

# MARQUIS

FEBRUARY 2011

Founded by the residents of Lafayette Square

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 2

## Safety first

### Safety measures result in Lafayette Square's ranking as one of the top 10 safest neighborhoods in St. Louis

By Michael Petitit  
LSRC Safety Committee Chairman

The residents of Lafayette Square have always been proactive in maintaining a positive, thriving neighborhood in an urban setting. Community activities, ranging from annual house tours and a nationally recognized bike race to movies and concerts in beautiful Lafayette Park, have made Lafayette Square a destination neighborhood. As more people visit and move to the area, the Lafayette Square community strives to provide a safe and enjoyable environment. However our quality of life was threatened in late 2009 when an increase in crime affected residents and visitors alike.

On Dec. 11, 2009, in an effort to create a safer neighborhood within the city of St. Louis, we initiated a neighborhood mobile patrol program. The program utilizes a combination of resident volunteers and state-of-the-art technology, working with and under the guidance of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Resident volunteers canvas the neighborhood focusing on safety concerns and suspicious activity that require a call to the police.

Neighborhood patrols are a key component of our crime prevention measures, but additional steps have been taken to maintain a safe neighborhood. Residents have worked closely with the police, the circuit attorney and judges to develop a "big picture" approach to crime and safety. The following steps were taken in 2010:

- We developed a bond of trust and communication with the 4th District police and Circuit Attorney's office, keeping us abreast of any crimes that occur and enabling us to take proactive measures preventing future crime.

- We built a smart neighborhood model that utilizes technologies, resident volunteers and trusted relationships with the police department, Circuit Attorneys office and judges. This model has

improved our quality of life by increasing communication and decreasing crime. We are currently helping surrounding neighborhoods adopt models that work for their demographics.

- We have put up 40 surveillance camera signs informing individuals that cameras are used in our neighborhood.

- We created a secure 4th District police substation on Park Avenue, which the St. Louis Police Board approved. The substation gives police easier access to the information they require to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively, and has resulted in an increased police presence in the area and faster response times.

- We purchased two engravers, which are kept at the substation, for residents to engrave their valuables should they get stolen. If you would like to borrow one, contact Dave Visintainer or Mike Petetit.

- Steve Skinner and John Weston tested and installed three surveillance cameras, with a goal of having 30 installed by the end of 2011. The cameras will be linked to the substation and will eventually become part of the mobile patrol program.

- We hosted several safety and neighborhood watch classes throughout the year. Nearby neighborhoods were invited to attend. Another one is scheduled for Feb. 23.

- We arranged for guest speakers at our monthly neighborhood meetings. Speakers included the 4th District police specifically Capt. Kenneth Kegel and Officer Brian Min; Neighborhood Watch and Mobile Patrol Sgt. Catherine Dennis; Community Outreach Sergeant Demetrius Elston; Gang Unit Det. Alfonso

See Safety, page 5



Carolyn Willmore photo

## Happy Birthday, George!

The Cornelia Greene Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution will hold its 47th annual wreath laying ceremony on President's Day. This event is open to the public, so please join the DAR on Feb. 21 for this patriotic event. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. and is held in front of the George Washington statue, located along Lafayette Avenue between Missouri and Mississippi avenues.

This year's guest speaker is William "Bill" Groth (who stands second from the right in the photo above, along with William Grote, Ed Morris and John Rush). Mr. Groth is an educator, naturalist, science consultant, veteran and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. Mr. Groth has participated in this ceremony for many years as a member of the SAR Color Guard.

The Lafayette Park Conservancy invites you to attend a reception before the ceremony. Stop by the Park House between 9 and 10 a.m. for cake and coffee. The Park House is located inside Lafayette Park near the corner of Mississippi and Lafayette avenues.

## Re-election campaign is in high gear

By Kacie Starr Triplett  
Sixth Ward Alderman

On Jan. 20, the 6th Ward Democratic Organization endorsed me in my re-election bid for 6th Ward Alderman. The organization hosted a candidate forum and members voted to endorse their candidate for 6th Ward Alderman.

I would like to thank the 6th Ward residents who braved a snowstorm to come out in droves to support me throughout the candidate forum and the endorsement meeting. I am pleased to receive the support of the 6th Ward Democratic Organization and am so grateful for their endorsement.

In response to recent concerns within the ward, I met with several alarm companies to find a company that would be willing to offer home alarm systems at a reduced rate to 6th Ward residents. I am happy to report ABF Security will now offer a reduced rate to 6th Ward

residents interested in installing alarm systems in their home, activating inactive systems and installing video camera monitoring.

Home alarms help protect personal belongings, reduce crime in the community and offer an overall sense of safety to homeowners. ABF Security has been in business over 30 years and has several great home alarm packages that are available for any resident interested in signing up. For more information, please contact Angela Cassidy at Angelac@abfsecurity.com or 636-600-4720.

Our first session was so popular we are doing it again! On Feb 12 join us at the Fitness Factory Gym, 1314 Washington Ave., from noon to 1:30 p.m. for a special class taught by Sensei Dave, who will teach 6th Ward women special self-defense techniques. Criminals consider women to be easy targets — learn special moves to prevent an attack. There is a \$10 fee to cover class instruction. If you

do not have the ability to pay, you are still welcome to attend. There is limited space, so you must sign up by calling 771-9800 in advance.

Please let me know if you are interested in donating a few hours of your time to help out with my re-election campaign. We are always looking for volunteers to make phone calls, to canvas 6th Ward neighborhoods and to stuff envelopes. The campaign office is located at 1218 S. Jefferson. It is smack dab in the middle of the ward, near a bus line and is handicap accessible.

