

# MARQUIS

DECEMBER 2007

Founded by the residents of Lafayette Square

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 12

## 'Enchanted Village' open for holiday tour visitors



Carolyn McAvoy photo

2043 Park Ave. is one of 12 beautiful homes on display for this year's Holiday House Tour on Dec. 9.

Twelve magnificently restored homes highlight this year's annual holiday tour, "The Enchanted Village," which will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 9.

For information on tickets, call 772-5824. Here is a list of this year's lineup:

**1837 Lafayette.** John Strasser was the 40th restorationist to purchase a house in Lafayette Square in 1972, which was at the beginning of the neighborhood's resurgence. Despite a fire just before his purchase, original features of the home remained intact, including the walnut staircases, pier mirrors, art glass windows, ceiling medallions, pressed leather wainscoting and marble, granite and slate mantels.

John and his wife Dorothy estimate that the house is now undergoing its "third cycle" of restoration and agree that the "only thing that works in a 100-year-old home is the people who live there." Recent projects include exterior cornice and slate restoration, new quarter sawn white oak floors in the parlors and the additions of a master bath on the second floor.

**1830 Lafayette** is one of five town homes built in 1855. This entire row of Second Empire homes cost J.H. Keser \$18,000 to build. The current owner,

Chuck Jung, has been a 20-plus-year resident of Lafayette Square and has lived in the home for 15 years. The home mixes contemporary furnishings that blend with the historic beauty of the home's original features. Some of these features include the original pine floors, slate fireplace, pocket doors and pocket shutters.

**1813 Lafayette.** Built in 1883, the house was owned by the Schwartz family for over one hundred years. The Schwartz's used it first as a studio and later as storage for the nationally famous taxidermy business. In 2003 a developer purchased and restored the house to its present condition.

**1826 Hickory.** This French Empire home was built between the years of 1880 and 1885. One of 11 homes commissioned by Winifred Patterson to be built as rental properties, the properties were donated to various charities when Patterson died at the age of 86.

With many occupants, owners and changes over the years, current owners Frank and Kathryn Makely purchased the home last May and have completed many, although not all, of the necessary improvements: restoration of the orig-

*Continued to page 6*

## '24 Hours of Yoga' to feature local musicians

By Karen Jones  
Marbles Yoga Studio

Marbles Yoga Studio is getting ready once again for its fourth annual 24 Hours of Yoga New Years Eve Celebration. The event includes a 24-hour schedule of back-to-back yoga classes. There will

be ongoing classes with teachers volunteering from yoga studios from around the St. Louis area, teaching for 24 continuous hours. Twenty-four hours of Yoga is offered to all levels of yoga students.

This year, Marbles is looking for musicians who would like to donate their time to play during a yoga class. The style of music does not have to be yoga music, but it does need to compliment a yoga class. The style can be matched to the appropriate class. Each class will last 50 minutes. One musician at a time will play on the stage in the yoga studio to accompany each yoga class. Last year's event incorporated a drumming session in which several students participated with their own drums. Then at midnight, a stand up base player took to the stage, and it was beautiful.

Marbles is also looking for artists to donate a piece or two of their artwork to the silent art and gift auction that will benefit The Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.

The event runs from 5 p.m. New Year's Eve to 5 p.m. New Year's Day at Marbles Yoga Studio, 1905 Park Ave..

Call 621-4744 for more information.



Photo courtesy of Marbles Yoga Studio

Local drummers and yoga students play the drums as part of last year's New Year's Eve 24 Hours of Yoga.

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December Marquis Deadline:  
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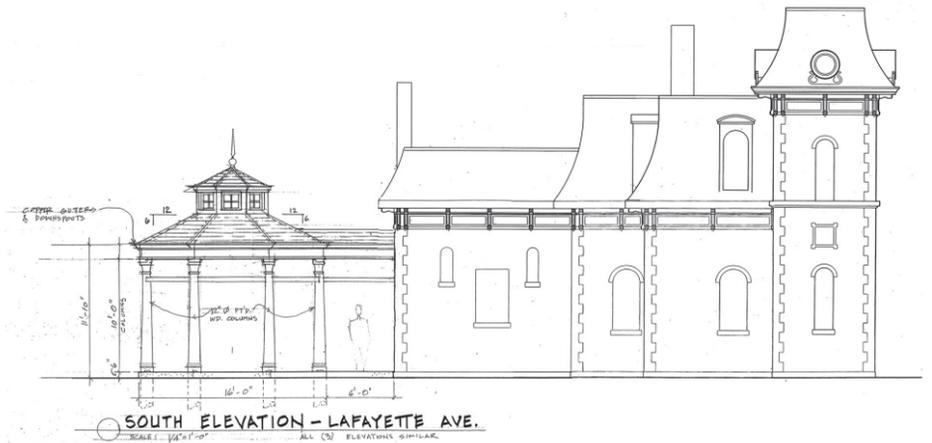


Image courtesy of the Lawrence Group

The addition of the gazebo will be the final step in restoring the Park House to its former grandeur of 1904.

# House tours finance park improvements

By Pete Snyder  
LSRC President

One of the questions that is frequently asked about the Lafayette Square house tours is where does the money go?

The LSRC, host of the house tours, undertakes and funds a number of projects that are in the public good. For example, at the most recent LSRC general membership meeting, monies were appropriated for plantings in the medians along Jefferson Avenue and finishing the north end of the wrought iron fence on the Mississippi Avenue bridge over I-44.

