

# MARQUIS

AUGUST 2005

Founded by the residents of Lafayette Square

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 8

## Explosions make their mark on neighborhood

### Residents, officials vow to keep a closer eye on businesses, relocate Praxair

By Jim Willmore  
LSRC President

Many people assume the best of others. We do not see or seek danger in the mundane. Our neighborhood, while requiring us to be alert, as in any city, has the feeling of safety.

All of us received a wake-up call when tanks at Praxair began to explode, sending flames skyward and shrapnel through walls and into yards. No one was injured and for this we are all thankful.

While communities by their very nature experience challenges, seldom does a neighborhood come close to catastrophe, as was experienced by Lafayette Square.

However, I admit that I passed Praxair at least once a week and never gave one thought to the danger in our midst. Now I am asking a lot of questions.

In my six years living in Lafayette Square and attending LSRC meetings I do not recall any communication from Praxair. Was there a relationship between the neighborhood and this company? (Under their prior name of Union Carbide, were they communicating with the community in Bhopal?) How did this industrial site move from handling inert

gases to processing volumes of flammable and toxic materials into tanks for transport around the city? Chlorine keeps being mentioned. This halogen is remarkably toxic and dangerous. Is there a bunker of chlorine present on the Praxair site? What are the federal and local rules regarding handling of such a gas in proximity to homes?

I think that the free pass that we have given to Praxair is over.

Our neighborhood demands answers and most of all, action by all in leadership, whether the company or our city. Our mayor and our alderman must be congratulated. They were clear from the onset of this disaster and we as a neighborhood are clear as well. Praxair must move.

This wake-up call has energized all of us. Our Development Committee and all of the LSRC will bring renewed scrutiny to any and all that would move into this historic residential district. We will demand complete fealty to our zoning. We will require complete compliance with our historic code.

To all, it is clear that our business is serious and all committees of the LSRC must feel the energy and the mandate for action.



Jim Willmore photo



Fritz McAvoy photo



Fritz McAvoy photo

Explosions from Praxair rocked Lafayette Square on Friday, June 24, scattering debris throughout the neighborhood. Amazingly, no serious injuries were reported.

## Bike Race set for Labor Day Weekend

By Beth Trapp  
Lafayette Square

Going out of town for Labor Day Weekend? Hold off those travel plans until Saturday morning because the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour de Lafayette Bicycle Race takes to the streets Friday night, Sept. 2. This is a one-of-a-kind event for the Midwest. Only three other nighttime professional bike races exist in the nation besides the Tour de Lafayette. Some call it a bike race, others call it a street party. And it happens in our own neighborhood!

Where else can you see the nation's top cyclists? Bike-racing professionals come from all over the country to race and sweat hard at the Tour de Lafayette, as crowds of spectators cheer them on. As the sun goes down and the streetlights illuminate, the racers will set off putting their hard training to the test.

The Tour de Lafayette attracts local cyclists, too. Year after year men, women, and juniors show up to race in this cycling competition. St. Louis cyclists have real talent! And, before the serious bike racing begins, spectators get to watch the neighborhood kids race too! Parents can sign up their children beginning at 4 p.m. Friday. These races begin at 5:30 p.m., and we have seven

Continued to page 2

## Local gardeners awarded for efforts

By Linda Weiner  
Lafayette Square

### Quote of the month:

According to a behavioral research study conducted at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, the presence of flowers "triggers happy emotions, heightens feelings of life satisfaction and affects social behavior in a positive manner."

"Flowers are sunshine, food, and medicine to the soul."

Luther Burbank



Submitted by Carolyn Willmore

The Lagoon area of Lafayette Park, under the leadership of Ruth Kamphoefner (above), won first place in the Ornamental Gardens division at the Gateway Greening awards luncheon. First prize was a park bench donated by Gringo Jones. Ruth plans to place the bench by the water's edge of the lagoon lake.

### Lafayette Square Gardeners win an Embarrassing Number of Awards and Honors

This month the talented gardeners of Lafayette Square won kudos galore! Kim Peterson won third place from the Lily Society; Ruth Kamphoefner won first place from Gateway Greening for her masterpiece at the grotto in Lafayette Park; the Lafayette Square Community Garden won second place in the Urban Garden Contest in the Established Garden category; the Washington Statue planting won second Place in the *Post-Dispatch* Great Garden Contest in the Group Garden category (congratulations Marilyn Lane, Don Heus, Artemus Phillips, Carol Gray); Linda Weiner won fourth place in the Backyard Garden category in the Urban Garden Contest sponsored by Gateway Greening and, as if this wasn't enough, several fabulous photos of Lafayette Park and surrounds are on exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Garden (congratulations to Craig Adams, Ward Buckner, Marilyn Lane and Ruth Kamphoefner). Whew! What a talented bunch we have here!

### Summer Volunteers Save the Day

A word of thanks to the summer watering and weeding volunteers who keep the Square looking fantastic when all about us plantings are becoming overgrown with weeds or wilting from the heat and lack of rain.

Many thanks to Greg Plattner who has been hand-turning the water on the Jefferson median until the "automation" is repaired, and he waters most of

Lafayette Park; Marilyn Lane for watering the Washington Statue; Katherine Drinen for watering the mini-park; Kerry Brooks for watering the area around the mid-Mississippi entrance to Lafayette Park; Betsy Clark, Alicia Pierce, Carol Gray and Rosalie Truong for watering the community garden; Carolyn McAvoy for care of the Park and Benton Place entrance to the park; Billie Jean Portas for care of numerous bench areas in the park; Jim McGuire for grass cutting at abandoned lots; Mitchel and Devyani Hunt for trimming the Park and Mississippi entrance bushes and care of the stone urn on the Missouri side of the park; Carol Gray for ongoing attempts to salvage the evergreens from bagworm, and, of course, Don Heus, Ward Buckner, Carolyn Willmore, Ruth Kamphoefner, Rebecca Wright, and Mike and Sue Reardon for their ongoing efforts on behalf of the neighborhood's green spaces.

