

MARQUIS

AUGUST 2007

Founded by the residents of Lafayette Square

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 8

Slay, Mokwa speak at July LSRC meeting

By Laura McCarthy
Marquis staff

Mayor Francis Slay, along with Chief of Police Joe Mokwa, visited the July 10 Lafayette Square Restoration Committee general membership meeting to discuss citywide crime and public safety, both in terms of law enforcement and prevention.

Police Board President Chris Goodson, 6th Ward Alderman Kacie Starr Triplett and 7th Ward Alderman Phyllis Young also attended the meeting.

“Crime is, without question, the number one priority,” Slay said. “To stabilize neighborhoods — to make neighborhoods more livable — it’s important that people feel safe.”

Slay said that in his first four years as mayor, crime rates had been decreasing. At one point, the city even saw a 40-year low in homicides. But in 2005 and 2006 crime started going back up.

“I think it was in large part related to the substantial cuts in federal funds for law enforcement,” Slay said, adding that a lot of programs and grants — such as Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) — were wiped out in recent years as federal funds began shifting toward homeland security.

“I’m all for homeland security,” Slay said. “But we have to also be talking about hometown security: law enforcement, workforce development, other things that help improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.”

But as of June this year, crime is down



Doug Lerner photo

Mayor Francis Slay answers audience questions at the July 10 LSRC meeting. He was joined by Police Chief Joe Mokwa, 5th Ward Alderman Kacie Starr Triplett, 7th Ward Alderman Phyllis Young and Police Board President Chris Goodson.

10.3 percent in the city of St. Louis and down 15.5 percent in Lafayette Square, compared to June of last year. Slay cited several reasons for the improved numbers, including a crime suppression unit — which focuses on repeat and dangerous offenders — established within the police department. Last summer voters passed a tax increase on business licenses and the

purchases of out-of-state goods that has helped fund this special unit.

Additionally, Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce has established a career criminal unit in her office that focuses on repeat offenders. “They are putting their best prosecutors up against the most dangerous felons in the city, particularly those repeat offenders, so we can concentrate our

efforts there,” Slay said.

Slay also recognized Goodson for increasing technological efforts to track trends in criminal activity and to determine the most efficient use of resources.

The city has also opened up another floor in the Downtown Justice Center,

Continued to page 6

LSRC seeks candidates for board openings

By Pete Snyder
LSRC President-Elect

Lafayette Square is hot. It’s the place to be. A few years ago *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* magazine said so. In April of this year, a *New York Times* article reaffirmed it. Our neighborhood is listed first on Google, even before Washington D.C.’s Lafayette Square, which includes the

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September Marquis Deadline:
Friday, Aug. 17

White House. Top billing over the White House — that is hot.

The reasons for the climate change are many — our historic designation and numerous Painted Ladies, our restaurants and businesses, the new townhouses and condos — but mostly it’s the people who have chosen to call Lafayette Square home.

The people of Lafayette Square have a strong history of volunteerism. There are numerous committees and organizations — including the Arts Council of Lafayette Park, the Lafayette Park Conservancy, the Lafayette Square Business Association, the LSRC and two of its subcommittees, the Development Committee and the Community Affairs Committee — that meet regularly to make this a better place to live.

All of these organizations are looking for volunteers, and being a volunteer makes you better connected, an “insider.” You get to see and hear of all the marvelous things that are going on in and around our neighborhood.

The LSRC is looking for some folks who would be willing to step into a leadership role following the Oct. 9 general membership meeting. Nominations will be taken for these positions at the Sept. 11

general membership meeting. The board positions we need to fill are:

- **V.P. President-Elect:** a two-year commitment; the first as vice president and the second as president. The president is the spokesperson for Lafayette Square, sets the meeting agendas, keeps committees on track and serves as a host for our visitors;

- **V.P. Development-Elect:** a two-year commitment; the first becoming better versed in the historic code, and then as V.P. of development. This V.P. leads the committee that reviews proposals for development within the neighborhood, and is caretaker of the historic code that keeps our neighborhood an historic, beautiful place;

- **Treasurer-Elect:** a two-year commitment, the treasurer-elect steps into the treasurer’s role in the second year;

- **V.P. Community Affairs:** this is a one-year commitment, leading the newly formed Community Affairs Committee. Goals and objectives of the committee will be forthcoming shortly;

- **Membership Secretary:** during this one-year commitment, the membership secretary will have the responsibility for collecting LSRC membership dues, and taking the minutes of the general

membership meetings;

- **Secretary of the Board of Directors:** a one year commitment to take the minutes of the meeting of the board of directors for the LSRC. (The board meets the third Tuesday of every month); and

- **Director-at-Large:** a two-year commitment, at-large members provide input and cast votes to help determine the future course of the LSRC. Directors-at-large may, but are not required to, assume other roles within the LSRC (for example, acting as the head of the welcome or other ad hoc committees). There are three director-at-large positions open.

Please let me know if you are interested in any of the above-listed positions. I’d welcome your participation. Of course, if we don’t get enough volunteers, I may look into drafting some. You can contact me at PeteS@Snyder-Workman.com or by calling my cell phone at 913-2389.

If a leadership role is not for you, come to an LSRC meeting anyway. Your presence will be greatly appreciated. Meetings are at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church. Meetings are open to all residents and friends of Lafayette Square. Get involved — and help keep us hot.

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

Submissions, including articles, photos and story ideas, are highly encouraged, but the editor reserves the right to edit for grammar, space, clarity and appropriateness. Deadline for submissions is the 18th of the prior month. Contact the editor at lmccarthy@westendword.com or call 314-367-6612 x34. For advertising info, contact lmccarthy@westendword.com or call 314-367-6612 x34.



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Editor's Note

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

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

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

Square to take part in National Night Out Aug. 7

By Dane Drefke
LSRC President

Lafayette Square will once again proudly take part in the Annual National Night Out event. The 24th annual gathering is scheduled for Aug. 7. This crime and drug prevention event is described by the event founder as "an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation."

This is a great opportunity for neighbors to get to know one another. We will literally party in the streets at several locations around the neighborhood. Confirmed parties will occur in the 1400 block of Missouri Avenue (including Missouri, Whittemore Place and Albion Place), the 2000 block of Rutger Street, and on Vail Place (including Vail, Kennett Place and surrounding areas). There are several more parties in the works, too, so please check with your block captain as to where the nearest event will be. To learn more, go to www.natw.org. Come out and join us!