These are just two examples of the dozens of smaller tasks that have been worked on and paid for by the LSRC and its members.

And then there are the larger projects that cost many tens of thousands of dollars to undertake and complete. For example, the Lafayette Park Conservancy is currently evaluating what needs

to be done with the boathouse located in the middle of the park. This effort is being helped with \$38,000 that was raised during a prior house tour. Typically these tasks take several years to fund, and the monies that are earned are placed into a dedicated capital improvement account.

Such is the case with the Park House. Located in the southeast corner of Lafayette Park, near the corner of Mississippi and Lafayette avenues, the building was originally built in 1867 as a police station. At least two additions were made to the original structure by about 1904 so that it appeared as it does today.

Like the surrounding neighborhood, the Park House went into many years of decline, essentially beginning with the Great Depression. And like the neighborhood, efforts to save the Park House began with individual efforts in the mid-1960s.

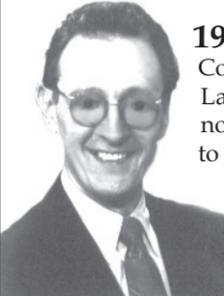
In 2005 extensive renovations began on the Park House. First was exterior work that focused on restoring the house to the way it was in 1904, with a slate roof, iron roof cresting, copper coping over the windows and reconstruction of six round, eyebrow windows (four in the tower and two on the north side of the second floor), among other enhancements. A year later, Phase I interior renovation work was completed.

*Continued on facing page*

## Correction

The massage therapist in the "Workin' out the kinks" photo last month is Wendy Ballard from Garden-walk Massage Therapy. We apologize for the oversight.

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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, 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](mailto:lmccarthy@westendword.com) or call 314-367-6612 x34. For advertising info, contact [ssolberg@westendword.com](mailto:ssolberg@westendword.com) or call 314-805-1068.



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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  
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# Get hooked on recycling

By Martha Hauck  
Lafayette Square

Just what are all those blue tubs doing out on the sidewalks on Monday mornings? It's all about recycling. Earth Circle Recycling has made it easy to participate. For \$50 every six months, one gets a blue collection tub and a pick-up every Monday morning. (They request tubs be placed at the curb by 7:30 a.m.) And the best part is — no sorting is necessary. Earth Circle offers single stream recycling, so it all goes into one bin. And they accept just about everything, except plastic bag and #6 polystyrene. Plastic bags, including dry cleaning bags, can be returned to most grocery stores.

It becomes a game to put as much as possible into the tub. I sort the mail in the front hall right by the tub — and don't even think about throwing away the new toothpaste box, paper towel tube or that six-pack ring. The blue tub has reduced our trips to the trash bin to about one per week.

And about those plastic grocery bags

coming into the house, which seem to multiply right there in the kitchen, I've switched to using cloth grocery bags (most grocers now sell their own bags). They hold more and are easier to carry than plastic bags. I have even handed a cloth bag through the window of a drive-in for my carryout purchase. I am determined to carry home as few plastic bags as possible.

Cheap mesh laundry bags — with a few alterations — are a good alternative for the produce aisle. You may find yourself doing a little sorting right there in the grocery store as you become more aware of packaging materials. I still have a dependency on re-sealable storage bags, but I'm working on it.

A great website is St. Louis Region Recycling Information, [www.rrr.ceegr.org](http://www.rrr.ceegr.org). There one can find ways to recycle everything from auto batteries to appliances, mercury, motor oil, computers and electronics, wood scraps and yard waste, cell phones and cartridge toners.

So consider giving it a try. Get your own blue tub and I bet that you will become "hooked" on recycling.

Continued from facing page

Now it is time to rebuild the gazebo that was on the west side of the Park House. We can safely project that the LSRC will have saved up enough money following the 2007 Holiday Parlor Tour to complete the task. We expect that the gazebo will be finished by the 2008 Spring House and Garden Tour.

In all, nearly \$250,000 will have been spent to completely restore the Park House to its former grandeur. These monies have been accumulated over a four-year period, with approximately 10 percent of the funds coming from foun-

dation grants, 45 percent from public sources, and 45 percent from the neighborhood. The Park House renovation is an excellent example of a good public-private partnership.

But one thing needs to be made clear. Neighborhood funding would not have been possible without the visitors who come to see our homes twice a year. Their support has allowed the LSRC to take on the public projects that we have. We need to thank and welcome our visitors to the 2007 Holiday Parlor Tour, "The Enchanted Village" — the support has been invaluable.

## Winter plantings mean colorful spring blooms

By Linda Weiner  
Lafayette Square

Quote of the month

Silence is but a Rich Pause/ In the Music of Life

-Sarojini Naidu

### Planting of trees and bulbs signals beginning of winter

The final wave of plantings on the Jefferson Avenue median between Park and Lafayette avenues took place on Nov. 17, with the planting of trees and the balance of bulbs acquired through grants administered through Operation Brightside.

Spring should be awesome with hundreds of daffodil and tulip bulbs and dozens of spring blooming trees such as Redbud and White Fringe.

Many thanks to the Missouri Department of Conservation, Boeing, Operation Brightside, St. Louis University "Make a Difference Day Volunteers," Ian Stallmen, Mitchell Hunt, John Ritter, Mary Otto, Michael Dressel, David Horr, Julie and Shane Piatechek, and, of course, Erin and Rich Budde and Patricia Barber.

