecting our investment by updating our homes to slow the impacts of time and weather.

We may even want to add space or update some materials to minimize the future maintenance of our homes. To ensure that our property isn't diminished, the City of Seneca Gardens requires permits to perform work on your home.



Permits help us as a community to ensure that we all conform to the minimal requirements deemed necessary and desirable to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community. Permits can focus on details such as an electrical or plumbing permit, while others focus on the aesthetic, such as fencing material or exterior cladding for an addition. Louisville Metro requires permits on most work, inside or out. Seneca Gardens focuses primarily on the outside.

If you have a project in mind, maybe a room addition, a new garage, or simply wanting to replace some rotten wood with new material, a Seneca Gardens permit *could* be required.

The process is outlined on our website under the *City Information* tab. A drop-down menu is available with

both a permit application and ordinances. You may want to peruse the ordinances to determine what the requirements might be for your project.

Ted Niemann, P.E.
Seneca Gardens | City Engineer

Homeowner Compensation for Hazardous Tree Removal

Safety is a top priority for residents and visitors in our city. Seneca Gardens encourages homeowners to remove hazardous trees in our rights of way by subsidizing their removal. SG pays 30% of the cost of removing those hazards up to a limit of \$1,000.

If the trunk of the hazard tree is on the homeowner's private property (not in the right of way) but still threatens the sidewalks or streets, Seneca will pay 15% of the cost of removal, again up to a limit of \$1,000.

Contact Arborist Mike Hayman with any questions.

Updates and Tips from YOUR Strathmoor Police Department

We hear a lot in the news today about Proactive and Reactive Policing. When police departments are undermanned and receive large numbers of calls for service, they can only be reactive. On the other hand, when a department is not overwhelmed with calls for service, they can be proactive. In Strathmoor, we are fortunate to have a proactive Police Department. We strive to correct situations before they become problems and learn about residents and their homes, which can alert us to suspicious activity.

Here are some crime prevention tips to keep you safe:

- Never leave valuables in your car & keep it locked.
- Leave outside lights on at night. They're effective.
- Watch out for your neighbors - if you see something out of the ordinary, give us a call.
- Daytime burglaries often come in the form of canvassers, who go from door-to-door, looking for empty houses. Let us know when this occurs.
- Never let strangers in your house, and never give out personal info over the phone.

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.

Meet Your Neighbors, Dawn and Steve Riester

How long have you lived in Seneca Gardens and what is one of your favorite memories?

One of our favorite memories is buying our house in 2009. We had lived in Houston for over 30 years, and decided to move to Louisville in retirement. I grew up in the Highlands, and Dawn grew up in Cocoa Beach, Florida. We looked at over 50 houses in all parts of Louisville. Finally, Dawn said I want to live in any house on Meadow Road. She had fallen in love with seeing kids actually playing outside and neighbors walking the sidewalks.

What has your family enjoyed most about the City of Seneca Gardens?

We loved our home and community from day one, but when we had to hunker down for Covid, we came to appreciate our neighbors - the beautiful surroundings, and of course the parks. Before Covid, we enjoyed the proximity to so many great restaurants, the sense of community with our neighbors, and the unique appearance of each home.

Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

Dawn is a Florida graduate whose career was physical therapy. She started playing the French horn at 10, and still plays with the Louisville Philharmonia Orchestra and the Masterpiece Brass Quintet. She also worked as a zoo docent in Houston and continues today with the Louisville Zoo, working with raptors. She learned about raptors in Alaska as a volunteer with bird rehab.

I attended St. X and Notre Dame and worked as a chemical engineer for 34 years. After getting a masters in medical social work, I helped cancer patients in Houston and Louisville. Both of us are very involved with St. Agnes Church, Hand-in-Hand Ministries, St. Vincent de Paul, Hosparus, and Catholic Charities. We have children and grandchildren in Baton Rouge and Ft. Worth.

If you could change one thing about the City of Seneca Gardens, what would it be?

I'd like to see sidewalks in front of every house and block in Seneca Gardens.

Do you have pets?

We don't have a pet. We have a pack member, Buddy!

REMINDER: Seneca Gardens Property Tax is due by March 15. Please get this taken care of on time in order to avoid an interest penalty. Thanks!

He's 15 now but still going strong. Shortly after we adopted him as a rescue at the age of 1, Dawn trained him as a therapy dog. From then until a year ago, he worked in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, and with disabled children. He's even been featured on TV. He's retired now and enjoys hiking on trails in the woods and of course seeing his fellow canines walking the neighborhood.

What advice would you give a new resident when moving into the City of Seneca Gardens?

