



LUMINARIA 2005 & PROGRESSIVE DINNER – *A Shining Success!*



December 18, 2005, photo by Nan Rochberg.

Luminaria 2005 and the Progressive Dinner that followed were a great success! **Patti LaVasser** did a wonderful job organizing the Luminaria sales and somehow managed to recruit countless volunteers, despite the freezing temperatures that weekend. **Ed Renner** dragged half of the furniture from his basement into the vacant lot to set up the sales table, including his grill, hot dogs and homemade pickles! Many thanks to all the volunteers who braved the cold throughout the weekend to make and sell the Luminaria bags.

Over one-hundred Heights residents came out on that cold night in December to attend the Progressive Dinner. The evening began with cocktail parties hosted by **Joy and Brad Beuc, Tracy Boaz, Claire and Morty Hyman and Barbara and William Pickard**. Then we moved on to soup courses hosted by **Nancy and Wayne Barnes, Marcia and Michael LaCour-Little and Agnes and Bob Wilcox**. The very brave **Dean Family** at 700 Yale opened up their beautiful home and hosted *everyone* for dessert! It was truly a delightful evening and many thanks to all who opened up their homes for this fun event – and a special thanks to **Jane Massey** for organizing it.

DATES TO REMEMBER...

February 13	Board Meeting - 739 Harvard
February 19	U-City Symphony at COCA
March 14	Board Meeting - 793 Yale
April 11	Board Meeting - 21 Princeton
April 29, 30	U-City in Bloom Plant Sale
April 30	U-City House Tour
May 2	Dine Out In The Loop Night
May 6	Neighborhood Spring Plant Swap
May 9	Board Meeting - 1 Yale

A CALL FOR NEW UHA BOARD MEMBERS

The University Heights Association Board of Directors is searching for eight new board members to serve three-year terms, starting April 2006. The task of the board (and the Association) is "to enable residents of the neighborhood to organize the particular events, services, and activities of the neighborhood and to maintain the amenities that make University Heights Subdivision #1, a national historic district, a desirable place to live."

Board meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday of each month. The Board organizes the annual neighborhood picnic, Luminaria, Oktoberfest, and the neighborhood yard sale. They also fund the garden at the subdivision marker and keep the flowers in the streetlight brackets, publish *Fence Talk* and the directory, run the website, and distribute Welcome Packets to new residents.

Our meetings are lively, fun, and not *too* long. The obligations are modest and the rewards of community service are high. If you think you would like to join us next year, call Dan Martin at 721-2907.

OUR INDENTURE IS OFFICIALLY AMENDED!

by Theresa Biggs

Great thanks to Judy Baernstein, notary supreme, for her efforts to get the petition signed to amend our indenture. On November 8, 2005, we had the amendment document recorded along with the petition. As a result, our neighborhood's governance will undergo a few changes. I hope to distribute a new brochure in a few months to reflect the changes and give everyone a clear version of today's indenture. The brochure will likely only list what is relevant to today's life in University Heights. Anyone interested in the steps the document has taken along these one hundred years can call me for a lesson on the interim amendments that got us here. The most recent changes are:

1. The "vacant" lot as well as the former "garage" lot have been included with the other common grounds of the subdivision as protected under the restrictions of the trust.
2. University Heights will now hold elections for its trustees. Starting this spring, the trustees of the neighborhood will hold elections every two years. An elected trustee will hold his/her position for up to six years. There are no set term limits.
3. The racist language from the original indenture has been deleted.
4. The trustees have the right to impose special assessments with a petition reflecting 51% approval by resident lot owners. They are also permitted to raise the annual assessment by up to \$.25 per front foot each year without petition.
5. Our indenture can be amended in the future by recording a document with a petition representing the approval of 51% of residential lot owners in the subdivision.

In the next *Fence Talk*, we hope to give more information about the upcoming elections. Please call me at 727-8435 if you have further questions.

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TREE LAWNS (BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK)...

A wonderful variety and abundance of trees make our neighborhood beautiful. Given our tree-friendly habitat, some neighbors have enquired about the Heights's plan for tree planting in tree lawns (the space between the sidewalk and the curb which is owned by the Trustees). The following is a summary of our conversation with Trustee Paul Schoomer.