In August we will also be taking corrections and additions to the Lafayette Square neighborhood directory. If you would like to be included in the directory, or know of a correction that needs to be made, please give your information to your block captain. The

National Night Out event is a perfect venue for providing needed updates. You may also forward your corrections or additions directly to me at president@lafayettesquare.org. Please include the names of the adults living at the residence (who want to be included), the address and phone number. If sending an email to me, please put "LS Directory Update" in the subject line so it will get past my spam filters. Please provide this data to either your block captains or to me by Aug. 21 so I can get the corrections in to our publisher.

The next LSRC membership meeting will be at 7 p.m. Aug. 14. John Hoal will be our guest at the meeting. He and our Urban Plan Chairman, Michael Lance, will present the finalized plans for the urban plan amendment that applies to the Praxair site and immediate area. This presentation is the result of several neighborhood workshops that were held last year and are an expression of our plans to grow an important part of Lafayette Square. This presentation is early in the agenda, so please arrive on time to get the best seat!

I'm also pleased to announce that the 2007 President's Awards Dinner is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 16 at the SqWires annex. Please join me for a celebration to recognize those volunteers who helped make 2006-2007 a great year in the Square. I intend to do things a little differently this year (and really, did you expect anything less from me?), and I promise it'll be fun. Please RSVP to president@lafayettesquare.org with the number of people who plan to attend, and place "President's Dinner" in the subject line.

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Benton Park Beauty completely rehabbed top to bottom including new kitchen in '07. Original pine floors shine with pride. Storage is no problem with ample closet space throughout this spacious home. Laundry is a breeze in the 2nd floor laundry - washer and dryer included! Move in can be easy as pie - the seller will consider leaving all or some of the furniture for you. Freshly painted front with vibrant historic colors. Walk to many restaurants and bars such as Frazers, Venice Cafe and Yemanja Brasil.

Benton Park

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You'll love the hardwood floors and bright open floor plan. The galley kitchen features re-faced cabinets, plenty of butcher block countertops and a breakfast bar. The upper deck has arch views and ceiling fans. Extra space is found in the partially finished basement, just great for a recreation room or an office. Walk to many Soulard shops and restaurants, the Soulard Farmer's Market and The Soulard Dog Park. Don't miss out, make your appointment today.

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Community garden to remain at current site

By Linda Weiner
Lafayette Square

Quote of the month

Patience and diligence, like faith, move mountains.

-William Penn

Lafayette Square votes for community garden to remain on current site

A vote of the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee membership at the July 10 meeting was unanimously in agreement to support the community garden remaining at the corner of Park Avenue and Dolman Street, where it has been for the past decade, an early signal of the rebirth of Lafayette Square.

President Dane Drefke will be submitting an offer to purchase the garden to the Land Reutilization Authority. The request will go before the Commission at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 29 (12th floor, 1015 Locust). Many thanks to LSRC Board Member Steve Fichet for his contribution for this purchase.

If approved, the garden would remain a green space unless it fell into disrepair at which point it would revert back to LRA property. The garden would initially fall under the umbrella of the LSRC for insurance purposes, but at some point consideration of the Gateway Greening Land Trust, a 501(c)(3) now forming as the umbrella organization for the garden, will be made by the membership. Tax-exempt status will be sought at the point of purchase.

Funding for an open entry to the garden along Park Avenue, a boxwood surround and iron fencing supported by brick columns will continue to be sought. Additional beds will be built next spring.

Many thanks to all who supported the continuation of this gem at the current location, thus preserving the mural and offering a welcoming glimpse of beauty to passersby on Truman Parkway. Special thanks to Alderman Kacie Starr Triplett, President Dane Drefke, President-elect Pete Snyder, Urban Chair Michael Lance, TIF President Chris Goodson, Garden Co-Leader Steve Fliesler, Otis Williams and Past President Jim Willmore.

Neighborhood wins numerous Gateway Greening awards

Whew! I hear our neighbors were red in the face from accepting so many awards at the Gateway Greening Tour and Luncheon held on July 14! Master gardeners Sue Pinker-Dodd, Carolyn Willmore, Ward Buckner and volunteers won Second Place in the Ornamental Garden division for the grotto; Rebecca Wright and her crew won Honorable Mention in the same category for the rock garden; the Community Garden won Honorable Mention in the Established Garden category; two of our community gardeners won individual bed awards, Kim Peterson for her lily bed and Amy Harkins for her mixed veggies; and I won Second Place in

the Backyard Garden Contest. Congratulations to all!

Jefferson median gets a face-lift; grants may help

Thanks to Patricia Barber and a group of teen volunteers and their supervisors from Catholic service organization Alive in You, the Jefferson median was weeded and trimmed in time to be viewed by a committee from the Department of Conservation and Operation Brightside, which will be administering \$5,000 in grant money. Erin Budde, Patricia Barber and I will be applying for the grants to replant the Jefferson median with neighborhood input on design. Stay tuned!

Lemon pots to be planted on Carroll Street arrive in Square

Ten lemon pots, soon to be planted, have finally arrived at the Carroll Street cul de sac, to replace the large gray boulders that once thwarted those seeking a short cut over the sidewalk from Truman Parkway. Many thanks to Keith Welsh for planting them and caretaking our new plantings!

Lady Bird Johnson dies at 94

Lady Bird Johnson was the not the best-dressed First Lady, but she got my attention back in 1963 when I was growing up in Newark, N.J. (truly a "concrete jungle") and she began a campaign against litter and for replacement of urban blight with flowers and trees, thus preparing the way for the environmental movement of the 1970s.

According to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, "her love of nature was enshrined when her husband signed the Highway Beautification Act of 1965. Conceived primarily to restrict junkyards and unsightly signs along U.S. highways, it was the first major legislative campaign launched by the wife of a president."

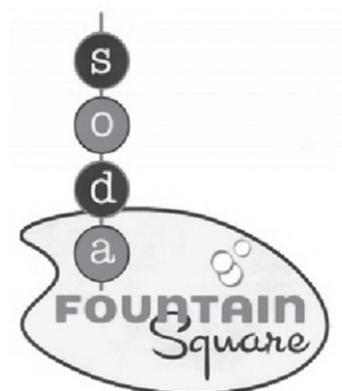
Let's take a moment to reflect on the contribution she made to a country whose population thought nothing of throwing garbage out of moving cars and apartment windows before her words began to raise our consciousness.

