

Olivette *Life*

...in the center of it all

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Veterans Park

Veterans Day will soon be upon us – November 11th to be exact – and residents of Olivette can celebrate the occasion at our own Veterans Park, one of the city's lesser known jewels. This small but colorful space at the southeast corner of Dielman Rd. and Olive Blvd. was not always called Veterans Park.

Until the mid 1960's Olive Blvd. was a rather quiet two-lane road. However the post-war growth of the western suburbs and automobile traffic caused the Missouri Department of Transportation to widen Olive to a four-lane state highway. In so doing, the state acquired the right-of-way to areas adjacent to the street at the intersection of Olive and Dielman. Isaac E. Young, City Council member and then Mayor of Olivette, convinced MODOT to give that parcel to Olivette for beautification purposes and initiated a cam-

paign of public support to install a fountain with donations from some 300 private citizens and businesses. The City had enough seed money to hire Robert Goetz, a well known landscape architect, to design and install the fountain and landscape area, in the process creating a lovely oasis along the increasingly busy Olive corridor.

Some years later a group of Olivette citizens and council people named this corner "Veterans Park" and a plaque was installed dedicated to Veterans of All Wars.

In 2000, the community group *Olivette in Bloom* proposed to take over maintenance of the plantings at the Park and transformed it into a showcase garden for the City, building on Mr. Young's visionary work to establish the park and on the citizens' desire to honor our military veterans.

If you would like to see photographs of this garden and a list of plants growing there, please visit our web-site, www.olivetteinbloom.org.