We are always looking for volunteers every day of the week from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, drop by the campaign office or call 772-2245. You can also visit my website at www.KacieStarrTriplett.com and complete the volunteer form. All ages and levels of experience are welcome. This is the "people's campaign," so there is something for everyone!

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March Marquis Deadline:  
Wednesday, Feb. 23

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## Editor's Note

It is the goal of the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee and those who support it to bring you the news about our neighborhood each month. This is our news, and we want to do our best to bring it to you in the most accurate and professional manner possible. We're always happy to receive article submissions, photos, press releases or story ideas from anywhere in our coverage area, and we'll do our best to include them. Editorial deadlines and delivery dates can be found on the calendar.

As your neighborhood newspaper, we want your contributions and input. Feel free to contact me at any time.

— Jennifer Weston, neighborhood liaison  
[newsdesk@lafayettesqr.com](mailto:newsdesk@lafayettesqr.com)

The Marquis is published monthly by Virginia Publishing Company on behalf of the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee. Originally founded by Lafayette Square Restoration Committee as a small newsletter, the paper has grown into the voice of St. Louis' strong near southside neighborhood groups, serving Benton Park, Compton Heights, Fox Park, Gate District, Lafayette Park, LaSalle Park, and McKinley Heights neighborhoods.

Submissions, including articles, photos and story ideas, are highly encouraged, but the editor reserves the right to edit for grammar, space, clarity and appropriateness. Deadline for submissions is the 18th of the prior month. Contact the editor at [kara@westendword.com](mailto:kara@westendword.com) or call 314-367-6612 x30. For advertising info, contact [jsackman@westendword.com](mailto:jsackman@westendword.com) or call 314-367-6612 x23.



625 N. Euclid, Ste. 330  
PO Box 4538  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
(314) 367-6612  
(314) 367-0727 Fax

**President** Jeff Fister  
**Sales Representative** Jake Sackman  
**Editor** Kara Krekeler  
**Neighborhood Liaison** Jennifer Weston  
**Creative Director** Ben Pierce  
**Graphic Designer** Kate Huffman

**Contributors**  
Debra Crowe, Erin Guss, Liz Lohman,  
Michael Petitit, Kacie Starr Triplett, Mary Visintainer,  
Linda Weiner, Gwen Williams, Carolyn Willmore

## Don't miss next LSRC meeting

By Liz Lohman  
LSRC President

Hi neighbors! Hopefully you've all been able to dig yourselves out from our recent snow storms and are staying warm in these chilly temperatures! I, for one, am ready for Spring!

I hope you were able to attend the Historic Code and Capital Improvements forum on Jan. 29. Many of our neighbors have worked tirelessly on the proposed changes to the historic code. I encourage all of you to review these changes online by following the link at [www.lafayettesquare.org](http://www.lafayettesquare.org).

We will vote to accept all or none of these changes at the next Lafayette Square Restoration Committee meeting on Feb. 8. (The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Square United Methodist Church, 2300 Lafayette Ave.). I want to emphasize that you do NOT have to be a member of the LSRC to vote on these changes, you just need to show that you live or own property in the neighborhood (please bring along your ID or a utility bill to prove this). The proposed changes to the historic code will affect all of us, so it would be great to have a large voter turnout at the meeting.

In addition to the vote, we will be hearing from Bradford Kessler, who is running against incumbent Kacie Starr Triplett in the primary election for 6th Ward Alderman taking place March 8. This will be a good opportunity to learn

more about his campaign and ask him any questions you might have.

One last note about the upcoming LSRC meeting — we will be collecting donations for the police substation. Suggestions for donations are: bottled water, iced tea, soda, popcorn, Special K bars (strawberry, blueberry, etc), snacks in individually wrapped packages, Mr. Clean Magic Erasers, Swiffer Duster with refills and a large cork board. Providing these items for the officers that use the substation helps keep them comfortable and it encourages them to spend more time in (and protecting!) Lafayette Square. We've been told multiple times how much they appreciate the generosity of our neighborhood, so let's keep it up!

Another event that we have coming up in the neighborhood is the Neighborhood Watch Class, scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Lafayette Square United Methodist Church. For those with small children, TLC for Kids nanny service will be providing babysitters at the daycare facility within the church while the training is being held. If you would like to attend the class, please contact Mike Petitit at [Mpetetit@yahoo.com](mailto:Mpetetit@yahoo.com) or 374-4264. If you plan on attending, and will be using the nanny service, please e-mail Susan Wofford Jones at [suzi\\_1108@yahoo.com](mailto:suzi_1108@yahoo.com) so we can request the appropriate number of babysitters.

I hope everyone has a great month. Thanks to all who help make this neighborhood a wonderful place to live!

## Upcoming events in the Square

FEB. 8	7 p.m. LSRC general meeting	LPUMC basement
FEB. 15	7 p.m. Development meeting	Park House
FEB. 21	9 a.m. LPC DAR wreath laying	Park House/Washington statue
FEB. 22	7 p.m. LPC Board meeting 7 p.m. Arts Council meeting	Park House, first floor Park House, second floor
FEB. 23	Marquis deadline	
MARCH 1	7 p.m. LSRC board meeting	Park House
MARCH 4	Marquis delivered	
MARCH 8	7 p.m. LSRC general meeting	LPUMC basement

Visit [www.lafayettesquare.org](http://www.lafayettesquare.org) for more information

## Correction

In the January issue, we neglected to give photo credits to Kim Whitrap, Crista Olson and Lynne Keay. We apologize for these omissions.