Kudos also to the City of St. Louis for weeding and replacing dead bushes along the Park Avenue medians and to the "keepers" of the Park Avenue Plaza area.

### Community Garden Taskforce Update

Following a six-week break, the Community Garden Taskforce will resume meeting on Aug. 2 to discuss recommendations and next steps regarding the securing of a permanent home for the Lafayette Square Community Garden. After a straw vote in May, it was learned that the neighborhood's first choice for a perma-

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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, McKinley Heights and Tiffany 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 [info@westendword.com](mailto:info@westendword.com) or call 314-367-6612 x27.

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## Bike Race

Continued from page 1

categories from big wheels and tricycles, training wheels, ages 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12.

Don't know much about cycling? Don't sweat it because there is more to this event than just bike racing. This year Michelob Ultra is bringing in their traveling tasting room for spectators to enjoy as they take in the races. Thirsty

and hungry? Grab dinner at a nearby restaurant or sample tasteful treats on site from SqWires, Eleven Eleven, or Fallen Angel BBQ. All while catching a glimpse of bike racers zipping by.

So, be sure to stick around town Friday, Sept. 2 so that you can experience The Tour de Lafayette Bicycle Race. The races begin at 6 p.m. in Lafayette Square. This race promises to offer an evening chock full of fun, entertainment, and premium bike-racing.

## Garden

Continued from page 1

nent home, the orchard area just north of its current location (32 votes), was likely unavailable due to the needs of Hope VI, which had previously set aside the garden's current location in its planning, based on the initial vote of the neighborhood during the Urban Plan meetings in 2000. Subsequent to that action by Hope VI, the orchard area had been placed in the development package offered to potential developers along Dolman.

When the Taskforce resumes meeting, discussion will focus on whether to recommend moving on to the neighborhood's second choice, the garden remaining at Park and Dolman (19 votes), or perhaps seeking another straw vote to assess the community's wishes when the only options are the current site at Park and Dolman or the site on Rutger at Jefferson which received only 5 votes in the May straw vote. If another straw vote is to be taken, the September LSRC meeting might be an opportune time, as a vote on the next President-Elect will be held at that time, anyway.

We will keep you updated!

## Materials Available at the Community Garden Again

After some City equipment difficulties have been resolved, materials are again available at the Lafayette Square Community Garden at Park and Dolman. Composted soil and wood chips are located in the alley behind the garden. Please help yourself but tidy up. Thanks!

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wood floors as well as the back stairwell leading from the 3rd BR &/or FR to the kitchen for those late night snacks. The center floor plan retains the charm of yesterday & the renewal provides all of the modern amenities. Close to the Botanical Gardens, Tower Grove Park & Grand.



### 3123 ALFRED

Simple yet nice, this South City home is just steps away from Tower Grove Park and minutes from shops and restaurants on Grand. Adorned with 3 bedrooms, beautiful hardwood floors, stained glass

windows, functional pocket doors, garage, a large deck off the back with a large fenced-in yard. The warm entry foyer will welcome you home and the neutral décor makes it easy for you to settle right in. The owner is offering an HSA Protection Plan for your peace of mind.



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Clients of Kreikemeier Real Estate work directly with its founder and CEO, Kevin D. Kreikemeier, a resident of Lafayette Square. Mr. Kreikemeier is a graduate of St. Louis University High School (SLUH) (1989), the University of Notre Dame (B.B.A. finance, 1993) and Washington University School of Law (J.D. 1996). Mr. Kreikemeier is a licensed attorney, a licensed real estate broker and, of course, a REALTOR®.

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### 7437 Somerset 4 Bedrooms, 2½ Bathrooms Clayton, \$599,900

Ideally located in the Moorlands and within the Clayton School District, this home offers wood floors, large living and dining rooms with french doors and a marble lined fireplace, an updated kitchen and an in ground pool. Please see REALTOR.COM MLS #535543.



### 13143 Gary Player Dr. 6 Bedrooms, 5½ Bathrooms Sunset Hills, \$1,099,000 Tapawingo Golf Community

Only 6 years old, this luxury home built by Johnson Development is ideally situated on nearly an acre lot adjoining and overlooking Tapawingo Golf Course. The home offers a pool and three levels of living space. The main and upper level include 4,952 sq. ft. (per County), and the walk out lower level includes another 2,000 professionally finished sq. ft. (per County). Discerning buyers will appreciate the home's premium and luxury features throughout. A few highlights include: large kitchen, main level hearth room and study with vaulted ceilings; main level master bedroom / bathroom suite; two story living room windows; and lower level billiards, family and exercise rooms. Please see REALTOR.COM MLS #517724.



### 416 Cerromar Dr. 4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms Eureka, \$749,900 Legends Golf Community

This 8 year old, custom built, brick atrium ranch home on approximately an acre lot overlooks and adjoins the Legends Golf Course on the 16th hole. The main floor includes 3,695 square feet of living space (per county records), and the walk out lower level includes approximately an additional 2,200 square feet of professionally finished space (per county records). Enjoy the view of the golf course and hills beyond from either inside through the floor to ceiling windows or outside on the deck and patio. This home is ready for entertaining complete with a game room, mini-kitchen and wet bar in the lower level. Please see REALTOR.COM MLS #518214.

