

# **THE VILLAGE VOICE**

NEWS OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKS, CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI FALL, 2002

## **GROWTH OF VEGETATION IN DITCHES AN ORDINANCE VIOLATION**

One of the most prevalent problems that is faced by the Board of Trustees in their maintenance of the Village is the failure of property owners to remove vegetation from the drainage ditches along the roadsides. Along with this newsletter you will find a copy of Ordinance 57 which assigns responsibility for controlling weeds and vegetation growth in Village ditches between their property and the street to the owners of property adjacent to the streets to a distance of ten feet outside their property lines.

Village streets are generally platted fifty feet wide even though most of the streets are paved from 20 to 25 feet in width. Therefore when residents have lawns, retaining walls and/or other improvements close to the paved street, they are actually on Village property. However, Ordinance 57 regulating the growth of vegetation in ditches within ten feet outside their property line places responsibility on each homeowner to keep all rank vegetation and weeds cleared out of the ditches along their property. This is not a Village responsibility but the responsibility of homeowners.

However, since the ditches are Village property, it is against Village regulations for homeowners to fill in ditches such that they no longer carry surface water away from the streets unless permission is given to install drainage tubes in those ditches at the property owners expense. .

The Board has tried to act reasonably by sending informal letters to residents who need to open up drainage ditches and a number of you have responded by cleaning out the ditches along your property lines. However, since others have not, formal letters described in Ordinance 57 will be sent to those residents with the expectation that such work will be done expeditiously. It is not the desire of the Board to create hardships for residents but when ditches are not free to carry off surface water, the water undercuts the street pavement which all residents pay taxes to maintain.

We have not had sufficient rain this summer to cause problems, but it is important that steps be taken now to protect against future failures of our drainage systems.

## **VILLAGE NOTES**

Mrs. Lillian Eldredge of 5720 N. Doniphan Lane died August 23 at North Kansas City Hospital. Her husband, Frank, continues to reside in the home.

In the last issue of the Voice, our Village clerk's address was given as 400 N. W. 67<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64118. Her apartment number, 105, should have been added to that address.

The Kansas City Water Department presented to the Board of Trustees at its September meeting a plan for routing a 12" new water main through the four Oak villages fronting on North Oak. Our Village will be affected relatively little with the line going along street easements on the west side of the Village. Bids are to go out this year with work planned to begin next spring.