

MARQUIS

MAY 2007

Founded by the residents of Lafayette Square

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 5

Growing up: Lafayette Square Community Garden celebrates 10 years

By Linda Weiner and Steve Fliesler
Lafayette Square

The story of the Lafayette Square Community Garden is intimately tied to the redevelopment of the Lafayette Square neighborhood. Lafayette Square enjoyed its heyday during the 1870's and 1880's as the Beverly Hills of rich merchants and traders who had made their fortune along the Mississippi River. It is also home to Lafayette Park, the first public park in the United States west of the Mississippi, and a focal point of the neighborhood.

In 1896, a tornado ravaged the community and triggered a westward move of the elite. The stately Victorian homes slowly became dilapidated and abandoned as the inner city of St. Louis engulfed them, and suburbia sprawled farther west.

In the early 1970's, a few daring people envisioned the restoration of the neighborhood. Three-story remnant homes ("shells") could be bought for as little as \$1,000 and were fully rehabbed over the years by successive waves of restorationists. By the year 2000, nearly all of the homes around the central park and surrounding three-block radius were fully restored.

As part of the revitalization, avid gardeners and others volunteered to beautify the neighborhood by beginning to restore Lafayette Park, including its Park House and grotto. A 200-foot-long rock garden was established in the mid-1990s. Among the tireless volunteers, the gardeners began spreading their "green revolution" around the neighbor-



The Lafayette Square Community Garden is home to many residents' homegrown vegetables.

Steve Fliesler photo

hood and transforming abandoned lots into orchards and native grasslands.

In 1997, this boundless band of agrarians decided to build a community vegetable garden, embracing the dream that one day, they would sink their teeth into firm, juicy homegrown tomatoes

and pick fresh basil, oregano and other herbs right in their own neighborhood.

Word spread like wildfire and a core group of 14 gardeners — comprising a diversity of race, gender, and sexual orientation — met, decided on the site, drew plans and applied for a variety of

grants to Gateway Greening, Operation Brightside, and the St. Louis Regional Arts Council and raised private donations. The grants were approved (a total of \$20,000), the plans were approved by the Lafayette Square Restoration

Continued to page 8

Arts Council to present Mother's Day concert

By Pete Snyder
Lafayette Square

The Lafayette Square Arts Council will present a free concert at 3 p.m. May 13, Mother's Day, at the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church, 2300

Inside the Marquis

LSRC president's letter	2
LPUMC column	3
April LSRC minutes	4
LPUMC helps in New Orleans	6
Gardening news	7
News briefs	9
Plein Air Art Competition	10

June Marquis Deadline:
Friday, May 18

Lafayette Ave.

The concert will feature an organ recital, followed by a choral performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, accompanied by a seven-piece chamber ensemble. The principal musicians, including the organist, the conductor of the choir and chamber ensemble and the ensemble's first violinist are world-class performers originally from South Korea but currently living in the United States.

Performer Yoon-Mi Lim has won numerous musical competitions in South Korea and the United States, including first prize in the prestigious National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, which is sponsored by the American Guild of Organists.

Lim is currently a doctoral student at Indiana University, where she is studying organ performance and literature. She is under the management of the Concert Artist Cooperative and is the music director and organist at Fairlawn Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ind. She has recorded a CD with Pro Organo, one of America's leading labels in organ and

choral music.

Lim will be performing selections from Bach, Vierne, Albinoni, Elgar, Widor and Brahms.

First violinist Hyun Kyung (Susan) Kim will perform Vivaldi's *Gloria*. She has performed on four different continents. Kim has earned fellowships to Seoul National University, the Summer Music Festival in Lenk, Switzerland, the Mozart Academy in Krakow, Poland, and the National Music Camp in Melbourne, Australia. She has performed as a soloist, as a member of a chamber ensemble and in an orchestra throughout Europe, the United States, and Korea.

Kim's education includes a bachelor's degree in music from Seoul National University, and two degrees from Germany's Staatliche Hochschule fur Musik. Most recently she was a doctoral student at Michigan State University.

Currently, Kim performs with the Korean Chamber Orchestra and teaches violin in St. Louis.

Conducting the choir and chamber ensemble during *Gloria* will be JuYoung

Lee. Lee received a master of music degree in choral conducting from Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. Her undergraduate degree is in organ church music. She has performed in Keszckemet, Hungary and throughout the United States and South Korea. She has been awarded both the gold medal and the conductor's prize at the World Choir Olympics.

Today Lee is the music director and organist for the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church. She also performs as a first alto with the Bach Society of St. Louis.

Concert goers will have the added excitement of being part of a live recording session. The entire concert will be recorded, produced and saved on CDs that will be available for sale at a later time.

The Mother's Day concert is made possible through generous donations to the Arts Council by Gilded Age; U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan and his wife Debra; President of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen Lewis Reed; and Husch & Eppenberger, counselors at law.

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 lmccarthy@westendword.com or call 314-367-6612 x34. For advertising info, contact lmccarthy@westendword.com or call 314-367-6612 x34.



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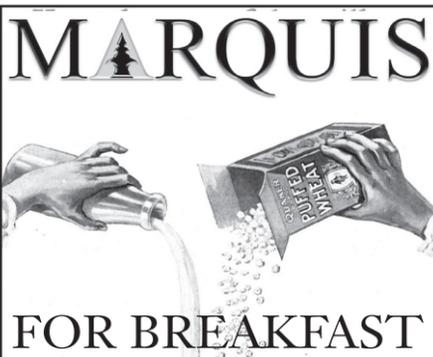
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Editor's Note

It is the goal of this publication and those who support it to bring you the news about your neighborhood each month. This is your news, and we want to do our best to bring it to you in the most accurate and professional manner possible. So if you have something you'd like us to include, feel free to contact us. We're always happy to accept article submissions, photos, press releases or story ideas from anywhere in our coverage area, and we'll do our best to include them.

As your community newspaper, we want your contributions and input. So keep us informed and we'll do the same for you.

— Laura McCarthy, editor
367-6612 x34 or lmccarthy@westendword.com



Correction

Andrew Weil was misattributed as a member of the Missouri Eminent Domain Abuse Coalition in last month's article, "Residents prepare to fight Georgian Square plan." Weil is not a member of MEDAC, but has gotten involved with the Georgian Square plan as a concerned citizen. We apologize for the error.