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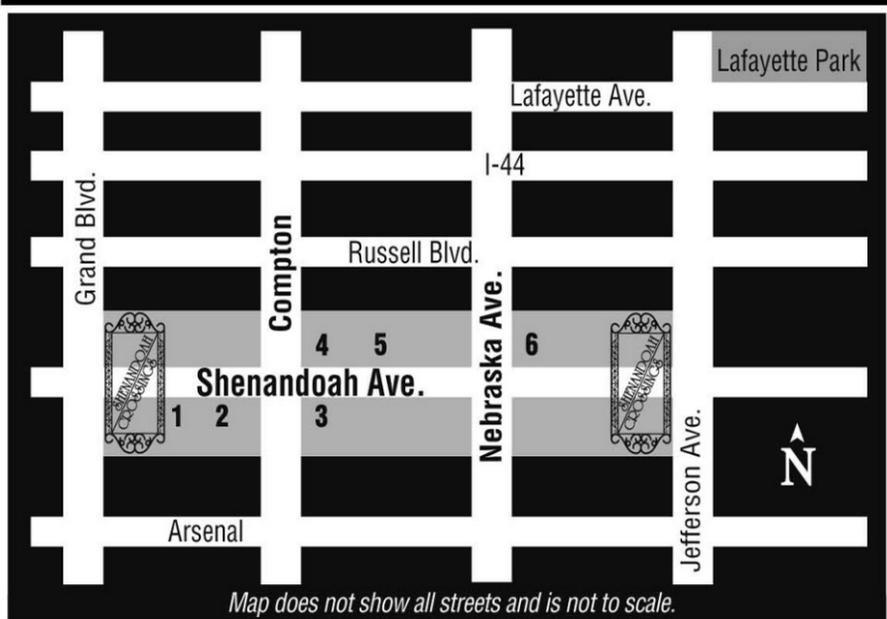
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# Plans underway for holiday tour

By John Herlihy  
 Lafayette Square

Mary Ann Goodson and I had such a great time co-chairing the Lafayette Square holiday tour in 2004 that we've decided to volunteer again this year. We'll be working on filling some of the key committee positions shortly, and we'll hold a kick-off meeting sometime in late August.

We realize that it seems a bit early to be writing about the holiday tour, but it takes an early start to get the type of publicity that we need to continue to make the tours successful. Many of the magazines are already working on their holiday editions, and many of the newsletters that we'd like to be in are only printed quarterly. Since we have a better chance of being included in these publications if we have some home photos to share, it's important that

we finalize some of the homes, complete some of the home histories and get some pictures taken. Most of this needs to be done by early August or we'll miss these big opportunities.

Therefore, we'd like to finalize the list of homes as soon as we can. We've got about 7 homes that have expressed interest in being on the holiday tour this year. Ideally, we'd like 10-12 homes. The tour will take place on Sunday, Dec. 11. We're going to extend the time by two hours, since we had such a big turnout last year, and we'd like to keep the lines down a bit. Therefore, the tour will take place from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Being on tour is a great motivator to complete those projects that you've been putting off, and the tour attendees are so appreciative of getting the opportunity to visit some of the homes that they haven't seen in a while.

The holiday tour is a great way to show your decorating creativity, as well. We know that there are some very creative residents in the square, and this is a great opportunity to display your talents.

If you'd like to open your home for the 2005 holiday tour, please let either Mary Ann or I know, and we'll add you to the list. We'll work with the homeowners to complete their home history, find docent volunteers, etc. We'll also supply booties or carpet runners, complimentary ticket vouchers, a framed tour poster, and a complimentary flower arrangement.

Thanks in advance for your consideration, and we're looking forward to working with the neighborhood on a fun and successful holiday tour this year.

For info or to volunteer, contact John Herlihy & Mary Ann Goodson [jherlihy@purina.com](mailto:jherlihy@purina.com) or [goodsons@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:goodsons@sbcbglobal.net).

# McKinley Heights launches membership drive

By Jack Knapp  
 McKinley Heights

The McKinley Heights Neighborhood Association is looking for you! If you live in the area bounded by Gravois on the south, Jefferson on the west, Interstate 44 on the north and Interstate 55 and 18<sup>th</sup> Street on the east, you live in the McKinley Heights neighborhood and we want you as a member. The association is looking to expand the membership this year.

The association was founded to address several purposes. First, we want

to provide an effective means through which the people in the area can work together to maintain and improve the living standards and social conditions of the area. Second, we provide a means of communication between our neighborhood and official governmental agencies. Finally, we want to foster and encourage actions conducive to the improvement of the neighborhood by the application of existing zoning and housing regulations and progressive action against all efforts to violate these regulations and provide ongoing efforts to resolve violations now

existing. If you have any questions about the association you can email the group at [info@mckinley-heights.org](mailto:info@mckinley-heights.org) or call 773-3906.

The current dues are \$5.00 per year for an individual and \$10.00 per year for any organization, agency or business in the neighborhood. Anyone wishing to join the McKinley Heights Neighborhood Association can pay their dues by sending a check to: Diane Tessman, 1926 Allen, St. Louis, MO 63104 or call Diane at 773-4112.

Make checks payable to: McKinley Heights Neighborhood Association

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**7 LADUE HILLS DR. \$425,000**  
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**2351 ALBION PL. \$424,900**  
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**2029 RUTGER \$289,900**  
Gorgeously rehabbed two-family home in Historic Lafayette Square. Ideal for an owner-occupant with a bottom unit available for rent, with 2nd and 3rd floor available for owners. Within walking distance from park on a quiet street.



**2025 RUTGER \$279,900**  
Historic Victorian rowhouse pleasantly placed on cul-de-sac with very little traffic. Marked by predominately wood floors, three fireplaces featuring marble mantles. Antique light fixtures complete the first floor. Master bath includes separate shower and tub.



**4149 CASTLEMAN \$274,500**  
Classic 2.5-story home in popular Shaw neighborhood. Unbelievable 100x114 lot, fully fenced w/electric gate opening to drive & newer oversized 2-car garage. Open floor plan w/beautiful natural wood staircase, original woodwork & exposed brick. Two patios for entertaining outdoors.



**2120 PORTIS \$269,900**  
Rehabbed Shaw Gardens area brick two-family with new kitchens and baths, new furnaces and central air, thermal windows, refinished hardwood floors, new lighting fixtures, off-street parking, spacious rooms and enclosed porch.



