

Neighborhood News

Country Club District Homes Association

REFLECTIONS ON THE COUNTRY CLUB DISTRICT

BY CHIP SCHMELZER

Winter 2013

For the past thirty-seven years it has been a great pleasure and privilege for me and my wife, Suzi, to live at 1003 Huntington Road in Kansas City, Missouri, in Hampstead Gardens, a subdivision within the Country Club District. It is the home where our only child, Jonathan, was born and raised. Now he lives in Washington D.C. where he is employed by the National Academy of Sciences.

Our house was purchased by my grandparents, Margaret ("Grandmother Maizie") and Harvey (Pappy") Schmelzer in 1917 upon the completion of the home's construction. In this house, in this manicured neighborhood, Grandmother Maizie and Pappy raised their only child, my father, Charles J. Schmelzer, II, who married my mother, Charline Bush Schmelzer, in 1940. In this house, in this tree lined neighborhood, my great-grandfather, Charles J. Schmelzer, I, and his wife lived on the third floor in their declining years from 1938 to 1944. In this house, in this nurturing neighborhood, my son lived from his birth in 1984 until he left for college in 2003.

In this house, in this historic neighborhood,

exists a treasure trove of memories extending almost 100 years – from the early days of Kansas City, Missouri, to the extension of its boundaries which included this well-designed neighborhood conceived by J.C. Nichols in the early 1900's, to today's enduring prominence. For my family and for many other residents of the Country Club District, it doesn't get any better than knowing we are a part of that history and tradition.

One of my favorite childhood memories was spending nights in this home with Grandmother Maizie and Pappy. That meant playing out on Rooster Island the next day with the children of the surrounding neighbors. What good fortune for me! Rooster Island was a magical playground for me, and the children quickly became my good friends.

Rooster Island is one of the eight beautiful park-like traffic islands, both big and small, within the boundaries of the Country Club District Homes Association. The main objective of this association is to preserve the neighborhood as a special place to live, to raise a family, if so inclined, and to retire in a gorgeous and beautiful and peaceful environment. Rooster Island, located on Bellevue, is bounded by Huntington Rd to the north, 60th Terrace to the south. It was dubbed "Rooster Island" because of Grandmother Maizie's doing. Grandmother Maizie loved roosters. She had been raised in Glasgow, Missouri, where she developed

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Restoration Underway On Historic Ward Parkway Icon

By Lara Schopp



A 4.9 million dollar exterior restoration project is underway at Country Club Christian Church. The project includes replacement of large sections of the church's iconic tower and other ornamental stonework, as well as repairs to rooftop and roof-line areas that have been damaged by weather and age. Crews began their work the week of October 29th.

Also included in the current project is repair of the church's sanctuary organ, which was installed in 1971, and restoration of the church's stained-glass windows. The exterior restoration is expected to be completed in early 2013, followed later in the year by the organ repair and stained-glass work.

"At Country Club Christian Church we consider our physical structure to be our mission station, the base of operation for which all of our services to both the Kansas City Community and to the world

begin," said Dr. Glen Miles, senior minister. "We are excited to make the investment in our building so that we may continue to build a better and more gracious world for generations to come."

Country Club Christian Church was established in 1920, and the construction on its initial sanctuary building began in 1923 and was completed in 1925. Other sections of the building were added in various phases through the church's 90 year history.

For more than 90 years Country Club Christian Church has stood as a living expression of God's love and grace in this community and around the world. More than 40 ministry programs proclaim the unconditional love of God for all people. Spiritual development, service to neighbor and loving compassion permeate each ministry area. Visit www.ccccckc.org for additional information on Country Club Christian Church's ministries and programs.

The Emerald Ash Borer Arrives in KC

The existence of the Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed in the Kansas City area last August. The EAB lays its eggs on the bark of an ash tree and the larvae tunnel through the bark and begin consuming the sap of the tree. The feeding disrupts the water flow to the canopy, dehydrating and killing that portion of the tree. Eventually, the whole tree will die.

Early infestation of the EAB is nearly impossible to detect because the tree does not show outward symptoms at first. However, as the infestation grows, the tree will decline and then die.

EAB symptoms you will see as the infestation progresses:

- *Earlier than usual fall coloration
- *Dieback of branches with sparse foliage
- *New branches sprouting from the lower trunk

*Woodpeckers feeding on infested trees

* D-shaped exit holes

*Decline in groups of ash trees all at the same time

Fortunately, there are products that can be applied before as well as after infestation. A great resource for these products as well as additional links relating to EAB is, www.thetreegeek.com. The site contains a video showing how to apply these products. In addition, information can also be found at the KCMO Parks and Recreation site or by contacting the city forester, Kevin Lapointe (816)274-2356.



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an affinity for roosters; in fact, so much so that in the early 1950's she donated to the home's association four concrete sculptures of roosters, each one of which was placed on one of the four stone pillars located at the corners of this long, narrow island. It thereafter became known as Rooster Island.

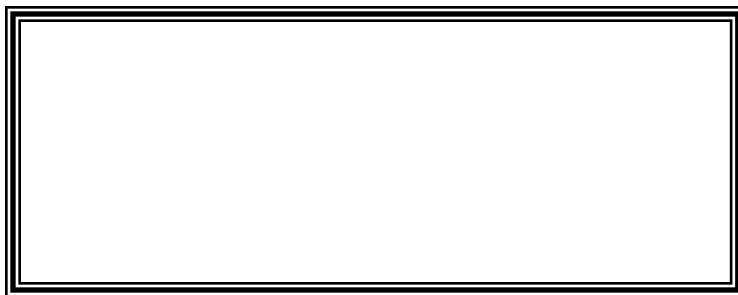
Everyone loved the rooster statues, but over the years the draw of playful neighborhood children and the vagaries of nature's elements challenged the roosters' continuing existence. Little by little, the roosters succumbed to the elements and to the activities of the playful children, finally disappearing entirely. Yet the name "Rooster Island" survives to this day.

I like to believe the name's survival is in tribute to Grandmother Maizie. It is for this reason that when Suzi and I moved into my family home across from Rooster Island in 1976, I felt it was important to preserve Rooster Island as a landmark for our homes association and its members.

I have sometimes wondered if our son Jonathan would eventually move back to Kansas City to continue the family tradition of living in this home in this magical neighborhood. But I have come to realize that, as the world has become smaller and the lure of other cities has become quite enticing, we will be lucky and happy just to have Jonathan at home, if only for holidays and other family occasions. One of Suzi's and my greatest hopes for Jonathan is that he will be as fortunate as we are to be settled in a neighborhood that is as well planned and lovely as ours. As for all the residents of the Country Club District, it is our hope that our beloved and comfortable homes in this very special neighborhood will continue to be protected and our park-like traffic islands will continue to be improved by the Country Club District Homes Association and its officers, together with the help and guidance of homeowners.....just as J.C. Nichols, almost a century ago, foresaw it would.

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Homes Association***

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