



FENCE TALK

Come Celebrate

OKTOBERFEST

Friday, October 7

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

1 Yale

(Please RSVP to 725-3300
by Wednesday, Oct 5)

and/or

Friday, October 14

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

717 Radcliffe

(Please RSVP to 726-3373
by Wednesday, Oct 12)

Menu:

Beer & Bratwurst \$5/person

Reservations required!
(so we know how much food to buy)

Please plan on walking home since
there will be alcohol consumed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 7	1 st Oktoberfest Happy Hour, 1 Yale
October 9	Library Book Appraisal Show
October 14	2 nd Oktoberfest Happy Hour, 717 Radcliffe
October 18	Board Meeting, 717 Radcliffe
October 31	Halloween – Trick or Treating!
November 8	Board Meeting, 6928 Amherst

UNIVERSITY CITY LIBRARY BOOK APPRAISAL SHOW

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 9, 2005

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 P.M.

LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

Hosted by

*Mr. Anthony Garnett,
Book Dealer/Appraiser*

Remember that copy of *Tom Sawyer* you have on your bookshelf? It could be worth \$3 or, in certain cases, \$32,000! Curious? Anthony Garnett, AABA book dealer will host the First Annual Book Appraisal Show on Saturday, October 8 at the University City Library.

Bring up to three books for appraisal - and who knows, maybe you'll go home rich! Think of this as sort of an "Antiques Road Show" for books! The cost is only \$15 to have up to three books appraised. Throughout the show, Mr. Garnett will talk about some of his unusual discoveries as a veteran rare book dealer. Do not miss this event! Refreshments? Certainly!

This is another outstanding event sponsored by Friends of the University City Library.

UNIVERSITY CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA STARTS NEW SEASON OCTOBER 9

The University City Symphony Orchestra is starting its season with the monumental *Symphony Number 1* by Gustav Mahler, called the "Titan." The concert, which is free and open to the public, is on Sunday, October 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Please note that this year the concerts will be performed at the University City High School auditorium to take advantage of their large stage. The University City High School is located at 7401 Balson, one block east of Hanley. Parking is available behind Jackson Park School as well as on the street. No tickets or reservations are needed.

For more information, call Heights resident Suzanne Schoomer at 862-8246 or check the University City Symphony Orchestra's website at www.UCSO.org.

BEWARE OF THE BROWN RECLUSE SPIDERS



Photo: By: Wade A. Payne Photography, <http://www.ku.edu/~recluse/>

By Heidi B. Miller, M.D., 6910 Columbia Ave

As a medical student in the Northeast I remember learning about those poisonous spiders in the Midwest. It seemed pretty abstract until my husband, Steve, and I moved to St. Louis with our son, Asher, and within weeks noticed a brown recluse spider scaling the railing of Asher's crib. We soon sprayed our home with insecticide and took many of the other measures listed below. Now that Asher has a younger brother, Reed, we're even more cautious.

The **bad news** is that brown recluse spiders have staked out a strong presence in our University Heights neighborhood.

The **good news** is that the spider bites are usually not a medical catastrophe, and there are some straight-forward measures you can take to minimize your family's exposure to them.

The Spider

The brown recluse spiders are 1 to 3 cm in length and have the characteristic pattern of a small dark violin on their back. They spin disorganized webs, and tend to hide in low traffic areas, such as basements and closets. They can be found near baseboards, ceiling cracks, wood piles, cardboard, and undisturbed clothing or bedding. They are not aggressive spiders – they tend not to bite unless they're startled or provoked. Bites are most commonly experienced when rolling over in bed, reaching into the flaps of a cardboard box, moving loose lumber, or putting on clothing that has been on the floor or undisturbed for a long time.

The Bite

A spider bite develops over 10 minutes into a painful area of reddish inflammation which heals slowly. Rarely an ulcer may form, leading to a scar. Children, pregnant women, and sick elderly persons are at higher risk for more serious reactions, but venom-associated death is *exceedingly rare*. In a study of 1,000 proven cases of brown recluse spider bites in Missouri, *none* of the patients died after exposure to the venom (Anderson, PC. Spider bites in the United States. *Dermatol Clin* 1997;15:307). Because the immune system reacts to the venom, subsequent bites are usually less severe than the initial bite. There is no anti-venom for the brown recluse spider, but early medical support can help speed the healing process.

Get out of my house!

It is nearly impossible to have a total long-term eradication of brown recluse spiders from our houses, but there are many things that effectively minimize their presence. One may hire a professional exterminator, but this can cost hundreds of dollars, and most have warranties that last only one to six months.

HERE ARE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE MEASURES YOU CAN TAKE YOURSELF (REPEATING EVERY SEVERAL MONTHS AS NEEDED):