### Muchas, muchas gracias

Many thanks to Mitchell Hunt for his stealth shaping of the mini-park evergreen and his removal of dead trees and now unnecessary tree supports along Dolman.

Many thanks to Steve Fichet for his support of the Lafayette Square Community Garden. Thanks to all who helped beautify our public spaces this season!

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## BUSINESS FOCUS

# V Fit: Convenience is key at new fitness studio

Square residents will soon have one less excuse to skip daily workouts with the coming of V Fit, a private personal training studio at 1013 S. 18th St. Owner Kelli Brags brings her expertise to Lafayette Square, and it will be just in time for those New Year's resolutions.

Formerly Vera's Fitness for the Kingdom, a residential personal training service formed in 2006, V Fit includes the option of training sessions in the studio or in the home.

Braggs will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 5, where residents can get a first look at the studio, along with a free three-minute personal training session and a chance to win a free session.

Braggs began her personal training career at Gold's Gym and realized there was a great potential market for clients who were in need of having

a trainer come to them. With V Fit, she is better able to accommodate clients who prefer a gym atmosphere and those who are perhaps too busy to make it to the gym or have difficulty getting there.

Clients receive initial consultations, fitness assessments, nutrition counseling and program design and implementation. V Fit also offers special training for pregnant women, senior citizens (as well as senior discounts), children and special party events. V Fit trainers provide all of the necessary equipment for a complete workout, whether it's in the studio or at the client's home.

Hours of operation, by appointment only, are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Gift certificates are also available. Call 600-5777 for more information.



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# 'Tis the season to give & receive at LPUMC

By Debra Crowe  
Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

At Lafayette Park United Methodist Church, we think it's better to give *and* receive, and in the month of December, we offer lots of opportunities to do both.

On Dec. 1, start the month off right with a rib-sticking roast beef dinner. From noon to 7 p.m., what is arguably the best roast beef around will be available for both dine in and carryout. The meal includes salad, vegetables, bread, dessert and a drink for only \$7 for adults and \$2.50 for children. If you've ever before attended a dinner at the church, you know that these folks can cook! If you haven't yet had the pleasure, this is a great time to find out what you've been missing. You may enter Fellowship Hall from the north side of the church through the door under the blue awning or from the west side, through the red door.

Next up is something special for the kids and for those who are kids at heart. Dec. 8 is the annual Breakfast with Santa. Children 10 years and under are invited to attend and to bring their parent(s). From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., there will be crafts, prizes, food and drink. Best of all, there will be the opportunity to talk to Santa and have a picture taken with him. This event is free and no reservations are necessary.

The children's Christmas program will be presented on Dec. 16 as part of the 10 a.m. service. Angels, shepherds and the Holy Family will tell the story of the first Christmas in song, narrative and scripture readings. Rehearsal is on Dec. 15. Children of all ages are invited to participate. If your child would like to be a part of the program, please call Gerri at 863-0766.

This time of year — when much focus is on family, friends, food and gifts — is also a good time to think of those who are less fortunate than us. Once again, LPUMC is participating in Adopt-a-Family, a program that provides food, clothing and other necessities and gifts for those who have no means of providing for themselves. We'll also be purchasing gift cards for the residents of Epworth Children's Home. If you'd like to participate in either of these programs, contact Brenda by phone at 771-5894 or via email

at [bjcook49@hotmail.com](mailto:bjcook49@hotmail.com). Please join us in these efforts. With your help, we can do more for more people, turning what can be a lonely and difficult time of year into an occasion to celebrate.

Another long-standing tradition is the hat-and-mitten tree. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, we collect hats and mittens (or gloves) of all sizes to be given to those who are facing the cold of winter without them. If you'd like to contribute in this way, please bring your gifts to the church during service times on Sunday to place them on the tree in the sanctuary. You may also drop them off at the church during weekday office hours. Please call 771-9214 for more information. This year, we're also introducing a coat drive and will be collecting clean, well-mended coats during the winter months. This is a new ministry, so watch for more details in the January issue. You may also call the church and leave a message for Associate Pastor Sharon Kichline.

Helping others is something that goes on year-round at LPUMC. Recently, the We Can Do Anything Needed group, the same group that sponsors Breakfast with Santa, undertook a project to supply Belleville Memorial Hospital with layettes for mothers of babies who pass away at birth. Each layette includes a small blanket, hat and gown made by a member of the group. They have committed to about 25 layettes each year. If you would like to help by making items or by donating funds for materials, please contact Debra at 865-2601. Leave a message with your name and contact information and further details will be provided to you.

Christmas Eve services are at 4 and 11 p.m. The late service will be preceded at 10:30 by a selection of Christmas music. Before the activity of Christmas Day, celebrate the glory of the occasion with worship and music during the still of the night. It will help provide you with your own little bit of peace on earth.

LPUMC is located at 2300 Lafayette Ave. Sunday worship times are 8 and 10 a.m., with Sunday school classes at 9 a.m. The Resale Boutique is open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call 771-9214 or visit [www.lp-umc.org](http://www.lp-umc.org) for more information.



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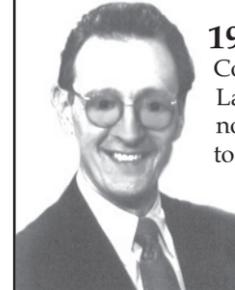
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# Vintage photography on display at Marbles

*Greetings from the Road* presents a visual journey into post-World War II American family vacations. Following the war, a renewed sense of freedom urged people to take to the road and re-discover their land first hand. Many such journeys were recorded on film then put aside to fade away into history.