In light of recent tree losses, let's think about a "Century Tree" program

On a recent trip to Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania to scope out gardens, I was taken with the number of huge oaks and maples, which created a sense of serenity even in the congested roadways. Returning to St. Louis, I was inspired to think about the possibility of trying to save our mature trees by helping to pass some legislation to protect them as many cities and states have done. Recently we have lost numerous mature trees to development as well as natural causes. Anyone interested in exploring the possibility of legislation to save mature trees when possible?

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Above: 1924-1926 Chouteau before (left) the rehabilitation and after (right)

At left: A mangled pile of debris was all that was left of the staircase at 1924 Chouteau before Vantage performed a gut rehab on the building.

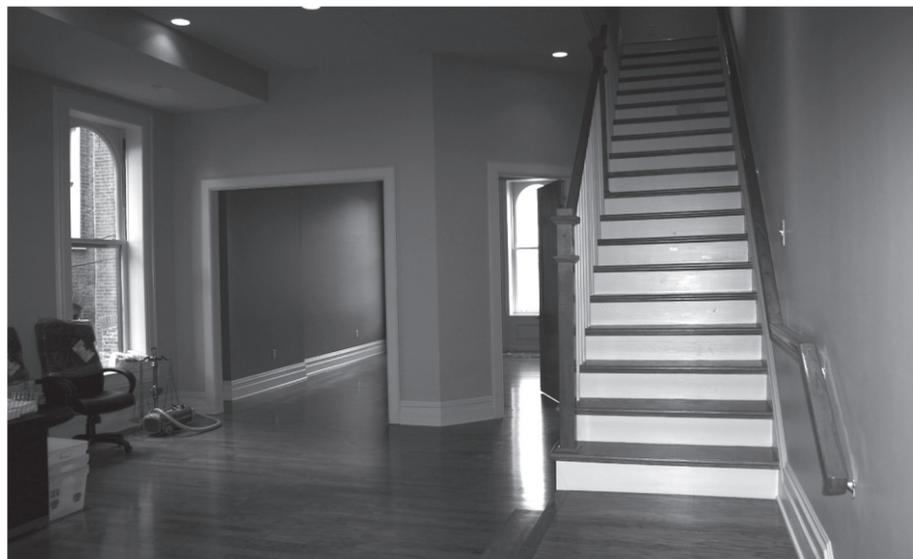
At right: The refurbished staircase and main rooms of 1924 Chouteau, into which the McChesney and Ortwerth law firm moved Aug. 1

Julie Padberg-White photos

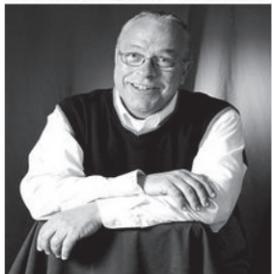
Vantage LLC, owned by Lafayette Square resident Julie Padberg-White, recently rehabbed these buildings, from 1922 to 1926 Chouteau Ave., into several commercial spaces. Construction began in December and ended in June. The first tenants and co-owners, Padberg and Corrigan law firm, moved into 1922 Chouteau, on July 1 and the second tenants, McChesney and Ortwerth law firm, moved into 1924 to 1926 Chouteau Ave. on Aug. 1.

Padberg-White said there was a lot of skepticism surrounding the buildings prior to the rehab. She said they even had a minor collapse in the 1922 Chouteau in January that sparked a media frenzy.

"The news just blew it out of the water," Padberg-White said. "Fox 2 was camped out and at one point said, 'These buildings are going to have to come down.'" Fast-forward seven months and the spaces are almost completely leased.



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Tour de Lafayette Square to return Aug. 31

By Jim McDonald
Lafayette Square

In 1896, a killer tornado almost destroyed Lafayette Square. More than 100 years later, on the eve of every Labor Day weekend, another kind of supernatural wind returns to violently swirl around Saint Louis' oldest public park. These days, however, the good people of Lafayette Square know how to deal with it — they throw a party.

The Tour de Lafayette Square has been one of the crown jewels of St. Louis' annual Labor Day weekend Gateway Cup pro/am bicycle races since 1996. The Tour de Lafayette Square kicks off Missouri's largest pro-am bike race with a Friday twilight event that mixes hundreds of flying athletes with thousands of spectators in a festive, summer's-eve atmosphere.

This year's races start at 5 p.m. Aug. 31, on Mississippi Avenue near Park Avenue, and include professional, amateur and kids' divisions.

Area restaurants and breweries peddle their wares from sidewalk booths, residents line the course with lawn parties and the rest of the city is invited to come on over and enjoy the spectacle.

Paul Sauer owns and operates Access Imaging, a local photography studio, and said he agrees with the tornado analogy. "When that pack flies by, the wind they give off literally moves the limbs of the trees," Sauer said. "It's quite a sight."

As a member of the Lafayette Square Business Association, Sauer said the race is his favorite community event. "Our attitude is, let's feed the people and promote our restaurants. It's a great way to meet your neighbors," he said. "We want the racers to leave here telling everyone, 'Hey, you should check out Lafayette Square.'"

"It's great to watch these professional



Phil Schoulberg photo

Cyclists race around Lafayette Park in a blur during the 2006 Tour de Lafayette Square race.

racers going at it," said resident Wayne White. "It's something you don't see very often, and it's right here in our neighborhood." White, who operates a graphic design firm called Studio 2108, is a former board member of the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee and said everyone in the community gets into the spirit whether they're stacking hay bales to protect the riders or hosting lawn parties to cheer for them. "It creates a nice community feeling and my two kids love the kids' race," White said.

The kids' race is a part of the action that makes even the most hard-core professional racers pause and watch with wide grins. It would be impossible not to enjoy the

sight of a road full of three-year-olds doing their best Lance Armstrong imitation in a block-long dash to the finish line, furiously pedaling their big wheels while thousands cheer them on. This all happens in a break from the adult racing, as the kids are lined up in flights according to age. The kids all race for free and they all receive awards and thunderous applause.

