Signs of spring

After what is hoped to be a final dose of winter, spring seems to have arrived outside the Park House in Lafayette Park, as the daffodils come to life. Dave Dorfl photo

And spring means it’s time for...

Operation Brightside Blitz Day Saturday, April 8 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Clean out your basement, sweep your alley and plan cleanups with your neighbors! To tackle a specific cleanup project in the neighborhood or for assistance with obtaining contact information at 621-7071. For more information on this event, see last month’s Marquis or visit http://stlouis.missouri.org/brightside.

Flowers abound in historic Floral Row

Wholesalers, retailers line LaSalle Avenue

By Stacey Rynders
Marquis Contributor

One of the best-kept secrets in St. Louis is nestled along a couple of one-way blocks of LaSalle Avenue at the edge of Lafayette Square. Not even the storefronts are particularly revealing about this historically and nationally renowned location. The sign that these long blocks hide a valued asset can be seen in the numbers of people bustling about between 6 and 8:30 a.m. When most people are swarming coffee houses. But no roasting scents are evident, except for those brought in to go cups. Instead, people are steeped in floral aromas.

Historically known as Floral Row since its inception in 1890, the floral wholesale district is where flowers enter St. Louis. They arrive from around the world from Thailand or Belgium, or perhaps simply acquired from a local grower.

“We are always striving for quality here; we are always looking for better flowers,” said Steve Pye of Baish & Skinner Wholesale Floral Distributor.

But now, Floral Row is undergoing a makeover. Within months, Jefferson and Chouteau Avenues will be sporting new district banners recognizing the St. Louis Floral Market. New street signs will also help visitors locate and identify the district.

“It’s very well known,” said Tom Carr, owner of Tom Carr Florists, a retail florist that was wrongly dropped off at my house.

“I am constantly delivering mail that was wrongly dropped off at my house to the correct address. If I could fire you (the U.S. Postal Service), I would.”

Speaking on behalf of the Lafayette Square Business Association, Pete Snyder said, “We represent businesses from LaSalle Park, Peabody, Lafayette Square and McKinley Heights, so its not just one carrier that you can point to. Our carriers generally want to do a good job. This suggests management problems.”

In response to the complaints, Postmaster Anderson vowed to look into the situation and get back to the 63104 neighborhoods with some solutions within 90 days. In the meantime, he suggested that concerned customers contact Monica Rodriguez at monica.rodriguez@usps.gov.

“She will be your advocate,” said Anderson.

Post office in 63104 ZIP code fields complaints during town hall forum

In response to a growing number of complaints from its “customers” in the 63104 zip code, U.S. Postal Service officials held a “town hall” meeting at St. Vincent de Paul Church in LaSalle Park on Thursday, March 16.

St. Louis Postmaster General Mark Anderson hosted the meeting with several other officials from the region, as well as management from the Benton Park Post Office, to respond to comments.

Neighborhood residents found out about the meeting largely by word of mouth. Still over 70 people, representing all neighborhoods in 63104 came to voice concerns.

Inside the Marquis

President’s letter .................................................... 2
Dog owner news .................................................. 4
Plant a living legacy............................................ 5
Join the Park Conservancy ............................... 6
Gardening opportunities ................................. 8
Trinity presents Last Supper ............................ 8
Business Association meeting .................... 10
Proposal for Lafayette Park ......................... 11

May Marquis Deadline: Tuesday, April 18

The greenhouse of Baisch & Skinner is filled with lush tropical and native plants.
Sigel Community Education Center's spring classes start the first week of April. See the course listing for opportunities to further your education, get fit, express your musical or dancing creativity or get involved with a fencing or swordsmanship group.

Sigel's Adult Education & Literacy (GED) class is committed to providing quality educational services to adults as they pursue a better life for themselves, their families and their community. Whether you wish to improve your reading skills, learn to speak English, or prepare for your GED, you can find all you need at Sigel. All classes are free. You just have to bring a desire to learn and a commitment to work hard. Some of the popular classes have been offered at Sigel for 5 to 20 years. Our aerobics class is taught by a certified instructor who also works her full time job in the area. She has been teaching aerobics at Sigel for at least 20 years. It is the best-kept secret, fun and affordable fitness. Class is adaptable for all fitness levels. Another popular class is our Middle Eastern belly dancing class. Taught by an instructor who is part of the Simon's Seventh Veil group, this class is fun and informative. You don't have to have a flat belly to feel comfortable in this class. You can get quite a workout and express your creativity through dance.

New to Sigel's course listings is vegetarian cooking and beginning Latin. New to Sigel's Adult Education & Literacy courses is the best-kept secret, fun and affordable fitness. Class is adaptable for all fitness levels. Another popular class is our Middle Eastern belly dancing class. Taught by an instructor who is part of the Simon's Seventh Veil group, this class is fun and informative. You don't have to have a flat belly to feel comfortable in this class. You can get quite a workout and express your creativity through dance.

