



A Hopeful, Brighter Future for Seneca Gardens

by Mayor David Brown

Several exciting financial developments are coming our way. Three of the new revenue sources will be received annually for the foreseeable future. The last is a onetime federal Covid-19 relief program.

First: Historically, the city's earned interest on our General Funds, State Road Funds, and Reserve Funds show annual returns somewhere between \$450 to \$600 (.05% Int.). Our current budget estimates \$450. Such funds could only be held within a bank savings account. Thanks to the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) legislative work in July 2019, House Bill 69 was passed. With this enactment, we now have additional investment options. KLC, in conjunction with PNC, can now handle the city's investment strategies. I am anticipating 10 to 12 times higher returns.

Second & Third: This new revenue source comes from KLC's Grant Program. Because our city has used KLC Insurance Services for last several years, we are eligible for an annual \$1,500 General Liability Grant as well as a \$1,500 Workers Compensation Grant. These grants will be filed in September, 2021. Funds should be received shortly thereafter.

Last: The "American Relief Plan" (Covid-19 related). According to information received from KLC, our city will receive a total of \$188,000 in two installments (50/50 Split). The first is due to arrive within the next 45 days, and the second is scheduled by the end of July, 2022. Funds must be spent on "Infrastructure Improvements" and/or Water (Storm/Waste) Mitigation/Improvements. Metro Louisville MSD and Seneca Gardens are currently working on the "federally required plan."

These items will allow our 2021/2022 property tax rate to stay the same, as it has for 30-plus years. With all the activity and up-and-coming improvements, our city's status as a "very desirable place to live," will remain constant.

Community Chest

FINANCIAL
WINDFALL!

SG REMAINS
VERY DESIRABLE
PLACE TO LIVE!



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A Word from our City Arborist, Mike Hayman

Our Own Park Place

The small piece of Seneca Park northwest of Trevilian and Pee Wee Reese has been difficult for Louisville Metro Parks to manage. It was too wet to mow most springs. Then when it dried out mid-summer, it was impossible to mow because the weeds were too tall.

With the permission of Metro Parks, I planted wetland trees with the idea of making a woods canopy so dense that the trees would dominate instead of the weeds. Some of the trees are now 30 feet tall and completely enclose the site in shade. They will continue to grow two or three times larger.

Seneca Gardens adopted that forgotten corner of Seneca Park. We commissioned landscape architect Mike Smiley to create a plan that would make the site more attractive and usable. From Seneca Gardens' perspective, the site had much to offer. In an urban setting, "Park Place," the name Mayor David Brown affixed to it, offered us a place where children could get muddy in a creek, build a fort with dead sticks, climb a real stone wall within walking distance of their homes without crossing a busy road.



Then the plan sat on a shelf for several years.

Last year Lynn Howard, a direct neighbor to the site, approached Seneca Gardens with an offer to sponsor the heart of the project, a crushed stone loop that would make the site easily available. Lynn and her family offered the donation in memory of Lynn's husband, John Howard (pictured below), who died last year.



Seneca Gardens topped off the offer. Metro Parks and the Olmsted Conservancy accepted the donation.

Seneca Gardens created a plan before there were any resources to implement it. As opportunities occurred over many years, it has finally happened.



Pictured is the "kitchen" in the multi-room fort build during the pandemic by (from left-to-right) Lizzie Nelson, Ayden Kolter, Lily Grace Kolter, Sylvia Nelson and Everett Kolter.

Seneca Gardens implemented a piece of the plan by sponsoring a new stone bridge built by master stone mason Charles Kelley (picuted below).

An Update on Our Block Watch

Resident Jill Maurey approached the City of Seneca Gardens board in 2012 to propose a block watch committee. Over the years, Jill has led these efforts and provided communication about safety concerns in the city. She worked with other resident volunteers and maintained an email list to notify residents about recent happenings.

We can't thank you enough Jill for all of your time and talents you've given to our city.

While the city now utilizes the Reach Alert notification system to contact residents, the role of a block watch committee is still very important to keeping us safe and informed.

If you are interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact Mayor David Brown directly.



Jill Maurey

Seneca Gardens is Turning 100! Help Us Document Our Centennial

Next year, Seneca Gardens will mark the centennial of its initial development. We need your help in celebrating this milestone.

If you have any memories, photographs or any other mementos you'd like to share about your time or a family member's time in Seneca Gardens, we'd love to include it in our commemoration of this event.

We are proud of our city and welcome any items you may have that reflect our shared history and pride.

Please submit your information through the SG website. Thanks!

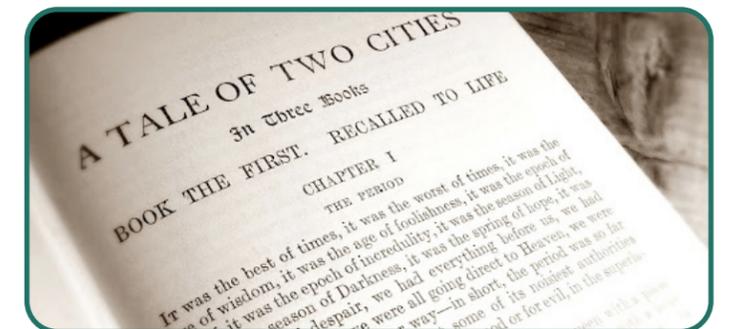


Calling All Writers!

There's an old saying that teachers have handed down to students for generations: *write about what you know*.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the city newsletter, contact Andrea Diebold. Volunteering can be as much or as little time as you want to contribute. We would love to get fresh ideas from residents of all ages.

So, if you've got that itch to express yourself creatively, why not write about what you know best - your home and the people who live around you.



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