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# LS businesses, residents help Peabody School raise \$13,000

By Gwen Williams  
Lafayette Square

It no longer comes as a surprise to me when I am out shopping and I hear people say great things about Lafayette Square. It is not only a neighborhood where residents take great pride in preserving and maintaining its beautiful architectural treasures. It is also the place to be if you want to live in a community where residents combine their strengths and talents to address any issues of concern arising within the community. The new police substation, organized by resident Michael Petetit, is a good example.

In December the Peabody School Education Task Force, which includes two Lafayette Square residents, Otis Williams and Kasey Bergh, hosted a successful holiday fundraiser for Peabody Elementary School. Peabody School is located just east of Lafayette Square at 1224 South 14th St. The fundraiser was well attended and generously supported by Lafayette Square residents. The event was held at 33 Wine Bar, located at 1913 Park Ave., thanks to owner Jeff Stetner. Bethany Budde, owner of SqWire's Restaurant, generously donated delectable *hor d'oeuvres* for those in attendance.

The event raised \$13,000. Proceeds

from this fundraising campaign will be used to purchase Lego engineering kits for student and teacher use in the classroom. This is another step in enhancing the learning experience for Peabody students. Lego engineering technology will be used to enhance the math, science and reading curriculum through the use of engineering-based projects.

The Peabody School Education Task Force was formed over nine years ago to help raise private funds to improve the quality of education and to increase the resources available to students. The task force includes representatives from Nestlé Purina, Ameren, Kingdom House, St. Louis Public Schools Foundation (an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization), St. Louis Public Schools and the St. Louis Development Corporation. Since its inception, the task force has raised over \$600,000 that has been used to equip classrooms with computers for student use at their desks, smart boards, faculty training, a computer lab for use during study hall and playground equipment.

As a result of this investment, Peabody School has made great strides in improving student achievement, and has recently been recognized as one of the top performing St. Louis Public Schools. Located in a redeveloped, thriving community bound by downtown St. Louis and the Lafayette Square, LaSalle Park and Souard neighborhoods, Peabody offers a technology-enhanced curriculum that helps prepare its mostly underserved students for future success. Lafayette Square residents understand the value of investing in education. We can look forward to hearing more good news regarding this school and the Lafayette Square neighborhood in the near future!



# Annual progressive dinner set for May 7; register now

By Mary Visintainer  
Lafayette Square

The 11th annual Progressive Dinner will be held on May 7. Funds raised from the dinner will be dedicated to the LSRC for the police substation.

Several talented cooks have already volunteered their homes for the evening. The committee is still in need of a few appetizer and entrée homes. To volunteer your home and culinary skills, call Kathy Marks-Petetit at 588-9004, Suzanne Sessions at 771-8646 or Mary Visintainer at 865-4954.

If you prefer to be a guest, the evening

will begin at 6 p.m. with appetizers and drinks at one of four lovely homes in the Square. Next, you will walk around the Park to meet more neighbors at one of the entrée homes for a delicious meal and scintillating conversation. The evening will end with everyone meeting for dessert in one beautiful home in the Square. A silent auction is being planned for the end of the evening at the dessert home. To donate items for the auction, call Suzanne.

The cost is \$50 per person. To make a reservation, mail the registration form below to Mary or to register by phone, call Kathy. This event sells out quickly, so make a reservation today.

## DINING AROUND THE SQUARE PROGRESSIVE DINNER RESERVATION FORM

The schedule for Saturday, May 7 is:

6:00—Appetizers      7:30—Entrées      9:00—Dessert

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations at \$50.00 per person.

Participants will be contacted prior to event with details regarding their host homes.

Mail form and check made payable to Lafayette Square Restoration Committee (LSRC) to: Mary Visintainer, 1304 Mackay Place, St. Louis, MO 63104.

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# Everyone's welcome and valued at LPUMC

By Debra Crowe  
Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

The welcome statement that appears on every Sunday bulletin at LPUMC reads: "As a people of faith, we recognize the diversity of people created in the image of God. We welcome to this congregation people of any age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, health status and any humanity created by God." Within the greater Methodist church, other congregations that share this belief in "the Gospel's teaching of justice and inclusion" are connected by the Reconciling Ministries Network. Lafayette Park UMC is one of only two in St. Louis. The other is our sister church, Centenary United Methodist Church, downtown.

From 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 27, representatives from the RMN will host a workshop at LPUMC for all who are interested in learning more about how to effectively work toward equality for ALL God's children. Meet others who share your passion for justice, hear their stories and share your own. There is no admission fee,

but pre-registration is required. Please contact Maria at lpsecretary@sbcglobal.net or 771-9214 to reserve your seat. Learn more about the Reconciling Ministries Network at [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org).

Late last year, Lafayette Park UMC made a commitment to acquiring 2,000 mosquito nets; enough to cover the entire population of Catembe, Mozambique, where we have a partner church — and we did it! As of Jan. 26, with help from friends at Centenary UMC, the goal has been reached. Mosquitoes carry malaria, a leading cause of death in Mozambique. Research shows a 92 percent decrease in the incidence of the disease in areas where mosquito nets are used. Those 2,000 nets will save a lot of lives. To all those who helped us reach this goal, "Thank you."

An effort to help those in need closer to home is underway. Members of Girl Scout Troop 34 are collecting coats, gloves and blankets for those who are homeless in St. Louis. They're also assembling care packages containing socks, snacks, bottled water and other small items to be given to those in need. If you would like to support this effort, please bring your donations to the church office. Call 771-9214 for open times.