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Light-rail talk scheduled for May LSRC meeting

By Dane Drefke
LSRC President

During the month of April it was our pleasure for the LSRC to host officers from two different neighborhood organizations: one our close neighbor and one from the other side of the state.

At the April membership meeting, Mr. John Burse, the president of the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group was our guest to brief us on the efforts of his organization to save the Mullanphy Emigrant Home. This building has considerable history and importance to St. Louis, and is the anchor to the Old North St. Louis historical district.

If you missed the presentation at the meeting, you can learn more on their website: <http://www.onsl.org>. I will update you soon on Lafayette Square's ongoing efforts to assist our neighbors to the north.

On April 14th, the LSRC hosted a meeting with the Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association from Kansas City here in the square. Officers from that group came to Lafayette to learn the valuable lessons of forming a successful neighborhood group and how to put the efforts of their volunteers to best use in the early stages of their neighborhood's restoration.

About 10 of our most knowledgeable residents came and shared their valuable experiences with our guests. My thanks to all those who took precious time on a Saturday to be of assistance.

You don't want to miss the upcoming membership meeting in May. We will be joined by representatives from the East-West council of governments to give their final presentation on the proposed transit study that would affect our area.

If you missed their initial presentation in September of 2006, then please help me

welcome them back to Lafayette Square to present their recommendations for expansion of light rail service through St. Louis and adjacent to Lafayette Square.

We will also hold elections for the two open memberships of the development committee. We have three nominees for members of the committee, and they are: Mr. Kevin Bohnenstiehl, Ms. April Breeden and Mr. Walter Moody. My thanks to them for their candidacy and willingness to help out on this very important committee. Please come and vote!

Finally, we have an exciting proposal for a new website design that you won't want to miss. The existing website is not user friendly, and our current webmaster, Mr. Wayne White will present his ideas on how to make the site drastically better.

We will also have an update from Mr. Dan Skillman and Ms. Julie Stone on the exciting plans to renovate and expand the playground area in Lafayette Park.

Our population of young neighbors is growing rapidly, and this project will better serve the needs of Lafayette Square families with children of all ages. What a wonderful problem for us to have!



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Hunt for treasure at LPUMC's summer flea market May 26

By Debra Crowe
Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

Mark your calendar for May 26! That's the date for Lafayette Park United Methodist Church's first ever summer flea market, and you won't want to miss it.

If you have items around the house that you'd like to see find a new home, you may rent a space on the parking lot for just \$20.

And if you've had some of those items for a long time and think they might have attained genuine antique status, bring them into Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the church for a professional appraisal.

From 8 a.m. to noon, members of the Appraisers Association of St. Louis will be available to give you information on your treasures and assess their value.

The members and their areas of expertise are: Berkley Fitzenreiter — silver, costume jewelry and glassware; Dana Gray — paintings, prints, sculpture; Rick Nielsen — fine china, ironstone, clocks, watches, toys, musical instruments (except violins), oddities; Sharon Niles — porcelain, pottery, art glass, antique dolls.

Individuals will be allowed to have up to five items appraised. Appraisal fee is \$10 for the first item and \$5 for each additional item. (Five minutes will be allotted to each item.) If you'd like to book a specific time, appointments are available between 8 and 9 a.m. for a flat rate of \$45. Please call Brenda at 771-5894 to schedule. Large objects that cannot be brought in for appraising may be identified through good-quality

photographs.

This is a great opportunity to find out if some of that "stuff" that's been collecting dust in the attic is worth more than you'd ever dreamed! Applications for booth and table spaces must be received by May 21. For an application, please call Brenda at 771-5894 or email her at bjcook49@hotmail.com.

If you're in more of a buying mood, come see what others have to offer. There are sure to be lots of wonderful bargains. Or make it the best of both worlds and bring a few items that you've had around your home for a while and work a trade for something new.

In addition to booths for buying and selling, there will also be fun and games for the kids and barbecue served up by LPUMC's Men's Group. It promises to be a great event and all are invited to attend. If you have any questions about the flea market, contact Brenda at the above number.

Also coming up in May is the UMW's annual Spring Rummage Sale. Held on May 4, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on May 5 from 8 a.m. to noon, it will feature clothing, household items, toys and more.

Saturday is the locally-renowned Bag Day. All items that fit into one bag (provided at the sale) are just \$1! May 6 is Friends and Family Sunday. If you've been waiting for that "just right" day to make your first visit, this is it. Please join us for worship at 8 or 10 a.m. We'd love to see you.

Lafayette Park United Methodist Church is located at 2300 Lafayette Ave., one block east of Jefferson. Our phone number is 771-9214. You may visit us on the web at www.lp-umc.org.



Image courtesy of Marbles Gallery

Prime works

This Jane Linders photograph of the Missouri Botanical Garden is one of several images in "Prime," an exhibition featuring her work and the work of Christopher Hunter and Greg Kluempers, which is on display throughout the month of May at Marbles Gallery, 1905 Park Ave, with an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. May 12. Call 791-6466 for more information.

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April LSRC membership meeting minutes

LSRC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 10, 2007

President Dane Drefke called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The March minutes were reviewed and a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. New residents were asked to introduce themselves to the membership; there were no new residents.

Special Guest: Mr. John Burse, President of the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group.

Mr. Burse gave a slide presentation of the Old North St. Louis Mullanphy Immigration Home, which is trying to be saved by this organization. Twenty-eight million dollars is going to be raised for mixed use in the area. The area is around the Crown Candy Store and across the street in the mall area. There will be an Emergency Fund Raiser 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. April 14 at Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood.

Committee reports

Finance - Susan Sauer advised we have brought in \$9,300 against the \$72,300 budget.

Development - Paul Doerner advised on 3 projects: 1. The new house across the street from 1111 Mississippi was approved. 2. The project at 1904 through 1922

Chouteau Avenue has been approved. 3. The Union Club at Jefferson and Lafayette avenues was also approved.

The development committee is planning to have updates and changes for the code by October 2007.

Safety - Don Owens advised the parking lot at 18th and Doleman is still a problem with cars and car windows being broken. The lot needs to be swept and cleaned up.

Out of the 12 or so problem properties, six will be going to the court in a few weeks.