The images for this exhibit, considered yesterday's news, were rescued at a garage sale. Photographer Larry Torno saw them as something quite the opposite of junk: a true find of visual, historical and artistic value — a time capsule of information that we ourselves sometimes experienced and many others have only imagined.

The slides were carefully scanned, meticulously cleaned and reassembled in oversized formats that draw the viewer in and encourage to be part of the scene. They became art-through-the-familiar, but represented in an inventive format.

We all remember gathering in the living room to watch the dreaded family vacation slide show. But Torno recalls the excitement of standing the reflective screen on its tripod legs, extending the telescoping pole to the latch at the top, hearing the hum of the projector, smelling the heat from the lamp deep inside the Bell and Howell, then coordinating the turning off of the lights with the drop of the first slide. The big, bright images came alive on the screen and immediately trans-



Image courtesy of Marbles Gallery

**"New Ford, Pinky," by Larry Torno is on display at Marbles Gallery through Dec. 26.**

ported the viewers to another place and time. Torno says, "These slides take me there — to where I've never been before."

Torno graduated from Webster College in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and began a career in graphic design. For over 30 years, he created images and ideas for commercial clients.

In 2003 he began a journey into photography to find a way to cleanse his mind and express himself through art. An inspiring vacation to the Point Lobos State Reserve in Carmel, Calif. reawakened his sense of purpose and his hope to make a difference.

*Greetings from the Road* is on display at Marbles Gallery, 1905 Park Ave., through Dec. 26, with an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 8.

Call 791-6466 or visit [www.marblesyoga.com](http://www.marblesyoga.com) for more information.

# Square history revisited in latest publication

By Laura McCarthy  
Marquis Staff

Lafayette Square is a neighborhood proud of its historical heritage. And renowned architect and historian John Albury Bryan, who lived and worked in the Square during a time when it seemed everyone was fleeing to the suburbs, offers a detailed history of one of St. Louis's most celebrated historic districts in *Lafayette Square: St. Louis*.

The book includes the original essay by Bryan, "Lafayette Square: The Most Significant Old Neighborhood in St. Louis," which was first published in 1962, as well as a short biography of Bryan by Philip Cotton, Jr., a bibliography of his writings, the original nomination for the National Register of Historic Places by Mary M. Stirtz and an essay on the history of the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee by Wardwell Buckner.

A distinguished scholar of St. Louis architecture, Bryan purchased his home at 21 Benton Place in 1949 and was the first to restore such a home in the neighborhood. Truly the original "pioneer" of Lafayette Square, he published his essay on the history of the neighborhood in 1962 in an effort to spark more interest and restoration. He lived in the Square until his death in 1976.

In his essay, Bryan describes with much affection the neighborhood as some of the most desirable real estate in the later half of the 19th century. This spike in growth came after a shaky start in the 1830s, which was when Lafayette Park was designated as a public space, but the real estate panic of 1837 and the War with Mexico had wreaked havoc on the St. Louis market, not to mention the fire of 1849 along the river front and the cholera epidemic shortly

thereafter.

By the 1860s and 70s, however, Lafayette Square was on the rise, with prominent St. Louis citizens building on the freshly-divided lots. Bryan even included newspaper clippings from that era of different accounts taken of the neighborhood.

Bryan writes that real estate in the period immediately following the Civil War, which for St. Louis was a time of growth and prosperity, garnered much attention in the newspapers.

Lafayette Park and the neighborhood surrounding it soon became an attraction, with concerts and boat rides on the lake and even became a destination for World's Fair attendees in 1904, despite the devastation of the 1896 tornado.

Bryan cites the predominance of the automobile, the continued expansion out west and World War I for the near-collapse of the neighborhood.

He concludes by encouraging restoration of this gem because of its historical significance to St. Louis, the quality of architecture, the convenience of the park and the already-established street grid and shopping district.

Luckily, others have followed his example. One can hope that if Bryan were alive today that he would be proud to see his beloved Lafayette Square pulsing with life once again.

But this book is perhaps most valuable to the Square resident of today for further insight into the history of his or her home. Or one could easily bring this book along for a self-guided walking tour of the neighborhood or a quiet afternoon in the park.

*Lafayette Square: St. Louis* is available at the American Institute of Architects bookstore at 911 Washington Ave.

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## House Tour

Continued from page 1

inal hardwood flooring on every floor, the addition of a cement basement and a two-car garage, a bathroom renovation, in addition to lots of painting and small, polished touches.

**1902 LaSalle.** John Sieg bought the lot for his house at 1902 LaSalle St. from Samuel T. Hyde in 1874 for \$1,277.82. This flounder style home was completed in 1875. Once listed as two houses, this home has been converted back to one by its previous owners. The current owners, Dave and Pat Odenbach, bought the home in 2001 and continue to renovate.

**1020 Mississippi.** Built in 1879 as a single-family residence, 1020 Mississippi became a boarding home and then was abandoned. Its current owner, Jason Ermold, took on the task of renovating it back to a single-family home. The



2332 Park Ave.

Rick Ponder photo

project has taken over a year of working nights and weekends to transform a shell into the beautiful home visitors will see.

The only original features of the home are the newly-restored façade and the brick walls. But Ermold has tried to keep a historic look with extensive woodwork, antique flooring and period marble mantles.

