



Inside Hyde Park

January 2022

Volume 2, Issue 1

Biking America

by Chris and Debbie Spriggs, HP Homeowners



In 2010, Debbie and I officially retired. Not being the type to sit back and relax, we set sail for adventure. We were already hooked on biking so we began checking out rail trails and other bike trails across America. Little did we know just how far these adventures would take us.

Since 2010, we have biked somewhere near 5,000 miles in the local states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri, and as far north as Michigan, and as far east as Maryland. America has so much to offer that few people get to see, especially from

the perspective of a trail. We really enjoy the small towns and their uniqueness that many of these trails find their way through. We have met some of the most interesting people along the way who have shared amazing tales. We have many stories to tell to anyone interested.

The big cities also have capitalized on the attraction of trails and have put plenty of dollars toward making the trails healthy and enjoyable. For anyone interested in nearby bike trails, Tulsa has a great trail system along the Arkansas river. Also, Oklahoma City has a nice trail along the Oklahoma River, and in Arkansas the Razorback Greenway is a trail system from Fayetteville to Bella Vista that is worth checking out. **HP**

Table Talk from the HOA Chair

by Les Gleaves, President, HP Homeowners Association

Happy New Year Hyde Park!! 2021 was a very busy year for the HOA Board! The highlight, I believe, was the support the Board received from the homeowners. We genuinely appreciated it and look forward to your continued support. We are a growing community and 2022 promises to be busier! The CC&Rs are being revised and updated along with policies for Clubhouse use, Pickleball, Event Scheduling, Security, etc. More details will be forthcoming in future meetings, so be sure to attend!! The Board is looking forward to seeing you all at the next Hyde Park Board meeting on Monday, January 17 at 1:00. **HP**

Ugly Sweater Contest

Held during Happy Hour on

December 17, 2021

Won by Jim and Barbara Weems



Storm Shelters... who's got 'em?

by Jeri Tucker, Tulsa Police Dept., Retired,
HP Security Committee and HP Homeowner

Many of us here in Hyde Park have safe rooms/storm shelters. Personally, we use ours for a storm shelter as well as a safe where we secure important papers, jewelry, and a few (ok, more than a few) guns.

After recent storms destroyed many homes and towns throughout the southern states, it's probably a good idea for all of us to make sure we're prepared in case a situation like that arises in Tulsa.

First, make sure you know where the keys to your shelter are. Place a few things you may need in a small tote box (bottled water, a flashlight, important information for your bank, doctors, etc.). You may consider putting a couple of small folding stools inside with you as well.

If you have an electrical outlet in the shelter, put a phone charger inside so you can keep in touch with family and neighbors. Most storm events are over very quickly, but it's ok to over prepare.

Finally, the Safety Committee is going to develop a list of those who have safe rooms so that people can be quickly found in the event of a catastrophe. In conjunction with that, we will be asking residents if they are willing to help their neighbors who may not have a shelter in their homes. **HP**

A Father's Advice Sets the Course

by Paul Wentz, Editor *Inside Hyde Park* and HP Homeowner

Pat Regan was in his second year of college, and, like many students, unsure of his career path. His father was the chief engineer for a group of fifteen hospitals operated by a Catholic Order. When he asked his dad what type of engineering would be best as a career choice, Pat was not expecting the answer he received. His father suggested instead hospital administration. Because he valued his father's advice, Pat met with several hospital administrators to gain insight and knowledge of this position. Believing in his dad and valuing the counsel of experienced hospital administrators, Pat changed course. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, Pat continued his education and earned two master's degrees: one in health services administration and one in business.

All this because of a father's suggested career path.

Any way you look at it, Pat's 52 year career in hospital administration, design, construction, and operation was a success – and an adventure. After 10 years working in hospital administration, Pat was ready for a change of focus. He realized that the assignments that brought him the greatest satisfaction involved the design and construction of medical facilities. About this time, a position became available in a faraway land with a different language, a different culture, and, if that was not enough, a brief war nearby. It was 1973, and in October of that year, Israel fought a war led by Syria and Egypt, known as the Yom Kippur War.

In Jordan the Al-Hussein Hospital was completed the same year and was in need of an experienced administrator to perform the duties of a chief operating officer. Though others were considered, Pat was offered the two-year contract. He initially turned it down, but his wife Sandy said, "Hold on. That sounds like something we would love." So, off they went – dad, mom, and kids – to Amman, Jordan. One of Pat's earliest tasks was to help paint a red cross on the roof of the hospital to prevent harm and war damage.



Until the end of his contract in 1975, Pat performed his part overseeing the design, construction, and operation of the expanding King Hussein Medical Center. The two years following his contract were spent stateside. His career path, however, led him and his family back to Amman in 1977. His employer at the time needed him back in the Middle East to provide design and construction support in places like Riyadh and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. While his family was quartered in Amman, Pat travelled to these cities and construction sites to provide direction and support. Finally, in 1980, Pat and family returned to the United States, and he continued to oversee design, construction, and operation of hospitals until his retirement in 2012.

The Regan family's time in the Middle East, and specifically Amman, brought with it exceptional experiences and unique friendships. Pat's children learned life-long lessons in language and culture during their stay in Jordan and their visits to Europe as well. An additional unique experience for Pat and family was their friendship with the king and queen of Jordan. Beyond that, Sandy continues to correspond with Princess Muna Al-Hussein, the second wife of King Hussein and mother of the current King of Jordan (King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein). Pat and Sandy's two sons and one daughter formed friendships with the children of the royal family. All this because of a father's suggested career path.

Pat's retirement has been quite productive as well. More on that in the February *Inside Hyde Park* newsletter. **HP**