Equality, justice, issues of global socio-economics — these are major concerns to people who care about others, and are worthy of consideration and action. Of no less value, however, are the *individuals* of this country, this city — our neighborhood. Please accept the invitation to visit Lafayette Park United Methodist Church. While you are certainly welcome to participate in a workshop, join a committee or take a class, you are also welcome to do absolutely nothing. Just have a seat on Sunday morning. Enjoy the music. Hear the teaching. Come downstairs for a cup of coffee. In whatever way you wish to participate — or not — you are always welcome.

Lafayette Park United Methodist Church is located at 2300 Lafayette Ave., one block east of Jefferson. Sunday morning worship is at 9:30 a.m. You may reach us by phone at 771-9214 or visit our website at [www.lp-umc.org](http://www.lp-umc.org).

# Business focus: Mary Cox

By Jennifer Weston  
Lafayette Square

Mary Cox could have had a cushy job taking over an existing Edward Jones office in St. Louis County. Instead she chose to open an office in the city. Four years later, she has no regrets.

After spending her youth in Springfield, Mo., Mary moved to St. Louis to attend St. Louis University. While in college she met her husband and moved with him to Benton Park. They purchased and renovated a 128-year-old home, and raised their daughter there. Mary fell in love with her adopted city.

Mary began her career at the Edward Jones home office. There were several reasons she chose Edward Jones to work for, one being that they are employee-owned. She liked that since there is only one profit center, advisors in the community do not compete against those working at the home office. She also valued the model of having offices out in the community.

After spending time in the home office, Mary was given the opportunity to become an advisor out in the field. Her love of the city and her strong desire to work with clients who live here prompted her to open her office in Benton Park West on Jefferson Avenue. When an opportunity presented itself, Mary jumped at the chance to relocate



to nearby Lafayette Square. She was eager to be part of the vibrant business community here. Mary opened her new office in October 2009.

Mary said she understands that she is not the advisor for everyone, but that she could be a good fit for someone who is interested in being able to sit across the table from her to put a plan together for their future. She said she feels that living and working in a client's own neighborhood is a quality many people are looking for in an advisor.

Mary and her longtime assistant Liz Pointer, also of Benton Park, appreciate the support the community has given them. Mary said she looks forward to many more years serving the residents of Lafayette Square and the surrounding neighborhoods, giving back to the community she loves. She can be contacted in person at 1908 Park Ave. or by phone at 577-0167.

# The happiness factor

By Linda Weiner  
Lafayette Square

Even a person who specializes in mental health has some issues this time of year. In my own self-review of things that might assist me in experiencing life in as positive a manner as possible during the bleak, sunless, cold days of winter (exacerbated by living in a barely-insulated stone home with high ceilings and not owing Laclede Gas Company), I share the following with you, my community.

First, let me be clear. Current science says that nearly 50 percent of our happiness level is genetically determined. Each of us is born with a "set point," a point to which we tend to return, or stabilize. In psychological terms, we inherit the tendency to be optimistic or pessimistic along a continuum. Some see it in terms

of biology — the more serotonin in the brain we inherit, the more optimistic we might be.

However you see it, the lack of sunlight and being indoors this time of year brings its challenges to cultivating maximum happiness. Here's where I review what might maximize happiness. While some people say that money, material possessions, intelligence and beauty help determine happiness, research does not bear this out. Beyond a certain level essential to meeting basic needs (plus maximum clothing and plants), money and things don't do it. And because intelligent people have higher expectations, they may not be maximizing happiness either. What about beauty? Yes, possessing beauty can increase happiness, but only if you *believe* you are beautiful! So what are the tried and true factors in producing happiness that we might nurture? No, not lobotomy. Wrong answer! The things that influence happiness and long life beside the state of one's health are:

- The quality and quantity of friendships
- Strong relationships with a significant other, a family, a community
- Faith of a non-fundamentalist quality (Fundamentalists tend to be discontent about their imperfections)
- Altruistic activities, which help us bond to others and feel good about ourselves, maybe even contribute to our sense of meaning and purpose

So remember the next time we have a workday in the park: friendship, altruism and a sense of community await you! In the meantime, eat some chocolate!

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**Safety** from page 1

Hayes; Chief Legal Counsel Susan Guerra; Chief Deputy Juvenile Officer Catherine Horejes; and judges Jimmy Edwards, Paula Bryant and Mike Stelzer.

- Five residents graduated from the St. Louis Police Citizens Academy, where they gained a better understanding of the processes, procedures and daily issues of the police as they work to serve and protect. Three residents have submitted their applications to attend the upcoming March 2011 class.

- Residents met with various judges to understand their roles and to learn how we can help.

- Tony Krawat wrote neighborhood impact statements to judges to aid in prosecuting anyone who is caught offending in our neighborhood. He continues to do so when needed, although has not had to recently because of the decrease in crime.

- Residents attended court cases on individuals who committed crimes in Lafayette Square. Three criminals are now serving time in the Missouri Correctional Facility because of our efforts.

- We currently have six neighborhood orders of protection on individuals who have committed crimes in Lafayette Square.

- The Circuit Attorney's office trained seven residents for the Lafayette Square Victim Support Group, which is led by Betty Randa. The group reaches out to crime victims, whether residents or visitors. The objective is to help victims through their trauma and to stress the importance of being a witness.

- We installed an 800-foot-long-by-6-foot-tall black wrought iron fence along Truman Parkway, from Chouteau to Park Avenue. Incidents in that quadrant of our neighborhood have decreased dramatically since the installation, which has encouraged new construction in that area.

- We installed a gate behind the city-owned parking lot on Park Avenue near Vail. We have not had any incidents since installation in July, compared to one every six weeks previously.