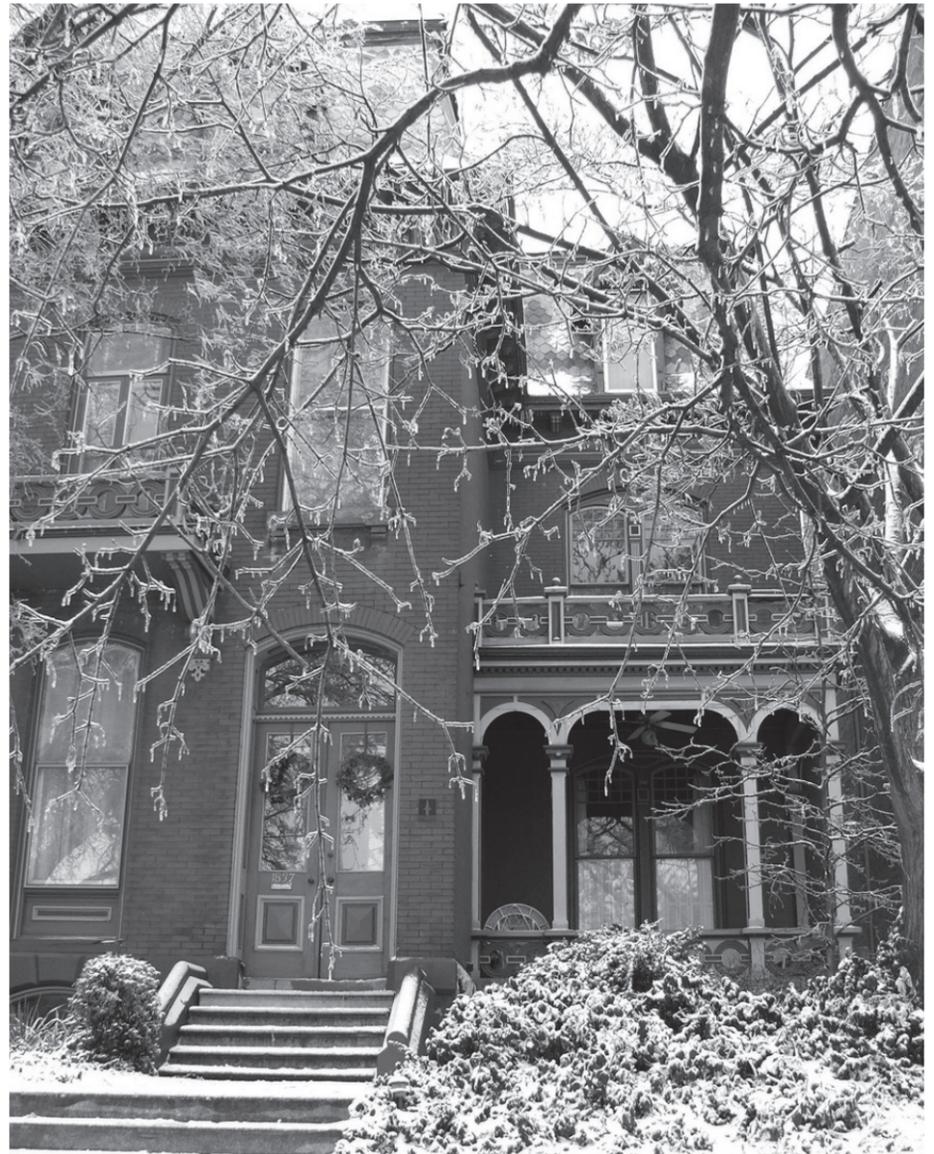
**2043 Park Ave.** Montgomery Blair, who served as the Post-Master General in Abraham Lincoln's cabinet, built his country home here in 1843. It was originally surrounded by acres of land until Blair commissioned Julius Pittman to design the first private street, Benton Place, and thereby subdivided the estate. The first lot was sold to St. Louis Mayor James Briton.

Featuring a classic mansard roof, the home includes 14-foot ornate ceilings, a pressed leather frieze in the office/library, two walnut staircases, six fireplaces, walnut shutters and marble kitchen and bathroom floors.

The McAvoy's purchased the home in 1982 after a serious fire. They have spent the last 25-plus years restoring it to its original splendor.

**1301 Mackay.** This home, built in 1985 as a row home, keeps the charm of yesteryear but with a twist. The lovely courtyard, filled with flowering plants during the spring and summer months adds a California feel to suit its current owner. The small, two-bedroom home keeps tradition with shuttered windows, 10-foot ceilings and a unique flounder entrance.

**2332 Park Ave.** This house was built in 1876 as a family residence, on what was originally farmland backing up to the local stables. The entire row of detached "Painted Ladies" sits unusually back, affording double front yards. Once used as a boarding house, with as many as five apartments, it now serves as a single-family residence again for current owners Bruce William Calvin and John



Carolyn McAvoy photo

### 1837 Lafayette Ave.

Paul Sinisterra. The interior exhibits a mix of antiques and contemporary pieces meticulously collected through the years.

**2339 Albion.** Built in 1890 by a riverboat captain for his family, 2339 Albion barely escaped the tornado of 1896. The first wave of restorations to this house came in the 1970s, like many others, and much of the woodwork, including the grand, open staircase, was rescued from surrounding demolitions.

The "peacock window" is one-of-a-kind, salvaged from the Siamese exhibit of the 1904 World's Fair. It is believed to be the only window from a World's Fair building still in existence.

The current owners, Greg and Michelle Yin, bought the house in 2002. Since then, renovations have included refinished floors, a new HVAC system and roof, and extensive exterior painting.

