

# **VILLAGE VOICE**

**NEWS OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKS, CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI SUMMER 2003**

## **MEET YOUR TRUSTEES**

John C. Howell, Chair

5621 North Doniphan Lane

453-7947

Mary Lou Butterworth

5601 N. Lake Drive

453-5556

Betsy Rosetti

5741 N. Lake Drive

455-0743

John Hagen

5720 N. Lake Drive

454-3661

Terry Vaughan

5701 N. Lake Drive

453-0994

Terry was elected in April to succeed David Pena who had to resign for health reasons.

## **REMEMBER: THE VILLAGE OF OAKS IS A ZONED VILLAGE**

When you are planning modifications or additions to your residence, check with the Village Clerk or the Board of Trustees to determine whether a building permit is required for your project. Mary Ann Louthain, Village Clerk, resides at 400 N. W. 67<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Apt. 105. Her telephone is 468-8546.

## **PARTIAL WORK DONE ON PAVING REPAIRS TO VILLAGE STREETS**

Under the leadership of Road Commissioner

John Hagen, paving repairs were completed by Hot Roll Asphalt Company. Because of budget restrictions, only limited repair was done on Doris Avenue. It is anticipated that the remainder of the street will be paved this fall.

## **LOOKING BACK AT THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKS**

(Adapted from an article by Ken Neth in The Press Dispatch)

No. Not a human skeleton. Couldn't be. The bulldozer driver jumped down from his rig, took a good look at the bones. Yes, definitely human.

The story starts in 1910 when Dr. William M. Cross, city chemist for Kansas City, bought property in what is now the Northland. He deeded the land to the Oak Crest Cemetery Association, which sold 12x18 foot lots for \$90 each.

Cross offered about 16,000 lots and had arranged with Grand Island Railroad to make a cemetery run twice a week to show off the land to prospective buyers.

The property is on the north side of what is now called Englewood Road, directly across from Englewood Park. The area comprises the territory of the Village of Oaks and the Village of Oakwood.

**In advertising the property, Cross noted**

in 1911 that Oak Creek land is "the most beautiful and best adapted for cemetery purposes of any in the state. We have the ground already made beautiful by Mother Nature and will spare no expense to make this one of America's beautiful burial grounds."

Plans included a lake and a chapel to cost \$6,000-quite a sum in those days. By 1911 Cross had sold about 550 lots. Three persons already filled graves, probably the children of James F. Hey, bodies moved from the old Chandler Cemetery above North Kansas City. (Article continues on the back of this page)

## **HISTORY, CON'T.**

The first death notice involving the Cemetery pertained to Annie (Timme) Sprinkle, wife of Charles L. Sprinkle, a Burlington railroad employee and former resident of Harlem, then known as “the place to live.”

Why it happened is unknown, but Oak Crest closed May 25, 1926, just 15 years after the opening. Two dozen bodies had to move elsewhere—18 to Liberty, six to Kansas City. There seems to exist no exact record today of just who was reburied where and maybe this accounts for the bones the bulldozer went over that same year—1926.

A developer wanted the former cemetery ground prepared for a residential site and the Village in which you now live came into being as a residential area. However, it was not incorporated as the Village of Oaks until August 1952. The entire area of what is now Oaks and Oakwood was originally all designated as Oakwood, but in May 1952 the residents north of Barnes Avenue took the name Village of Oakwood when they incorporated that area. Thus the residents in our area named their village the Village of Oaks.

You may have noticed that the stone columns at the corners of Englewood Road and Barnes Avenue on North Oak have the name Oakwood on them from that earlier designation. The legal description of your property also designates Oaks as a subdivision of Oakwood, the larger community, not the Village of Oakwood.

As for what happened to the bones?  
Who knows? The bulldozer driver did not stay to find out.

He walked off the job. Permanently!