

Homes Association THE POINTE BRIDGE POINTE

Ray Family Hosts TGIF on April 8

Vicki and Danny Ray (582-5418) will host the next TGIF Social Hour at 8325 N. Highland on Friday, April 8, at 5:30pm.

Since June 2005, grown-ups have met monthly with snacks and beverages at dozens of different homes.

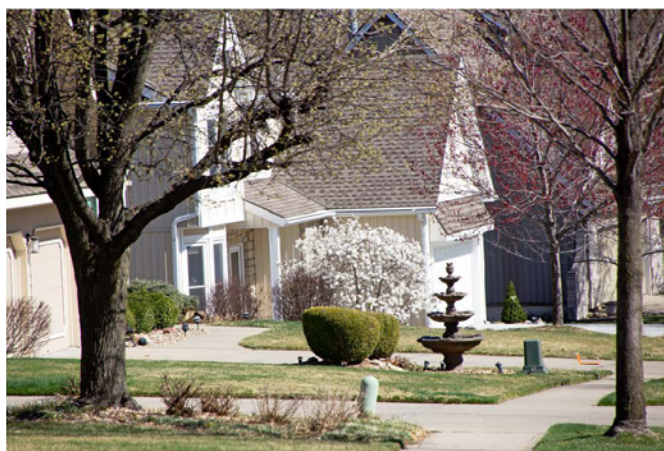


Photo by Valerie Anderson

Finally, Spring!

Bushes start to flower, trees sprout leaves, and lawns show green the homes on NE 83rd Street and throughout BridgePointe.



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*"To have good neighbors,
be a good neighbor . . ."*

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Sell, Donate, or Dump Stuff in May

Stuff you can't sell at the garage sales on May 6-7 can be donated by placing it curbside by 8am, Tuesday, May 10, for collection by Synergy Services. The safe-house residents want gently used clothing, household items, toys, books, appliances and furniture. Mark items



clearly: "Synergy." Coordinator is **Linda Spotts Michael** (LindaSpotts.Michael@mcckc.edu, 816-436-0339).

Unusable stuff can go into the dumpster which will be near the pool on Saturday, May 14, from 8am until it's full. To volunteer, contact **Bob Hiatt**, 816-305-4176, nkcbob69@yahoo.com.



Saving \$15,000 . . .

New Pool Contract Removes Lifeguards

As prices rise, and as the Association's swimming pool, parking lot, and other property grow old, the Board recognized a need to reduce costs so a reserve fund could grow. As most other neighborhoods have done,

the Board voted to change the pool management contract to exclude lifeguards.

Some of the \$15,000 savings will be spent on a new security system, allowing neighbors to enter with electronic keys.

Snazzy, Interactive Website Coming Soon

Neighbor **Pat Rainey** is working with a website developer to create a sleek, functional site which will promote better communication for the neighborhood, and offer an inviting look for prospective neighbors who want to learn more about BridgePointe.

The Association's Board voted to spend \$750 for the site, plus a monthly service fee. Besides posting important reference information, the site will allow for quick updates of calendars, exchange of messages, and links to useful sites, such as Facebook.

For several years, realtor and neighbor **Curtis Stock** graciously permitted the Association to post information free on his business site, called www.kcbridgepointe.com, but the capability is limited. The new site, owned by the Association, can be upgraded frequently.

The Association will pay \$750 to set up the site. **Pat** is donating time to be site administrator, inserting photographs and information for a year, while training his replacement.



At the all-neighbors meeting on January 11, **John Azodi** received the annual Good Neighbor Award, recognizing his long-standing service to BridgePointe. His wife, **Rose Brady**, first suggested the popular monthly TGIF Social Hours. He has kept the events going since June 2005. The award honors the late **Larry Hanson**, who inspired active neighborhood involvement.

Five-Year Plan . . .

Committee Prioritizes Needs, Costs

Every homeowner knows that furniture, equipment and fixtures break, wear out, and get too old. So, the question is not "if" but "when" property must be maintained, fixed, or replaced — and at what cost.

With that in mind, five neighbors are applying their expertise and experience to study when items were bought, installed, and repaired — parking lot, swimming pool, furniture, signage,

plumbing, walls, fences, electrical fixtures — the works.

They're calculating precisely what needs to be done, and when, to keep the neighborhood great, and to improve it. The Board will decide what to do with their recommendation.

Borrowing money is not an option for the Association, and no one wants huge special assessments. So the group is figuring how to create a reserve fund.