Doorways — a letter went out to the Doorways management about the concerns the neighborhood has about this property. There is a resident there who acts as their manager.

As usual clubs, and license plate protectors are for sale.

Membership - Dave Diehl advised we have 180 members. Also, if there is a mistake in the *Marquis* concerning your membership category or if the spelling is incorrect, please contact Dave at 664-4840 to have it corrected.

Community Affairs - Rachel Witt advised the Grand South Grand house tour will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 21 and 22.

Rachel will be talking to the editor at the *Marquis* about some articles not being printed.

LSBA - Matt Brazelton advised the LSBA is working on the Taste of Lafayette Square, which will be in September.

Park Conservancy - Tim Gore, no report.

New business

Dane advised in the absence of Linda Weiner that Operation Brightside will be held April 28 and 29 for the Square neighborhood.

Nominations for two positions on the Development Committee were taken. The nominees are Walter Moody, Kevin Bohnenstiehl and April Breeden. Voting to take place at the May monthly meeting. You must have your 2007 dues paid to vote.

Lafayette Square Website Update - Dane advised that Wayne White who runs our website now would like to update parts of the website. More information to come.

Old business

Ron Taylor gave an update on the materials that can be used for sidewalks in the neighborhood. Refer to the Historic Code section 404 - Sidewalks, which states that at a public facade, sidewalks should be one of the following: 1. red brick

2. cast-in-place concrete with a broom finish 3. based on a model example.

Spring House Tour - Mark Etling gave an update for the house tour. There are 11 houses and 5 gardens.

KSDK will be here in the neighborhood the week before the tour.

Shane Nelson - Movies in the Park - made a motion, which was seconded by Susan Sauer, to pay the cost of \$999 to cover the movies in Lafayette Park. Motion passed.

President Drefke acknowledged our new alderman Kacie Starr Triplett and our NSO Jimmy Miller.

Announcements

Our Perfectos vintage base ball team will host a fund-raiser April 14 at 33 Wine Shop & Tasting Bar in Lafayette Square.

Chiropractor Crystal Peairs advises she has moved her office to 1776 Chouteau, which is at the back end of the Gast Haus Restaurant where the deli used to be.

Approximately 70-80 people attended the meeting. Meeting adjourned 9:25 p.m. Social held at the Etlings.'

The next membership meeting will be held at 7 p.m. May 8.

Respectfully submitted
Dave Diehl, Membership Secretary

Mary 'One' Real Estate Tip of the Month



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Mary, what's the difference in Homeowners warranty than income owner insurance?
The homeowner's warranty covers any repair to the structure, mechanical systems, and major appliances of the house for a certain time, usually a year. A homeowner's warranty is especially useful when buying an older home or one that has been vacant for some time. The seller may offer a warranty with the sale. If not, you can buy a warranty on your own.

Shad, is P.M.I (private mortgage insurance) tax deductible?

Yes, just recently Congress passed legislation to make P.M.I tax deductible in 2007. This is available only on transactions that occur after January 1, 2007. Eligible borrowers include those with a household adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less and is not restricted to first time home buyers.

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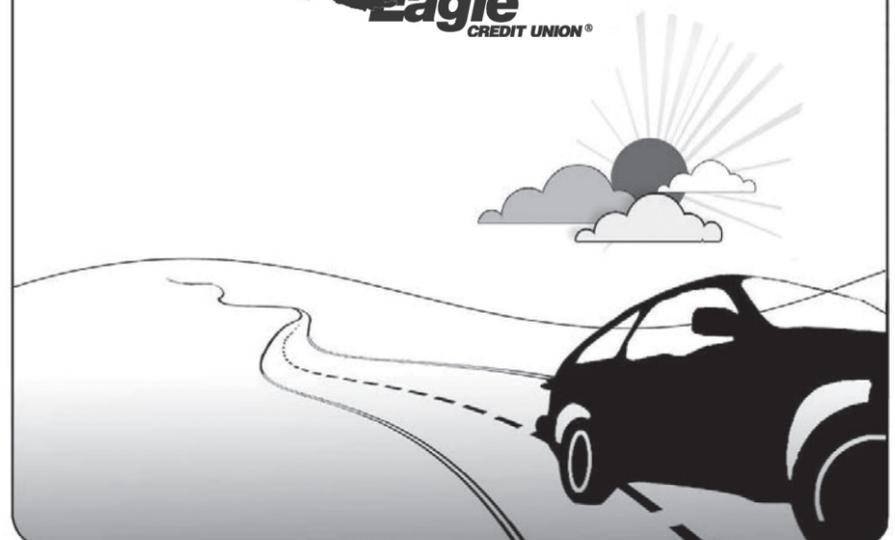
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*Membership requirements apply.

Soulard Market welcomes 2 new food vendors

By Sandra Zak
Soulard Market

Soulard Market is pleased to announce that a long time daily vendor selling seafood has decided to make it permanent.

Roco Trading, run by Think Nguyen has leased stand 23 in the North East Wing and is in the process of remodeling. Carrying an assortment of seafood and fish, Roco's usually stocks ahi tuna, wild salmon, tilapia, red snapper, sea bass, scallops, crawfish, crab legs, shrimp and lobster tails.

As a fish and seafood supplier to restaurants, most of Roco's items are portion-sized, flash frozen and individually vacuumed packed for convenience. This certainly comes in handy when you

need to defrost something quickly or need to monitor portion sizes.

Are you looking for authentic Polish sausage and other Polish foods? Krystyna and Emil Lech have opened Krystyna's European Foods at stand 16 in the North East Wing.

Natives of Poland, Krystyna and Emil know authentic. Emil has been in St. Louis over 20 years, but his bride Krystyna is new to America. The Lechs wanted to share the best food from their former country with their neighbors in the St. Louis region.

Their imported products include a variety of great-tasting sausages, Polish hams, Polish pickles, sauerkraut, Polish horseradish (it is different), candy and Polish baked goods. Stop by their stand to sample *real* Polish sausage.



Sandra Zak photos

Krystyna and Emil Lech bring their authentic Polish fare to the Soulard Market.



Think Nguyen shows off his wares at Soulard Market.