The Tour de Lafayette Square is one of only a few night road races staged each year in North America. Gateway Cup organizer Tim Ranek got the idea from seeing the success of a twilight race in Austin, TX, and wanted to bring one to St. Louis. So when Lafayette Square community activist Sue Pinker-Dodd contacted Ranek and told

him Lafayette Square wanted a race, Ranek said he knew this was the perfect place to take back the night. "It's wide open and flat-out fast," Ranek said, "like a NASCAR track for bikes. But the best part of staging a race in Lafayette Square is the unwavering community support."

Sauer said he couldn't agree more. "This has become more than just a bike race," he said. "The Tour de Lafayette Square is a social gathering."

Volunteers are still needed for this year's races. Call Andrea Ruth at 749-5241 for more information on volunteer opportunities. For more information on the event, including registration information, visit www.stlbiking.com.

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- 1857 Russell - Walk to Laf. Sq., 1 bedroom condo with hdwd flrs. + garage.
- 2300-2306 Pestalozzi - Benton pk. lots. Nice opportunity to build. 89x123.
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Slay

Continued from page 1

"to keep those charged with crime off the street between the time that they get arrested and the time that they go to trial — particularly those [who] are violent offenders," Slay said, adding that the additional floor also helps in pressuring judges to keep criminals off of the streets rather than on probation.

Slay said he is also asking for \$1 million in reentry funds to assist ex-convicts with the transition back into society.

In terms of crime prevention, Slay said education is the most important factor, followed closely by after-school programs, summer jobs and providing more recreation centers. Two such facilities are slated for construction as a result of Proposition P: one in north St. Louis and another one in south city.

"We know that kids who aren't educated well tend to get into more trouble. Every success that we're trying to achieve is tied to the quality of education that they get in the city of St. Louis," in public, private and charter schools, he said.

One audience member asked about the amount of curfew violations and truancy.

"On an average summer, we pick up over 1,000 kids on curfew violations," Mokwa said, adding that he sees every one of those children. "So we try to be very aggressive on curfew violations and truancy violations."

These kids repeatedly get suspended from school, and then eventually go through the juvenile court system, and by the time they are 17 or 18 and commit a serious crime, "We're somehow taken aback. As a community, we need to intervene when the child is young," he said.

Slay said the city has also partnered with Area Resources for Community and Human Services and St. Louis for Kids to help reach the goal of providing after school programs to every child by 2010.

In Lafayette Square, Mokwa said the police department has beefed up its patrol by foot, bicycles and patrol cars and have placed undercover officers in Lafayette Park. "The good news is they have not [been victimized]," he said.

Auto theft and burglaries are down 50 percent in Lafayette Square, although "There have been a few robberies and I know that's very alarming," said Mokwa, adding that the 17-year-old males police recently arrested were not from the Square, but a neighborhood farther west. "We are paying very close attention to this."

"We know that this is not a neighborhood that's going to be complacent," Mokwa added. "This is a neighborhood that has high expectations."

LSRC President Dane Drefke asked what could be done to help permanently increase the number of officers on the streets.

Slay said that with so many recent budget cuts at the federal level, he is seeking authorization to put tax increases before the voters.

Beyond that, he is supporting Sens. Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill and Rep. Jo Ann Emerson in their push for more funding of COPS and local law enforcement. He said letters urging the Missouri delegation to accept the higher funding levels would be helpful.

One audience member asked about private security — where a neighborhood chooses to tax itself for more police officers — and the use of security cameras.

"I don't support private security," Mokwa said. "You're hiring officers that have already worked all day ... You want a fresh officer [on duty]." He said it would be more effective to push for a properly staffed police department.

Mokwa said security cameras have proven to be effective and will be introduced to Lafayette Square and downtown St. Louis soon.

State changes regulations for reporting licence tab theft

By Jeanette Mott Oxford
State Representative, 59th District

License plate tab theft happens all too often and can be very frustrating (yes, it's happened to me, too). Previously, Missouri drivers whose tabs were stolen from their licenses were required to obtain a police report to include in their application for new tabs. The step was time-consuming for both residents and police officers who certainly have other matters we would prefer that they prioritize.

From 2004 to 2006, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department prepared more than 11,670 police reports relating to the theft of license plate renewal stickers. Earlier this year, they were issuing an average of nearly 10 such reports a day. According to Mayor Francis Slay, issuing police reports for tab thefts unnecessarily inflates the city's crime rates.

According to the MO Department of Revenue, in 2006 only 1,100 of the 20,625 replacement plates or tabs issued by license offices statewide were identified as stolen. Vehicle owners paid an \$8.50 fee for replacement of tabs if they did not furnish a police report.

During the 2007 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 384 was passed, changing this procedure. Under SB 384, a Missouri driver whose tabs have been stolen will not have to request a police report. Instead, the driver will need to go to the closest license office, sign an affidavit and pay a \$3.50 processing fee. Victims of tab theft will be able to receive up to two sets of replacement tabs each year at no cost beyond the processing fee.

These changes remain in effect for

tabs issued before Jan. 1, 2009. Then Missouri will return to the old system where a police report is required. The reason for switching back is that the state is proposing to have a new license plate available in 2009 that will include tabs with better anti-theft features. (It's about time; I know we've all been asking for this.)

The bill's provisions regarding tab theft went into effect immediately upon the bill being signed by the governor on June 26. For more information, email mvbmail@dor.mo.gov or visit www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/motorv/tabtheft.htm.



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LPUMC expands recycling program

By Debra Crowe
Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

Feel good and feel good about yourself with classes and programs at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church.

The Green Team is happy to announce that the paper recycling program has been so successful that we now offer area residents aluminum can recycling as well. Thank you to all those who support our recycling efforts. Each can that you recycle saves enough energy to power a computer or television for three hours! Proceeds from the recycling program support LPUMC's mission efforts, so you're helping to not only save energy but to provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and comfort for the suffering as well.

Boost your own energy and increase strength and flexibility by participating in Fitness Friends, an exercise class for men and women of all ages. The class, which meets at 6:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the gymnasium on the first floor of the church (enter through the red door on the west side of the building), lasts approximately one hour, allowing time for most people to get in their day's workout before going to

work. The routines vary from day to day, so you won't get bored — and there's always an ample supply of laughter to carry you through the tough parts!

Summer Sunday School for adults meets at 9 a.m. each Sunday. The casual environment offers participants the opportunity to explore and discuss scripture and its application to daily living. Worship services are held both before (8 a.m. contemporary format) and after (10 a.m. traditional service). When school starts in the fall, children's Sunday school will resume.