**2125 NEBRASKA \$257,750**  
Chance to own a completely remodeled three story brick house with new kitchen and baths, new flooring, fixtures and fireplace mantels. Nice original staircase. Two car garage and pleasantly landscaped yard. Completion date 7-31-05. Call office for appointments.



**2111 WITHNELL \$219,900**  
Beautifully rehabbed single family residence in popular Benton Park. Nearly 2300 square feet. Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, large eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors. Large deck, delightfully landscaped.



**2013 RUTGER \$215,000**  
Restored Victorian Flounder house on quiet cul-de-sac in historic Lafayette Square. Many, many things to love about this charming home: hardwood floors, 2 working fireplaces; wonderful 2-story porches, mature landscaping, brick patio, iron fencing, great master suite. Crisp, move-in condition.



**3251 INDIANA AVE. \$210,000**  
Outstanding Benton Park renovation close to the park! Completely transformed from top to bottom. Two bedrooms plus a bonus office space. Gourmet eat-in kitchen with ceramic tile and breakfast bar.



**1931 S. COMPTON \$193,900**  
Great opportunity to restore this Victorian 2nd Empire townhome with new kitchen, two bedrooms plus a bonus room w/exposed brick. Year of rehab has been done on the interior of this stunning property.



**5733 GRESHAM \$187,900**  
Charming bungalow near several parks features: original millwork, hardwood floors, exquisite gas fireplace, framed by art glass windows. The kitchen features updated cabinetry and appliances. Roof new in 2003.



**3907 MCDONALD \$169,900**  
Attractive buff brick two story situated on raised knoll above street. First and second floor side porches; finished room in basement. Some thermal windows. Delightful well-kept interior.



**1522 HOGAN \$169,900**  
Beautiful 1.5 story home in St. Louis City. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Attached 2-car garage. Freshly painted, new carpet, new landscaping.



**8901 HALLS FERRY \$159,900**  
Incredible turn-of-the-century mansion with architecturally significant facade, large landscaped corner lot, custom kitchen with maple oversized cabinets, tile floors and designer appliances. Meticulous rehabbed condition, large lot, 2-car garage.



**1926 PRESIDENT \$159,900**  
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 loft on second floor.



**1203 MISSOURI \$149,900**  
Attached wall Victorian Lafayette Square townhouse. Hardwood floors, woodburning fireplace. New maple kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Two bedrooms plus full room attic potential. Fenced patio courtyard



**3341 LAWN \$138,900**  
Delightful 2 bedroom house in charming North Hampton neighborhood. All-new windows, new roof, high ceilings, refinished wood floors. All kitchen appliances stay.



**5774 MCPHERSON \$134,900**  
Beautiful three bedroom, second floor rehab condo in the Skinker/DeBaliviere area with fantastic kitchen and baths, newer carpet, contemporary lighting and light-filled open interior on rapidly developing block.



**6735 EDISON AVE. \$79,000**  
Nicely rehabbed property in Velda Village Hills. Two bedrooms, one bath. Just over 1,000 square feet. Nice kitchen & bathroom. Freshly painted. Move-in condition.



**4258 SHAW \$65,000**  
Roomy Shaw condo. Large living area & a parking space included on a newly paved lot. Across the street from the Botanical Garden, blocks away from Tower Grove Park, minutes from South Grand & the Hill.

# Soulard Market hosts annual Chefs at the Market

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chefs at the Market, hosted by Soulard Market, will celebrate the incredibly talented chefs and other food experts in St. Louis who prepare fresh and healthy cuisine. This program is free to the public and will be held in Soulard Market Park, at Lafayette and 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Classes will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturdays from Aug. 6 through Sept. 10.

The popular "Chefs at the Market" presents innovative chefs and food experts in the City who demonstrate, step-by-step, some of their most sought after recipes. The informal setting allows participants to ask questions, learn easy "short cuts" that simplify and demystify cooking, and discover new ways to prepare raw ingredients.

"I think we all get into a rut now and then when we prepare our meals," stated Sandra Zak, market manager, "we get into the habit of cooking many of the same things the same way.

These professionals, all known for their creativity, will demonstrate how to serve easy, yet healthy, nutritious, and exciting meals for the family."

**Saturday, August 6**

**Christopher Lee,**

**Executive Chef, Mélange**

Chef Lee has taken Mélange in the

Central West End to the top of contemporary multicultural dining experiences through his innovative recipes and focus on preparation and fresh ingredients.

**Saturday, August 13**

**Linda Schmitz, Owner,  
Soulard Spice Shop**

The Soulard Spice Shop is one of the most respected in the Midwest. Owner Linda Schmitz knows how to bring out the real flavor in foods. She will share some of her favorite tips and recipes using her wonderful spices and herbs.

**Saturday, August 20**

**Gail Creel, Missouri Egg Council**

As the St. Louis representative for the Missouri Egg Council, Gail Creel will shed new light on that "Incredible Edible Egg" by demonstrating some new ideas for the simple but elegant egg.

**Saturday, August 27**

**Todd Chrisman, Executive Chef,  
Juniper Grill**

As one of the best new restaurant, the Juniper Grill in Soulard offers an upper scale American cuisine with a Creole influence. Chef Chrisman has developed quite a following with his attention to detail and bold menu.

**Saturday, September 3**  
**Scott Brown, Director of Food Operations and Dan Parker, Kitchen Manager, Tanner B's**

Nothing fancy, just incredibly good home cooking with a twist. Scott Brown and Kitchen Manager Dan Parker take comfort food to a whole new level. Mom never served such delicious meals.

**Saturday, September 10**

**Max Tsai, Owner,  
Soulard's Gourmet Meat and Seafood**

Opening in late August, Soulard's Gourmet Meat and Seafood will soon be the talk of the town with their variety and selection of seafood and fish. Owner Max Tsai will share his knowledge of preparation and cooking as well as helpful hints to bring out the flavors in seafood and fish.