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Art-felt thanks

On April 5, Preferred Family Healthcare presented State Representatives Jeanette Mott Oxford and Robin Wright-Jones with prints of art created by youth participating in Preferred Family Healthcare's Achieving Recovery Through Creativity program, a creative arts program offered to youth participating in Preferred Family Healthcare's substance abuse treatment programs across the state. ARTC uses visual arts, music, poetry and drama as tools to facilitate self expression, increase self efficacy and improve overall chances for ongoing recovery. An exhibit of the work of ARTC participants was on display on the third floor rotunda of the capital from April 2 through 5.

LPUMC volunteers help in the Big Easy

By Debra Crowe
Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

In March 2006, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a 10-person mission team from Lafayette Square United Methodist Church traveled to New Orleans to offer assistance to Jason Hurst, a 30-year-old quadriplegic, whose home was rendered unlivable.

Team leader Larry Huegatter and nine other volunteers — all but one LPUMC members and ranging in age from 17 to 70 — gutted the house on their first trip. Next on the list was a new roof.

Huegatter began searching for a roofer to assist in the effort, which led him to a St. Louis roofer, Henry Gibson of G & C Roofing. After several emails and phone conversations, it was looking like the roof might not be restored before the fall of 2007. Then the miracle happened.

On March 23, 2007, Gibson called Huegatter to ask if it was OK to put the roof on that very weekend. He had shingles donated from his supplier, Roofers Mart, and a crew willing and available. All he needed was for Huegatter to rent a stake bed truck and to meet him in New Orleans. Huegatter rearranged his weekend schedule, rented a truck and headed south.

Gibson's crew wasted no time. That Friday afternoon he and six other volunteers loaded the shingles and their tools and piled into two pickup trucks and drove through the night to Hurst's house. By the time Huegatter arrived on Saturday evening, they had stripped

the roof, replaced 20 sheets of rotted plywood decking, rebuilt part of the roof for improved drainage, and had the felt down.

"Henry's crew worked like a machine. I have never seen such efficiency and professional work, and the guys were nice as could be," Huegatter said.

They started nailing shingles at first light Sunday, and by 2:30 p.m. they were finished.

"Before 9 Friday morning, we had only talked about doing a roof, and at 2:30 Sunday it was finished. I experienced (a) miracle," Huegatter said.

"One of the young men said they always do a good job, but when they heard Jason's story they really threw their hearts into it. It was an amazing experience," Huegatter said.

Huegatter said Hurst was a student at Grambling State University visiting friends in a housing project in New Orleans. Gunfire broke out in the hall of the building and his friends hit the floor but a bullet grazed Hurst's neck, paralyzing his legs and leaving him with limited arm and hand use. He was restricted to a motorized wheelchair.

After a lengthy recovery process, he completed his degree in counseling and criminal justice at Southern University of New Orleans and was preparing for graduate school when Hurricane Katrina hit.

Hurst also lost his dog in the storm, but was later reunited with her.

Next on the list is wiring, for which Huegatter said they are now seeking an electrician. The drywall, cabinets and appliances will follow. Huegatter said other teams might be assisting with the project, which he said would help keep it moving.

"We have developed a close relationship with Jason and his mother Willmarine, and plan to continue their project until they can return to their home," Huegatter said. The family is currently staying in Plano, Texas, where they fled just before the storm hit. "Willmarine promised us a great party with plenty of Cajun and southern cooking when they move back in, so we have great incentive to keep the project going!"

To find out more about the outreach and volunteer efforts of LPUMC, call 771-9214, or visit www.lp-umc.org.

— Additional reporting by Laura McCarthy

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Photo courtesy of Kacie Starr Triplett

Movin' on up

U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan stopped by St. Louis City Hall in April to witness the swearing in of new 6th Ward Alderman Kacie Starr Triplett. Triplett had worked for Carnahan before being elected to replace former 6th Ward Alderman Lewis Reed, who became president of the Board of Alderman in April.

Adopt a piece of the park!

By Linda Weiner
Lafayette Square

Quote of the Month

"It is the marriage of the soul with Nature that makes the intellect fruitful And gives birth to imagination."
— Henry David Thoreau

Community garden celebrates a decade of community "glue" May 19

The Lafayette Square Community Garden at Park Avenue and Dolman Street represents the dream of neighborhood revitalization and the building of community connections through shared activity (see related article, page 1). Built in 1997 on a vacant, trash-strewn lot at the eastern boundary of the neighborhood in the shadow of run down, high rise public housing and a vacant, crumbling City Hospital, the garden was an oasis of green announcing the possibility of renewal. Through the years the garden has won numerous awards and has appeared in *Fine Gardening* magazine as one of the six most endangered gardens in the United States. Word has it that now the garden may be remaining on that site permanently! Come join us from 3 to 5 p.m. May 19 at the garden to celebrate ten years of neighborhood service! Let's celebrate!

Please call Linda Weiner at 621-7071 if you might be interested in hearing more about the adoption program.

Upcoming gardening events

Operation Brightside will be offering annuals for public space plantings in May (this includes tree wells). Contact Linda at 621-7071 to make your request.

Operation Brightside (772-4646) and Gateway Greening (577-9484) will need volunteers to plant downtown again this year. Please call them to volunteer to beautify St. Louis! Planting dates are May 11 and 12. Downtown looked "wow" last summer!

Gateway Greening's annual Great Perennial Divide and Sale will be in full swing from May 1 through 5. This community service plant giveaway (to public space gardeners) and plant sale (open to everyone) could use your help. Please volunteer to assist with plant donations, stabilization and disbursement by calling Gateway Greening at 577-9484. Please let them know if you are from Lafayette Square as we have promised to complete a number of volunteer hours in exchange for their support of a generous grant for landscaping Truman Parkway at Park Avenue next fall.

Muchas, muchas gracias!

To Bill Heggarty for servicing our wheelbarrows in preparation for the Flora Conservancy and Operation Brightside Blitz at Lafayette Park; to Dave and Nancy Bridwell for adopting the Park Avenue and Mississippi Avenue entrance to the park; to Felicia Foland for agreeing to adopt the shaping of the evergreen at the mini-park at Park Avenue and Mississippi Avenue; to the McAvoy's for beautifying the Park Avenue and Benton Place entrance; to Bob Pinkowski and Bev McClain for beautifying the welcoming gardens at Park Avenue and Missouri Avenue; to Ward Buckner, Carolyn Willmore, Susan Pinker-Dodd, Rebecca Wright, Marilyn Lane, Don Heus and Greg Plattner for all they do to physically tend the park; to Robert Bishoff, Ian Stallman and Bob Pinkowski for agreeing to supervise volunteers during Blitz; to Ken Stone for beautifying the Benton Statue while demonstrating the art of cigar smoking.