In the meantime, remember to bring the kids for Vacation Bible School. This year's session is Aug. 6 through 10. Join us for dinner from 6 to 6:30 p.m. prior to the evening's program of teaching, song and crafts. All children ages 2 to 12 (as well as their parents, grandparents and other family members) are welcome. A special program will be available for kids over 13. To register, please call the church office at 771-9214 or program director Chad at 776-4447.

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

McKinley Heights closes in on historic code

By Mark Treed
McKinley Heights

On June 25, the proposed Local Historic Code for the McKinley Heights Neighborhood cleared another hurdle on its way to becoming reality.

In a public hearing held in city hall, the Preservation Board of the Cultural Resources Office voted to send the code to the Board of Aldermen for debate and to be heard in yet another public hearing. At this time, no date has been set for the next hearing. But, in order to give everyone an opportunity to weigh in on the issue, signs notifying the neighborhood of the hearing will be posted two weeks prior to the date.

Before the last hearing, three different informational meetings were held on Saturdays at various locations in the neighborhood. At these meetings, residents were given the opportunity to get answers to questions they might have regarding what a historic code would mean for their neighborhood and for them specifically as property owners and renters.

The code would mainly affect property owners who want to make changes — both those that require the use of a permit and those that don't — to the exterior of a building, which would not be allowed under the code.

The McKinley Heights housing corporation and other concerned residents used the examples of Fox Park, Soulard, Lafayette Square and the Central West End to formulate its own code, which has taken approximately two years to develop. The planning stages began in 2000 with a recommendation from the Sustainable Neighborhoods Initiative.

With the passage of Fox Park's code, McKinley Heights became the hole in the donut. Every surrounding neighborhood now has a local code that gives them a tool to counter unscrupulous developers and preserve the integrity of their neighborhood and their property values. Without such a code, neighborhoods are defenseless against such activity.

The code can be viewed in its entirety by going to the McKinley Heights website at www.McKinley-Heights.org, or can be read at the Barr Branch Library at 1701 S. Jefferson Ave. Everyone is encouraged to take the time to read this code and become informed as to what it contains.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Taste of Lafayette to be held Sept. 8

Join the third annual Taste of Lafayette Square festivities that commence at noon on Sept. 8. A host of neighborhood entrepreneurs will be among a growing list of restaurant and professional service attendants in Lafayette Park from noon to 8 p.m.

Located at the corner of Lafayette and Mississippi avenues, the Taste of Lafayette is an annual highlight that offers a dynamic chance to savor the progressive and historic Lafayette Square neighborhood.

Food and beverage will be served from noon to 8 p.m., though the entertainment continues until 9 p.m. The live entertainment offerings include children's entertainer Babaloo, balloon clowns, storytellers, a vintage base ball tournament and a cut-out artist.

Enjoy live musical performances by White Lite noon to 2 p.m., Power Play 3 to 5 p.m. and Ralph Butler Band from 6 to 9 p.m. Watch for a complete list of entertainers and participants. For now, highlight Sept. 8 on your calendar!

Marbles Gallery presents 'Michael Kathriner: 2D Assemblages'

Michael Kathriner, St. Louis area artist and art educator, exhibits *2D Assemblages*

Aug. 1 to 31 at Marbles Gallery, 1905 Park Ave. with an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Aug. 4.

Kathriner considers himself a junker and collector. After a few years of oil painting, he found his hunting and collecting obsession immensely useful and relevant to his art. He now works with assemblage, a refined craft for finding and using junk. The process of looking, finding and collecting for "stuff" has become just as important as creating the finished works of assemblage.

Kathriner graduated from Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville in 1994 with a bachelor's of fine arts after earning an Associate in Art degree from St. Louis Community College. He teaches art at Roxana High School in Roxana, Ill., and now holds a master's degree in education. He continues to make art in addition to his teaching career.

For more information about art at Marbles, contact Jane Ollendorff, Marbles Gallery Art Director at 791.6466 or marblesart.jane@hotmail.com or www.marblesyoga.com.

New Lafayette Square website is now available

The Lafayette Square Restoration Committee has launched a new web site: www.lafayettesquare.org. The website serves the residents and businesses in the



Image courtesy of phd gallery

This piece is one of several of artist Joe Chesla's that are on display at phd gallery.

vicinity of Lafayette Park.

The site features neighborhood notices, discussion forums, restoration guidelines, historical features and a directory of local businesses.

The web site was designed and developed by Wayne M. White of Studio 2108 and Dewey Jones of Cognition Inc.

Works by artist Joe Chesla on display at phd gallery

Confluence, a series of "rust prints" and "hybrid sculpture" features the work internationally exhibited St. Louis Community College - Meramec professor Joe Chesla. The exhibit will run August 18 through

Oct. 6 at phd gallery, 2300 Cherokee St., with an opening reception from 7 to 11 p.m. Aug. 18. The reception is free and open to the public.

The series of nearly a dozen sculptures and 42 prints represent the artist's exploration into the idea of confluence — the flowing together of two entities at a single juncture or point. The sculptural pieces embody that moment when the convergence of two powerful elements — in this case iron and wood — resonate into a true and harmonious union.

Combining wood and skillfully crafted metal parts, Chesla creates unique, yet oddly familiar, sculptures, which seem to tell part of a larger story. Chesla challenges conventional aesthetics, daring us to see art in his sculptural hybrids of nature and industrialization. The "minerals prints" continue this process-oriented approach.

Working directly with the metal plates and printmaking paper, he couples the two elements together for days or weeks in the process of making a print. A "confluence" is achieved by immersing the paper and metal plate in liquid and allowing them to merge though drying and rewetting stages. When the impregnation and layering of iron oxide and salt attain an intriguing state, the print is complete.

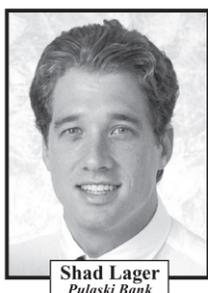
"The process of both works is pure and intuitive," Chesla said. "There is little study or plan to what is happening in the studio. More so these pieces can be viewed as moments within an event; snapshots, if you will, of my ever-constructing mind."

The gallery is open from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Call 664-6644 for more information, or visit www.phdstl.com.