Sigel is dedicated to offering affordable programming by joining the Sigel Community Education Council. Call 865-5050 to join our monthly membership or offer your support in your area of expertise or passion.
April 2006
Serving St. Louis’ Near Southside Neighborhoods

Serving St. Louis’ Near Southside Neighborhoods

From “Meet Me in St. Louis” to “The Big Heat Ring,” From “The Great St. Louis Bank Robbery” to “White Palace.” . . . St. Louis has its own rich film history. And the stars — many started here before they discovered the glitz of Hollywood. Names like Vincent Price, Shelley Winters, John Goodman, Redd Foxx, Betty Grable, Kevin Kline and Buddy Ebsen. They are all here in the first definitive St. Louis movie book . . . just in time for the 2006 Academy Awards. This new book by St. Louis film critic Lester N. Pope depicts the Gateway City’s connection to Tinseltown. Foreword by actor and St. Louis native John Goodman.

$17.95 - Available in stores and online at www.STL-BOOKS.com

Holy Week at the Cathedral
Palm Sunday, April 9
Holy Communion 8:9 & 11:15 a.m.
April 10-13
Noonday Prayer 12:10 p.m., Mon.-Tu.
April 10-12
Evening Prayer 6 p.m., Mon.-Wed.
April 12
Holy Communion 7 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 13
Holy Week Noontide Concert 12:30 p.m.
Holy Communion 6 p.m.
Good Friday, April 14
Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday 12:30 p.m.
Station of the Cross 3 p.m.
Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday 6 p.m.
Holy Saturday, April 15
Morning Prayer 10 a.m.
Vigil of Easter 8 p.m.
Easter, April 16
Holy Communion 8 a.m.
Festival Holy Communion 9 & 11:15 a.m.

See website for regular worship schedule and special events.

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The Georgian
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The turn-of-the-century City Hospital and surrounding buildings will be magnificently renovated into brand new cosmopolitan residences along with dynamic retail space and office space. A synthesis of suburban and urban living. The Georgian features spacious one, two and three bedroom condominiums with more than a dozen unique floor plans.
Displays Now Open!
Open Saturday, 10am - 3pm
Sunday, Noon - 5pm
314-777-7171
www.TheGeorgianCondominiums.com

Mississippi Place
By Gilded Age
Free Rooftop Deck Upgrade!

Located at the northeast corner of Lafayette and Mississippi Avenues, this new development will resemble the four original mansions that once occupied this stately corner. The mansions will be divided into 16 unique and luxurious townhomes, two-car attached rear parking in most units.
www.MississippiPlace.com

EDEN LOFTS
By Gilded Age
Displays Now Open!
314-865-3356 (EDEN)
www.EdenLofts.com

The former Eden Publishing building at Truman and Chouteau is currently being renovated into 40 condominiums, starting in the mid-$100s. Including both modern loft configurations, as well as more traditional condominium layouts — all with amazing views of the Arch and the City.

Vickie Gray
807-5961
Kevin Openlander
494-7004
Michael Reiser
733-0918
Steve Brown
983-8922

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Steve Gray
380-4729
Elizabeth Butler
412-0301
Al Horst
550-7952
Michael Marvano
313-7890
Michael Reiser
733-0918
Dog owners, please be courteous!

By Dane Drefke
Lafayette Square

The weather is warming up and residents are becoming more active — two- and four-legged alike. When walking my dogs through the wonderful park this weekend, I did what I always do and stopped to scoop up those “unphased” piles of fido-doo left by irresponsible dog owners. After scooping up four, and discovering the fifth pile the hard way (yuck!) I thought it time for a gentle reminder of what constitutes responsible and courteous dog ownership. This article is not meant to be an admonishment, more of a plea from one dog lover to all those other dog lovers out there to be good neighbors.

What to Do with Doo-Doo

The answer is simple, you MUST pick it up. It is the law, and it’s the courteous thing to do. St. Louis city ordinance states that it is the responsibility of the owner to pick up after their dog in public places — always. Don’t assume the park workers or your neighbors will do it, and don’t assume the rain will just wash it away. Excess pet deposits can greatly elevate harmful bacteria levels in our public spaces, and it poses a health risk to residents, their pets, and the park wildlife.

Never leave your pets droppings in your neighbor’s yard. That is extremely rude! Residents work very hard to keep their yards looking nice and healthy, and nothing is more upsetting than having to clean fido-doo out of the flower beds.

The green space between the sidewalk and the street is maintained by our neighbors. Please be respectful and clean up after your pet.

The Skinny on Leashes

Everyone wants the park and our neighborhood to be a fun and safe place for all residents. Please be advised that when in public spaces, city ordinance states your dog must be on a leash. Although it is common to see dogs off-leash inside the park, you do so at your own (and your dog’s) risk. Not all residents love our dogs as much as we do, so please keep your dog under your direct control at all time. Not all dogs are friendly toward one another, and it’s a good safety tip to have your dog under control when approaching others. A strong, six-foot long leash is best. Never let your dogs chase and harass the wildlife.

Getting to Know You

When approaching an unfamiliar dog, it’s always best to ask the owner if it’s OK to pet their dog. Don’t assume the dog is friendly as this may not always be true. The dog may be anxious or under rehabilitation, and a strange person or a child can frighten a dog if they approach too quickly. Let the dog get familiar with you first before you pet them (place your hand below the dogs head, palm up, and let them smell). Dogs are more comfortable with a pet on the shoulder or back then the top of the head.