- Get rid of the clutter! (Recycle your old cardboard, newspaper, or brown paper bags; store your belongings in tightly-covered plastic bins instead of cardboard boxes; minimize any wood scraps; keep the wood pile separate from the house; and do not leave bedding or clothing on the floor. Be sure to wear gloves when you're doing a clean-out.)
- Always check your shoes before putting them on, and shake out bedding or clothing that you haven't used in a long time.
- Pull beds and cribs slightly away from the wall, and skip the dust-ruffle because this gives the spider a way to access the bed.
- Seal off any cracks in your walls, ceilings, baseboards, crown molding, window sills/molding, and the inside of kitchen and bathroom cabinets using standard caulk. Also tuck-point any cracks between bricks or stonework on the outside of the house.
- Pull away ivy or other unwanted vegetation close to the house (since these plants draw the spiders toward the house).
- Remove the cobwebs around the outside base of your house and from the inside corners and basement ceiling with a broom (wearing gloves).
- Set glue traps (usually used to catch mice, but nontoxic traps can catch spiders) in dark corners or other areas where you have seen spiders.
- Buy a home-use insecticide spray for external and internal use from the hardware store (it should be labeled for insects and spiders). Spray the entire outside perimeter of the house. If you have a garage, spray both the outside and the inside. For the inside of the house, spray any areas where you've seen spiders in the house, but especially the crack between the wall and floor of the entire basement, all upper corners, along the baseboards in the rest of the house (especially the kitchen and bathroom), in the corners of the closets, and in the attic.
- It's controversial whether home insect foggers help eradicate brown recluse spiders. Some believe that they just cause the spiders to move around, thus exposing them to freshly-applied insecticide spray.
- If you are averse to using insecticide products in the home, you can try leaving eucalyptus leaves in the closets, keeping windows and closets clean with ammonia cleaners, buying plug in sound-producing devices, sweeping and vacuuming frequently, and allowing natural predators of the spiders in your house (such as a cat or those lovely lady bugs), but I can't attest to the effectiveness of these measures.

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.

ATTRACTING MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

By Barbara Pickard, 20 Princeton Ave.



Photo from http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/monarch_butterfly.htm

It's butterfly time again in University Heights! Many gardeners commented last summer that the year was a poor one for butterflies, but luckily this year has been a rich one. Yellow swallowtails, spicebush swallowtails, sulfur butterflies, viceroys, and yes – monarchs – are among the common late-summer visitors to our yards.

Of all these and other butterflies in our yards, monarchs are the only ones that migrate. Scientists have been afraid that the monarchs that pass through Missouri to Mexico were as a species on their way to extinction because of habitat loss (e.g. increased conversion of grassland to crops, broad-leaf herbicide spraying on some roadsides, heavy use of herbicides on crops) and because of unprecedented freezing storms in their over-wintering grounds. The danger may be a little less as of this year, but it is still real.

We can help keep the monarchs visiting the neighborhood by planting butterfly weed. The Missouri native is *Asclepias tuberosa*. Many people plant this showy orange-flowering plant just for ornament. A variety of "butterfly plants" provide nectar to the monarchs, but only *Asclepias* will feed the little attractive striped caterpillars. Kids love them. A lot of school teachers rely on the development of monarchs from egg to butterfly to illustrate life cycles, because they are so much fun to watch, and there are several multipurpose web pages.

Perhaps a relatively carefree garden of butterfly-friendly plants could edge the famous vacant lot! Or fill in a sunny street-lawn that has lost its trees! The more flowers in the neighborhood, the better chance that butterfly populations will really take hold!

Asclepias tuberosa is a "perennial" – which means that it will keep blooming year to year but will not bloom the first season of growth. It needs to over-winter before it can bloom. Once it settles in, it is drought-tolerant and sun-loving. It is a little late to plant seeds now, but a little group of neighbors is arranging to obtain a lot of plants for distribution next spring. Watch this space!

Also note: among the lovely perennial Midwestern wildflowers that provide nectar for many kinds of butterflies are purple coneflower, various kinds of *liatris*, and wild ageratum. Seed can be planted this fall for bloom next year. Email pickard@allenlab.wustl.edu with the word "butterfly" in the title if you would like one or more kinds, and I'll be happy to send you an envelope of them.

Here are some interesting websites, just to get you started:
www.acomnaturalists.com
www.monarchwatch.org
http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/monarch_butterfly.htm
www.enchantedslearning.com/subjects/butterfly/species/Monarch.shtml

GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA: HEIGHTS T-SHIRTS & POSTERS



The Story

In 1915, when the University Heights developers went broke, developers split for California and only half the lots had sold, the rest went up for auction in receivership. The poster shows a map of the subdivision, with the lots for sale indicated in red. Interestingly enough, if you look closely, you can see drawings of houses on certain lots. This indicates that there was a house on the lot at the time of printing. This appears to reinforce our 1915 date. Another interesting note: there are pencil marks on the original that would indicate that in 1918, there were still several lots left, so instead of printing new posters, they simply crossed out the Saturday and wrote Wednesday, keeping the date the same and circled the few properties left. This is truly a great artifact in the history of University Heights!

T-Shirts

These are high quality beefy tees that have the vintage poster on the back in two colors. Prices: Child Medium \$10; Adult S-XXL - \$15; Adult long sleeve (very limited quantity) M-XL \$20

Poster Prints

Prints of the vintage poster are also available to purchase. The dimensions of the original are 18"x24". Don't miss this opportunity to own a print for yourself. Prices: Loose: \$25; Framed: \$50

Please contact Dan Martin at dmigel@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in purchasing a T-shirt or print. **Deadline for this poster printing is Sept 30.**



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

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. Jeff Massey 353-0800.

RADIATOR COVERS

(2) Metal, white with hinged lids, should fit almost any size radiator. Dimensions: 59" wide x 15 1/4" deep x 40" tall ; 63" wide x 14 3/8" deep x 39" tall. Call Roy at 808-4274.

WEB DESIGN

ANODESYNE web design/development and graphic design firm provides web business strategy, development, design and marketing services to business clients. Matthew Tillstrom 265-6620, matthew@anodesyne.com

DO YOU SHOP AT SCHNUCKS OR WHOLE FOODS?

If you do shop at either store, please buy 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 makes a great gift, too!

To buy the gift cards, just call Mary at 725-3300 or e-mail minouche@charter.net and they will be delivered to your door!

It's the painless way to support your local public high school!

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

MOTHERS HELPERS

Becky Ferber 727-2634
Wesley Johnson 726-5452
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
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

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

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!!