Mary 'One' Real Estate Tip of the Month



Mary "One" Johnson
Owner/Broker



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Mary, we have our home on the market and our realtor told us that someone is interested in our house. They are getting pre-qualified for a loan before they look at the house. Is this unusual? No this is not unusual at all. The buyer is wise to find out ahead of time how much their buying power is. It'll be even better if they get pre-approved, with a lender promising to give them a mortgage loan. In either case, what they're doing doesn't involve your specific house at this point. But when and if they make an offer, you'll have some assurance that they're financially able to afford the property, which will take some of the uncertainty out of the negotiations and really is a plus for you.

Shad, why is it important that a lender fund its own loans at closing?

It is important that a lender fund its own loans in order to avoid delays that otherwise could be caused by waiting for a third party funding approval or possibly waiting for a wire transfer. These situations could delay closing by more than a day in some cases. It is best if the lender brings a check to closing in order to fund immediately.

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McKinley Heights • 2027 Allen • \$185,000

2 Story, 3 bedroom 2 bath home located in the mckinley heights neighborhood just south of lafayette square. 1st flr boasts a main flr laundry, eat-in kitchen with newer flooring and ceiling fan. Roof replaced 3 yrs ago. Zoned heating with newer furnaces. 2nd flr has 3 large bedrooms, one with a gas fireplace. Some stained glass, and a deck outside the master bedroom, there is also 3 car garage. The seller is offering \$1500 towards buyers closing costs and a home warranty.

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

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Play ball!

Once again, Lafayette Square residents took the field to challenge the St. Louis Perfectos in a double header of vintage base ball on July 21. But unlike previous years, the Lafayette Square Imperfectos put a tally in the win column and split the doubleheader.

The neighborhood came out to watch the annual event, which was followed by a barbecue for cranks (or fans, as they're called today).

Thanks to 1111 Mississippi and Vin de Set, the latter of which sponsored uniforms for the Imperfectos' gold team. And a mighty "Huzzah!" to those who came to watch.

Photos by Kara and Karl Krekeler

Right: Lafayette Square residents brave the heat to watch their neighbors take on the Perfectos.



The gold team attempts to tally some aces (or score some runs) during the first of two games in the northwest corner of Lafayette Park July 21.



Captain Jim Howard reads off the starting lineup for the Imperfectos' gold team.

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July LSRC membership meeting minutes

LSRC Membership Meeting

July 10, 2007

President Dane Drefke called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The minutes from the June meeting were reviewed and two corrections were made, spelling of Captain Jerry Leyshock's name and the cost of the playground project to \$106,000. Then a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. There were three new residents who introduced themselves to the membership.

Special Guests - Mayor Francis Slay, President of the Police Board Chris Goodson, Chief of Police Joe Mokwa, Alderman Phyllis Young and Alderman Kacie Starr Triplett.

Mayor Slay congratulated the neighborhood for being a huge success. He advised during his first four years as mayor, crime in the city of St. Louis had gone down. In 2005 and 2006 crime had gone up, which is related to federal fund cuts that took place all over the country. Currently, crime is down approximately 10.3 percent from June 2006 thru June 2007.

The city is going to build two new state-of-the-art recreation centers, one in north city and one in south city.

Since there were federal cuts the city has worked with local businesses on work force development programs for summer jobs this year.

Chief Mokwa advised he has increased police officers in our area, due to the few incidents that happened last month. He also advised that auto thefts and burglaries are down 50 percent.

Some questions and answers were: The response time on 911 calls have gotten better.

What can be done for those who abuse the curfew violations?

Committee Reports

Safety- No report. Sue Pinker-Dodd reminded us that Aug. 7 is "Night Out" for the city.

Finance- Susan Sauer gave a financial status of our checking and savings account. Checking has \$43,650 and savings has \$140,000.

Development- Paul Doerner advised that plans for the development at the end of Vail Place were voted down by the development committee.

Community Affairs- Rachel Witt advised she is working on a survey questionnaire on what the neighborhood would like to see happen in Lafayette Square.

Membership- Dave Diehl thanked Susan Sauer and Shari Perry for putting together a new membership brochure, which was mailed out to the neighborhood around June 1. Because of the mailing we received about 25 new members. So our new membership total is 257.

LSBA- No report.

Park Conservancy- Carolyn Willmore advised that the urns (for the bridge) should be ready in approximately two to three weeks.

The Gala at the Grotto will be held Oct. 13. Susan Sauer will be the chairperson.

Neighborhood Beautification- Linda Weiner gave no report.

Old Business

A vote was held to rescind the previous successful motion expressing this organization's desire to move the community garden. The membership voted to rescind the previous motion and the community garden will stay where it is.

New Business

Remember, nominations and election for LSRC officers and members of the board of directors are coming soon. Please contact President Drefke or Vice President Snyder for more information. Nominations are in September and Elections are in October.

Positions available: VP Elect, VP Development, Board Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer Elect.

Announcements

National Night Out is Aug. 7.

Meetings are being set up to discuss what the neighborhood expects for the Praxair property in August and September. Meetings will be held at SqWires annex. Contact Michael Lance for more information.

The bridge over Highway 44 and Mississippi Avenue will be taken down around Aug. 15. Should be three to four months before reopening.

The Jefferson Avenue overpass between Highway 40 and Chouteau Avenue will be closed around Sept. 18 to be taken down. It could be 18 months

before re-opening.

Lafayette Park United Methodist Church has a new associate pastor.

Free organ recital at 5 p.m. July 29 at LPUMC.

There is a new blue container for aluminum cans on the LPUMC parking lot.

Phyllis Young advised a fund has been set up for the lady that was injured in McKinley Heights. Anyone interested in donating to the Jennifer Thompson Fund should contact any U. S. Bank.

Presidents Award Dinner will be held at SqWires Annex on Sept. 16.