Contact the St. Louis Health Department Animal Regulation Center for more information. Lafayette Square is a very dog-friendly neighborhood. By exercising courtesy and common sense, responsible dog owners can make sure it stays that way.

Floral Row

Continued from page 1

in the area. But don’t let swarming numbers be seen a discouraging sign. The St. Louis Floral Market has lots of life left. Now, the oldest and the largest is Baish & Skinner, founded in 1952. It is expanding to other locations in Missouri and other states. Plus, Baish & Skinner is a third-generation, family-run company — a trend that is hardly an anomaly on the block. Call any one of the retail or wholesale locations on this block and you can speak with the store’s nameake or the next generation.

“…the remaining wholesale distributors are adapting to the changing demands of the business. We recognize ourselves as business-to-business, but the lion share of our business is traditional retail florists,” said Frye, who has worked at Baish & Skinner for 25 years. “There has been more change in the industry in the last 10 years than in the previous 30. We have a more diverse set of customers now.”

Now, the City of St. Louis plans to draw more attention to this district and encourage more patrons to the area, said Frye, with a similar feel and atmosphere to Flower Row. Now, the City of St. Louis plans to draw more attention to this district and encourage more patrons to the area, said Frye, with a similar feel and atmosphere to Flower Row.

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In accordance with the Lafayette Park Master Plan, the Lafayette Park Conservancy developed a landscape plan to enhance the visual appeal of the Park House area. The planned new landscape lends an air of historic authenticity through the selection, scale and placement of ornamental elements, the use of indigenous plants, and the provision of seating and shaded areas for park guests.

A new brick courtyard, sheltered by a serpentine stone retaining wall, faces the Park House. Japanese maple trees and a graceful urn highlight the north side of the Park House while an ornamental annual bed wraps around the south side, and an enhanced entry at Lafayette Avenue communicates a sense of place.

“We wanted to revitalize the planted areas around the Park House to complement the LSRC’s fantastic renovation of the historic Park House building,” explains Conservancy President Tim Gore. “This Landscape Plan will extend the renewed polish of the Park House throughout the southeast corner of the park.”

How can you help?

Many of the scene-setting plants and ornamental elements that highlight the Landscape Plan will be funded through the generosity of individual donors. There are two ways for park supporters to help bring the landscape plan to life:

• Plant a living legacy by sponsoring an individual specimen plant, ornamental tree or decorative urn.
• Leave a lasting impression by purchasing one of a limited number of engraved bricks in the Park House courtyard.

“These opportunities are limited, and Landscape Plan sponsorship gifts must be received by June 30, 2006,” says Gore, noting that the plan will be completed in late May, before the LSRC Spring House Tour. “Landscape Plan sponsors can contribute a unique, concrete and lasting legacy for the enjoyment of generations to come.”

Park House Courtyard

Engraved Bricks

The brick courtyard facing the Park House will include up to 600 engraved clay bricks. Each brick costs $100 and may be inscribed to recognize your support for Lafayette Park — or to honor someone special — with up to 28 characters.

To inquire about the Landscape Plan, contact Tim Gore or call the Conservancy at 772-5724.

Opportunities Available in the Landscape Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sponsorship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Tree #1</td>
<td>Japanese maple on the north side of the Park House</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Tree #2</td>
<td>Japanese maple on the north side of the Park House</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Tree #3</td>
<td>Weeping Norway Spruce, on the south side of the Park House</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Urn #1</td>
<td>Located on north side of Park House</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Urn #2</td>
<td>Located in circular area at southeast corner of plan</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen Plants #1</td>
<td>A pair of crepe myrtles flanking the entrance at the Lafayette Avenue gate</td>
<td>$200-350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specimen Plants #2</td>
<td>Purchased one of a limited number of engraved bricks in the Park House court</td>
<td>$200-300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Garden</td>
<td>Landscape rose bushes to be used throughout the Park House garden area</td>
<td>$30 (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$450 (set)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time to renew your Lafayette Square Restoration Committee Membership Dues for 2006!

Contact Dave Dierk Membership Secretary

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Mary ‘One’ Real Estate Tip of the Month

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Mary ‘One’ Johnson
Home Team Realty, LLC
Pulaski Bank

Mary ‘One’ Home Team Realty, LLC

What are some reasons that a customer would go FHA versus Conventional?

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3. Non-occupant co-signers are allowed for qualifying purposes.

FHA’s new maximum loan limit $213,750.

Why do I need to work with a Realtor?

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Interested in buying or selling or if you have any questions for Tip of the Month, contact Mary ‘One’ at

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OFFICE (314) 436-3970 • maraya@maryoneht.com
www.maryoneth.com

For lending questions, call Shad Lager with Pulaski Bank at 579-7705 (office) or 322-7109 (cell).
Join the Park Conservancy and help keep this treasure beautiful

By Carolyn Willmore

The Flora Conservancy of Lafayette Park is a partnership between The Flora Conservancy of Forest Park and The Lafayette Park Conservancy, two not-for-profit organizations. The partnership was formed to accomplish the goals set forth in the Lafayette Park Master Plan. This alliance receives support from the City Parks Department, St. Louis Master Gardeners Association, and the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee.