- We will be partnering with the Peabody, LaSalle, McKinley Heights and Gate District neighborhoods to begin a Neighborhood Accountability Board this year. Under the guidance of Community Justice Project Supervisor Sara Butler, we will follow restorative justice principals and approaches. We are in need of volunteers to serve on the board.

- Glen Eckert is leading efforts to revamp the block captain program, with a goal of having a captain for every block in the neighborhood.

- Dave Visintainer keeps track of every mobile patrol report to see if patterns exist that need to be shared with the police and future patrols. He monitors the crime report mapping website on a daily basis to track crime patterns and spikes in Lafayette Square and nearby neighborhoods.

- Several fundraisers were organized throughout the year to raise money for our efforts. These included a progressive dinner organized by Mary Visintainer and Kathy Marks-Petetit and a party in the Plaza organized by the Lafayette Square Business Association. There will be more this year, including another progressive dinner on May 7.

- Steve Skinner created a neighborhood gateway, SquareShare, to keep residents connected and informed. SquareShare is a vital component of the mobile patrol program. Jennifer Weston registers new users and keeps information up-to-date.

- Residents have become more vigilant in calling the police when they see or hear something suspicious.

Thanks to the hard work of residents and the police department, in 2010 we had the lowest amount of crime in more than five years. A year ago when we started our crime prevention measures we were the 27th safest neighborhood out of 99 neighborhoods in the city of St. Louis (20 of which are parks). My goal was to see crime reduced, improving our quality of life and to see us in the top 10 in overall lowest crime. I am thrilled to report that we met our goal! We ended the year third lowest in person-on-person crime, 12th lowest in property crime and ninth lowest in total overall crime. Additional 2010 stats include:

- Robbery down 14.3 percent
- Aggravated assault down 25 percent
- Total person-on-person crimes down 25 percent

- Burglary up 13 percent
- Larceny down 25.5 percent
- Vehicle theft down 36.7 percent
- Total property crime down 22.7 percent

- Total overall crime in Lafayette Square is down 22.8 percent

My motto for the year is "Evil exists when good people do nothing" and the results prove that we are VERY GOOD people. Thank you!

# Poetry event raises \$750 for garden

By Linda Weiner  
Lafayette Square

On Nov. 12, the Third Annual Community Garden Poetry Fundraiser was held in the home of resident and garden co-leader, Linda Weiner. The evening's poets and poetry readers included Virginia Slachman, Rebecca Wright (with a Brooklyn accent), Mary Ruth Donnelly, Sue Heggarty and Robin Kruse. An incredible, candle-lit evening was shared among lovers of the spoken and written word.

The fundraiser, along with donations in the weeks that followed, raised \$750 to add to our \$2,100 savings. We are now just \$650 short of our estimated goal of \$3,500. The plan has been to build five brick columns to support the donated iron fencing waiting for us in the basement of Four Muddy Paws (thank you, Matt and Jeff).

This spring we plan to finalize our design and get additional updated bids. We hope to make a more attractive entrance to the community garden along Park Avenue. We have already planted boxwoods along Dolman to create a living fence for when the current wooden fence finally falls down.

Many thanks to our poets, as well as Al Horst, Lou and Ella Heigham,



Linda Weiner photo

**This wooden fence will be replaced once the community garden raises another \$650.**

Glenn Eckert, Gwen Williams, Lisa Emmenegger, Diana Gray, Roy and Kim Peterson, Bridgid Simpson, Kara and Anton Krawat, Paul Anderson, Sheila Simpson, Patricia Barber, Linda Pallman and Mark and Janette Lonsdale. I hope I'm not forgetting someone!

If you would like to help us realize our dream of creating a community garden entrance befitting of Lafayette Square, please feel free to donate. Checks should be made payable to "LSRC" with "Columns" written in the memo section. They can be dropped off or mailed to Linda Weiner at 1801 Hickory St.

Only \$650 to go!

# Get connected!

There are lots of ways to get connected with your neighbors in Lafayette Square:

**In person** — Neighborhood meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Lafayette and Missouri avenues. Meeting agendas and minutes are located on the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee site of SquareShare.

**By e-mail** — Lafayette Square has a group on Yahoo. For a link to join, visit [www.lafayettesquare.org](http://www.lafayettesquare.org). You will need a Yahoo e-mail address to join, but you can

use your own e-mail address to send and receive messages.

**By web** — SquareShare is the collaborative gateway (website) for Lafayette Square. Every resident or business owner can contribute. Visit [www.lafayettesquare.org](http://www.lafayettesquare.org) for a link. To register, send an e-mail to [helpdesk@lafayettesqr.com](mailto:helpdesk@lafayettesqr.com) with your name, address and preferred e-mail address.

**By print** — All residents are invited to submit articles to be published in the Marquis, space permitting. Registered users can submit articles and photos via SquareShare on the News Desk tab, or you can e-mail them directly to [newsdesk@lafayettesqr.com](mailto:newsdesk@lafayettesqr.com).

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# January LSRC membership meeting minutes

## MINUTES\* FOR JANUARY 11, 2011, LSRC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was held at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church with approximately 80 residents in attendance. President Liz Lohman called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the December 2010 meeting minutes as amended.

### Guest speakers

**Mayor Francis Slay** — Mayor Slay began by expressing his appreciation for our organization. He spoke about two issues: local control of the St. Louis City Police Department and the earnings tax. He is in favor of the city taking back control of the police department. Currently, the state controls the department. He feels that it would be better for the city if they had policy and fiscal oversight. Mayor Slay is also in favor of keeping the earnings tax. He urged attendees to encourage their friends to vote Yes on Prop E in the next election. Revenue from the earnings tax accounts for one third of the city's yearly revenue. Visit [www.citizensforastrongerstlouis.com](http://www.citizensforastrongerstlouis.com) for more information.