In general, what is the neighborhood's approach for removing and replacing trees in tree lawns and common areas?

Trees are removed in tree lawns or in common areas when they die, become dangerous or diseased. Branches that have fallen or are hanging too low are considered dangerous. Trimming and removal is an ongoing activity but occurs mostly during the winter. Replacement of trees (planting) happens mostly in spring.

Droege (located at Ferguson and Olive) is our tree trimming vendor. The Trustee budget dictates exactly how many trees are trimmed, cut down and/or replaced.

Trees that are on privately owned property are the responsibility of the property owner.

How does Droege determine if a tree in a tree lawn must be removed?

Droege constantly monitors and examines trees and submits a tree census to the Trustees each year. The Trustees work from the list to determine trimming, cut-downs and replacement by priority and budget. Generally the dead, dying, infested, diseased or dangerous trees are candidates for removal. Sometimes the symptoms of disease or infestation are not apparent to the homeowner.

Is notice given to the homeowner of removal?

Not usually.

So, how do I know whether a tree on my tree lawn will be affected?

Candidate properties for trimming, cut-downs and replacement tree will be determined by the Trustees after evaluating Droege's tree census. The final list should be available in a few months. Check with the Trustees at that time if you'd like information on whether your address's tree lawn will receive tree upkeep.

What about re-planting of trees?

For tree lawns, Trustees use the tree census and Droege's help to determine where trees will be replanted. (On private property, it's the homeowner discretion – but the Trustees kindly suggest avoiding certain species, especially the infamous gumball trees.)

Once a tree is removed, it takes several years for soil in that spot to return to a condition that will allow a newly-planted tree to survive, which is why there are some tree lawns without trees for a few years after a tree is removed. Spring is the season for re-planting for most species. Re-planted trees are of a minimum height and maturity to ensure survival.

What if a homeowner wants to plant his/her own tree in the tree lawn?

You must obtain approval from Trustee Ron Scott first. Ron will let you know if the conditions in the tree lawn are acceptable for re-planting and will advise you on preferred species and location to plant.

What species of tree is acceptable and which should be avoided?

At this time, that list resides with Trustee Ron Scott, but it has been suggested that the list be published on the website (www.universityheightsonline.org) or in a future issue of *Fence Talk*. One thing for sure: The "gumball" species will be avoided!

Editor's note – you can now check the website for the full list!

What is the best way to deal with those gumballs?

The spiky gumballs have tweaked the ankles of neighborhood walkers for years. The Trustee budget for sidewalk clearance is quite limited, so the Trustees kindly ask that neighbors periodically clean the sidewalks of the gumballs. The Trustees assure us that gumball trees will not be replanted in the neighborhood!

What other items are acceptable in tree lawns?

Neighbor-installed gardens, bushes, tall grasses, pavers, retaining walls and other enhancements in tree lawns are fine. Be sure to avoid utility lines and covering up utility access. Please let Ron Scott know of your plans so that your address is accounted for and future planned improvements or services don't inadvertently damage your work. If you have any questions about what is acceptable, please contact Ron. Again, for planting trees, you must seek approval from the Trustees.

What if a homeowner notices a tree in a tree lawn that he/she fears presents a danger?

Call a Trustee.

What about other dangerous trees not on a tree lawn?

It's the homeowner's property and liability. Try the homeowner first or contact a Trustee to see if he/she can help.

HARVARD/DARTMOUTH LOT CLEANUP

Sometime this spring, it would be great to clean up and beautify the lot at the corner of Harvard and Dartmouth, which has become a bit dilapidated. With moderate effort, we can make some high-impact visual gain! With some painting, raking, cleanup and light landscaping (time/budget permitting), the lot can be transformed from a visual "minus" to a nice neighborhood accent (or at least visually "neutral"!).

The plan is to get some neighbor volunteers (and/or youth groups/clubs?) together for an initial afternoon of not-too-hard work and see how much we can reasonably accomplish. We may need another few afternoons of work after that, but we'll start with one and see where it leads. I hope to do Round one sometime this April and will supply more information in the coming months.

Want to help out? Have suggestions or comments? Please call Matthew Tillstrom at 265.6620 or email him at matthew.tillstrom@inkblink.com.

