



The Seneca Gardens NEWSLETTER

Proud Member of the Jefferson County League of Cities

January, 2023



From The Mayor's Desk...

Hi,

My name is Bob Kaufman, and I am looking forward to serving you as your mayor for the next four years. I'd like to thank outgoing Mayor Dave Brown for his many years of service and dedication to making Seneca Gardens one of the premier neighborhoods in Louisville. I'd also like to thank Drew Ulinski, who has been a valuable part of the city, for his work as commissioner. Please welcome Kim Cummins. She joins Andrea Diebold, Patty Anderson and Ryan Keith. The other members of our city govt are City Clerk Peggy Jones, City Attorney Keith Larson, Treasurer Jason Sanders, Arborist Mike Hayman, Engineer Ted Niemann, and Architect Gil Stein. That's a fine group of dedicated individuals.

For the last eleven years, my wife Debby and I have lived in the white cape cod at the corner of Trevilian and Valletta. You probably know my house as that of the jumping dog. Walter is a lab beagle mix that wants to make sure he says hello to everyone as they walk by our fence and still thinks he can get out. He hasn't yet.

My background was in sales, as I worked for Philips Lighting for 40 years as their Director of National Accounts for healthcare lighting. I have been involved in various organizations around Louisville, and have always enjoyed serving others, so when this opportunity came up, I decided to end four years of retirement and run. Debby and I have triplets that just turned 35. Ross and Stephanie live in Denver and Boulder, CO, respectively, while my other son, Scott, lives in Chicago. We're always on the go, visiting them and our two grandchildren.

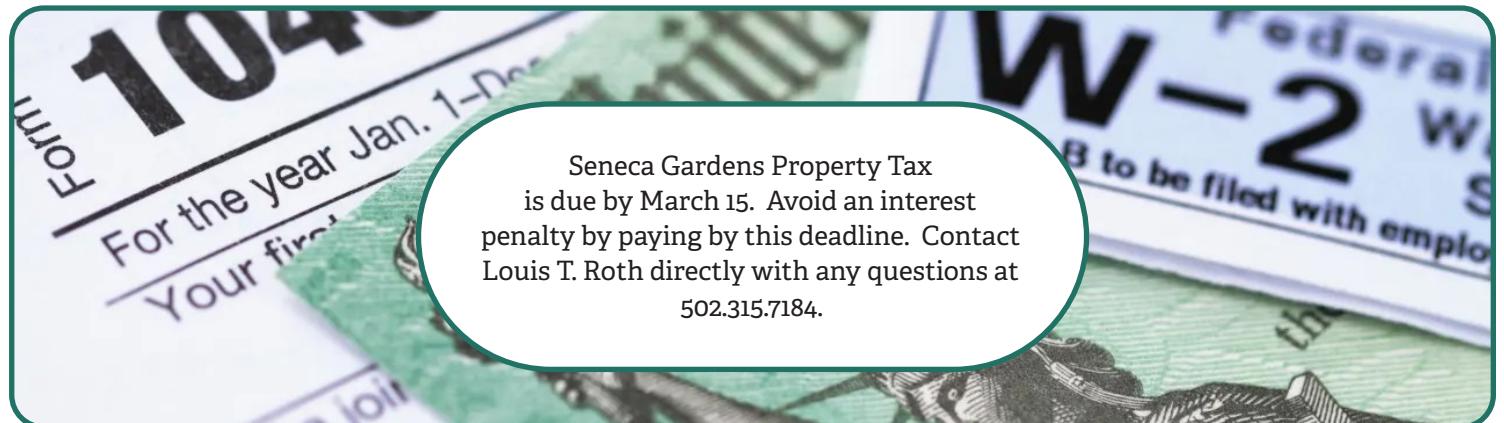
It's going to take me a little time to get up to speed, but I'm looking forward to the challenge. I have some ideas that I'd like to explore, such as more neighborhood gatherings, block parties with food

trucks and music and perhaps a summer concert series. Those are just a few, and I welcome any suggestions that you may have. Stay tuned for other announcements, as I'd like to invite anyone interested to our March meeting to introduce you to our team and welcome any of your ideas to help make Seneca Gardens even better. If you see me out walking Walter, who is an expert at barking and yelping after moles and squirrels, please don't hesitate to come up and say hi.