Carroll cul de sac to feature lemon pots

Some of you may have noticed that the boulder street closing elements at Carroll Street and Truman Parkway have been relocated. What you may not know is that 10 large lion-footed lemon pots will soon be arriving to provide a more attractive barrier to wandering vehicles looking for a shortcut to or from Truman Parkway.

Adoption sites available in Lafayette Park for beautification

If you'd like to make a contribution to the beauty of Lafayette Park, why not consider an "adoption" of a specific site or task in the park? The Flora Conservancy of Lafayette Park is seeking volunteers to mulch, prune, dig, weed, design, plant and water at various sites around the park.



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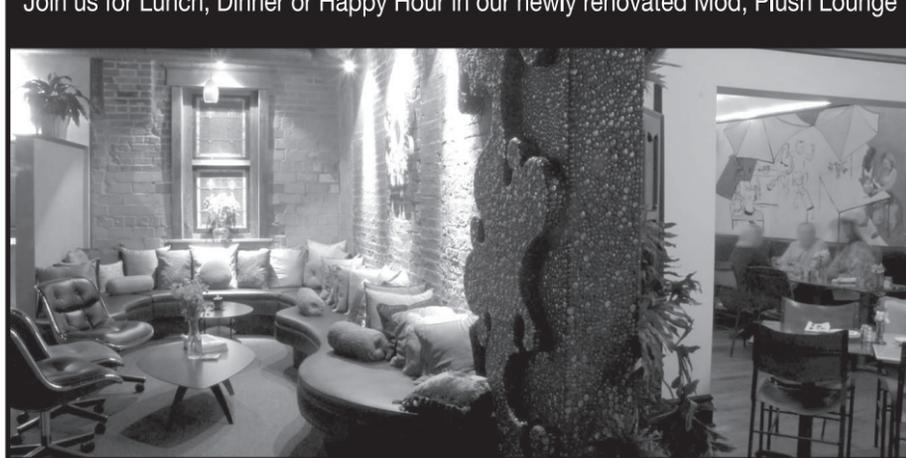


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Community garden

Continued from page 1

Committee (LSRC), and the garden was set to be built.

On a brisk day in March of 1997, the materials were delivered and these fearless gardeners marched onto what was then the eastern edge of the neighborhood, beyond which were sites of urban decay: the haunting shadow of the abandoned City Hospital, the high-rise public housing projects and many weed-ridden, garbage-strewn abandoned lots. The chosen lot at the corner of Park Avenue and Dolman Street stood empty, awaiting its makeover. In one weekend, 19 garden beds were built and filled with composted soil provided by the city.

"It was a barren, rocky, garbage-strewn wasteland," said Kim Peterson, who, along with her husband Roy, is a founding member of the garden group. "We really had our work cut out for us."

Each weekend for six consecutive weeks, a new task was accomplished under the relentless leadership of Linda Weiner, a longtime resident and activist in the neighborhood. "We dreaded those early Saturday morning phone calls from Linda, reminding us to show up for work in the garden," said Rick Thompson, another founding member.

A picket fence was erected over the course of two weekends and was stained the next. A 175-foot-long perennial border was planted with donations from the Missouri Botanical Garden and Gateway Greening's "Great Perennial Divide."

A brick patio was built as the next step, and the construction of a pergola was contracted to local carpenters (Paul Iskovich of Lafayette Square and his business partner at M & I Woodworking), who also built benches overlooking the garden.

Finally, an herb garden was established around the perimeter of the brick



Steve Fliesler photo

A wooden sign welcomes visitors to the Lafayette Square Community Garden.

patio, using herb plants donated by the Webster Groves Herb Society.

It's a wonder any gardener had time to plant his or her own vegetables! However, by late August of 1997, the gardeners did celebrate the fruits of their labor at a wonderful garden party, to which the rest of the community was invited to share in the delight of this new oasis in the neighborhood.

Subsequently, additions and improvements to the Lafayette Square Community Garden were made.

In 1999, local artist Andy Cross (a noted scenic artist for the St. Louis Muny Opera Company and a gardener from his own St. Louis

neighborhood community garden) was commissioned to paint a mural depicting a Victorian garden scene on the wall of the building adjacent to the garden on its western border (formerly Park Chop Suey, it is now the soon-to-be new home of Four Muddy Paws).

Paints and materials were purchased with a \$2,500 grant from the St. Louis Regional Arts Council, as well as additional donations from Ameren UE, neighborhood businesses and individuals. This beautiful mural now serves as the backdrop to the garden's brick patio and pergola.

A cutting flower garden was added along the lawn area. An adjacent field just north of the community garden was planted with fruit trees (largely due to the efforts of David "Kingpin" Bown), transforming the once-barren lot into a flourishing orchard. In 2004, four more garden beds were added by Roy Peterson, bringing the current total to 23.

"It was a barren, rocky, garbage-strewn wasteland. We really had our work cut out for us."

— Kim Peterson, Community garden member

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Additional beds are being planned, as there is a long waiting list of would-be neighborhood gardeners who would like to participate in the community garden.

Over the years, the Lafayette Square Community Garden has garnered numerous awards and recognitions, including first place in the Gateway Greening Urban Garden Contest (1999) first Place (2001) in Gateway Greening's Urban Garden Contest for Established Community Garden, among others.

In addition, the garden was one of five gardens mentioned in an article on endangered urban gardens in *Fine Gardening* magazine (notably featuring Rosalie Truong, a founding member of the Lafayette Square Community Garden). The garden also was a designated stop on the 2004 Statewide Master Gardener's Annual Meeting Tour, and on the 2005 Missouri Botanical House Garden Members' Tour and is an annual destination for the Lafayette Square Spring Home and Garden Tour.

Today, the Lafayette Square Community Garden stands as a gem on the eastern boundary of the neighborhood, a further testament to the energy, vision and commitment that helped to restore the beauty, grandeur and vitality of a once nearly vanquished neighborhood.

