

THE VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKS, CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI SUMMER 2001

ENGINEERS PLOT DESIGN FOR PRIVATE SEWER LINE

Several residents have contacted members of the Board of Trustees regarding surveys being made in the Village by the Logan Engineering Company. Their survey is being made for resident Mike McRobert who will be installing a private sewer line from his home on Wilson along easements adjoining several properties before connecting with the Kansas City sanitary sewer line on Englewood Road.

Several weeks ago it was discovered that sewage waste from the McRobert septic system was discharging above ground and running onto the Bowers property just west of the McRobert home. After analysis by the Clay County Health Department, correcting the system became essential. However, the property did not have sufficient available ground to install a new septic system that would conform to present county regulations.

Mr. McRobert then investigated the possibility of installing a private sewer line that would go west past Doniphan Lane and then turn south to connect with the KC sewer by tunneling under Englewood Road. When Village Trustees were given complete information about the plan, the Village Attorney was requested to investigate any legal considerations that would influence whether or not such a line could be built in the Village. In his letter of response, Mr. Mowry declared that he found "nothing that would prevent such a private sewer," and "I do not see any action on the part of the Village that would expose it to liability."

In its regular meeting on May 14, 2001, the Board adopted unanimously a motion to receive the attorney's letter as information and did not include either approval or disapproval of the project. The permission to construct the line in property easements will be a private negotiation between Mr. McRobert and the property owners involved.

The sewer line will generally follow the plan developed by Larkin Engineers about eleven years ago when the Village Board was investigating ways to construct a total sewer system for the Village. After several years of study and grant applications, funding for such a project could not be secured so the project was discontinued. Several Village residents therefore installed or modified septic systems to conform to current Clay County Health Department regulations. The Department does not require such changes unless discharge from the septic system seeps above ground or flows into an open ditch. However, when a house is sold, it must conform to current regulations.

VILLAGE UPDATE

Mr. John "Jack" Hart of 5601 N. Doniphan Lane died recently and his wife Marian continues to live in the family residence. They have lived in the Village since 1990.

After the last issue of the **Voice** listed residents in its map of the Village, we were informed that Jill Kirkpatrick is now Mrs. Kenneth Dozier. Ken and Jill were married in 1999. They and their daughter Mia live at 5621 N. E. Wilson Blvd. She has been a resident since 1998.

The Hicks family at 420 Martin Blvd. awoke after the Tuesday night storm to find that one of the large trees in their yard had fallen across their street. The Village has been fortunate to have no other trees down in these recent wind and rain storms.

The Village has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Village of Oakwood for the resurfacing of Barnes Avenue from Doniphan to the Village limits. Because of some other work that Oakwood is having done by the same contractor, we have been given an exceptional price. Oakwood will resurface its section of Barnes as well as Clement in this program.

REPORT ON THE FEMA SUPPORT FOR ICE STORM DEBRIS REMOVAL

With the weather as hot as it is now that summer has officially begun, it may be hard to remember the ice storm a few months ago that created so much damage in our Village. However, the Village was able to enter into contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency which provided us with much needed help in cleaning up after the storm. During the clean-up project, four trees were completely removed from Village property or where they were dangerous to the Village. Seven trees were trimmed to remove hangers that could fall upon Village streets. Three hundred and ninety cubic yards of debris were collected and removed to a dump site.

The total cost of the project was \$10,730.00 with FEMA paying 75%, the State of Missouri Emergency Management Agency paying 10% and the Village paying 15%. The Village has received the payment of \$8,369.40 from FEMA and is waiting for the state share to be sent from Jefferson City. Included in the FEMA portion is a 3% administrative supplement.

After the tree trimming crew had completed their work, Chairman Howell rented a pole chain saw and went through the Village to cut lower branches that would not qualify for FEMA funding but which could damage cars. Board member David Pena then collected the branches to be picked up on the second pass of the ice storm clean-up crew. The total project was a great benefit to the Village.

BUDGET REVIEW

One of the greatest expenditures for the Village is fire protection. In the history of the Oak villages, the contract with Kansas City for fire service was based upon a per home charge. At the present time, however, the cost is based upon a charge of \$16.00 per \$1,000 of real property assessed in the Village. In this budget year, our cost is \$13,072.

Since our total budget for the year is \$28,722, this means that 45.51 percent of our funds are devoted to fire suppression.

By action of the Missouri legislature, Time Warner Cable services are no longer being designated as a franchise so we will lose \$870 of our next year's budget by that action.

This information may help you understand how close the Village must observe fiscal caution with your money in its expenditures.

VILLAGE NOTES

Dr. John C. Howell and Dr. Mary Lou Butterworth were each re-elected to the Board in the April election. Howell was re-elected chairman by the Board with David Pena as vice-chairman.

Mrs. Wilhelmine Underwood, a long-time resident of the Village, died April 2nd. She was 92 years of age and had lived at 5740 Doniphan Lane.

Road repair has been completed on several streets in the Village. Under the leadership of Board Member John Hagen, one half of the work is being done this year with additional next year.

The current address for Mrs. Mary Ann Louthain, our Village clerk, is 400 N.W. 67th Terrace, Kansas City, Mo. 64118. Her telephone is 468-8546.

Residents have complained about specific dogs fouling their yards. When walking your dogs, please do not allow them to use residents' yards this way.