Lafayette Park can trace its roots back to the founding of the tiny village of St. Louis in 1764. It is the last piece of the St. Louis Common, reserved for use as a Public Square by Mayor Darby in 1836. The Lafayette Park Conservancy was founded in 2001, on the 150th anniversary of the passage of St. Louis Ordinance 274 establishing Lafayette Park.

Max Kern, an early landscape architect, designed Lafayette Park. In 1878, this Victorian strolling park was described as “one of the most beautiful and effective pieces of landscape gardening on the continent” in Dacus and Buel’s *A Tour of St. Louis*. Surviving features include the Police Station, Grotto, central lake, iron fence, statues of Senator Benton and George Washington, Revolutionary War cannons and Boathouse.

Volunteers tend a wide variety of gardens throughout the park that include formal beds around Washington’s statue, container plantings in urns, and cottage style gardens in the Grotto. Paths following the original Victorian design lead visitors from garden to garden.

One benefit of the Flora Conservancy is use of the city greenhouses in Forest Park. For over a month, volunteers have been planting seeds and cuttings to create red, white and blue plantings around Washington’s statue. Some plants will beautify the Grotto and other areas of the park. Ward Buckner, Tom Keay, Ruth Kamphoefner, Sue Pinker-Dodd, Linda Weiner and Carolyn Willmore spent several enjoyable Wednesday mornings at the greenhouse learning to plant seeds and root cuttings.

If you enjoy gardening, the Flora Conservancy of Lafayette Park offers a wonderful opportunity to work with plants in a beautiful Victorian setting. Volunteers work in the park each Wednesday morning from April through October. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the company of other gardeners, share your gardening skills, and help fulfill the vision of the Lafayette Park Master Plan.

Be a part of this exciting volunteer opportunity and become involved in the restoration of Lafayette Park. To volunteer, call 314-289-5323.

To join the Lafayette Park Conservancy, see the membership form on page 10.
218 LAFAYETTE
$595,000
Beautiful painted lady in Lafayette Square. You will be amazed by all of the historic charm mixed with contemporary style. Custom kitchen, huge screened porch, hardwood floors, a must see!

1926 PRESIDENT
$139,900
Charming Benton Park Victorian. Nicely landscaped with new light maple kitchen and two baths, freshly painted interior with new flooring throughout, partially finished basement plus secret room on second floor.

318 S. 59TH ST.
$187,500
Ideally located, this Linden Heights townhome features 3 bedrooms, 3 ½ baths and a 2-car garage. Hardwood floors flow through the open kitchen with stainless steel appliances to the large living and dining rooms.

1924 SIDNEY
$395,000
(314) 531-1900 • (314) 757-1007

1920 S. NINA PLACE
$184,900
Welcome to one of the most spacious of all the Nina Place condos. This highly desirable 3rd-floor end unit provides tons of natural sunlight. Gated, secured parking. Bonus sunroom to ground floor & convenient to Wash U & the new Metrolink expansion.

2002 RUTGER
$399,900
This historic duplex comes back to life in 2 outstanding townhomes. Each unit features 2 totally new interiors, 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, gorgeous custom kitchen, hardwood floors, finished lower level with street-side door and new 2-car garage. 2002 Rutger also available.

1206 HEATHER MOOR DR.
$229,900
Stunning newer, never-lived-in, 2-story, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, an addition at windows, situated on a great lot, a spectacular property.

2006 McNair
$375,000 Complete rehab. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 2 car garage, 2nd-floor master suite included. Stainless granite countertops, 2-car garage.

2109 LYNCH
$350,000 Outstanding brick mansion in Benton Park historic district. Breathtaking spaces. state-of-the-art kitchen, thermal windows, brick construction and exciting art-deco designed interior. Completely remodeled, some interior choices still available to buyer.

2109 LYNCH
$350,000 Outstanding brick mansion in Benton Park historic district. Breathtaking spaces. state-of-the-art kitchen, thermal windows, brick construction and exciting art-deco designed interior. Completely remodeled, some interior choices still available to buyer.

1828 HICKORY
$429,000 Victorian painted lady with a magnificent new kitchen, original hardwood floors, a master staircase, living, dining and entertaining room. This Lafayette Square home will not last long!

2006 McNair
$375,000 Complete rehab. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 2 car garage, 2nd-floor master suite included. Stainless granite countertops, 2-car garage.

2007 CHEROKEE
$199,900 Exquisite, modern Benton Park West home. Completely renovated from simple townhome with all new systems including, electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling. New roof, new all wood windows and doors, new appliances. Tax abatement pending.

2120 PORTIS
$249,900 Rehabbed Shaw Gardens-area brick 2-family w/new kitchens & baths, new furnace & central air, thermal windows, refinished hardwood floors, new lighting fixtures, 4th floor parking, spacious rooms & enclosed porch.

2420 LINDELL
$224,900 Gorgeous UWG condominium. Stately dror, lots of natural light, crown molding, oversized fireplace, private balcony. Gated, secured parking with one garage space. Two bedrooms, two full baths, private laundry facilities in-unit.

