

In Loving Memory - Raymond Louis Rusnak (1935 - 2022)

It is with deep sadness that we share that our beloved Grandpa, Lou Rusnak, peacefully passed on July 7, 2022. He loved living in Seneca Gardens these past 4 years. He looked forward to saying hello to as many neighbors as possible on his daily walks. He remembered everyone's name and treated the kids with bags of candy and stickers. Halloween was his favorite holiday, as he loved being the guy giving out the big candy bars. "Take more!" he'd yell. He lived his life with a unique simplicity, was truly content and had no regrets. We will forever attempt to "be like Lou" and do the same in his honor. The Ankenbrand Family thanks our caring community for all the kind stories you've shared about Lou and for your friendship to him over the years.

Jay & Catrina Ankenbrand, 2416 Valletta



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Meet Matt, Meghan and Arbor on Meadow

This month, we shine the spotlight on residents who moved into Seneca Gardens during Covid. While it may not have been the best time to meet the neighbors, they still experienced the warmth and hospitality that makes Seneca Gardens a special place to live....

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

We moved into the neighborhood in May 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic. It wasn't an ideal time to meet neighbors, but we received a handwritten note from Jay and Cat Ankenbrand, whose "Quarantine Bubble" we quickly joined. That sentiment has yielded endless fun over the past two years. Watching the modified Thunder Over Louisville at Bowman Field from the comfort of Seneca Gardens was so special, too.

What have you and your family enjoyed most about the City of Seneca Gardens?

I grew up within walking distance of Iroquois park, so proximity to parks is a priority, although Matt would argue my heart was in it because of Oishii.

Also, the diversity of the Highlands area, its walkability to all things "fun," the old homes, neighbors' warm demeanors and gorgeous Seneca Gardens canopy make this our ideal Louisville locale.

Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

We share an inherent passion for the outdoors, whether it's trail running, mountain biking, rock climbing—really anything outside. We love the outdoors so much that we named our 6-month old baby girl, Arbor. We also love music and are members of WFPK. It's on all day every day.



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

Consider waiving the first permit fee for new residents to encourage them to make their new house their ideal home.

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

Get outside and walk the neighborhood. Take time to stop and say hi to those you encounter—it'll surprise you how interesting and kind they are, how willing to share their love and knowledge of the area. And take advantage of the parks.

Feel free to share anything else you would like to share about Seneca Gardens.

We're grateful for those we've met and who've made us feel welcome during these strange past two years. We can't wait to meet more neighbors and continue to dive into this special community.

If you play Euchre or Spades, you know where to find us!

Please Permit Me...

The photos below are the approved stone curb details that could be used throughout the city by any resident that may want to add stone curbing to their roadway frontage.

If you are interested in seeing what the curbing looks like installed, see the island at the end of Seneca Drive or the island at the bottom of Dell Road. The curb uses Limestone, which will age nicely and provide a uniform look to any curbs installed throughout the Seneca Gardens.



Ted Niemann, P.E.
City Engineer



A Word from our City Arborist, Mike Hayman

Preserving the Neighborhood Arboretum

Thirty four years ago, I became the accidental arborist for Seneca Gardens when I planted a tree on city property without permission. Mayor Jim MacDonald took notice and gave me and Fran Stroud the job of replacing 100 large trees which were lost to a downburst the year before.

A lot has happened in thirty-four years. Our little city has become an unofficial neighborhood arboretum, with hundreds of tree varieties. Seneca Gardens is taking steps to record, preserve and extend the arboretum. We have hired two certified arborists to prune designated trees for structural shape and road clearance. We are also making an electronic map of the diverse trees that Seneca Gardens has subsidized.

Although I don't plan to go anywhere soon, we are beginning to train an arborist to succeed me. Drew Combs, an arborist and horticulturist at the Waterfront Botanical Garden, has multiple credentials from the International Society of Arboriculture.

Each of these steps will allow us to achieve official arboretum status from the Morton Arboretum in Chicago in about a year.

One of the tasks we must do to reach official arboretum status is to hold educational tree events for Seneca Gardens residents. This will help all of you learn more about the unique tree collection around you and hopefully engage the next generation of aboritsts.

Bruno The Mischief Maker

by Resident Writer Ayden Claire Kolter

Many of the people in Seneca Gardens know Bruno, my dog. Bruno is a Jack Russell Terrier mix. He likes to dig for moles, walk in his neighborhood and run around in the field across Pee Wee Reese Road. However, Bruno is mischievous in very amusing ways.

Let me share a story....

One Spring day in 2021, my dad took Bruno to the field to play in the forest and visit with other lucky Seneca Gardens dogs. After exhausting himself chasing one of his friends, he disappeared into the adjacent woods. My dad searched the woods with no sign of Bruno and even dispatched a few neighbors to look for him. Finally, my dad gave up; he was tired. Bruno was probably far away by now, running free. Disheartened and grumpy, my dad trudged back home.

Meanwhile, back at home, my brother, sister, and I were eating breakfast and watching a favorite morning show. Bruno scratched at the door, as he often does, and we let him in. We all assumed Dad was working in his beloved garden, as he often does. Sometime later, Dad opened the door and stepped in. To his amazement, Bruno walked over to him and jumped up to say "Hello" and "What took you so long, slowpoke?"

