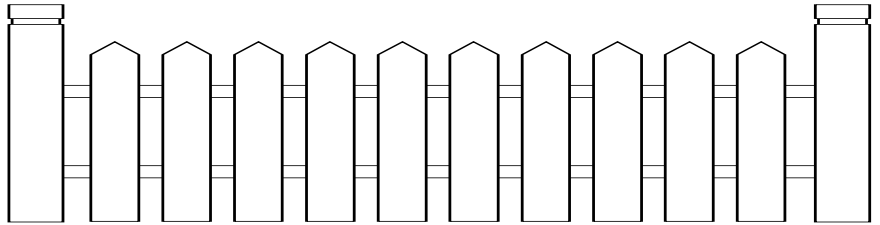


FENCE TALK

OCTOBER, 2001



Greetings Neighbors-

So many things have changed since the last issue of FenceTalk. The events of September 11 caused many reassessments of lifestyle, values and priorities. University Heights' former resident, Carol Demitz, is among the missing from the World Trade Center. She is the daughter of Col. and Mrs. Robert Demitz who lived on Radcliffe for many years. My heartfelt sympathy to her family and friends. The Annual Picnic was rescheduled from its original September 17th date, only to be rescheduled to the same day the U.S. retaliatory bombings began—an equally retrospective time. There was a certain comfort, though, in being with friends and neighbors, and to feel that 'we were getting back to normal'. I cannot help but comment that the part of me that wears rose-colored glasses wishes that we could get to the core of the hate that Bin Laden and his terrorist group harbor for the U.S., and that we could just 'work it out' by talking rather than fighting. Isn't that what we teach our children to do when they have an altercation on the playground?

This is the time of year that the U Heights Trustees send out annual assessment billings. I am hoping that soon the needed paperwork will be in place for the increase in the assessment. My property value has increased substantially in the five years I have owned it. I wish that the common elements of our neighborhood could be maintained as though they were in a 'thriving' community (just how long has that very large pothole lingered on Yale? Is that a tree or a weed growing next to the decorative lamppost at Dartmouth & Yale?) Our Trustees need more funds to handle our maintenance needs. Our assessments have not increased since 1974!!! I will be paying my assessment at the new proposed rate (twice the current rate) even without the paperwork completed, and I encourage you to do the same.

Janet Schaper, editor

TRICK OR TREAT

October 31st is the night you can expect ghosts & goblins to fill the streets! Following are our neighborhood Trick-or-Treating rules:

If you are going to host trick or treaters, turn your porch light on at 6:00pm and off at 8:00pm. Do not answer your door after 8:00pm. If you are a trick-or-treater, or take your children out, please complete your rounds by 8:00pm.

There will be barricades and signs set up at both car entrances to the neighborhood to keep out unwanted traffic. If you have invited guests over, please let them know. PLEASE DON'T MOVE OR REMOVE THE BARRICADES.

Trick or Treaters are reminded to wear light colored clothing and/or reflective tape and to carry a flashlight. THE GREAT PUMPKIN will be out to judge the pumpkins and decorations in the neighborhood, so please be sure to display your "work of art". Street parties are welcome—but don't forget it's a school night!

LEAF PICKUP

The City will pick up leaves curbside three times in University Heights: The weeks of October 29 and November 26. You may rake leaves to the curb the weekend before pickup (but please not prior to that weekend). The City's vehicles will come by sometime during that week. The leaves are put in piles at Heman Park, and made available to residents in the spring in the form of leaf mulch. Be careful not to park on the piles of leaves during pickup time. Heat from your car's engine can easily ignite leaves!!

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees will send out assessment billing beginning November 1st. Included in the statement, you will receive a statement of income and expenses for the period 11/1/2000 to 10/31/2001. Please pay your assessment promptly and in full to refill our neighborhood coffers.

NEIGHBOR KUDOS

More on talented neighbors....Nancy Barnes (11 Princeton) had two quilts hung at the Piecemill Quilters Show in September. One was a flower pounding and one was a sampler with an Alaskan theme. Nancy belongs to several quilting guilds...Jeremy Davenport, whose parents still live on Yale was named to the UCHS 2001 Hall of Fame. He is an accomplished jazz musician, is a cast member of the new sitcom, Emeril, and was on of People Magazine's 50 most eligible bachelors this year. Hillary Phillips, Age 9, was the winner of the picnic button contest for her entry "University Heights Unites and Always Remembers".

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Time for Fall Maintenance With the constant rain and cooler temperatures, it feels like Fall is really here. As we put away shorts and pull out sweaters, we should also be tending to our beautiful old homes. It is time to replace screens with storm windows—and to caulk joints and putty our 90 year old windows! Also, it is almost time to drain sillcocks, insulate outside water lines and put away hoses. As we rake our leaves to the curb for leaf pick-up days we should be checking that our gutters are clear---if you decide to check or clean your gutters yourself, be careful on that ladder!!