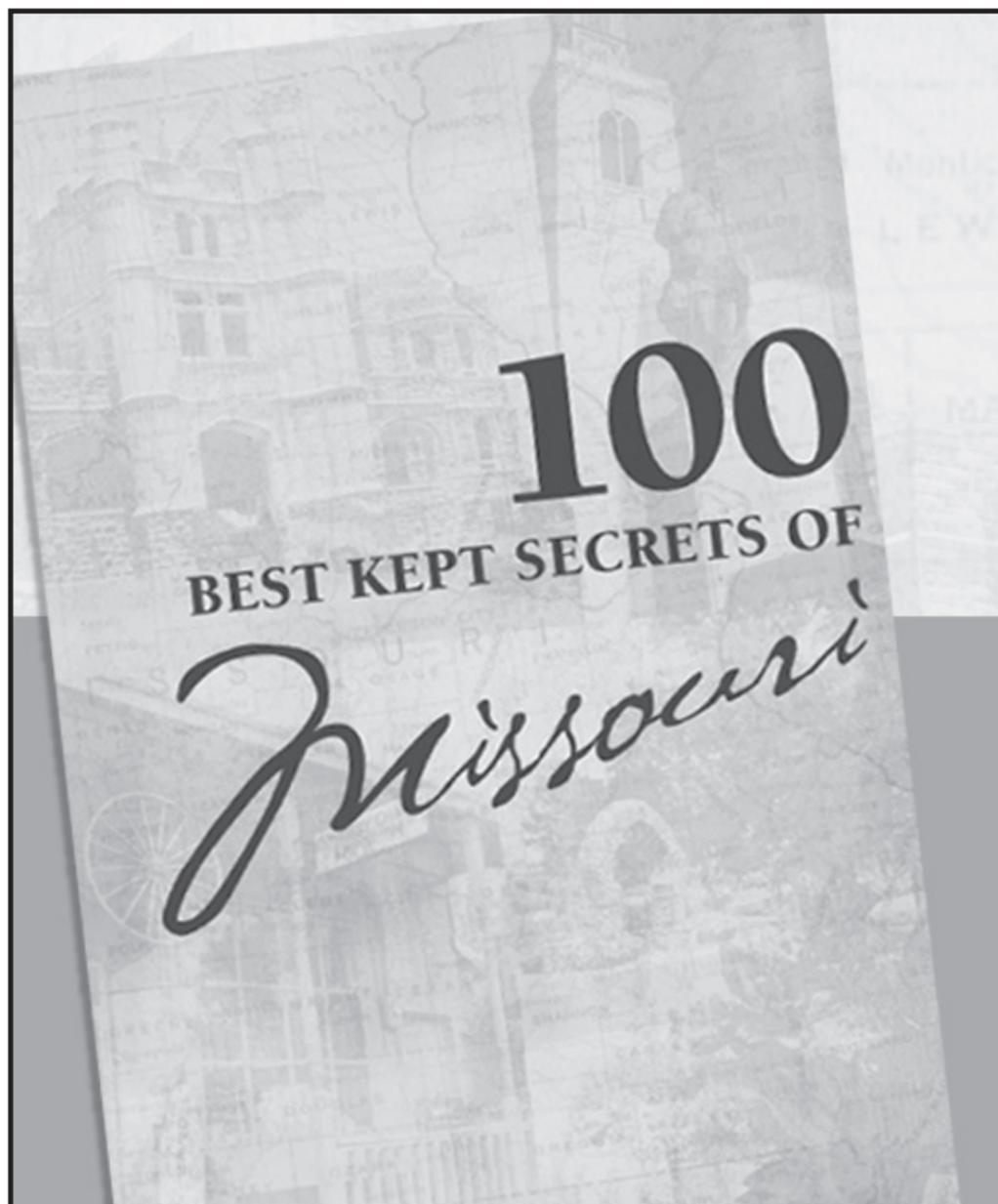
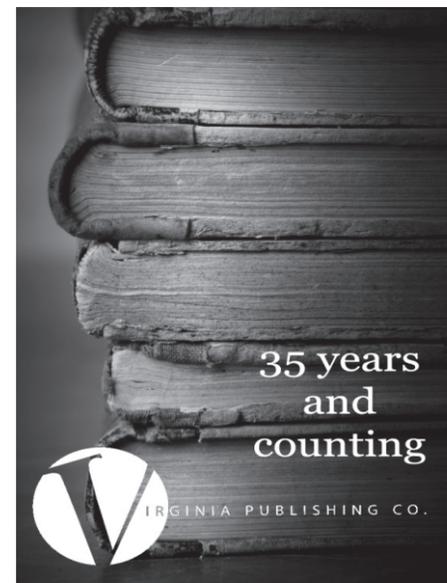
New residents contact your block captain to have your name added to the neighborhood phone book.

Approximately 120 attended the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.

The social was hosted by the Heighams and co-hosted by the Hough-tons.

Respectfully submitted



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Lafayette Square Restoration Committee 2007 Membership Form

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- General (\$10 per person)
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- Restorationist (\$60 per person)
- Preservationist (\$150 – Individual or Family)
- Marquis Circle (\$250 – Individual or Family)
- Friends of LSRC (Non-resident -- \$10 per person)

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- I am interested in volunteer opportunities (e.g. House Tour, Bike Race).
- This donation is eligible for a corporate matching gift. (*Please submit a matching gift form from your company.)
- I am a new resident and would like to receive a Welcome Packet.

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*Memberships are valid for the calendar year.
 Memberships are tax deductible to the extent allowable under IRS regulations.*

The Lafayette Park Conservancy membership form

- \$35 Friend
- \$50 Contributor/Family
- \$75 Botanist
- \$150 Historian
- \$300 Preservationist
- \$500 Benton Society
- \$1000 Lafayette Society

Membership benefits are listed on our website, lafayettepark.org

Member information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

I prefer to receive the Conservancy newsletter and mailings
 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 company.

**The Lafayette Park Conservancy
 2023 Lafayette Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63104**



Sale

ANNUAL BENTON PARK WEST SALE - SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH, 7A-2P. HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, BOOKS, CLOTHES, ETC. MASTERCARD & VISA. CITY NEIGHBORHOOD. CABRINI GYM/ST WENCESLAUS3022 OREGON, 63118



McAVOY REALTY

(314) 531-1900



3419 HAWTHORNE BLVD. \$1,000,000
A remarkable Compton Heights mansion that exudes the elegance and splendor of the early 20th century. Where else will you find a 3rd floor ballroom, ladies parlor, domed staircase, library and pool?



2934 MILTON \$675,000
Fabulous restoration of a Compton Heights home! All new systems w/ the original historic features intact. Loaded Master bedroom suite. Fabulous Chefs kitchen, 7 fireplaces, 5 large bedrooms, 3.5 luxury baths, new 2 car garage *TAX ABATEMENT until 2016.