Best Regards,
Mayor Bob Kaufman

Property Tax Reminder...



Contacts For Seneca Gardens

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A Word From Our City Arborist, Mike Hayman

City of Seneca Gardens is a Neighborhood Arboretum

Seneca Gardens was developed as a historic Garden District with wide street rights of way and electric wires behind the homes to support mature canopy trees over the streets. We are committed to ongoing maintenance and to replace canopy trees as they die or decline.

Over time we have planted a broad selection of beautiful trees that can live for many years and allow residents to enjoy their beauty and shade. Here are some highlights of our program below.

Tree Planting Subsidy

Seneca Gardens will pay a portion of the cost of planting an approved tree in the front yard or right of way. The city will reimburse 50% of the cost of the tree, up to \$200 for the tree, delivery and planting. Residents should contact the City Arborist before the planting occurs.

Hazardous Tree Removal Subsidy

Seneca Gardens encourages homeowners to remove hazardous trees in the right of-way or hanging over the right-of-way by subsidizing the removal. The city will reimburse 30% of the cost of removing those hazards up to a limit of \$1000.

Permit Required for Tree Removal

Trees located in the right-of-way of the city are not permitted to be cut down or removed without first

Coyotes...Beautiful but Dangerous

A few residents reported seeing a coyote in the City of Seneca Gardens in the month of December. This picture was on Woodcreek.

Here are a few general rules we can all follow to take precaution:

- Avoid feeding pets outside. If you do, it is recommended to feed them only once per day and remove the food bowl as soon as your pet is finished.
- If you compost, consider using enclosed bins and never compost meat or fish scraps.
- Clean up spilled bird seed around feeders.
- Secure your garbage containers.

obtaining a permit with the city. The right-of-way is typically the area between the sidewalk and the street.

To request a permit for removal of a tree in the right-of-way, a resident should contact the City Arborist and provide the following information prior to the tree's removal:

1. The owner's name and address
2. Location of the tree in relation to the dwelling and other structures on the lot
3. The reason for removal of the tree(s)
4. Any other relevant details, such as plans for replacement

Permit Approval Process

The City Arborist reviews permit applications considering the tree's health, safety concerns and the impact of scenic beauty with the removal. The request is shared with the city board at the next monthly meeting to authorize the City Arborist to issue the permit or reason of denial.

Resident Responsibilities

Once the permit is approved and tree removed, the applicant is responsible for removing the tree stump and filling in the area with dirt, seeding with grass, or appropriate vegetation.

For complete details of our tree ordinance, refer to the city ordinances on our website under Chapter 95: Trees.



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.

Farmington, A Historical Treasure In Our Own Backyard

by Kathy L. Nichols, Farmington Executive Director

Today, Seneca Gardens--separated from its original land mass by Taylorsville Road--seems distant and remote from the Farmington main house. Do you know your home in Seneca Gardens was probably once part of Farmington, a successful 550-acre plantation that grew hemp, Kentucky's primary cash crop in the 19th century? Even the roads you use have connections to a significant historic site. Farmington was home to the John and Lucy Speed family, as well as at least 70 enslaved people. Abraham Lincoln spent three weeks at Farmington, the childhood home of his close friend, Joshua Speed.

Today, Farmington maintains an 18-acre site that is a



shadow of its agricultural roots. John Speed owned the plantation until his death. At that point, his children inherited land in what would become Seneca Gardens. Your home could be on land once owned by United States Attorney General, James Speed or one of his siblings. James and his older sister, Eliza, owned the shares that form the largest part of Seneca Gardens. The other

Speed children who inherited future Seneca Gardens land were Philip and his sister, Susan Speed Davis. Although Philip farmed for a short time, most of the Speed siblings sold the land fairly quickly. Eliza moved into Louisville with her sister Mary in 1842.