Meet your neighbors. It gives a much greater sense of community as well as security.



Dawn & Steve Riester, with Buddy

Do you have any parting words?

We feel very fortunate to have an experienced arborist (Mike Hayman) who cares for Seneca Gardens and is always willing to give advice or lend a helping hand. Over the years, he has created a beautiful tree canopy for all to enjoy.



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

A Word From Our City Arborist, Mike Hayman

If there is one tree that's most important to Seneca Gardens, it is the oak. Oaks are the champions of Kentucky. They are the largest and most durable legacy trees. They can live for hundreds of years. One bur oak near Paris, Kentucky is 400 years old.

When my wife, Leslie, and I moved to Seneca Gardens, the line of oaks along Valletta, Meadow, and Broadmeade (pictured) provided a dramatic entrance. Those grand allees certainly attracted other home buyers to Seneca Gardens.

But in the 35 years since moving in, most of those grand trees have gone away. Age, drought, and storms took their toll. Fortunately, Seneca Gardens has been planting trees since 1988 to replace most of those old trees.



Instead of just pin oaks, our new collection includes far more diversity. We have added white, red, swamp white, swamp chestnut, chinkapin, shingle, nuttall, bur, Durand, cherry bark, emperor, and hybrid oaks.

Welcome new Seneca Gardens board member, Drew Ulinski

It is with pleasure that we announce that Drew Ulinski was appointed City Commissioner on Friday, January 29, 2021. He fills the vacant position created when the previous terms ended and only three commissioners had sought re-election to continue serving after January 1. The vacancy was required to be filled within 30 days, according to city ordinances and state law. This is the reason a reach alert notified residents about a special meeting held on the 29th. Drew has been a resident in the City of Seneca Gardens since 2017. You may recognize him from walking through the city with his goldendoodle and weimaraner dogs.

A few words about trash pickup

The City contracts with Ecotech Waste Logistics for garbage, junk, yard waste and recycling collections.



Garbage, yard waste and junk are collected on Tuesdays, except during designated holidays. Recyclables are collected every other Tuesday. Residents do not need to take trash cans to the street. The city's agreement allows backdoor pick-up for trash only. If you choose to take your receptacles to the street, please wait until after noon on Mondays, and then back on Tuesday evenings. Thank you.

Welcome our newest resident!

We are happy to welcome Charles Perkey to Seneca Gardens. He lives at 2630 Valletta.



We sent Charles this welcome package to make him feel at home. If you see him, say "Hello!"

Parking Reminder

A friendly reminder about parking on city streets: Cars should have all four tires on the pavement and be facing the correct direction. Thank you.

Seneca Gardens students organize food drive for Dare to Care

St. Xavier students hosted a food drive in the City of Seneca Gardens for the Dare to Care Food Bank in December. They put out flyers and signs throughout the community, offering to pick-up food at the end of driveways. They even had a dropoff location on Meadow Road.

Donations of peanut butter, canned fruit and vegetables, doup, rice, tuna, cereal, pasta and more totaled more than 2,000 lbs. of food, which will feed approximately 471 people!

Volunteers included: Hayden Harned (Meadow Road), Luke and Aaron Napier (Valetta Road), Noah Schulten (Trevilian Way) and students from surrounding Highlands neighborhoods.

They said it was a rewarding experience, as they loaded up the donations and took them to Dare to Care's dropoff location on Fern Valley Road. One student commented, "It's so easy, and the cost of the food being donated feels like nothing to the people donating. Why can't this happen every week?"

Other participants included: Kendrick Flaherty, Michael and Woody Schoenbachler, Culley Walsh, Will Ballantine, Charlie Mattingly, Nico Sanchez, Jack English, Pete Ansert, Will Frye, Gus Dillon, Eli Vap and Calvin and Isaac Kent.

The Dare to Care Food Bank relies on food donations to help distribute food to our community. If you'd like to make a donation, contact the Dare to Care Food Bank at www.daretocare.com.



Seneca Gardens and St. X well-represented in food drive

Beautiful snowy days mean beautiful, shoveled sidewalks

It's not surprising that our city looked beautiful under the white snow we received in January. It was so pretty it could have been on a holiday card or oil painting. A big shout out to those of you who were creative in building snowmen!



Snow certainly does not stop our residents from getting out and walking through the city, so we wanted to share a little about our "Removal of Ice and Snow" ordinance for safety purposes. Residents with sidewalks in front of your homes are responsible for keeping the walkways free and clear of snow and ice, to the extent feasible under the weather conditions in a reasonable time period.

To review *ordinance 91.43 Removal of Ice and Snow* in full, please check out the SG website.