**James Roby, Refuse Department** — Mr. Roby answered questions about trash and recycling. Trash is picked up on Tuesdays and recycling on Fridays. Contact the CSB if a dumpster needs to be relocated. It may be possible to switch to a larger dumpster if overhead wires are not in the way.

### Safety reports

**Problem properties** — Don Owens thanked Jimmie Miller for his years of service as our neighborhood stabilization officer. Felicia Henderson is our new NSO. Mr. Owens reported on a problem property and a property that had to redo its exterior steps because it was not up to code. He also spoke about the new recycling containers in the alleys. The city will not pick up Christmas trees in the alley; they need to be taken to the designated locations in the city for tree recycling.

**Security/mobile patrol** — Michael Petetit read his 2010 year-end report. Since mobile patrol began in December 2009, overall crime has dropped 22.8 percent. Lafayette Square is currently the ninth safest neighborhood out of 99 neighborhoods, rising from 27th in 2009. Dave Visintainer reported that there have been some car break-ins lately that fit a different pattern than normal. The break-ins are happening early in the evening.

**St. Louis Police** — Officer Brian Min spoke about how police officers can respond more quickly with the substation being in the neighborhood. Capt. Kenneth Kegel thanked everyone for the meals the neighborhood provided at the substation for officers working on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

### Committee reports

**Community Affairs/Technology** — Steve Skinner reported that the WAP (wireless access protocol) he installed is already being used by people in the neighborhood. It will be used for the mesh network for the security cameras. He is working on improvements to the e-commerce site. He thanked Cheryl

Duft for helping Linda Skinner on Christmas day at the substation.

**Membership** — Jennifer Weston encouraged everyone to join. There will be a membership form mailed to every resident in late January. Memberships help support the many programs the LSRC organizes.

**Capital Improvements** — Mary Visintainer reported that there will be a neighborhood forum to discuss the proposed changes to the historic code and to view upcoming capital improvements. The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 29 in the lower level of the Barr Branch Library. The code will be voted on at the February 8 LSRC general meeting. All residents can vote. A pedestal for the bust in the Park House has been donated. The Missouri Botanical Garden has also donated a rug for the Park House. Ms. Visintainer will be meeting with Alderwoman Triplett to discuss the zoning projects and capital improvements.

**Beautification** — Linda Weiner reported that funds are still needed to build the columns for the community garden fence located on Park Avenue at Dolman.

### Neighborhood organization reports

**Lafayette Park Conservancy** — Carolyn Willmore reported that the LPC still needs about \$6,000 to restore the Benton statue. There is a matching fund up to \$2,000. Put "Benton" in the memo field if you wish to contribute.

### New business

**Spring 2011 House Tour** — Liz Lohman reported that a chair is needed.

### Announcements

Liz Lohman reported that the after-meeting social budget has increased to \$150. Receipts are required for reimbursement.

Alderwoman Phyllis Young spoke about some construction projects in the 6th and 7th wards. She also reported that there will be a bike trail connecting downtown to Soulard and that Metro received funding for bike-friendly trails and repairs on the riverfront.

Paul Hibbard, a local filmmaker, spoke about his desire to film a movie in Lafayette Square. He is looking for support and investors. For more information, e-mail [yarblesproduction@gmail.com](mailto:yarblesproduction@gmail.com).

Erin Guss, manager at the Barr Branch Library, expressed her enjoyment of the library being on the Holiday Parlor Tour. She also reported about Black History Month and that volunteers will be on-site on Fridays for tax assistance.

Glenn Eckert, block captain commander, spoke about loss prevention. He handed out home inventory forms and expressed the importance of digitally photographing valuables in case of loss.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:27 p.m.

The after-meeting social was held at J. Watson Scott's home. Many thanks to our host!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Weston  
Acting Membership Secretary

\* Minutes will be voted on at the Feb. 8 general meeting.

## LAFAYETTE PARK CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP AND DONORS - FEBRUARY 2011

### LAFAYETTE SOCIETY (\$1,000)

Melanie & Anthony Fathman

### BENTON SOCIETY (\$500)

Sarah & James Kimmey  
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### PRESERVATIONIST (\$300)

Kathie & Daven Anderson  
Mary G. Bard  
Mary Baricevic-Right  
Bridget Cartwright & Jason Stokes  
Dian Davitt & Joseph Seria  
Carolyn & Jim Willmore

### HISTORIAN (\$150)

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Juliet & Scott Blevins  
Joe Clarkson Carpenter  
Merry & Tom Dahms  
Janice & Bill Forsyth  
Lisa Greer  
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### BOTANIST (\$75)

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Martin Daly  
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Lynne & Thomas Keay  
Sue & Terry Linhardt  
Elizabeth & William Odell  
Linda & Ron Pallmann  
Susan Pinker-Dodd & Larry Dodd  
Tara Spevack & William McCarthy  
Margaret A. Wayne  
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## BARR BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

**7** Susie King Taylor: Teacher, Laundress, Civil War Nurse, Author. Carole Shelton portrays an African American nurse during the Civil War. Includes first-person narratives of how she, her family and friends, all slaves, escaped to safety with the Union Army. Grades 3-8. Groups of five or more register in advance. 10-11 a.m.

**9** Got Game? Play Nintendo Wii and Xbox 360. Grades 6-12. 4-6 p.m.

**10** Black History Jeopardy: Quiz yourself about black history. Grades 4-12. 4:30-5:30 p.m.

GED Paths to Success. Adults. 4-6 p.m.