2450 LINDELL
$316,000 Spectacular Shaw neighborhood two-family w/3 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 very special ½ baths, an exciting custom vocabulary. What a experience!？ Room addition & fully finished LL. Dramatic new contemporary kitchen w/stainless steel appliances.

2500 HYDE AV.
$259,900 Completely remodeled, this is the home you have been waiting for. New 2-car garage & fully finished LL. Dramatic new contemporary kitchen w/stainless steel appliances.

2518 51ST ST.
$299,000 Handsomely updated kitchen w/new granite countertops, fresh paint, and hardwood floors. Newer windows and entrance to basement. Lots of room for a large family.

2800 McNair
$325,000 Rehabbed 220 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, master suite with Jacuzzi. Gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances and concrete countertops. Two-car secure garage, all new mechanical systems and roof.

3140 S. S. HILL
$239,900 Fully restored in Benton Park. Everything new, even the wiring. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, huge eat-in kitchen and nice enclosed back porch.

3220 INDIANA
$244,900 Outstanding brick manse in Benton Park historic district. ½ block from park. Completely rehabbed with new kitchen, new bathrooms, refinished hardwood floors, stone fireplace, central air, garage & back porch. Call Jennifer Bates (314) 753-5404.

3746 ITASKA
$189,000 Quaint & storybook style home with art glass windows, immaculate natural woodwork, refinished hardwood floors, stone fireplace, walkout basement, central air, garage & back porch. Call Jennifer Bates (314) 753-5404.
Gardening opportunities throughout Square

By Carolyn Willmore

Quote of the month

Soil warms our hands and our souls as we work in it.

Allen Lacy, American writer

Lafayette Square Restoration Committee
February Board Meeting Minutes

Lafayette Square Restoration Committee Board Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2006

Members present: Houston Smith, Jane Blackwell, Susan Sauer, Sandra Herde, Dene Dretke, Julie Dretke, Paul Doerner, Pete Snyder, Jean Steck, Chris Westmeyer, and Erin Bulle.

Absent: Nick Colosi, Linda Weiner.

Minutes from previous meetings were reviewed and accepted.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Jean Steck
- Motion: To take before the Lafayette Square Restoration Membership for vote the transfer of Park Conservancy account balance and the following dedicated funds: Bandstand, Duck House, and the Tree & Park fund to the Lafayette Square Park Conservancy.
- Motion passed.
- Park house insurance quote update—currently will gathering quotes.

Welcome Committee: Julie Dretke
- Re-ordered mugs
- Three new neighbors welcomed this month.

Development Committee: Jane Blackwell
- Lafayette Walk: Meeting on Sunday, April 2 at 3 p.m. at 1801 Hickory at which time we will continue the design planning.
- Adoption Sites Available:
  - The following sites are available for adoption: 2.5 acres of land to design and apply for Operation Brightside. The westernmost median for this year, Truman Parkway Landscape the area at Carroll and the Park Avenue entrance. Grants are due in late August and in Fall 2006 for planting Spring 2007.

Kara Kopplin has agreed to design and execute painting of the utility boxes along Truman School as the City of Clayton initiated in their downtown area. All are welcome to our next planning meeting on Sunday, April 2 at 3 p.m.

Community Task Force: Chris Westmeyer
- Portraying Jesus in the passion will begin April 1 and April 8.

Finance Committee
- Meeting 13 March 1310 at Belas Artes

Old Business:
- Park House Insurance and Contract: Insurance quotes still being gathered
- Salama Market: Susan Sauer checking monthly for any changes
- Chouteau/18th Street: Parking Lot:
- New Business:
  - Lafayette Park Conservancy funds transfer – voted to recommend transfer of LPC funds and dedicated funds to the LPC during Finance Committee report.

Welcome Committee: July Dretke
- Chair and Co-Chairs for 2006 Holiday Tour needed
- Praxair redevelopment – What does the neighborhood want to see in this location going forward
- Boat House – Looking for ideas for Boat House use

Open for play!

Volunteers from SSDN, the local community and The Home Depot joined together with the nonprofit KaBOOM! to build a state-of-the-art, 2,500 square foot playground at 2930 Iowa Ave. on March 23. The playground for SSDN's children and families was funded through a $47,200 grant from The Home Depot and a $10,000 contribution from SSDN. It was a part of KaBOOM! and The Home Depot's efforts to create and refurbish 1,000 playgrounds in 1,000 days. St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay (above) joined the volunteers for a “Board-Cutting” ceremony to officially complete the build.

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The first annual meeting of the Lafayette Square Business Association was held March 13 at Belas Artes, 1854 Russell. During the meeting, the membership elected to make several changes in the structure of the association following one year of operation.

New Committee Structure

In response to member needs, two new committees were added to the Association’s committee structure: the Public Safety Committee and the Special Events Committee.

The responsibilities of the Communications Committee were divided among all the other committees and the communications group was disbanded.