The kitchen was completely gutted and renovated this summer and features walnut cabinets, bamboo floors and silestone countertops.

**1505 Missouri 2A.** This home at 1505 Missouri Ave. is a condominium in the Abbey on the Park. The Abbey was built in 1883 by John H. Maurice as the Lafayette Park Presbyterian Church. The Abbey was rebuilt after the 1896 tornado, but became vacant in

Continued on facing page



1826 Hickory St.

Rick Ponder photo

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- 410 Newstead - 11th flr Greystone, CWE. Elegant, view arch, sunset, garage, pool.
- 2346 Albion - Laf. Sq. 3-story Victorian - historic renovation, modern amenities.
- 1703 Simpson - Elegant Historic Laf Sq. home just off the park 5600+ sq ft. Rare opportunity
- 2624 McNair - Benton Pk 2+ bdrm updated plus off-strrt pkg.
- 1209 Dolman - Soon to be ready for buyers custom finish 3200 sq ft.

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ROB WALTERS, President

Continued from facing page

the last half of the 1900s. The property was saved by Gilded Age Renovations, which transformed it into nine unique condominiums in 2003.

This home boasts seven stained glass windows, several spanning multiple floors and also features half of the large rose window that overlooks Lafayette Park. The beautifully restored hardwood ceiling, eight-foot wide staircase and choir loft are reminders that this home was once a church.

Current owners Kyle and Lori Wagner moved in a little over a year ago.

**2354 Whittemore.** The residence at 2354 Whittemore Place was originally built by Eugene F. Hauck in 1889. Suffering extensive damage from the tornado of 1896, the home has been restored to its original grandeur. But a fire in 1964 damaged the home again. As a result, the third floor was removed and a flat roof was installed in its place. This home was once used as a furniture display area for the neighboring L and P Furniture store.

Restoration of the property has included exterior improvements, restoration of the third floor and the refurbishment of some of the hardwood floors and fireplaces.



1505 Missouri Ave. 2A



1830 Lafayette Ave.

Rick Ponder photos



2354 Whittemore Place



## Serving up Something Special

Sweetness Preserved, folklorist Dr. John Oldani's recalls history of St. Louis' best-known confectionery, The Crown Candy Kitchen.



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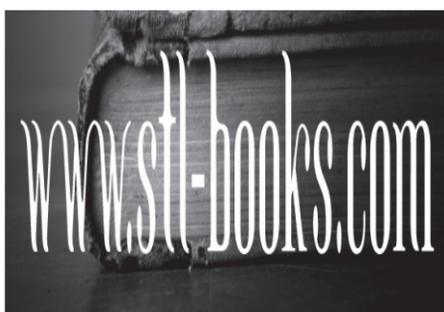
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# Tiffany neighborhood continues to improve

By Thomas Fortenberry  
Tiffany Neighborhood

Have you seen the many improvements happening around the Tiffany Neighborhood lately?

Well you are not alone. The residents of the Tiffany Neighborhood have banded together to reclaim the title with which the neighborhood was once associated: The Hidden Jewel of the City.

Over the past four years, the Tiffany Community Association and residents have put in countless hours, donated hundreds of dollars for local projects and have stepped up progress on mandatory covenants that make the Tiffany Neighborhood the Hidden Jewel of St. Louis City.

The residents of Tiffany have recently finished a massive beautification project at the corner of Lafayette and Grand avenues. The property owned by MoDot and usually a trash can for motorists illegally speeding onto I-44 West, has now been transformed into a small plant paradise.

With a grant from our local Operation Brightside, the Tiffany residents planted countless Royal Catchfly, Ozark Witch Hazel, Knockout Roses, and Little Blue-stem. Along with the plants there was also 600 feet of plastic edging installed, four dump trucks of mulch, 600 feet of soaker hoses and over 3,000 square feet of black plastic. All of this was done over a three-week period to help increase the neighborhood's visibility and to reclaim its Victorian neighborhood beauty.

Early next year the Tiffany Neighborhood will get another dose of increased visibility and beautification with 24 to 30 new Tiffany Neighborhood banners that will line Lafayette Avenue, 39th Street, and Park and Grand avenues. Along with these beautification projects there will also be 60 new Astillbes planted in the Tiffany Park (located at Spring and Blaine Avenue) and a new flower bed within the park grounds.

The Hidden Jewel of the City is rebounding to live up to its title as the Next Best Neighborhood in St. Louis City as stated earlier this year from Zillow.com and *Business Week* online.

So please help the Tiffany Neighborhood stay beautiful and not litter as you get onto the highway at Lafayette and Grand avenues, and be aware that the speed limit is 25 MPH as the entrance to I-44 West is still in a residential neighborhood.

Thanks to the following Tiffany neighbors and friends of the Tiffany neighborhood: Denisce Williams, TCA President; Thomas Fortenberry, secretary, Tiffany Newsletter; Darrell Grant, Vice-President; Brian and Sharon Plummer; Queen Byrd; Gloria Dismuke; Joey Hollins; Luke Reven, NSO 17th Ward; Vernita Mullins, NSO 19th Ward; Michelle Wade; Sam Johnson; Sherri Koehm; Paul Loewenstein; Bill Carr; Cornell Clinkscale; Darnetta Clinkscale, TCA Member at large; John Noecker, TCA Treasurer; Therese Noecker; Willa Mae Dibrell; John Cotey and Lauren Allen.