Check out our website at www.lafayettesquare.org

Linda Weiner and Steve Fliesler are co-leaders of the Lafayette Square Community Garden Group.

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Major issues remain in 2007 legislative session

By Jeanette Mott Oxford
State Representative, 59th District

More than 2,000 bills have been filed in the Missouri House of Representatives and Senate since the 2007 Legislative Session convened on January 3. Hundreds are still trying to press through the legislative meat grinder as we move toward the scheduled May 18 adjournment.

Some of the bills still on our calendar are important to somebody (perhaps a fourth grade class that proposed them as a government project), but fairly unimportant in the great scheme of things. Among these are bills naming the bobwhite quail Missouri's state game bird, the crayfish the official state invertebrate, and the three-toed box turtle our state reptile.

Other remaining bills are massive in scope, involve millions of dollars, and/or are very controversial. These include:

- Replacing Missouri's Medicaid system — Senate Bill 577 proposes to do this, but leaves tens of thousands of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and low-wage workers and their children with no health coverage or inadequate services. I oppose SB 577 in its current form and will continue to work for universal coverage.
- Using MOHELA Assets for Capital Improvements on Campuses — I oppose Governor Blunt's plan to sell all or part of the assets of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) in order to use them to fund construction projects at our public universities.

Many of the building projects are much needed, but this is not the mandated mission of MOHELA, and there are better ways to fund them.

- Requiring photo ID at polling sites — The concern remains that this bill will disenfranchise many senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Many older voters still have trouble obtaining a photo ID because they do not have a birth certificate, and getting one can be very difficult. One must ask if this is a solution looking for a problem in that the U.S. Justice Department and multiple additional sources have repeatedly reported little evidence of voter fraud in Missouri or elsewhere in the United States.

I'll offer a summary of major legislation that was passed at the end of these final tumultuous weeks.

Announcement

The Public Service Commission will hold public hearings on Laclede Gas Company rates at 5:30 p.m. May 24, Auditorium, Wohl Community Center, 1515 N. Kingshighway; and 5:30 p.m. May 29, Century Room, Millennium Student Center, University of Missouri-St. Louis. Consumers unable to attend these local public hearings who wish to make written comments may contact the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or call 800-392-4211, or e-mail opcservice@ded.mo.gov or pscinfo@psc.mo.gov. For more information, see www.psc.mo.gov.

NEWS BRIEFS

Mississippi Avenue bridge to undergo construction this fall

The Missouri Department of Transportation has announced a plan to replace the deck of the Mississippi Avenue Bridge just west of the Interstate 44/I-55 interchange in downtown St. Louis. The bridge deck is deteriorated. Built in 1970, the width of the bridge is 32 feet wide with 5-foot sidewalks on both sides of the bridge.

MoDOT has designed a plan to replace the bridge deck so it will function better and be structurally sound. Once replaced the bridge will be 32 feet wide, have new fencing and have a concrete barrier between the driving lanes and the sidewalks to protect pedestrians. The existing bridge deck does not have a barrier.

"We're also adding fencing to the bridge," said MoDOT Project Manager Jim Middleton. "It will have either black vinyl coated chain-link or a black decorative type fence such as the fencing on the Compton Bridge over I-64."

Construction on the bridge is scheduled to begin in August and should be completed by November of this year. The bridge will be closed for three months during construction, and the public and private businesses will not be able to access the bridge. There will be marked detours to help the public maneuver through the community.

MoDOT designates approximately \$60 million a year to bridge preservation. MoDOT is designating \$1.4 million to reconstruct this bridge.

For more information, visit www.modot.org or call MoDOT's Project Manager Jim Middleton at 340-4377 or St. Louis City Area Engineer Deanna Venker at 877-0118.

St. Louis Fire Department to host community health fair

The St. Louis Fire Department at 1421 N. Jefferson, in conjunction with Safe Kids St. Louis and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, will host a community health fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 2. Take advantage of health screenings, car seat checks, CPR classes every half hour, get child ID's and learn about fire safety in the home.

Lafayette Square Chiropractic Centre relocates to Chouteau Avenue

As of April 1, Lafayette Square Chiropractic Centre has relocated to 1776

Chouteau Ave. This larger and more convenient location will allow Dr. Crystal Peairs to better serve patients. The new office is directly beside the Gast Haus and across the street from Ameren UE. All neighbors are welcome to drop by at any time for a tour.

In 2005, Lafayette Square Chiropractic opened as the first chiropractic office in the Square. It was previously located in the "M" Lofts. Dr. Peairs specializes in family wellness care, pregnancy and pediatrics. Her techniques include, but are not limited to: Logan Basic, Sacro-Occipital Technique (SOT) and Diversified. For more information about the services provided by LSCC, call 762-0669 or visit www.LafayetteSquareChiropractic.com.

Cherokee-Lemp Historic District to host annual History Fair

On May 19 and 20, the Cherokee-Lemp Historic District will host its annual History Fair. This event will feature many activities for the whole family.

Highlights will include history lectures and a walking tour with author and historian NiNi Harris at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. May 19, and 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. May 20, at Mississippi Mud Coffee House with a slide presentation and walking tour to follow.

The St. Louis Perfectos will present and demonstrate what baseball was like in 1860. The team members will exhibit clothing and equipment of that era and give a brief lecture on the baseball rules of that of that time period at 1:30 p.m. both days.

Musical entertainment will be provided by The Orbits, Swing Set, Tom Townsend, Cool Blue Jazz Sextet and John Bartley.

Genealogist Sandra Bennett will provide guidance for families searching for ancestors.

Other attractions include an art exhibit by Sheila Harris, a live body casting demonstration by sculptor Philip Hitchcock, a classic car parade at 2 p.m. May 20, an architectural and history book sale and much more.

For a complete list of events, call 997-1209, or email cherokeelempfair@sbcglobal.net.

Gypsy Caravan to stop by Union Station May 28

Gypsy Caravan, an annual Memorial Day shopping fair presented by the Saint Louis Symphony Volunteer Association, is one of the Midwest's largest antique, craft and flea markets. With merchandise vendors from over 20 states, it will be held from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 28, in Downtown St. Louis between Market and Olive, and 19th and 23rd Streets. For admission and additional information, call 286-4452 or visit www.gypsy caravan-stl.org.

