

Greenway Fields

HOMES ASSOCIATION NEWS • KANSAS CITY, MO 64113 • 3Q 2015



Neighborhood Entry Sign at Meyer Blvd & Wornall Rd

President's Letter

On behalf of the Board at Greenway Fields, we hope you had a fantastic summer and fit in some relaxing activities. As I walk around the neighborhood, I enjoy looking at the flowers, seeing the many different architectural styles, and of course, the trees! I start to think about the times these homes have witnessed. In the past 100 years, insulin was invented, frozen food was introduced, the first helicopter was flown, aerosol spray cans were developed, the Barbie Doll became a household staple, the internet changed our lives, and mapping of the human DNA was completed.

In 2017, Greenway Fields will be 100 years old! One hundred years is a great milestone and we would like the neighborhood looking its best. Plus we think a celebration of some sort is in order.

The Board has started the planning process to mark this event and we would like your input. A survey is on the homes association website at www.greenwayfields.org/survey We will be continuing to use this link to get your feedback periodically so that our efforts are a reflection of what the residents value.

We want to know how and where we can improve our neighborhood to start. Plus, we would love to have our neighbors join in the planning. One question on the survey is whether you would like to be on the centennial planning committee.

Please give us your input and do enjoy our cooler fall days!

Please visit www.greenwayfields.org/about/newsletters/ for this Newsletter's editorial policy.

Upcoming Events



Trick or Treat Street October 31st, 4-6 PM

Brookside will be alive with ghosts and goblins, pirates and princesses.

Experience a safe, worry-free event as children enjoy treats from the Brookside merchants.



86th Annual Plaza Lighting Ceremony Thanksgiving Evening 5-8pm



Fun Plaza Light Facts

The big switch on the stage at the Plaza Lighting Ceremony really does turn on all the lights.

The child chosen to help turn on the lights from the audience is always chosen at random.

Guests that have been invited to turn on the Plaza Lights include:

George Brett, Trent Green,
Kate Spade, Maurice Green,
Paul Rudd, Jason Sudeikis, Eric
Stonestreet, Walter Cronkite,
Derrick Thomas, Marcus Allen,
Buck O'Neil & Oleta Adams.

Would You Like to Host Our Next Holiday Party?

Food and drinks, set-up and clean-up are provided by the Homes Association, so you can just enjoy being the host! Let a Board member know if you'd like to offer to host (first or second Sunday in December).

Join our facebook group



www.greenwayfields.org

About Town

Now that the days of summer are over and temperatures are cooler, dining al fresco (translation: *in the open air*) is more inviting and Brookside has many outdoor seating options from which to choose. From that morning coffee to late night dinner or dessert, Brookside has something for everyone. Start your day with coffee or tea at **Bella Napoli** (6229 Brookside Blvd.), **The Roasterie** (6223 Brookside Blvd), or **Panera** (6301 Brookside Plaza)...

BY JEANETTE LEPIQUE

Invite a friend to lunch or dinner on the patio at **Blue Grotto** (6324 Brookside Plaza), **Domo Sushi** (6322 Brookside Plaza), or **Julian** (6227 Brookside Plaza)... Don't forget dessert at **Foo's** (6235 Brookside Plaza) or **Baskin-Robbins** (336 W 63rd St). **Charlie Hoopers** (12 W 63rd St) and **The Brooksider** are options some might enjoy for their nightcap and **Michael Forbes Bar & Grill** (128 W 63rd St) has re-opened after its renovations.



Popsicle Parade July 4th, 2015

Improving Our Park

If you use Strawn Park (at 63rd & Summit/Valley), you will have noticed that the usually damp areas of the park have turned into a veritable swamp. Our very wet spring and summer have exacerbated the known drainage problems in the park, causing the Hermes statues to shift on their foundations and making the north side of the park difficult to navigate on foot or in a stroller

after a heavy rain. Improvements are in the works! The GFHA board recently commissioned a survey and engineering plan to fix the drainage in the park and are in the process of sending the plan out for bids in the hopes of implementing a solution before the next monsoon season begins. We will keep you posted on progress through the newsletters.