# Etiquette matters in holiday card-writing

By Shane Nelson  
Lafayette Square

I love writing and receiving holiday cards. For me, the holiday card was a tradition born from my mother. As a kid, my siblings and I would wait with great anticipation to hear how she would craft our individual paragraph. We felt like rock stars knowing the entire world would read the important things we had done during the year. A number of times there was near anarchy if the letter did not contain enough superstardom per sibling because our celebrity status hinged on the holiday card. This was serious business.

Holiday cards amass at my own home now, and I have the honor to scribe for my family. Unfortunately, I have seen a trend of bad holiday cards begin to develop over the last few years. So, in efforts to stem the tide, I offer three simple rules for the holiday card.

(1) Grammar matters. As much as we attempt to forget the traumatic memories of middle school, there are some nuggets of useful information to retain. The basic rules that govern writing are one such nugget. For example, remembering when to use and not use punctuation is important. Remembering when to capitalize is sure nice. The letters and cards do not need to be dissertation quality. However, if after reading two paragraphs of your holiday letter I am beginning to go cross-eyed and drool from being pummeled by error after error, there may be a problem. Keep in mind, you are sending these documents to people you know.

(2) Tell me something, but not too much. I opened a small holiday card last year from a family friend. In it I found a faded picture of a child lighting a candle, clothed in what had to be a garment from the Charles Dickens' winter line a hundred years ago. The card was stamped "Happy Holidays" and included our friend's signature. That was all they wrote. My initial thought, "Thank you for finding the cheapest stock of cards, spending as little time and ink as possible signing your name, and stuffing it in

an envelope. Hopefully the trip to the post office was short and uneventful."

Tell me more. If you do not enjoy writing, send a picture of yourself, your kids, the dog or even the doghouse. Give me something beyond your signature that provides a snapshot of your current existence.

The other extreme is the never-ending card where details amass about every minutia that happened over the last 11 months, one week, and five days. If you have spent 35 minutes adjusting the margins and font in efforts to fit your thoughts into the card, you are writing too much. If you type a letter, one page with normal font size will suffice.

(3) Know thyself, and stay true. An old friend of mine is a prime example of rule number three. She sends cards from the Far Side series that typically include cartoon animals. They're simple, but the subtle, sarcastic humor fits her personality and never fails to send me down memory lane.

Funny people should use comedy. Non-funny people should not. If your abilities are on par with TS Elliot's poetic verse, compose a poem highlighting the year. Or, if you enjoy photography, develop a montage of photos crafting the year's story. Choose a holiday medium that amplifies your personality and skills. If the extent of your poetry skills are versus such as "Roses are..." or you believe megapixels are tiny fairies in a Shakespearean play, your holiday letter will not work. Stay true to your strengths, and we readers will enjoy what you have to offer.

What the holiday card represents has changed for me over the years and has morphed into something much bigger than merely how good I sound in mom's family letter. Writing the letter for my own family is the one time of year I reflect on my own state of being. Moreover, it is a chance to reconnect with friends whose voices are sorely missed. The holiday card, in whatever form it takes, is a great medium to remind me of all those individuals who have shaped my life over the years. So, with Thanksgiving behind us, the cold weather here, and our new rules, let the letter writing begin.

## Mary 'One' Real Estate Tip of the Month



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**Mary, if the buyer pulls out of the deal 5 days before the scheduled closing day, am I entitled to keep the deposit?**

The answer would depend on a lot of things - what's written in the sales contract, what contingencies were involved, the buyer's reason for backing out etc... No way that I can judge. If a large amount is involved, consult a lawyer. If it isn't enough to pay for a lawyer's time, try small claims court, where you can represent yourself at little cost and hear what a judge has to say.

**Shad, with all of the recent mortgage guideline changes, are there still low and no-down programs?** Yes, there are still several low and no-down payment programs. FHA, Federal Housing Authority loans only requires 3% down. These loans are typically more lenient on credit. These loans allow gifts or grants for the 3% down. Conventional loans also offer several NO money down programs, some even with no PMI.

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

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# New resident creates fall tradition for kids

By Carrie Koenig  
Lafayette Square

A new Lafayette Square tradition may have begun this Halloween. Previous Halloweens have been characterized by dark houses and only scattered trick-or-treaters, often from other neighborhoods. This year, residents lined up in the park to be treated to a parade of children in costumes ranging from baby chickens to Frankenstein's bride thanks to planning by new resident Susan Wofford Jones.

Jones moved to the Square this summer with her husband Scott and son Zach. She was surprised and disappointed by the lack of Halloween activity in the neighborhood. "I think a neighborhood is not really family-friendly unless you can celebrate the holidays there, so I think having some kind of Halloween celebration is really important to keep families with kids in the neighborhood."

Thankfully, she took it upon herself to organize a parade. When news of the event spread, the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church contacted her to offer their pumpkin patch as a gathering place after the parade.

A crowd of proud parents, costumed children and decorated pets gathered at the playground at 5:30 on Halloween night. Residents without children were happy to get a chance to see cute costumes and to fill up their neighbors' kids with candy.

The parade ended at the Lafayette Park United Methodist Church's



Carrie Koenig photos

Lilly Leimkuehler (left) came dressed as a lion, while another Square resident and his son (right), who came as a chicken, also attended the Halloween parade.

pumpkin patch, where volunteers put food out and the party continued. Some children seemed mesmerized as they were surrounded by tiny pumpkins while others played games with each other. The event was truly enjoyed by all and has already sparked new ideas and plans for next Halloween.