Officers Appointed

The following persons were appointed officers of the LSBA effective April 1, 2006: Pete Snyder will continue as president; Michele Doft will become secretary and Membership Chair; Bob Levine will become treasurer and Finance chair; Michael Lance will continue as vice president and Business Improvement chair; Scott Holdridge will become chair of Public Safety; Bethany Budde moves from treasurer to chair of Special Events; and the Marketing chair will be Karen Jones. In addition, Ryan Shaghnessy remains general counsel of the association.

Katherine Dinino, outgoing secretary and Lisa Stillman, outgoing Membership Chair were thanked for all their outstanding contributions.

2006 Goals Approved

The Membership Committee had the most aggressive goals for 2006. First, a new meeting structure was agreed upon. LSBA general membership meetings will be held six times a year on the second Monday of odd months (January, March, May, July, September, and November). Meetings will begin at 6 p.m., immediately followed by a “business social.”

The committee also wants to increase to 75 members (from 52). The goal will be met in two ways: by extending Association activities beyond Lafayette Square to include businesses located in LaSalle Park, Peabody and McKinley Heights; in addition membership has been sub-divided into industry sector ad hoc groups so that like companies can address similar concerns.

Ad Hoc Groups Formed

Five ad hoc groups were formed. Michelle Adams will lead the restaurant group. The personal care group of companies will be headed up by Lisa Stillman. Paul Shannon will lead the professional services group, while Carolyn McAvoy will lead real estate services. Matt Brzelton heads a joint group comprised of retail establishments and B&Bs.

Traffic Flow

The Business Improvement Committee will continue to seek traffic-calming measures that are consistent with the Urban Plan. The committee will also work on preparations for the closure of the Jefferson Avenue overpass, as well as the clossure of Highway 40.

This group will work towards a business signage and banner standard. An ad hoc group formed from this committee will work to maintain the public parking lot on Park Avenue under the leadership of Jake Hafner.

The Public Safety Committee will coordinate with the safety committee of the LSRC and similar resident safety groups.

Getting The Word Out

The Marketing Committee will update the current association brochure, create a website that identifies members, and establish an e-group to facilitate better communications among members.

In addition, Marketing will seek to create advertising and other promotional activities to increase awareness of the area.

For example, the committee is currently working with Travel/Moost magazine for a feature article and advertising theme page for the May/June issue of this publication that is found in the region's hotel rooms.

More Excitement

The Special Events Committee will look to enhance the “Taste of Lafayette Square” event that is scheduled for September 9, 2006. The committee will also create other signature events that generate excitement for our area. They hope to find unique ties with the area’s house tours and other crowd-generating events.

The first annual Plein Air Art Show and Auction is such an event. Held in conjunction with the Lafayette Square Spring House Tour, the art show will feature the work of three-dozen or more artists who are creating their works in the area “en plein air,” in the open air.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LSBA was set for 6:00 p.m. May 8 at Four Muddy Paws, 2000 Geyer Ave. (at the corner of Mississippi). The business social will follow at 7:00 p.m. All interested businesses are invited to attend.

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Groundbreaking in progress for new dog park

The John and Lucille Wendling Soulard Dog Park will open in early April. The fencing material has been ordered and is due in at the end of this week. Installation should begin in late March, and weather permitting, installation should take about 2 weeks. Alderman Phyllis Young donated $10,000 to assist in the fence costs. She is pictured above with Julia Mittelstadt at the groundbreaking for the new park. 

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The FPDPA is currently looking for spaces that can be converted to dog parks in Lafayette Square, Benton Park and LaSalle Park. For further information about the Soulard Dog Park or future plans for dog parks in these other areas, please contact Julia Mittelstadt at 314-241-8888.

FDPA is a group dedicated to building safe, enclosed areas where dogs and their owners can exercise/play off leash. The FPDPA serves the neighborhoods of Lafayette Square, Benton Park, LaSalle Park and Soulard.

Your Community Credit Union

Newly expanded field of membership!

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Lafayette Park UMC readsies for a busy Easter schedule

Serving St. Louis’ Near Southside Neighborhoods

By Debra Crowe

Lafayette Park UMC

It’s time for bunnies and bonnets, for egg hunts and sunrise services. Please join us at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church as we celebrate the Easter season.

On Good Friday, we’ll open the holiday weekend with “Kneeling at the Cross,” a series of dramatic monologues.

On Saturday, April 15, LPMUC will sponsor its annual Easter egg hunt in Lafayette Park for children ages 10 and under. Meet at the southwest corner of the park to access the search area, which will be divided into sections for each age group. Be sure to bring a basket or bag to hold the eggs that are found! After the egg hunt, kids and adults are invited to Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the church for refreshments and prizes—and to meet the Easter Bunny! Enter the Hall through the lower-level door facing Lafayette Avenue. Photo opportunities abound, so remember to bring your camera.

Easter Sunday celebrations start bright and early with a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. If you prefer a more contemporary worship service, join us at 8 a.m. Traditional worship is at 10 a.m. Afterwards, there will be food and drink in Fellowship Hall. It’s a great time to greet friends and make new ones.

This month features other fun and familiar events, as well. On April 21 and 22, the UMW will host their annual book sale. All books that fit into one bag (provided at the sale) are just $2.00. This is one of the UMW’s most popular events, so plan to arrive early for the best selection.