**12** Saturday Afternoon Cinema - *Roots*. Every Saturday in February, we will show an episode or two of the classic TV miniseries *Roots*, starring Maya Angelou, LeVar Burton, Lou Gossett Jr. and Ben Vereen. Adults. 2 p.m.

**14** Storytime. Stories, songs and more. Toddler/Preschool. Groups of five or more register in advance. 11-11:30 a.m.

**17** GED Paths to Success. Adults. 4-6 p.m.

**19** Saturday Afternoon Cinema - *Roots*. Every Saturday in February, we will show an episode or two of the classic TV miniseries *Roots*, starring Maya Angelou, LeVar Burton, Lou Gossett Jr. and Ben Vereen. Adults. 2 p.m.

**21** Magic Mondays. Impress your friends with card tricks. Grades 3-8. 4-6 p.m.

**23** African American Animated Film Festival. A series of short animated films featuring African American characters in leading roles. Families. 4-6 p.m.

**24** Quilt Squares. Paper quilts in the tradition of Gee's Bend. Grades 3-8. 4:30-5:30 p.m.

GED Paths to Success. Adults. 4-6 p.m.

**26** Saturday Afternoon Cinema - *Roots*. Every Saturday in February, we will show an episode or two of the classic TV miniseries *Roots*, starring Maya Angelou, LeVar Burton, Lou Gossett Jr. and Ben Vereen. Adults. 2 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

*All events take place at the Barr Branch of the St. Louis Public Library, 1701 S. Jefferson Ave. For hours or more information call 771-7040.*

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- Preservationist -\$300
- Benton Society -\$500
- Lafayette Society -\$1000

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Visit [www.lafayettepark.org](http://www.lafayettepark.org) for more information.

**Memberships are valid for one year from date of joining.**



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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

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- \_\_\_ Renovationist (\$35)
- \_\_\_ Restorationist (\$60)
- \_\_\_ Preservationist (\$150 – Individual or Family)
- \_\_\_ Marquis Circle (\$250 – Individual or Family)
- \_\_\_ Friend of LSRC (\$10 – Non-Resident & Non-Voting Member)

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\_\_\_ I am interested in the following volunteer opportunities:

\_\_\_ Beautification \_\_\_ House Tour \_\_\_ Marquis

\_\_\_ Merchandise \_\_\_ Neighborhood Directory \_\_\_ Safety

\_\_\_ I am a new resident and would like to receive a welcome package.

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and email [lsrc@lafayettesqr.com](mailto:lsrc@lafayettesqr.com) with your additional information.

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**3013 HAWTHORNE BLVD. \$700,000**  
You're sure to fall in love with this Compton Heights beauty. Beautifully maintained with its' sweeping staircase, 7 bedrooms/3 1/2 baths, huge pocket doors, beautiful wainscoting, updated kitchen, 6 fireplaces, and a large screened in porch



**1801 HICKORY ST. \$475,000**  
This home is all about light flooding the large rms from tall windows & bays. Hardwd flrs, marble mantles, walnut staircase, 6 BR, 2.5 baths, vaulted brick wine cellar, spectacular gardens, fountain, koi pond--are all here to delight you!



**2110 LAFAYETTE \$380,000**  
Victorian manor facing Lafayette Park with a spacious updated interior and a great blend of historic elegance paired with modern updates. This beauty has 5 bedrooms and 3.5 premium bathrooms in 4200 sq. ft.



**3959 WYOMING ST. \$279,000**  
Impeccable Tower Grove South charmer with 2.5 stories and a fully finished basement of living space. The home sits on a large lot with a wonderful brick oversized garage. Hardwood flrs, tons of storage, kitchen bar/island, a two story back porch and a new paved back patio.



**3823 WYOMING \$279,900**  
Tower Grove Heights - Deluxe kitchen with an amazing open floor plan. 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths with a full office, Master bedroom suite with a walk in closet, deck, garage... Everything but the bricks new!!!



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**16415 CENTERPOINTE DR. \$285,000**  
Like New Inside & Out. 4BR, 2 1/2 bath, gorgeous master BR suite w/walk in closet. Hardwd flrs on the first flr, granite counter tops in the kitchen w/stainless steel appliances. 2-car garage all only 1/2 block from Chesterfield Lake.

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**1912 PARK AVE. \$275,000**  
Stunning luxury condominium with an Arch view overlooking Park Avenue Plaza and Lafayette Square. Open floor plan & expansive spaces featuring top-of-the-line finishes such as new hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, oversize kitchen cabinets, a wine cooler and gas fireplace.



**10347 CONWAY ROAD \$250,000**  
Fantastic Frontenac home in the Ladue School District. This two story, one owner beauty has 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, a great layout perfect for entertaining, skylights, etched windows, patio, great yard, driveway, garage and more await you at this move in ready home.



**5722 KINGSBURY \$208,900**  
You will love Kingsbury Squares quiet atmosphere and beautiful landscaped grounds. This townhome is an ideal low maintenance home. Freshly painted with refinished hardwood flrs in the spacious open living & dining rm. New carpet in the bedrms. Updated kitchen & baths!!! A great 3 BR 2.5 bath home.



**3241 MISSOURI \$195,000**  
2 bedrooms upstairs and a 3rd bedroom on the lower level that can be used as an office. Chefs will love the kitchen with all stainless appliances! Everyone will love the quality and upgrades of this home.



**1622 S 18TH STREET \$189,500**  
2 Bedroom 2 Bath Charming Rowhouse nestled in the heart of Lafayette Square. The home includes 3 floors of living space, newer stainless appliances plus a charming back yard with parking pad...