Remarkable local talent is at work on the five-year plan. **Mike Power** brings computer technology and landscaping skills. **George Roberts** is a retired police deputy chief. **Brian McCrary**, a civil engineer, plans construction projects. **Dave Mecklenburg**, former Association president and civic activist, is an insurance agent. **Pat Rainey** is a corporate consultant who specializes in such planning.

WiFi Hotspot . . .

Internet, Electronic Entry Coming to Pool

Without lifeguards to monitor access to the swimming pool this season, an electronic gate-control system is being sought.

Present plans are for each household to have a key fob to open the gate. Opening and closing times, and usage of the

fobs, will be controlled by an internet connection. That, in turn, will require installation of cable or fiber.

An additional benefit will be availability of a wifi service in the pool area. The entry system is estimated to cost about \$6,000, funded by savings

from changing the pool management contract to omit lifeguards.

Installation and monthly cost for the internet connection is not set yet, pending a decision on which provider will be chosen to bring service to the pool area.

Grand Marshal Dies . . .

Long Illness Claims War Hero

Jim Gooden, 78, war hero and BridgePointe's perennial Grand Marshal of the July 4 parades, died on March 1 after a lengthy illness.



Besides being perpetually jovial, he was a good choice to lead the parade in his U.S. Army uniform because of his long and brave service.

On September 24, 2005, he

received a Silver Star, the third-highest combat award for heroism. In a fierce battle on November 17-18, 1965, while bleeding from six wounds, he hurled grenades to silence North Vietnamese machine guns, leading his men to safety. The fight killed 155 of 450 U.S. soldiers.

No one has explained why the award did not come until nearly 40 years later.

He also earned a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service and many other medals during his 25-year career.

A celebration of life is set for 1pm, Saturday, April 9, at American Legion Post 58, at 2607 Missouri Highway 92, Smithville, Missouri 64089. **Jim** had served as a Commander of the Post, and started its Honor Guard.

Jim is survived by his wife, **Claudia**, who moved with him to BridgePointe about 12 years ago.

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New Neighbors Continue to Arrive

At least 14 homes in Bridgepointe changed hands in the last year. Here are some neighbors to welcome.

Josh and Tatiana Altena (660-442-6443) moved into the **Sander** house at 1501 NE 82nd Ter. **Josh** works for the BNSF Railway. **Tati** is a student, who stays at home with youngsters **Nell, Alejandro** and **Jerick**. Reach them at taticarolina4@hotmail.com.

Newlyweds **Christopher and Amber Webster** (636-222-3611) now live at 8334 N. Highland, which was the **Galla** home. **Christopher** works at Antioch Bible Baptist Church. **Amber** is an independent jeweler for Premier Designs. Reach them at ajccwebster@gmail.com.

Billy and Neele Lichner (816-510-9827) bought the **Slagenweit** house at 1504 NE 82nd Ter. and have children,

Makenzie, 15, and **Avonlea**, 17. **Billy** is an electrician project manager. E-mail them at billylichner@gmail.com, and neelelichner@gmail.com.

Tony and Erika Costes (816-377-2980) 1601 NE 82nd Ter., and son **Blake**, moved into the **Bonds'** house. **Tony** is a network administra-

tor and **Erika** is a property manager. Reach them at tony.costes@outlook.com.

Jane Catherine Long, at eight pounds, 21 inches, arrived 10:57am, March 10. Proud parents are **Stacy and Jake Long**. **Henry and Eli** are big brothers.



Kattie Henson (left) helps new neighbor **Laura Crawford** get acquainted at the March 11 TGIF Social Hour, hosted by **Rose Brady**

and **John Azodi**. During her visits to BridgePointe for the Parents-As-Teachers program, **Laura** liked what she saw in the neighborhood.

Current Events . . .

Do You Canoe, Too?

BridgePointe neighbors can enjoy a canoe trip on the Current River, July 23-25. Lodging will be in the Steelman Lodge at Montauk State Park, near Salem, MO. (<https://mostateparks.com/lodging/montauk-state-park>).

Cost for lodging is \$172 for two nights. Canoe rental is not included. A one-night

deposit (\$86) is due by April 23. Pay the balance at the Lodge. Drive to Montauk on Saturday, July 23; float on Sunday, and return Monday.

Great memories were made on nine previous canoe trips. This one will be just as fun! Contact **Sandy Nelson** (816-808-8345) for info, or to pay a deposit.



Honor the Class of '16!

To recognize the hard work and accomplishments of neighborhood students who graduate, *The Pointe* wants to publish accomplishments and honors, post-graduate plans, and parents' names. Send information with digital photos of graduates' faces kennel-son@mclaw.com.