4621 WESTMINSTER \$474,900
Breathtaking turn of the century brick and stone 6 bedroom Victorian Central West End home. Perfect for entertaining. Nicely finished kitchen features Viking SS appliances and granite countertops. Three car garage.



1811 KENNETT PLACE \$398,900
Victorian Charmer with Contemporary Open Interior - Double lot. Formal living room, dramatic dining room with 20 ft ceiling open to 2nd floor hall. Bright master suite with private bath, 5 fireplaces, cherry floors and much more. Call Carolyn McAvoy at 757-1007



410 N NEWSTEAD#9W \$389,900
Dramatic designer remodel with a spectacular kitchen, superior bathrooms and exciting interior lighting! Upper level unit with a flowing center hall plan, great views, large rooms with built in bookcases and oversized windows.



2109 LYNCH \$379,900
Unbelievably unique home! Spacious Master Suite with a Premium jet shower, whirlpool tub, dual vanity, walk in closet and large windows. Amazing open floor plan on the main level that you need to see to believe. 4 car carport to protect your fleet. 1 year old home with tax abatement!



2201 PARK \$349,900
Park front property. 3rd floor master bedroom suite with private office on top deck. 2nd floor office on the 2nd floor with a great in kitchen. Plus a 2 story porch, 2 car garage, pool and tennis club available, lots to love.



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



1314 MISSISSIPPI \$325,000
This beautiful restored historic townhome is the largest on the row. Spacious bedrooms and 2.5 baths include two fireplaces, crown molding, wood floors, private courtyard, and a great view of park.



1936 COMPTON HILL \$311,900
This spectacularly constructed historic brick home faces Reservoir Park and sits on a gated, tree-lined street. Newer systems and finishings complement the antique character and charm of this Compton Heights gem.



1711 LAFAYETTE \$299,900
Welcome to Lafayette Square! This is a beautifully updated home with spacious rooms, great views of the city and just down from the park. Perfect home for entertaining with an open floor plan and large kitchen. See it today.



2350 ALBION \$299,900
This Lafayette Square Victorian beauty is a 3-unit multi-family. Perfect place to be owner/occupied with significant cash flow. Each unit is furnished with refrigerator, stove, washer/dryer and central air.



2157 RUSSELL \$300,000
This home is a delightful surprise through the kitchen. Filled with detail: Box beam, red pine floors, Base molding, interior columns, Mantled fireplaces and much more.



2143 GEYER \$289,900
This Victorian beauty has been totally renovated. The new mansard roof is adorned with an elaborate Cornice. The entrance boasts a spectacular art glass window and opens to a three story walnut staircase. Call Fritz McAvoy at 314-537-5211



3817 HUMPHREY \$289,900
Totally rehabbed 5 years ago. Both kitchens feature top of the line appliances, Oversize maple shaker cabinets, Marble and ceramic tile floors in kitchen and baths, whirlpool tub. All new systems and a 2 car garage.



507 N. 13TH ST \$289,000
This spacious and stylish urban condo has two separate bedroom suites and two full baths. The true beauty of this lifestyle is the view of the city at night...Breathhtaking! Call Everett Hughes at 314-691-5081



3431 HARTFORD \$279,000
Hardwood floors, crisp new wood trim, family room, 1st floor laundry, granite countertops. Upstairs sits 3 large bedrooms and 2 full baths. Master with private deck, marble bath, giant closets.



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



4157 WESTMINSTER PL. \$249,900
Central West End townhome. 3 bedrooms, finished lower level, large windows, large main floor laundry, kitchen opens to a large living room with a wood burning fireplace. Simply a great home.



2622 S. COMPTON \$279,000
Gorgeous 3-story near Compton Heights. Huge kitchen with ceramic tile floors, new wood cabinets and stainless appliances. Entryway detailed with a beautiful wood staircase and fireplace. Hardwood floors throughout. 2 spacious rooms on third floor.



1627 LOCUST \$229,900
Contemporary loft condominium, top floor unit in desirable downtown St. Louis city. Open light-filled 1,200 square foot 2 bedrooms and two baths, gas fireplace, garage parking, master bedroom suite and more!



1905 SERBIAN DR. \$229,900
Janus Renovation! Living room with a gas insert fireplace. Preserved pocket door, private deck, garage, 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths upstairs. Large eat-in kitchen with half bath, simply a fantastic home.



2922 SPRINGVIEW \$199,900
This spacious Imperial, No house sits on over an acre! Four bedrooms, Four bathrooms, private glass balcony, 2 car garage. Porch stretches across the entire back of property with breathtaking views of the great outdoors.



3411 UTAH \$189,500
Outstanding Contemporary style, gut rehabbed, Fee Simple Town Home in Tower Grove East! Professional custom updates! Gorgeous open Kitchen layout bamboo flooring throughout, great appliances, Cherrywood 42 Inch Cabinets, 2 Car Garage!



2334 HICKORY \$179,900
New roof, newer furnace/ac, some newer thermal windows. Nicely updated kitchen. Hardwood floors throughout first floor, woodburning fireplace in living room. Two bedrooms, one & a half baths, a great landscaped yard and the perfect location.



2238 OREGON \$174,900
Charming 2-story with incredible curb appeal on a premiere block of Fox Park. Wonderful full covered front porch great for relaxing and chatting with neighbors. Brand new gleaming hardwood floors on first floor and gorgeous re-finished hardwood upstairs.



1834 RUSSELL \$169,900
Great townhome in the heart of historic Saint Louis. This home has a large floor plan with a living and dining room, kitchen and den plus a half bath, all on the first level. Lower level is an open finished space with tons of room!



4426 ARSENAL \$139,900
Updated two family facing Tower Grove park. Nice large lot with hardwood floors, new heating, plumbing, electrical, new garage! Units have large separate living and dining rooms, open kitchens and back decks.



3901 BOTANICAL \$135,000
This incredibly affordable, completely renovated, two bedroom condo is in the heart of the Shaw neighborhood. New stainless appliances, spacious private storage and low condo fees make this unit perfect for a professional or student.



5408 NEOSHO \$135,000
Renovated 2 family. Each unit has One bedroom with a den (large enough to be a second bedroom) one bathroom each, new systems, paint and hardwood flooring, and each have full size washer/dryer hookups.