BUTTERFLY BUSHES FOR SALE

In the October issue of *Fence Talk*, a plan to grow native *Asclepias tuberosa* for breeding and feeding monarch butterflies in the neighborhood was discussed. Since then, about four dozen dormant seedlings grown by the Missouri Wildflowers Nursery in Jefferson City have been planted. Another four dozen - still in their pots - have been dug in to an over-wintering pit at 20 Princeton.

They will be available to neighbors at cost - \$2.00 each including tax - whenever planting is convenient. This is a reminder to think about where you might want one or two in your garden, so you will be ready to plant when the plants green up in the spring. To reserve plants, please contact Barbara Pickard at pickard@wustl.edu.

UNIVERSITY CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The University City Symphony Orchestra will feature Manuel Ramos on violin and Catherine Lehr Ramos on cello in Johannes Brahms "Double Concerto in A Minor" at their next concert on **Sunday, February 19**. The concert will be at 3:00 at COCA at 524 Trinity.

Maestro Leon Burke will also lead the orchestra in the exciting "Firebird Suite" by Igor Stravinsky. This concert is free and open to music lovers of all ages and will be followed by a reception. For more information, call Suzanne Schoomer at 862-8246.

UPDATE ON #15 PRINCETON

According to the Lehman Walker, Director of Planning at the City, the owners of #15 Princeton hope to have the Bankruptcy Court approve the sale of the interest held by debtor Michele Piperides to co-owner Deborah Purvis on January 23. Such a transfer would result in Ms. Purvis then owning 100% of the property, allowing her to be in a better position to make repairs to the property so that it will no longer be a public nuisance, according to her attorney, Teresa Generous. Let's keep our fingers crossed on the 23rd and keep the pressure on the new owner if the sale does indeed go through!

NEIGHBORS ON THE MOVE

Marcia and Michael LaCour-Little of 22 Princeton have announced that they will be leaving the Heights for their native California later this year. We all know this home as the beautifully-landscaped home on the corner of Princeton and Trinity. It boasts an impressive deck over the garage(s), as well as the completely remodeled kitchen and powder room addition, both completed in 2005.

They plan to put the house on the market in the spring, but Michael will entertain offers and respond to inquiries from interested parties in the meantime. Contact Michael at 314-374-9626 for more information. Please keep their house in mind if you know of anyone looking to relocate within our subdivision or join the Heights.

We'll miss Marcia and Michael and wish them the best of luck in their new adventure!

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

An update on our adopted family

Hopefully you read in the last issue of *Fence Talk* about our participation in the "Adopt-A-Family" Program through the Hurricane Katrina Survivors Relocation Project. Since November, a group of residents in our neighborhood has made a six month commitment to help a family from New Orleans get settled into our community and back on their feet.

Our family consists of a single mother with five children - only one child currently living at home as the others are grown and attending college. They live in the Hanley Hills neighborhood, just north of Page, off Hanley.

The initial response to help has been overwhelming! In a matter of days we were able to completely furnish their home, fill their pantry, keep them warm and make a tremendous difference in their lives. Thanks so much to the many Heights residents who gave so generously.

We are currently trying to find a car for the family! If you know anyone who has a reliable car they would like to donate or sell, please let us know. It would allow the family to be independent and make a big difference in employment opportunities!

Our goal is to help this family to become self sufficient and productive members of our community. If you would like to be involved, contact Mary Edgerton at 725-3300 or Judy Baernstein at 725-8530.

BRAVO ON THE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORIES!

The much anticipated Centennial Edition of the University Heights Neighborhood Directory is here! Kudos to Jim Ross who worked so hard to design the directory - it is truly a work of art and includes numerous archives from when the neighborhood was founded in 1904.

Despite all the care taken when preparing the neighborhood database for this project, one unfortunate error occurred! Jack Frohlichstein of 700 Trinity - who claims to be the longest living resident of the Heights was listed as "Resident." Jack, who has lived in the Heights his entire life, can be reached at 727-5575. Please use the attached sticker and place it in the new directory on page 28, second line from the top of the page.

Please keep us posted if your information changes and we will be happy to publish it in *FenceTalk*. We will make every attempt to list new residents in future issues of *Fence Talk* so we can keep our directories up-to-date!

DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

If you use e-mail regularly, please share your address with us. We occasionally need to send out important notices between issues of *Fence Talk*, and we don't want you to be left out. Please send your e-mail address to:

fencetalk@universityheightsonline.org.



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

HANDMADE PAINTED NECKLACES

Hearts, droplets, wooden beads.
Call Rebecca at 721-1350

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

Bridge table with 4 chairs, picnic table, electric meat slicer, dishes, and many, many more items for sale!
Call Kay at 727-6178

MATTRESSES

Budget grade to fabulous pillow tops & beyond.
Discounts offered to neighbors.
Call Jeff Massey at 353-0800

WEB SITES

iNKBLINK – 314.265.6620
www.inkblink.com

DO YOU SHOP AT SCHNUCKS OR WHOLE FOODS?

If you do your shopping at either of these stores, please consider buying your groceries with gift cards sold by the University City High School PTO.

It's easy, it doesn't cost you an extra cent – and the high school gets 5% of every purchase. It's a painless way to support our public schools.

To purchase the gift cards, please call Mary at 725-3300 or e-mail minouche@charter.net.

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES

BABY SITTERS

Brandon Bloom-Ellis	727-1362
Chundra Cathcart	862-2644
Cayla Damick	863-7106
Lexi Land	725-0785
Jenna Massey	726-1250
Anna Pheiffer	725-7067
Abby Shea	721.8345

MOTHERS HELPERS

Becky Ferber	727-2634
Joey Ferber	727-2634
Martha Yentumi	726-5348
Jessie Massey	726-1250

LAWN MOWERS

Drew Bloom-Ellis	727-1362
Bradley Land	725-0785
Austin Pheiffer	725-7067
Evan Pheiffer	725-7067
Justin Vail	727-9149
Arthur Yentumi	726-5348

PET SITTERS

Chundra Cathcart	862-2644
Cayla Damick	863-7106
Leah Edgerton	725-3300
Becky Ferber	727-2634
Joey Ferber	727-2634
Bradley Land	725-0785
Jessie Massey	726-1250
Jenna Massey	726-1250
Anna Pheiffer	725-7067
Alex Phillips	725-4567
Alec Slavin	727-0339
Martha Yentumi	726-5348
Arthur Yentumi	726-5348

HOUSEHOLD CHORES

Joey Ferber	727-2634
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HOUSE SITTING

Lexi Land	725-0785
Jenny Phillips	725-4567

PAINTERS

Roger Douek	862-6871
Patrick Beckmann	862-0383

ESTATE SALES

Ruth Cobb	863-2144
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WHOM TO CALL

BARKING DOGS: First call the owner; if that fails, call Police 725-2211

STRAY ANIMALS: Police 725-2211

EXCESSIVE NOISE AFTER 10:00 PM: Police 725-2211

TREES ENTWINED IN POWER LINES: Ameren UE 342-1000

TREES FROM TREELAWN OBSTRUCTING SIDEWALK /LIGHTS: Ron Scott 725-0893

TREES, SHRUBS, ETC. FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY OBSTRUCTING SIDEWALK, UNSIGHTLY GRASS OR WEEDS OVER 8' HIGH ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, TRASH CONTAINERS LEFT OUT TOO LONG AFTER PICKUP, TRASH OR LITTER: U-City Environmental Dept. 862-6767

TOO MANY RESIDENTS IN ONE HOUSE: U-City Housing & Zoning 862-6767

TREELAWN LIGHTS BURNED OUT OR DAMAGED: Ameren UE 342-1000

INTERSECTION LIGHTS BURNED OUT OR DAMAGED: Ron Scott 725-0893

GENERAL COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE HEIGHTS: Paul Schoomer 862-8246

NEW NEIGHBOR WELCOME PACKETS: Judy Baernstein 725-8530

HEIGHTS WEB SITE: universityheightsonline.org

FENCETALK: Mary Edgerton 725-3300

If you have any ideas, stories or content for FenceTalk, please email us at: fencetalk@universityheightsonline.org.

PLEASE take a moment to look over the classifieds – if you or a family member are listed under a category and shouldn't be there, please let us know! Likewise – let us know if you'd like to list any service you can provide.

Ads are always FREE!!