**4237 CLEVELAND \$189,900**  
Spectacular Shaw home with new kitchen & appliances. 3 BR, 2.5 baths, family rm, office and 2 car garage! New furnace & A/C, brand new roof. Great house on a cul-de-sac street near Tower Grove Park & Missouri Botanical Garden.



**11299 BRIARSTONE \$189,000**  
Wonderful 4 bedroom 2 and 1/2 half bath brick colonial with 2 car attached garage. Located on a quiet cul de sac in the Lindbergh school district.



**5836 BRISTLECONE \$169,900**  
Lovely 5 BR, 3 bath suburban ranch home in the Lake of the Woods neighborhood. Large spaces, open floor plan, wood burning fireplace & vaulted ceilings. Nicely updated, professionally painted and features a two car, tuck under garage, attractive landscaping, large deck and play area /clubhouse.



**916 REGENT \$168,900**  
This is a perfect home for a starter or a family or to down size. Features include: 1295+ square feet, 2 bedrooms, 1 updated bath, newly refinished hardwood floors, fresh paint throughout, 3 season room, level fenced backyard, cove ceilings, a functional wood burning fireplace and beautiful picture window allowing sunlight to spill in and brighten your day.



**5048 MILENTZ DRIVE \$159,900**  
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 2 story brick home on a wonderful block. Updated kitchen and first floor half bath. Open floor plan with large family room addition, dining room and living room. 2 car garage and full front porch.



**6725 VERMONT \$154,900**  
Delightful 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath rehab with an all new kitchen and an impressive master suite with separate jacuzzi tub/shower with double bowl vanity. Refinished hardwood floors, Victorian staircase, large back patio. Easy access to I-55, retail and Carondelet Rec Plex.



**4319 BLYTHEWOOD \$150,000**  
4 bedroom brick ranch w/1800 sq. ft. on main level located on Cul-De-Sac lot backing to trees & common ground!



**2320 HICKORY \$149,800**  
Fantastic 2 BR, 1 bath fee-simple townhome located in Lafayette Square neighborhood. Wait till you see the hardwood flr on the entire first floor. Wood burning fireplace in the living rm all new wood windows on both flrs & new paint. Off street parking. Come see how great this townhome looks.



**6920 GLENVALE COURT**  
Huge 2 story, 4 bedroom 4 bath home in Desiring County Village. Bay windows in the Family room and Living Room. Woodburning fireplace and a Beautiful finished basement.



**6 TAMZINE COURT \$129,000**  
4 bedroom ranch on cul de sac street. This home offers main floor family room with wood burning fireplace, 3 full baths and screened patio. Newly remodeled kitchen & baths, hardwood floors and finished basement.



**4060 OLEATHA \$127,000**  
Superdaring brick and stone bungalow on a cute street. Hardwood floors, stained glass, excellent colors, lots of updates. Has a 1 car garage and a large unfinished attic space that could easily be turned into additional BR.



**6190 WASHINGTON \$110,000**  
Property has a magnificent facade, great spaces with an unusual period 2 story addition, art glass, beamed ceilings, wood floors. The property does not have working systems, no kitchen, no bath, no HVAC, garage is derelict. Not for the faint of heart.



**314 ELDRIDGE \$106,900**  
You will enjoy the appealing interior, the newer thermal windows, the gleaming hardwood flrs, the large updated eat-in kitchen (appliances stay) & bath (with classy pedestal sink) & new basement sump pump & drainage system installed in 2009!



**4473 MILETUS DR. \$100,000**  
Totally renovated 3 bedroom 2 bath Florissant home. New kitchen with granite counter tops, new baths. Fully finished lower level with family room and 2 possible extra bedrooms. 1 car garage.



**1523 S 10TH STEET \$85,000**  
This two bedroom unit is in the historic Turnverein building. It is move-in-ready. This is a second floor end unit at the farthest distance from streets. Situated in historic LaSalle Park neighborhood.



**1903 CATHEDRAL \$67,900**  
Great home with lots of extra space! Family room, breakfast room that walks out to deck, walkout basement and 3 bedrooms 2 baths all on main floor. 2 car garage, great big lot

## INVESTMENT PROPERTIES



**3449 CRITTENDEN \$270,000**  
1 block from Tower Grove Park and South Grand Business District. Both units leased, 1st flr is a large, 2 BR apartment & the 2nd & 3rd flrs has a 4 BR & 2 bath apartment. Building has original fireplace mantels & hardwood flrs. Newer kitchen, baths, central air, private yard & 2 car off street parking.



**2350 ALBION \$250,000**  
In Lafayette Square one block from the park! Great triplex. The first flr unit is 2 BR, 1 bath, fireplace & a private rear deck. The upstairs unit offers 2 BR, 1 bath, 2 fireplaces, stainless appliances & rear deck. All units come with refrigerator and stove.



**1945 CONGRESS \$200,000**  
Beautifully renovated 3-family in the historic Benton Park neighborhood. Amazing finishes, great back decks, garage parking. Architectural details galore on the outside with modern updates inside! Fully rented.



**811 RUSSELL BLVD. \$135,000**  
Large two-family in the heart of Soulard. Upstairs is a two bedroom and two bath unit featuring a wood burning fireplace, deck, and washer/dryer. Main level is a spacious 1 bedroom, 1 bath apt. 2 car off-street parking.



**3745 MEREMAC \$100,000**  
Completely renovated 2 family with beautiful hardwood floors, new thermal windows, new kitchens with stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops. Big fenced yard and a 2 car garage.