Eliminating Racially Restrictive Covenants in Greenway Fields

BY SCOTT KAISER

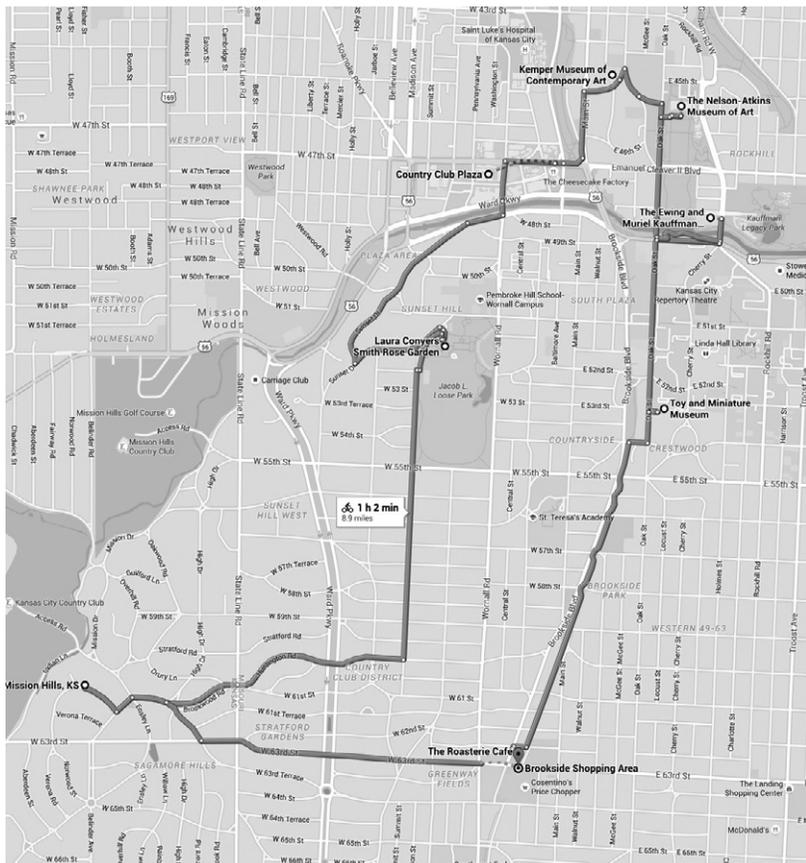
The first restrictive covenants for Greenway Fields were established by the J.C. Nichols Investment Company in 1917. Like other subdivisions in the Country Club District, these early restrictions included a provision that prohibited all present and future property owners from selling their homes to blacks.

Greenway Fields was not an outlier. Between 1908 and 1954, approximately 62% (138 of 221) subdivisions in Jackson County had racially restrictive covenants. During approximately the same time frame, such covenants were very common in subdivisions in Johnson County (96%), Clay County (71%), and Platte County (74%). *Source: Gotham, K.F., Urban Space, Restrictive Covenants and the Origins of Racial Residential Segregation in a US City, 1900–1950 (Int'l Jour. of Urban and Regional Research, Vol 24.3, Sept. 2000), 624.*

In 1948, however, the US Supreme Court decided *Shelley v. Kraemer*, 334 U.S. 1 (1948), a landmark case which held that courts could not enforce racially restrictive covenants on real estate.

While that decision made such covenants legally unenforceable, the text of these covenants didn't magically disappear. Over 50 years passed. In 2005, the Missouri legislature passed §213.030, which mandates that homes associations "shall amend, without approval of owners, any declaration or other governing document that includes a restrictive covenant [that discriminates on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, or familial status]."

Today, the Greenway Fields website has a copy of the original Greenway Fields Homes Association Restrictions, minus the racially restrictive covenants.



A Cyclist's View of Kansas City

A Cyclist's View of Kansas City

BY BOB DEEG

Come take a bike ride with me and visit some of the highlights of Kansas City, all within a few short miles of Greenway Fields.

We'll start our bike tour northbound on the Trolley Trail adjacent to the Roasterie Café on 62nd Terrace. Our first stop is the National Museum of Toys & Miniatures near Oak & 52nd Street that house the world's largest fine-scale miniature collection, with over 70,000 objects in its possession.

Heading north on Cherry Street we cross Brush Creek and stop to take in the Ewing and Muriel Kauffman Memorial Garden. This 2-acre meticulously maintained garden features 7,000 plants, with varieties that include vintage and modern perennials, annuals, shrubs, bulbs and trees.

Peddling north we come upon the fabulous Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, recognized internationally as one of the finest general art museums in the United States, and admission is free! Don't miss the recently installed Four Seasons sculptures by Philip Haas.

Our next stop is the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, just NW of the Nelson. The Kemper presents 8-12 exhibitions per year and includes a permanent collection with works by Dale Chihuly, Andrew Wyeth, Georgia O'Keeffe, Frank Stella & Robert Mapplethorpe, among others.

Time for a break from all this peddling so let's glide downhill SE to the Country Club Plaza, for some refreshing food and drink or a bit of shopping. The Plaza was the brainchild of land developer J.C. Nichols, who started buying the 55 acres of land in 1907. Back then it was a swamp covered dumping ground, with a hog farm on one end and a brickyard on the other. When the construction of the Plaza was announced in 1922, many of the city's leaders called it *Nichols' Folly*. What they didn't see was a master plan that was years in the making and reflected a study of shopping areas around the world. Nichols himself handpicked and meticulously placed works of art to adorn the Plaza's streets, buildings, sidewalks and fountains using antique sculptures, columns and tile-adorned murals. History buffs may already know that the Plaza became the first

major shopping area in the country to be constructed to cater to people arriving by automobile.

Now it's time to *churn & burn*. Heading south from the Plaza on Wornall Road find your lowest

gear and grind up the hill to Loose Park. Stop to wander through the amazing Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden and take a stroll around the pond, carefully sidestepping the *calling cards* left by the ever-present geese and ducks. Heart rate back to normal, we head west on 52nd Street to see some of the area's finest older homes, in Mission Hills. Turn south on Sunset Drive and then cross Ward Pkwy on 55th Street. Meandering south between Indian Creek and State Line we take in the stately beauty of luxurious older homes surrounded by manicured landscapes. At 63rd Street head east again to our starting point. On our trusty bike we've seen 2 states, 3 museums filled with an amazing array of modern and classic art, an incredible shopping/restaurant district and 2 fabulous garden parks. Wasn't that fun?

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