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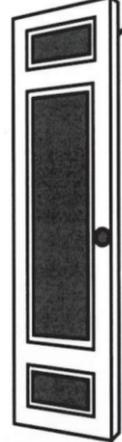
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Calling all artists!

Artists needed for Plein Air Art Competition, to be held in conjunction with House Tour

By Garry McMichael
Lafayette Square

The Second Annual Lafayette Square Plein Air Competition will take place from May 19 to June 1 in conjunction with the 38th Annual Lafayette Square House and Garden Tour June 2 and 3. Artists are invited to draw and paint throughout the National Historic District of Lafayette Square and will have the opportunity to sell their works the weekend of the tour, which attracts over 4,000 people to the area.

Artists representing a wide variety of expertise and media — acrylics, oils, watercolors, pastels, drawing and mixed media — are invited to create artworks of Lafayette Park and the surrounding Victorian homes, gardens and businesses *en plein air*, a French term which literally means "in open air."

Registered artists will have two weeks to complete their works of art, which must be executed outdoors and on-site in Lafayette Square. Artists are also welcome to participate in four special "paint out competitions" during the event, in which they will have two hours to complete a work of art for cash prizes.

More than \$2,000 in prizes will be awarded for top finishers in each media category.

Participating artists will have the opportunity to exhibit and sell their artwork in Lafayette Park on June 2nd and 3rd during the Lafayette Square House and Garden Tour.

Interested artists will also have an opportunity to attend a Plein air workshop conducted by Allen Kriegshauser,

last year's Best of Show Winner, on May 20.

Registration for the Second Annual Lafayette Square Plein Air Competition is \$50, but if you register prior to May 7 there is a \$10 discount. All artwork canvases must bear the official competition stamp and be created on location.

For entry forms, competition rules, and workshop information, including lodging and dining in the Lafayette Square area go to www.paintstlouis.org and click on the Lafayette Square Competition link. You can also contact Garry McMichael at 773-4112 or via email at pleinair@paintstlouis.org.

Other features and events on this year's house tour include: 11 beautiful homes and eight gardens on tour; the ever popular "Antiques on the Park" sale; St. Louis Perfectos vintage base ball; a wine tasting with Chaumette Winery that will feature two specially labeled "Lafayette Square House Tour 2007" wines; a display of vintage wooden and canvas canoes; free carriage and trolley rides; and the first summer concert at 6 p.m. June 2nd, featuring Hudson and the Hoo Doo Cats.

Volunteering for the house tour is a great way to meet and work with your Lafayette Square neighbors, and there are plenty of opportunities still available. For example, if you would like to be a docent at one of the houses on tour, sell merchandise or help set up and clean up the tour sites, call Mark and Terry Etling at 621-1437. They said they would be happy to put you to work.

Thanks in advance for your help. See you at the House Tour.



Artists work at various locations around Lafayette Square in preparation for last year's Plein Air Art Competition. More artists are needed for this year's competition, which will be judged during the Lafayette Square House Tour June 2 and 3.

Garry McMichael photos

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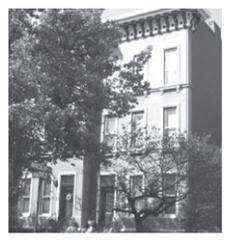
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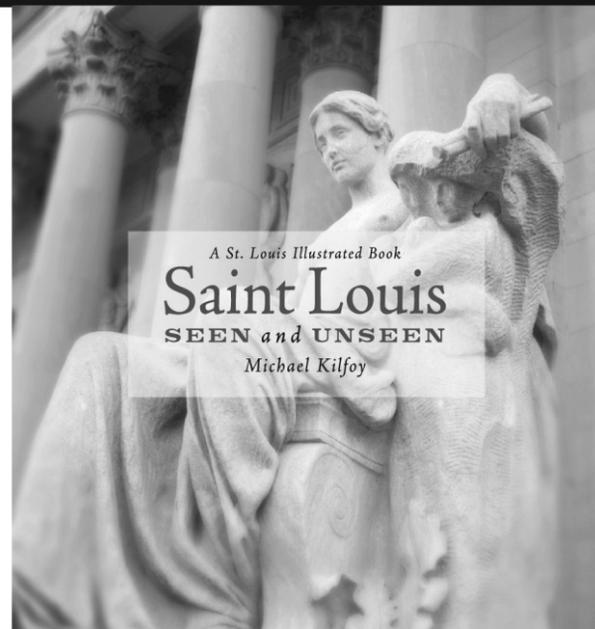
Wanted

YARN DONATIONS - CATHEDRAL PARISH GROUP NEEDS WASHABLE YARN TO KNIT PRAYER SHAWLS. CALL MARY AT CATHEDRAL, 373-8204, TO DROP



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ST. LOUIS SEEN AND UNSEEN is a 160-page full-color coffee table photo book like nothing you've ever seen. It is a stunning visual portrait of our city through the eyes of some of the city's finest photographers. Award-winning designer Michael Kilfoy has assembled a collection of more than 180 stunning images from dozens of photographers and literally

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For more information about the book or events, call (314) 367-6612, ext. 23.

VIRGINIA  PUBLISHING

A major portion of the profits from the book will benefit the Alzheimer's Association, St. Louis Chapter. St. Louis Seen and Unseen is a St. Louis Illustrated project.



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2934 MILTON \$675,000
 Fabulous restoration of a Compton Heights home! All new systems with the original historic features intact. New roof, soffits, porches, second floor laundry, copper gutters and more. Loaded Master bedroom suite. Fabulous Chefs kitchen, 7 fireplaces, 5 large bedrooms, 3.5 luxury baths, new 2 car garage *TAX ABATEMENT until 2016.



2049 ANN \$450,000
 This is a 2005 gut rehab with newer systems. Zoned (3) HVAC and thermal windows. Laundries on 3rd floor and in basement 4 bedrooms 3 baths, Impressive brick construction and a great neighborhood.