**In other news at the Market...**

**MCARTHUR'S BAKERY BRINGS  
ST. LOUIS FAVORITES TO  
SOULARD MARKET**

Goopy Butter, Strawberry Whipped Cream, Chocolate Mousse, Stollens, German Chocolate... the cakes most St. Louisans crave are now available at Soulard Market.

McArthur's Bakery, the locally owned and operated store that has been tempting our taste buds for almost 50 years has opened a branch at Soulard Market for the convenience of their customers. "We got

our start in the City and are very happy to be back," stated David McArthur, vice president of operations.

The addition of McArthur's will compliment the other bakeries at the Market. "Soulard has some very good bakeries but we were lacking cakes and French pastries. Now we have one of the most famous St. Louis bakeries that specialize in cakes. Who has tasted a McArthur's cake? Probably every single person in the region!" remarked Sandra Zak, market manager for Soulard Market.

All of McArthur's cakes are made from scratch, using only the finest ingredients. During a typical summer week, McArthur's has hundreds, if not thousands of orders for wedding, birthday, and special occasion cakes.

Don't have a special occasion with lots of guests to feed? "No problem," McArthur said. "We sell generous slices of our famous cakes, so our customers don't have to purchase a whole cake when they just need a McArthur's cake fix. These slices come in handy when family members cannot agree on a specific flavor. This way, everyone gets their favorite!"

McArthur's Bakery is one of the few bakeries that turns out "real" Goopy Butter Cake. Just like toasted ravioli and pork steaks, Goopy Butter Cake is a true St. Louis tradition and specialty. Did your immigrant grandmother make stollens? McArthur's Bakery bakes them just like grandma used to make. Do you crave a cream puff with real cream? There are no substitutions in McArthur's recipes, the cream is real, non-dairy food products are not allowed.

Can't decide what to get? McArthur's takes special orders and can provide a sampler platter for 4 to 400.

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- 2319B Hickory – Be in the Square in 2BR condo, under \$110,000
- 3408 Longfellow – Compton Heights mini-mansion
- 1853 S. 10th – 4-year-old Soulard replica house **S-O-L-D**
- 4901 Washington – CWE luxury loft townhouse condo **S-O-L-D**

**NEW LISTINGS:** 1854 Russell Blvd., 1927 Arsenal, 2232 Hickory

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# Support Lafayette Park at the Gala at the Grotto

The Lafayette Park Conservancy's First Annual Gala at the Grotto is October 1, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. The Gala will be held at the historic Grotto on the Mississippi side of the park. The event includes hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, beer and wine. Stroll through the award-winning Grotto gardens and enjoy live music. There will be a silent auction benefiting LPC's park restoration projects. Victorian or cocktail attire is suggested. Tickets for the Gala are \$50.00 per person. Visit the Conservancy's web site at [www.lafayettepark.org](http://www.lafayettepark.org) for details. For tickets, send your name, address, phone number and quantity of tickets,



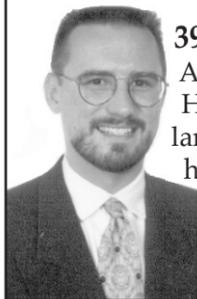
Courtesy of Carolyn Willmore

A postcard of the Grotto from the early 1900s.

along with payment (checks please) to: The Lafayette Park Conservancy, Park House, 2032 Lafayette Ave., St. Louis, MO 63104

Pick up tickets at the sign-in table on the night of the event.

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The former Edén 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.



## Mississippi Place

*By Gilded Age*

Displays coming this summer!

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.

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# LSRC Membership Minutes for June

President Jim Willmore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 14, 2005. The May minutes were read and a correction was made to reflect that the new phone directories would be out by the end of next month (July). Minutes were approved. New residents and visitors were invited to introduce themselves and four did so.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Safety** — Office Greg Simonds reported that car thefts are of the greatest concern in May citing the theft of four Jeeps and two Dodge cars. All cars were recovered and arrests had been made on the theft of three of the Jeeps. All of the suspects in the thefts live in or within a mile of Lafayette Square. All are juveniles. Officer Simonds reiterated the availability of car clubs through the police department for \$10. Other police items reported were larceny — mostly license tabs and a burglary at LPUMC. Additionally, some heavy machinery was taken from work sites. Office Simonds urged residents to call 911 should they see any suspicious activity at work sites during non-work hours.

Chris Goodson addressed the issue of speeding on Park, Lafayette and Mississippi avenues. He stated that a special police detail has been in the area issuing tickets for speeding. He asked the membership if the detail should be continued through the

summer, and it was agreed that it should.

Sue Pinker-Dodd alerted the membership that Don Chapel (an area transient) is back in the neighborhood. It was suggested that residents call 911 if he is seen in the area.

**Finance** — no report

**Development Committee**— Jane Blackwell reported that the variance for the 1-800-GOT-JUNK trailer lot was granted prior to the letter from the LSRC. President Jim Willmore said that issue was to be addressed later in the meeting. She also reported that the Development Committee plans to meet with the City to discuss the issues of code enforcement and clarity of code language.

Tom Dahms reported that he would head up a signage committee as part of development to address the specific needs of the growing business district and the current code for signage.

**Conservancy** — Tim Gore announced the Conservancy's new membership / marketing card and placed samples out for members to take. He also announced the Gala at the Grotto to take place in September (now October) and thanked Ward Buckner for the new flags at the park House.

**Spring House Tour** — Nick Colosi reported that the Tour had no problems and was a big success. He bestowed the title of "Mr. House Tour" on John Herlihy for all of his work in making this tour a huge success. The net total for this year's tour was \$32,000.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Jefferson-Rutger** — Per the minutes from the May meeting, the 1-800-GOT-

JUNK (1-8-G-J) proprietors requested a variance from the City and were given a continuation of the Davis Trailer variance. That continuation was rescinded and 1-8-G-J has 30 days to appeal. The residents of the northwest quadrant of Lafayette Square were in attendance and voiced their concerns as well as their intent to attend the hearing on the matter at the Board of Adjustments. Discussion regarding the LSRC position and procedure took place and options were discussed should 1-8-G-J appeal.