The Bergmann Map of Jefferson County shows that by 1858, no Speed children retained land in the future Seneca Gardens development. George Doup, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Rucker, Paul Dischers, and Jacob Wetstein owned the land. Wetstein added Speed land to his original adjacent property. In 1922, the Discher Land Company and the Wetstein Land Company began developing Seneca Gardens. Most of the houses were built before the Great Depression, and the final section was completed in the late 1930s. The beautiful development features houses designed by one of Louisville's premier architects, Stratton

Hammon. Although Covid presented the site with tremendous challenges and volunteers could not give tours, we were able to keep the grounds open so neighborhood families had space to exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

Farmington is back in full operation for 2023. We hope to see you at our events, starting with the Plant Sale on April 22, Derby Breakfast, An Evening in the Garden at Farmington, Hemp Dinner and at our new Christmas event in December. On May 21, 2023, Farmington will celebrate the 20th anniversary of William Duffy's first public installation, the Memorial to the Enslaved at Farmington with a public rededication. Please join us for this free event.

If you can't attend an event, please visit Farmington Historic Plantation in 2023 and learn about the history that surrounds us. Did Abraham Lincoln walk through your backyard? He walked the Bardstown Pike daily. John Speed owned shares of the companies that built "the Bardstown Pike" and "Brunerstown Road," that became Taylorsville Road. We know enslaved men from

Farmington built the stretch of the Bardstown Pike that spanned Farmington out of wood planks. They collected tolls on the road and kept it in good repair.

We have a very small staff and rely on volunteers to share the Farmington story, care for the gardens, and put on these community events. If you are interested in volunteering, please email kathy@historichomes.org or call 502-452-9920 during regular business hours. Farmington is owned by Historic Homes Foundation and does not receive government funding, so your tax dollars do not support this valuable piece of the neighborhood. We hope you will join the Friends of Farmington and support the site! Friends brochures are available on the Visitors Center Porch.

Meet Your Neighbors...Bob & Dotty Losey

Bob and Dotty Losey moved to Valletta Road in Seneca Gardens in 2009, after retiring from jobs in Washington, DC. Bob went on to teach in the Equine Industry Program at U of L, and the Seneca Gardens location made the commute to work a breeze. Dotty fell in love with the trees, sidewalks (for walking their two cocker spaniels), and the house (reminiscent of her grandparents' home in Raleigh, NC).

Ten days after moving in, the Loseys tried their hand at playing duplicate bridge at the Louisville Bridge Center, at the suggestion of a Centre College classmate of Bob's. Bridge became a great way to make new friends and challenge their brains. After five years of play, they reached Life Master status. Bob has served on the Louisville Bridge Association board of directors, and Dotty has also served as Secretary and is currently President of the group.

They have also become friends with another bridge-playing Seneca Gardens neighbor, Ralph



Bob Losey (far right), pictured with Dotty and friends

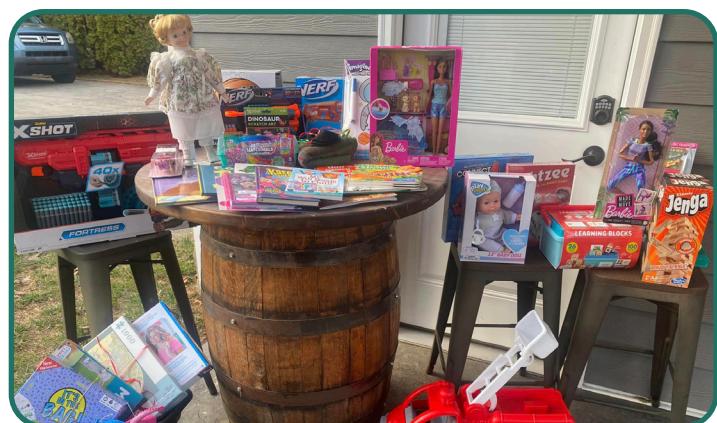
Letizia, who is a top regional player. He started playing bridge in January of 1975. He played in a club duplicate game in February, then contested his first tournament in March. Since then, he has won two National Championships, was second in another, and has numerous high finishes in others. Ralph plays the game strictly for enjoyment and mental exercise, and though he has sporadically taken sabbaticals from bridge over the years, he has always returned to a game he loves. Ralph now enjoys teaching others the more advanced concepts of bridge in hopes of paying forward mentoring received from others over the years.