1811 KENNETT \$410,000
 Victorian Charmer with Contemporary Open Interior - Double lot. Formal living room, dramatic dining room with 20 ft ceiling open to 2nd floor hall. Bright master suite with private bath, 5 fireplaces, cherry floors and much more. Call Carolyn McAvoy at 757-1007



2109 LYNCH \$390,000
 Unbelievably unique home! Spacious Master Suite with a Premium jet shower, whirlpool tub, dual vanity, walk in closet and large windows. Amazing open floor plan on the main level that you need to see to believe. 4 car carport to protect your fleet. 1 year old home with tax abatement!



4157 WESTMINSTER PLACE
 Central West End townhome. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with a finished lower level, 2 car garage, 3 bay windows, large back porch, main floor laundry, kitchen opens to a large living room with a wood burning fireplace. Simply a great home.



2341 PARK \$360,000
 Gorgeous Lafayette Square home! Pocket door, 5 fireplaces, decorative molding, this is what brings people back to the city. Ornate staircase and wide vintage millwork. Garage, finished basement, developed 3rd floor.

31 BENTON PLACE \$309,900
 Feel the history of Saint Louis's oldest subdivision. Benton place is a private cul-de-sac just off the park with a tranquil old growth median. This home features: Marble fireplaces, hardwood floors, privacy fencing, a large master bedroom suite, 2nd bedroom with private bath, a lower level office and much more.



CAROLYN MCAVOY (314) 531-1900 • (314) 757-1007



2201 PARK \$349,900
 Park front property. 3rd floor master bedroom suite with private roof top deck. 2 bedrooms a bath and an office on the second floor. Open 1st floor with a large eat in kitchen. Plus a 2 story porch, 2 car garage, pool and tennis club available, lots to love.



1314 MISSISSIPPI \$325,000
 This beautiful restored historic townhome is the largest on the row. 3 spacious bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Features include two marble wood-burning fireplaces, classical interior with crown molding, wood floors, private courtyard, and a great view of park.



507 N. 13TH ST \$319,000
 This spacious and stylish urban condo has two separate bedroom suites and two full baths. The true beauty of this lifestyle is the view of the city at night...Breathtaking!



1711 LAFAYETTE \$307,900
 Welcome to Lafayette Square! This is a beautifully updated home with spacious rooms, great views of the city and just down from the park. Perfect home for entertaining with an open floor plan and large kitchen. See it today.



2143 GEYER \$300,000
 This Victorian beauty has been totally renovated. The new mansard roof is adorned with an elaborate Cornice. The entrance boasts a spectacular art glass window and opens to a three story walnut staircase.



21 VALLEY DR. \$279,900
 Beautiful full-brick home with lovely landscaping on a private circle drive in Union. Hardwood floors, sunroom, two great master bedrooms, full brick wood burning fireplace in the family room opening to the eat-in kitchen.



3431 HARTFORD \$279,000
 Hardwood floors, crisp new wood trim, family room and main floor laundry. The kitchen is wonderful with all new appliances and granite countertops. Upstairs sits 3 large bedrooms and 2 full baths. Master with private deck, marble bath, giant closets.



3662 CLEVELAND \$264,900
 Superb family home in historic Shaw neighborhood. This light, bright home has a two story screened in porch off the back, excellent millwork and restored hardwood floors. Home is on a quiet cul-de-sac street, come check it out.



2016 GEYER AVE \$259,900
 Good space for entertaining with deck, patio and fenced back yard. Butler's pantry. 3 beds 2.5 baths, amazing large kitchen with spacious eating area and separate large dining room. Simply an immaculate home in a convenient location.



4364 KEEVENSHORE DR. \$257,900
 Large ranch home in Hazelwood. 3 Car garage, enormous full length back deck overlooking wooded area lots of space including a walkout basement. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is an ideal living situation.



2622 S. COMPTON \$246,900
 Gorgeous 3-story near Compton Heights. Huge kitchen with ceramic tile floors, new wood cabinets and stainless appliances. Entryway detailed with a beautiful wood staircase and fireplace. Hardwood floors throughout. 2 spacious rooms on third floor.



1905 SERBIAN \$239,900
 Janus Renovation! Living room with a gas insert fireplace. Preserved pocket door, private deck, garage, 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths upstairs. Large eat-in kitchen with half bath, simply a fantastic home.



725 SHENANDOAH \$229,900
 Recently restored Souldard home. Original hardwood flooring on the first and second floors, stained glass windows, exposed brick. Built-in antique china cabinet. Large walk-in closet in bedroom. Third floor loft includes another full bath and a door for a roof top deck.



5232 PERNOD \$200,000
 Charming south city Tudor home with bamboo flooring on the finished second level, great deck, three large bedrooms one and a half baths, Art Deco kitchen, functional fireplace and a nicely landscaped lot with a garage



1416 SULLIVAN AVE. \$195,000
 Architectural brickwork adorns the facade. Marble mantles with artistic screens complement living and dining rooms. Large breakfast/family room adjoins the kitchen, two screened gallery porches. Lots of space to live well.



6547 WINNEBAGO \$177,900
 Big brick bungalow. This home is just shy of 2000 sq. ft. not including the partially finished basement which has a family room and full scale bar. Three large bedrooms and two & a half baths. Art glass, hardwood floors, 2 car garage, nice yard, a great home.



5649 MURDOCH AVE \$159,900
 Charming bungalow on a great street. Main floor master with open living room & dining room. Lower level bedroom and den. Convenient 2nd floor--great for office space & guest bedroom. Great yard & nice garage.



3817 HUMPHREY \$149,900
 Updated two bedroom first floor condo. This property has a private entrance garage parking, maintained yard, personal full size premium deck, extra room for an office, laundry facilities in house.



6940 NASHVILLE \$139,900
 Newly remodeled Dogtown brick ranch with refinished hardwood floors, newer thermal windows, rebuilt garage, nice landscaping. Delightful new kitchen with maple cabinets, remodeled bathroom. Freshly painted, meticulous interior.



2827 WYOMING \$115,900
 Freshly painted, newly remodeled Benton Park West townhome. This large 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhome is a great home in a developing neighborhood. Newer kitchen and baths, electric, plumbing carpet.



3726 ROSWELL \$106,900
 Cute ranch home with an updated kitchen and bath, new architectural shingle roof, freshly painted, track lighting, tile in kitchen, new carpet. Other features include a fenced yard and an oversized two car garage with private driveway.