**Community Garden** — The result of the voting in May was announced. The first option of choice, move to the orchard lot immediately north of the current garden, the second, keep the garden at its current location and the third to relocate to a lot on Rutger. After the vote, it was learned that the orchard option might not be available. The garden task force plans to meet again to solve this issue.

**Marquis** — Jim Willmore announced that he had spoken to Jeff Fister at Virginia Publishing. Virginia Publishing wants to work with the LSRC to make the desired changes to the Marquis. The group interested in working on the Marquis will meet.

**Holiday Tour** — John Herlihy announced that he and Mary Ann Goodson would co-chair the Holiday Tour. They already have leads on 6 homes and about \$3000 in sponsorship.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**State Circuit Judges Report** — Jim Willmore announced that the circuit judges have offered to speak at meetings.

**Jefferson Viaduct** — Greg Yin reported that repairs to be made to the Jefferson viaduct would begin in the fall of 2006 – Spring 2007. The closure is expected to be 18 months. MoDot plans to have Compton and Chouteau / Vandeventer viaducts completed before work on the Jefferson

viaduct begins to ease traffic. Additionally, MoDot plans to have the extension of the Truman Parkway completed as well. Otis Williams reported that the signage issues at the 44 / 55 interchange are a matter of coordination between MoDot and the city and is being addressed and solved.

**Concerts** — Greg Yin reported that the Regional Art Commission funding for the Lafayette Park Concerts had been cut dramatically and made a motion that a \$2500 placeholder be added to the LSRC budget to cover possible monetary shortages of the Arts Council for the concerts. Numerous people seconded and the motion passed.

**LSBA** — Pete Snyder announced a raffle by the Lafayette Square Business Association. He distributed LSBA brochures and encouraged everyone to participate. Tickets are \$2 or 6 for \$10 and the drawing for prizes will be July 30.

**Near Southside Development Association** — Otis Williams reported that the development of HopeVI is continuing on Dolman east of 18<sup>th</sup> street. He distributed color copies of the plan. He reported that the Dolman residents' concerns had been addressed — an alley will be added and sidewalks will be added or replaced with the exception of the historic brick on the west side of the street. He indicated that such improvements prior to construction are done to market the property more effectively.

**Lawn Mower Purchase** — Due to his extensive work keeping public garden areas cleaned up, Linda Weiner proposed a motion that the LSRC pay for a new lawn mower for resident Don Heus in the amount of \$321.77. Ruth Kamphoefner seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The social was hosted by Jim and Carolyn Willmore.

Submitted by Susan Sauer.

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# News and notes from around the area

## Enjoy Great Food and Great Sounds at the Taste of Lafayette Square

The Lafayette Square Business Association (LSBA) and the Arts Council of Lafayette Park are sponsoring the "Taste of Lafayette Square" on Saturday, Sept. 10 in Lafayette Park at the corner of Mississippi and Lafayette avenues. Taste goers will have an opportunity to experience food and drink from a variety of the popular restaurants in the historic Lafayette Square area. Plus, attendees will enjoy great music from local artists **Farshid Etniko, Kim Massie and Ralph Butler** as a part of the free Summer Concert Series in the Park. The Taste will run 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. The free concert will begin with Farshid Etniko at noon, Kim Massie at 3 p.m. and Ralph Butler at 6 p.m. The organizing committee for this event is recommending people bring blankets, chairs, kids and the family pet and be prepared for an enjoyable day/evening in Lafayette Square.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Lafayette Square Block Captains Needed

A block captain works to ...  
**Know your block:** Find out information about every household on the block. Who lives where, contact information, etc.  
**Be a resource:** Have resource information available for neighbors. Flyers, ordinances, rules and regulations. Know who to call in a variety of situations to report a problem.  
**Help organize:** National Night Out block parties, Operation Brightside Blitz, Neighborhood Watch program, Nuisance property complaints.  
**Improve communication:** With police,

NSO, Neighborhood Association, City Hall, etc.  
**Gather and disseminate information:** From police, other block captains in neighborhood, NSO, Neighborhood Association, etc.  
 Any or all of these tasks are optional. The most important part of being a block captain is that the residents on your block understand that they can contact you and ask questions. It is the contact that is important, and the knowledge that someone is there to listen and pass on their concerns.  
 Expect support from your neighbors, Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, and police. Don't assume you have to do the job alone.  
 The following blocks in the Lafayette Square neighborhood do not have a block captain.  
 18-2300 Chouteau Ave.  
 20-2300 Hickory  
 2000 Lafayette  
 10-1100 Mississippi  
 Business District  
 Call Susan at 231-5367 if you need more information or are interested in becoming a block captain.  
 The only requirement for a block captain is a desire to help.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Hope for the Animals Day

Hope for the Animals Day will be held on Sunday, Aug. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Tower Grove Park at the Sons of Rest Pavilion. Microchipping and vaccinations (at reduced rates), blessing of the animals, "ask a vet" and information on low-cost spay/neuter is being provided by Operation S.P.O.T. (Stop Pet Overpopulation Today).  
 For more information, call Operation S.P.O.T. at (314) 995-8678.

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Banners line Shenandoah Business District

Thanks to the support of Alderwoman Phyllis Young and Alderman Lewis Reed Shenandoah Crossings has marked its territory! Street light banners featuring the Crossings logo now hang on the stretch of Shenandoah between Jefferson and Grand.



The businesses located there have been collaborating for some time on promoting the revitalization of business and residential development in the area. Members include Van Gogh Martini Bar, Law Offices of Beck & Cody, Shugga's Coffee Shop, Take Action Personal Training, Monster Mortgage, and Tanner B's. A formal kickoff will be scheduled later in the summer.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Auto Clubs Available at Reduced Prices

The Auto Club is a safety device for vehicles. This device fits across the steering wheel of a vehicle. Operation SafeStreet, Inc. has available to all city employees and all other citizens of St. Louis the Auto Clubs at a discounted price.