Inside, we are thinking of turning on the heat. It is always a good idea to have your heating system checked out by a qualified contractor at the beginning of the season. Many of us have radiators which will need to be bled. It is definitely time to remove or winterize any window air conditioners. If you do not have central air and the memory of our hot, humid summer is fresh enough so that you wish you did, a little later in the winter is an excellent time to get a good price and have central air conditioning installed. A new, high efficiency central air system will reduce your summer electric bills significantly and enhance the resale value of your home.

What's Happening in the Fall Real Estate Market?

Many published national reports describe what we are experiencing here in University City and in the broader metropolitan area. Even before September 11 potential homebuyers were hesitant: looking, admiring, reluctant to commit to a purchase, reflecting concerns about the overall economy, the stock market and the job market. Our homes will continue to sell, but not at the frenzied pace of the recent past which seemed to drive prices up with every transaction!!!! If it is not the best time to move, it is an excellent time to refinance. Recent quotes from local banks included 30 year fixed rate mortgages at 6.38% and 15 year fixed rate mortgages at 5.88%-well below even fairly recent rates.

If you are interested in refinancing or moving or simply need the name of a contractor to help maintain or improve your home, give me a call at 863-3966.

Your Neighborhood Realtor,
Joyce Daughaday
727 Yale Avenue

MUSIC LESSONS By Rose Martin

Why Play an Instrument? It is pleasurable. It opens the door to some of the loveliest traditions in sound. It puts you in the driver's seat to experience the musical art form. It involves you in a learning process that demands discipline, organization, acceptance of praise and criticism, dedication, co-operation, physical co-ordination and development, mental training and memory. All of our senses are involved and clear attitudes toward learning are developed. It becomes a social tool with other young players doing the same thing. The study of music can be a friend you carry with you throughout your life, and a gift that no one can ever take away from you.

Who Should Play an Instrument? Music lessons are not for everyone. They demand a tremendous amount of time, dedication and energy to reap the rewards of some level of satisfying music making. Kids often start at an age (3 or 4 or 5) which often denies them the ability to make a choice about what they want to do. It is really up to the parent to decide what they want for their child and to make the necessary arrangements in the family life to make it happen. A child who starts later (7 or 8) may have a much clearer idea what they want to do – or which instrument they want to play. They can learn if they really have a strong desire to do so. They are more responsible for taking directions and doing their own work.

How Else Can One Be Involved with Music Without Taking Lessons?

Not everyone can take lessons. Listening on a regular basis to the wealth of great music both live and recorded is a wonderful environment to grow in. Participating in summer music enrichment classes, Orff classes, KinderMusik classes, St. Louis Symphony KinderKonzerts, Quartet Seraphin's Meet the Composer series are just a few of the local music offerings.

(Rose Martin has lived in the Heights for 24 years and has taught Suzuki method violin for 25 years at the St. Louis Symphony Community Music School (formerly CASA, now called "Symphony Music School at Webster Univ.") her husband is a violist with the St. Louis Symphony and she a violinist with Quartet Seraphin. Her two children are grown with families of their own, the Martins being grandparents to 5 grandchildren. Their son, Peter, is a jazz pianist with classical training, and presently plays with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.)

BLOCK HOMES

Dear Neighbors,

It's that time of the year again. School children are walking through the Heights to and from school. It's time to remind you about the Block Home Program, which was established in 1984 under the guidance of our neighborhood association and the University City Police Department. It addresses the issues of health and safety for our children who walk to and from school.

As is often the case, a few Block Home participants moved over the summer, and we invite new participants in the program. We try to have at least 2 homes per street, more on longer streets such as Dartmouth.

As a Block Home volunteer, you will be asked to place a sign in your window so children going to and from school will know which house can be used in an emergency. You will not need to be home everyday. The sign can be removed when you are not available. You will not be expected to break up fights or give medical aid. It will be your responsibility to call the parents and proper authorities in any emergency situation involving a child.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please give me a call at 862-2644. Those of you who are parents of school age children may want to walk your child's route to and from school with him/her and point out the Block Homes on the way.

As a parting note, I want to remind drivers in the Heights to SLOW DOWN and remember to stop for the stop signs. They are there for pedestrians, and especially for our children.

Thanks!

Marilyn Cathcart
Block Home Coordinator
6933 Columbia
862-2644

Don't forget about the paper recycling bin at Delmar-Harvard school. You can recycle Magazines, Junk Mail, Cardboard, Most Paper items. Proceeds go to support Delmar-Harvard School.

CALENDAR

Week of October 29	Second curbside leaf pickup by City
October 31	The Great Pumpkin pays a visit to University Heights
November 12	Veteran's Day No Refuse/Recycling Picking (pickup day will be Tuesday)
November 13	November Board meeting at the Koch Residence 6945 Dartmouth
Week of November 26	Third curbside leaf pickup by City
December 16	University Heights Luminaria
December 20	Bulky Item Pickup in University Heights
December 31	Rain Date for Luminaria
January 8	January Board Meeting at Strassburger's #4 Princeton
February 12	February Board Meeting at Jennings' 789 Yale
March 12	March Board Meeting at Blueberry Hill
April TBD	Annual Meeting at U City Library