Soon, everything made sense. During his daring escape, Bruno grew tired and knew where to go. Like many of his human neighbors, Bruno is comfortable in Seneca Gardens and couldn't resist coming home. Bruno wanted to come back to this amazing



Bruno at the creek...

neighborhood, and found his own way back to his kitchen door. So, we kids let Bruno in while Dad was out searching the neighborhood for the dog sleeping on his own bed.

Bruno is a mischievous one for sure. Even though he had the option to run free, Bruno felt the pull of this wonderful neighborhood filled with wonderful people. So, if you see him in the yard on Seneca Valley Road, be sure to say hi. If (or better, when) he barks, he is saying hi back!

Ayden Claire Kolter is one of our contributing writers

Welcome Our New Residents

We are happy to welcome the following new residents to Seneca Gardens. Be sure to say hello and make them feel part of our family. If you know a new resident or are one, please contact Patty Anderson at: pba8550@gmail.com

Brett Davis and Corinne Witzel
2420 Valletta Road

Adrian and Michele France
2509 Seneca Valley Road

Seneca Gardens Celebrates 100 Years!

2022 marks the 100th anniversary of the initial development of the City of Seneca Gardens, and we are working hard to celebrate the occasion in many different ways.

The City is working with our Arborist on becoming a nationally recognized level 1 arboretum. Since the storm of 1987, which destroyed hundreds of trees throughout the city, Seneca Gardens Arborist Mike Hayman has worked with residents and the city to plant diverse varieties and species of trees throughout residents' yards. Our tree planting program, as well as care and pruning, is subsidized by the City to ensure our sidewalks and streets stay lined with grand, healthy trees and brings the surrounding parks into our own front

yards.

In conjunction with being recognized as a Level 1 Arboretum, the City of Seneca Gardens will be retiring our logo and rebranding with a new Tree logo on all entrance signs, street signs and

city communications, including our website, social media and publications. While some may be hesitant to change, the new tree logo will serve as a reminder of the beautiful park-like atmosphere of our community and as a symbol of our neighborhood arboretum project which will live on for future generations.



The new Seneca Gardens "Tree" logo

In addition to these exciting changes we look forward to celebrating 100 years with all residents at the annual Gardens Gathering in October 2022.

New City Attorney Appointment

We would like to welcome our Keith Larson to the City of Seneca Gardens as city attorney, appointed by the Mayor and Commissioners in June.

Keith is a member of Morgan Pottinger McGarvey's Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Group. He also specializes in representing small cities in Jefferson County. Keith and his wife Ashleigh live

in Louisville with their kids Jack and Violet and loveable dogs Louie and Cooper. Keith is a long-suffering New York Mets fan, enjoys traveling with his family and loves all things baseball. Keith is an active member of the community, serving as President of the Louisville Forum and Chair of Shively Area Ministries.

Gardens Gathering Needs Volunteers



Gardens Gathering

Our annual Gardens Gathering is fast approaching, and we need your help!

If you are interested in helping with the planning or volunteering, please contact Commissioner Patty Anderson at pba8550@gmail.com.

Message From the Chief

First and foremost, I hope all of the residents from Seneca Gardens had a wonderful safe and Happy 4th of July.

It seems summer has hit us with unbearable heat. Please try to stay hydrated before you go out for your walk or to walk the dogs. Also know each of our police vehicles are equipped with cases of water to hand out as needed--just ask, and we will be more than happy to provide water to you.

Once again, I would like to thank the Seneca Garden residents for helping with the campaign of when you see something, say something. This helps the police department in so many different ways. We just wanted to say, "Keep up the great work, and thank you."

A very special thank you goes out to George and Fran, of Denham Road. While out on patrol with Luna, we had the wonderful opportunity to meet George and Fran, who got to spend some quality time with Luna. Luna enjoyed the interaction very much and definitely made two new friends. So, a big thank you to George and Fran for taking the time out and saying hello.

We are seeing an uptick in what we call crimes of opportunity throughout the Highlands. A crime of opportunity is as simple as leaving vehicles unlocked at night time or leaving items in your vehicle in plain view such as cell phones, computers, or purses. All it takes is for someone to walk by and see something and they may try the door handle. If it is unlocked, it gives them the perfect opportunity.

There has also been an uptick in carjackings throughout Metro Louisville. The advice we offer is while you are driving to always pay attention to your surroundings, especially at traffic lights and stop signs or when you are parking or getting into your car. If something doesn't look or feel right, please leave the area and immediately call 911.

If you're taking the summer opportunity to go on vacation, please contact the department if you

would like us to place your home on a house watch while you are away. It only takes a few moments to set this up and can give you peace of mind while you are on vacation.

To close, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new officers to the Strathmoor Village Police Department. Officers Joe Tapp and Bill Hunter are both retired and have 30 years of law enforcement experience. When you see them in the city on patrol, please wave and say hello!

Chief Michael Lamey
Strathmoor Police



Don't forget to say hello to Luna if you see her patrolling SG



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

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.