Operation SafeStreet, Inc.  
 1200 Market, Room 422  
 City Hall

Clubs can be picked up from Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

The cost is \$10.00 for cars, \$15.00 for SUVs or larger vehicles.

When not paying by check or money order you will need to bring the exact amount of change.

Operation SafeStreet, Inc. can assist you with free anti-theft devices for your automobile if you qualify. For requirements and more information, call 314-622-3444.

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<p>2638 Accomac                    \$249,000</p>	<p>5949 Cates                    \$255,000</p>	<p>5466 Walsh                    \$185,000</p>
<p>4340 Holly Hillis                    \$304,900</p>	<p>5583 Waterman #A                  Condo                    \$197,900</p>	<p>3449 Indiana                    \$172,500</p>
<p>Sale or Lease                    55,000 sq. ft.                  Soulard</p>	<p>3452 Indiana                    \$172,500</p>	<p>Coming Soon                  Barton Town Homes                    Starting at \$325,000</p>

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BLOCK	RESIDENT	PHONE
2300 Albion Place	Leigh Anne & Houston Smith	773-6533
2-38 Benton Place	John Bishop	771-1272
16-1700 Carroll	Kim Peterson	421-6272
18-2300 Chouteau Ave	<i>unrepresented</i>	
10-1300 Dolman	*new Gail Tate	588-8001
14-1600 Dolman	Cynthia McCafferty	436-0434
18-1900 Hickory	Ron Fagerstrom	421-3696
20-2100 Hickory	<i>unrepresented</i>	
2200 Hickory	<i>unrepresented</i>	
2300 Hickory	<i>unrepresented</i>	
1800 Kennett Place	Danita Davis	771-4929
16-1700 Lafayette	Diedre & Mike Gray	814-0654
18-1900 Lafayette	Alan Loehr	664-6554
2000 Lafayette	<i>unrepresented</i>	
21-2200 Lafayette	Dan Friehs	664-8186
2300 Lafayette	Mike Callaghan	772-7234
18-1900 Lasalle	Terry and Mark Etling	621-1437
11-1300 Mackay Place	Jeanette Wallace	772-7727
10-1100 Mississippi	<i>unrepresented</i>	
12-1300 Mississippi	Susan Pinker-Dodd	231-5367
14-1700 Mississippi	Paul Sauer	865-2566
11-1300 Missouri	*new Julie Stone	865-5505
1400 Missouri	Pat Hoffman	771-4381
15-1600 Missouri	Tom Dahms	773-6436
1700 Missouri	Mike Callaghan	772-7234
1700 Nicholson Place	Alicia Von Stamwitz	772-9710
20-2100 Park Ave	Carolyn McAvoy	231-4937
22-2300 Park Ave	Wally Steinman	772-8104
1700 Preston Place	John Behl	771-8337
18-1900 Rutger Street	Sharon Hoffman	231-7202
2000 Rutger Street	Ron Taylor	421-1671
22-2300 Rutger Street	William Garcia	776-3778
11-1300 South 18 <sup>th</sup>	Walter Moody	421-3137
1400 South 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Reedy	241-1484
1600 South 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mary "One" Johnson	772-2499
1700 Simpson Place	Trace Shaughnessy	865-0539
1500 Vail Place	Lynne Keay	772-2790
1700 Waverly Place	Jay Divine	664-2984
2300 Whittemore Place	Dave Diehl	664-4840
Park Ave. Business District	<i>unrepresented</i>	

Block captains compile and update a "phone tree" for residents on their block (residents can help out and let your block captain know if you have recently moved in) and communicate with them and the police on safety issues which may occur in their areas. Block Captains are also available for their neighbors to contact if they are victims of crime to obtain info regarding crime prevention and resources to assist in solving neighborhood problems. (Of course, residents always need to call 911 and report all crimes also.) BC's communicate problems in their areas to the LSRC Safety Committee and to the Fourth District Police Dept., so that everyone becomes aware of safety issues and can jointly work to solve them. 7/17/05

## Father-son funeral business flourishes on Chouteau Ave.

By Michelle Kowalski  
Marquis Contributor

In an age where corporations seem to be gobbling up family-owned companies, building a father-son business is something the owners of St. Louis Cremation take pride in.

"You don't get to know a corporation," said Oliver King, vice president of operations for St. Louis Cremation. "A corporation doesn't care about you; they care about your money. We get to know the families we work with."

St. Louis Cremation, located near Jefferson and Chouteau, got its humble beginnings like many start-up compa-

nies: at the home of J. Gayle King in 1984. King, the mortician for the Washington University School of Medicine at the time, provided an alternative to a \$1,200 service that funeral homes offered to move a body to a medical school for donation. His price: just \$150.

"The competition was upset with me, but they didn't change their business practices," the elder King said.

Offering alternatives is a hallmark of King's business philosophy.

"Would you want to pay \$1,200 for something you could get for \$150," he asked.

While the foundation of St. Louis Cremation, which was originally called Anatomy Transporting, was built on transporting cadavers to medical schools, the company quickly evolved to offer alternatives to the traditional funeral such as direct cremation and direct burial. King was soon working closely with local funeral homes to provide these services, as well as working with individual families through advertising and word-of-mouth.

St. Louis Cremation now offers funerals, memorial services and a new specialization in veterans funeral needs.

"We offer more alternatives than any other funeral home," King said.

King, who retired from Washington University in December after 26 years, got his start in the funeral industry when he was 16 as a car washer for a St. Louis funeral home. He later went to work as a funeral director for another St. Louis-area funeral home, which provided his tuition to get a business degree at Pierce College in Philadelphia.

After graduation, he worked for several years at that funeral home before signing on as the mortician of the body donation

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At Anatomy Transporting, it wasn't long before King branched out from simply transporting cadavers. In 1996, he purchased his first building at 2902 Chouteau where he operated two incinerators and became his own crematory. With an established working relationship with funeral homes and other service providers in the area, it was an easy transition.