Another of the UMW’s ventures, the Resale Boutique, has reopened following its recent renovation. With fresh paint and new lighting, it’s even more inviting than before, and there are new items arriving all the time. Those of you who are regular visitors to the boutique will enjoy stopping by to see its new look and scout out new offerings; and for those of you who have yet to visit the shop, spring is a great time to make your first visit. Most likely, it won’t be your last.

The shop, located on the lower level of the church, is open each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Look for the sign in front of the church. The week of April 24, LPMUC Preschool will sponsor a bake-a-thon to raise money for St. Jude’s Hospital. If you’re interested, and would like more information on this event, please call the church office at 314-771-9214.

Upcoming, the Spring Rummage Sale on May 5 and 6. Watch for details in the May issue of the LSRC.

Lafayette Park United Methodist Church is located at 2300 Lafayette Avenue, just one block east of Jefferson. It is our vision to “...be a church without walls, creating a visible sign of Christ’s presence in our urban community.” You may reach us at 314-771-9214. You are welcome here.

The Lafayette Park Conservancy is landscaping the grounds around the newly restored Park House. You may have noticed a bobcat scarping the ground between the Park House and flagpole. The area is being graded for a new patio and gardens. Last fall, plants in the old gardens were rescued and moved to other areas of the park. When bulbs popped up from the ground this spring, they were dug up and replanted, too.

The Lafayette Park Conservancy was founded in 2001 to restore and preserve the historic legacy of Lafayette Park, the first urban park west of the Mississippi River, and raise money for this purpose. Please join the LPC and help achieve the goals of the Lafayette Park Master Plan.

The Lafayette Park Conservancy membership form

$35 Friend

$50 Contributor/Family

$75 Botanist

$150 Historian

$200 Preservationist

$500 Benton Society

$1000 Lafayette Society

Membership benefits are listed on our website, lafayettepark.org.

Membership information

Name(s) ____________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________________
Phone ____________________________ E-mail ____________________________
I prefer to receive the Conservancy newsletter and mailings by __________ (check one)
by mail □ by e-mail (the Conservancy will not sell or share e-mail address) ______

If your contribution is eligible for a matching gift, please submit a matching form from your employer.

The Lafayette Park Conservancy

2023 Lafayette Avenue

St. Louis 63104

LSRC March Minutes

LSRC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MARCH 14, 2006

President Houston Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The February minutes were approved with revision of the name of Chris Westmeyer instead of Chris Goodson to form a new safety website for the neighborhood.

New residents were asked to introduce themselves: Mrs. Amy Hallock (aka “Wootte”) Sauer has recently moved into the neighborhood.

Membership - 80 as of 3-14-06

Committee Reports

Finance - Jon Steck gave the financial report.

Development - Jane Blackwell gave a report on the meeting they had with the City Preservation Board and the group from LSRC, and the Lafayette Walk development group. After some discussion the Preservation Board advised the Lafayette Walk development that they will need to remove the utilities from the front of the units, and change the metal front doors to wooden doors.

On the code revision, Step 1 - a committee has been having meetings to change the verbiage on the code. Step 2 - the development committee will review the committee recommendations and make changes where necessary. Step 3 - take the revisions to the LSRC board for review and approval. Step 4 - upon approval by the board, then the revisions go to the Culture Resources and the board of alderman for approval. Step 5 - upon approval by the city, then comes to the membership for final approval.

A future code books are available by calling Jane Blackwell at 241-0035. If you going to do any work on your property, please contact the development committee for guidance.

Park Conservancy - Tim Gore advised on Saturday April 1 and April 8, there will be a spring cleaning in the park including the playground, meet at the park house.

Lafayette Square park has received a grant for $50,000.

Community Affairs - Erin Budde not present. No report.

Safety - Sue Pinker-Dodd looking for a new and active Captain organization. If you are interested please contact Sue. The lot at 2207/2235 Hickory Place has become a problem property with homeless and vagrants living in the shed on the property. Police have been notified. Officer Simmons advised that Don Chuppel is being confined in jail for the present.

Due to the new coding system for the police department, the crime figures for crime are down compared to January. I stolen car and 6 larcenies; since February last year the crime rate is down approximately 56 percent.

This year’s Unity Night is on April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony’s church, Meramec & Michigan. Unity night is where the police departments and the neighborhoods get together from the north city and the south city areas and talk about the various problems they have and try to find solutions to solve the problems. If anyone needs a ride call the 4th district 444-2540.

155 East 3rd Street, Pete Snyder advised the business groups will meet the 2nd Monday of the odd months.

Old Business

Praxair - waiting for the re-zoning. Request has been made.

Spring House Tour - Theme “Places in the Square”. Still need a co-chair to help Erin

Holiday Tour - Need a chair and co-chair. Contact Houston Smith if you are interested.

Park House - putting 200 amp service to the interior and lighting for the outside and flagpole area.

Marquis - a new 2-year contract with Virginia publishing to print the Marquis. 10th & Chouteau - considering the transfer of real estate to the N.S.S. to Chris Goodson.