Ralph, Dotty, and Bob all started playing bridge early in their lives, and they encourage everyone to take up this great game. It's never too late (or too early, kids!) to begin the game or to resume playing, if you took a break. The game of bridge provides great mental stimulation and a welcoming community of like-minded folks.

Spreading Holiday Joy With An Emphasis On Giving

Santa visited the City of Seneca Gardens on December 11, bringing lots of smiles to residents of all ages. Singing aloud and waving, he walked up and down the sidewalk near our Little Library on the corner of Meadow and Trevilian.

A special addition to this year's visit from Santa was the part about giving back to the community. We collected a carload of toys and books to donate to The Salvation Army. Thanks to all that brought donations for those in need during the holiday season.



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.

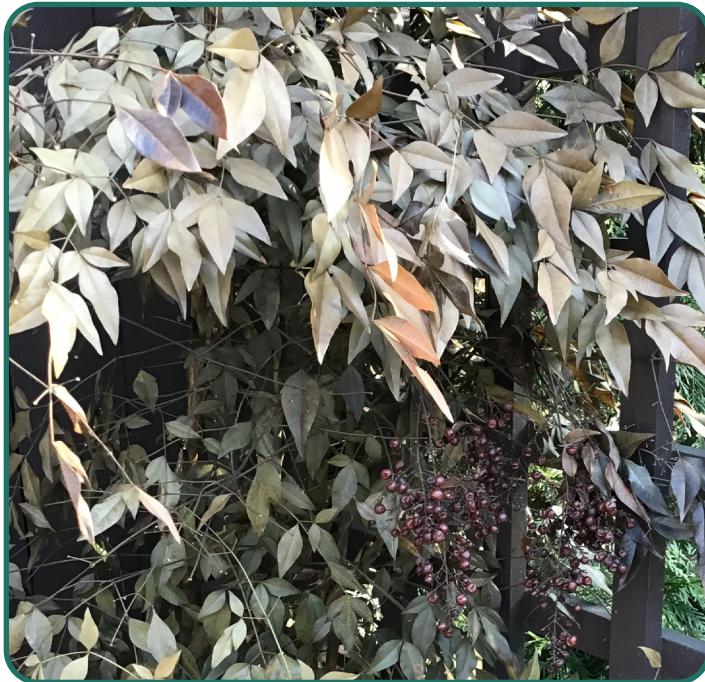


Be sure to like our "city of Seneca Gardens" Facebook page and keep up with what's going on.

Have Your Plants Been Damaged By Cold Weather?

Commissioner Patty Anderson looked into this problem and found this bit of advice, from Paul Cappiello, Executive Director of Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, who published an article in the Courier Journal. His advice: DO NOTHING.

As much as you may be tempted, just wait. Let nature take its course. Once everything begins to bloom in spring, you'll know which plants survived.



They may look bad now, but wait until spring before taking action.

Meet Our New Commissioner

My name is Kim Cummins, and I am a new commissioner for Seneca Gardens. My husband Peter and I moved in with our two daughters, Liza and Kat, in 2008.

This area has been so great to raise our girls, and we have loved being nestled in close with our city's parks. Anything I can do to help out our neighborhood, please let me know. I look forward to meeting more of you very soon!!!

Calling All Residents!

Join us at our March meeting to get to know the SG Board. We want to get to know residents and learn about your interests and concerns in our city. If you can't make it, feel free to provide input to us via our website.

Monday, March 20, 2023
6:00pm to 6:30pm
Keneseth Israel Congregation
2531 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40205

A Reminder About Dogs...

In Seneca Gardens, we love our dogs, but please remember that all dogs must be on a leash or securely fenced-in on your property. Also, please pick-up after your pets while out walking with them.

See our website for the "dogs running at large" ordinance 90.19.