Just three years later, though, the City of St. Louis claimed that property under the rules of eminent domain. King was fortunate to find another, larger building at 2135 Chouteau—just down the street—that had previously served as an administration building for Special School District.

"It was important for us to stay in this area," King said. "It was convenient for funeral directors and families to get to me."

"Lafayette Square has really changed; it's an up and coming neighborhood."

Oliver, the younger King, said, "It's a place to go."

In July 2000, Oliver joined his dad at St. Louis Cremation as the director of marketing.

"That really wasn't the original plan, though," he said.

As a marketing student at Fontbonne University, Oliver became very interested in the marketing aspect of business. At the same time, King was preparing to launch a marketing campaign to expand the company.

"It was a good fit for me to come in at that time," Oliver said.

With Oliver's background and knowledge of marketing, St. Louis Cremation was able to increase its retail business and not rely on other funeral homes as its main source of income.

"We're saving the public 50%," Oliver said.

Sometimes even more than that. Both Kings are proud of the fact that they have been able to offer a number of their services at no cost to families who simply can't afford a proper disposition, or families who



Michelle Kowalski photo

**J. Gayle King, left, and his son, Oliver, transformed the building at 2135 Chouteau from a Special School District administration building to a modern funeral home and crematory complete with a chapel and a viewing room.**

are faced with the death of an infant.

"We understand that not everyone has the means to pay for these things," King said. "We try to help and to reach out whenever we can."

St. Louis Cremation also works with the Garden of Innocents, a nonprofit, volunteer corporation that provides dignified memorial and burial services for unclaimed children and infants who are in the custody of the St. Louis City and County Medical Examiner's offices. The Garden of Innocents is located in Calvary Cemetery on West Florissant Rd.

"Without this organization, these children would not have a dignified disposition," Oliver said.

Now, with nine full- and part-time employees, King is on the road to retirement, leaving his eldest son to run the company.

"I worked hard to get where I am," King said. "The opportunities [for growth] present themselves in many different areas of the funeral business."

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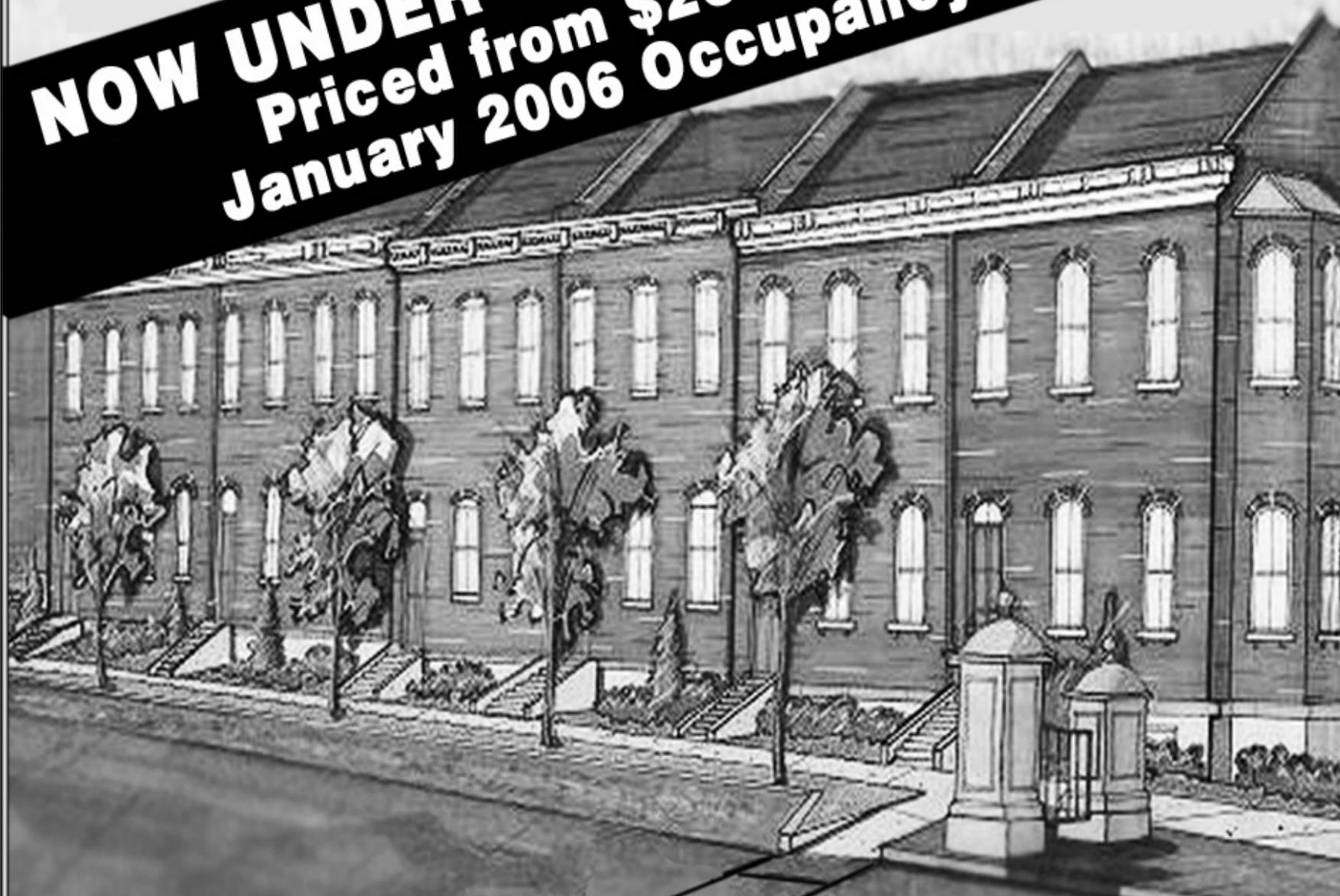
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