New Business

There will be a postal meeting at St. Vincent de Paul church about the delivery of mail to the homes & businesses in the 63104 post office, Benton Park Post Office officials will attend. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 18. The meeting was arranged by LaSalle Park, Mc Kinley Heights, Soulard and Lafayette Square.

Transfer of funds to the LPA - It was voted to transfer the following funds to the LPA. There was $6,000 that belonged to the LPA, the bandstand fund $16,931. Duck fund $467,33, the Tree & Park fund $1,240. There was a motion made to move the funds from the LSRC to the LPA, motion carried with no nay or abstains.

Announcements

Jean Steck announced the Downtown YMCA is having an open house for people to go by to see the facilities.

Pete Snyder announced he would undertake a program to enforce the leash law in our neighborhood and inside the park. Warnings to be issued first then May 15 people will be ticketed for breaking the law that is already on the books. With the help of the police department to start to enforce the leash law. Also, please clean up after your dog.

Dave Dierl announced there will be a fundraiser for the Lafayette Square vintage baseball team the Perfectos at 33 Wine Bar on Saturday, April 1. Call for the correct time.

Linda Weiner announced she will be looking for volunteers for Operation Brightside coming up in April.

Mary Dahms requested that neighbors please correct the name of the dumpsters. Please break boxes down before putting them in the dumpsters. Also, don’t put boxes next to the dumpsters, the garbage man is not going to get the boxes off the truck and pick up the boxes. Put the boxes in the dumpsters.

Larry Layton National Kidney Foundation - announced the 5th Annual Kidney Walk on Thursday June 1, 2006 Lafayette Park. Registration 5pm Walk begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact Berry Landers 397-961-2828 or register on the web at http://www.walksfd.com/ www.walksfd.com. Anyone interested in the above can call Perry or our neighborhood contact would be Cheryl Andrews at 771-1937.

Perfectos Schedule

All games at 7pm unless otherwise noted.

13-26, 4-6, 8 Canton, Michigan

14-26, 6-10, 6-21 St. Louis, Missouri

15-24, 7-6, 7-21 East Peoria, Illinois

16-24, 7-21 Springfield, IL

17-24, 7-6, 7-21 St. Louis, Missouri

18-24, 8-21 Ferguson, Missouri

19-24, 8-21 St. Louis, Missouri

20-24, 9-21 St. Louis, Missouri

21-24, 9-21 Rock Springs, Wyoming

22-24, 10-2, 10-16 Rock Springs, Wyoming

23-24, 10-2, 10-16 Huntington Beach, California

24-24, 10-2, 10-16 Huntington Beach, California

25-24, 10-2, 10-16 Huntington Beach, California

26-24, 10-2, 10-16 Huntington Beach, California

27-24, 10-2, 10-16 Huntington Beach, California

28-24, 10-2, 10-16 Huntington Beach, California

29-24, 10-2, 10-16 Huntington Beach, California

30-24, 10-2, 10-16 Huntington Beach, California

31-24, 10-2, 10-16 Huntington Beach, California

www.perfectos.org
A proposal to provide for the maintenance of Lafayette Park

By Wardwell Buckner

Lafayette Square

Living in old houses has taught us the importance of maintaining things. Even newly constructed buildings require maintenance. The same goes for the park. We can fix the Park House exterieur and build a new Gazebo but we have to maintain them, and also the driveways and the monuments and the fence and everything or else decades from now someone will have to start all over again. I would like to suggest a way to start building an endowment for the maintenance of the park. My proposal may seem a little out of the ordinary at first but a second or third reading will show that it has merit. Let me begin by explaining how the idea came to me.

I visited Cambridge, Massachusetts for a family wedding several years ago and extended my stay to see some of the sites in and around Cambridge. One site I discovered was Mount Auburn Cemetery established in 1831 by members of the newly formed Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The founders believed that a tranquil, natural setting was most desirable for the burial and commemoration of the dead and to comfort and console the living. This gave birth to the ‘rural’ cemetery movement and to comfort and console the living. The 174 acres of Mount Auburn contain ten miles of roads, several ponds and lakes, well-planned groves of trees, single trees and groupings of trees, shrubs, gardens both formal and informal, benches, monuments and statues, a head quarters building, large ornamental gates and a wonderful large limestone Sphinx. It is a landmark tourist site and the setting was most desirable for the newly formed Massachusetts Horticulture Society.

I realized that this suggestion is


HELP WANTED! GROWING real state office in need of an experienced, licensed agent who is technologically inclined to assist in training. Please call 314-910-3414, Pruden tial Real Estate Properties.

Help Wanted

The 174 acres of Mount Auburn contain ten miles of roads, several ponds and lakes, well-planned groves of trees, single trees and groupings of trees, shrubs, gardens both formal and informal, benches, monuments and statues, a head quarters building, large ornamental gates and a wonderful large limestone Sphinx. It is a landmark tourist site and the setting was most desirable for the newly formed Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

I realized that this suggestion is
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• Privacy Fenced Back Yard
• 2-Car Garage
• Walk-out Lower Level Available

Plan A: 2,250 square feet • 3 bedrooms/2.5 baths

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