Twin "Tiggers" Chase and Hunter Westmeyer visit the LPUMC Pumpkin Patch.

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# November LSRC membership meeting minutes

## LSRC Membership Meeting

November 13, 2007

The meeting was held at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church with approximately 70 residents in attendance. President Pete Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as presented by the secretary. There were no new neighbors in attendance. Sign up sheets were distributed for (1) House Tour volunteers, (2) House Tour phone sales, (3) holiday wreath decorating sales, and (4) after meeting socials.

President Snyder announced that only those committee chairs who contact him in advance of a meeting will be placed on the agenda. If there is a matter for discussion, please contact him before the next meeting.

### Committee Reports

**Safety** - Several problem properties and the progress or the lack thereof were discussed. McKinley Heights places signs in their neighborhood before the big pickup days. Lafayette Square will attempt to purchase signs and do this also. Although crime is down in the neighborhood, juveniles are doing most of the current activity. DO NOT LEAVE THINGS IN YOUR CARS. Especially during the holidays, do not leave gifts or bags in plain view. Also, please call the police if you observe any suspicious behavior by individuals, particularly juveniles.

Officer Lang, the Public Affairs officer for the Fourth District brought

everyone up to date on the latest crimes and arrests. Kudos to Officer Lang for an arrest of the robber of the gas station on Chouteau. The bait car resulted in the arrests of three persons. If anyone needs a club, they are always available. Some residents complained about speeders on Lafayette and Park avenues due to the bridge closings. Officer Lang will alert the traffic division and also try to get a radar machine set up to remind drivers of their speed.

Brian McNutt of Midwest Petroleum commended Officer Lang for his assistance in controlling the problems at his gas station on Jefferson.

**Beautification** - Linda Weiner needs volunteers to assist with more tree planting on the parkway. Contact her for more information. A motion was made, seconded and passed to appropriate \$720 for a juniper tree that needed replacing.

**Finance** - Sue Bauer reported that the checking account balance is \$27,956.02 and the savings account balance is \$145,133.32.

**Development** - Keith Houghton reported that a two-story building is proposed for the corner of Dolman Street and Park Avenue. It will be industrial looking and have off street parking.

All options have been dropped on 1539 Vale Place. The owners of 2015 Park Avenue are appealing the ruling on the siding. The owner of 1912 LaSalle Street is adding an addition and a garage after obtaining a building permit following a court judgment.

**Community Affairs** - The committee met and decided to attempt several new forums for the neighborhood. They are proposing a card group, craft group, and mommy and me group. Also various fundraisers for the boathouse were suggested. Those included bingo, trivia

night and wine tasting. The group is open to all and meets the third Thursday of every month at Square One Brewery. For more information, contact Rachel Witt.

**Membership** - Ann Horner reported that the membership is currently 322.

**Holiday House Tour** - The House Tour is Dec. 9. Posters are available for businesses to display. Also this year, wreaths and garlands will be available for purchase during the tour. Anyone wishing to decorate a wreath may pick one up at the Park House on Dec. 2. They need to be returned on Dec. 6. Call Mary Lou Ponder for more details or to volunteer.

### New Business

The Mississippi Bridge opened today at 7:45 a.m. The fencing at the ends of the bridge is not complete. Currently, orange snow fencing is in place. A motion was made, seconded and passed to appropriate \$1,500 to finish the fencing. This will be in conjunction with McKinley Heights, which will also donate \$1,500. Seventh Ward Alderman Phyllis Young was commended for her work on the project.

The new lighting on the Interstate-44/55 interchange is extremely tall and bright. It can be seen from most parts of the neighborhood. The residents that live within close proximity to the lighting are complaining about the intensity of the light.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that Pete Snyder should write a letter on behalf of the LSRC asking the highway department to address the neighbors' concerns. If you wish to write a letter, the addresses and sample

formats are on the website.

### Announcements

The Gala at the Grotto was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all who attended. Susan Sauer announced that the event raised \$8,000 after expenses.

VFW Post 421 in Souland is collecting items to send to the troops at Christmas. If you wish to donate, contact Premier Realty in Souland. Also, Roosevelt High School is collecting Toys for Tots. Look for collection boxes in area businesses.

The furnace in the Park House does not work and is a hazard. The furnace is not compatible with the condenser that the city installed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to appropriate \$1,800 for a new furnace since there is no warranty on the current one and the city has no liability for the problem. It was noted that a new air conditioner may also be needed.

Ward Buckner announced that he has co-written a new book, *Lafayette Square: St. Louis*. It is available at the AIA Bookstore. Hopefully, it will be available at the house Tour also.

If anyone needs a directory, there are plenty still available. Contact Pete Snyder.

The Lafayette Park United Methodist Church is having a Breakfast with Santa from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 8. There is no charge for the event but children must be accompanied by an adult. Also a roast beef dinner is being held from noon to 7 p.m. on Dec. 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The social was hosted by Hanna Crigman and Jon Ritter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Horner, Membership Secretary



## LAFAYETTE PARK CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP FORM

### MEMBER INFORMATION

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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**\$1000 LAFAYETTE SOCIETY**  
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# LAFAYETTE PARK CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP

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Jean Allman  
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 Jane Blackwell  
 Aubrey Dunbar  
 John Karel  
 Laura Lyon  
 Kathy Marks-Petetit  
 Katherine Mayer  
 Susan Reed  
 Anabel Selby  
 Suzanne Sessions  
 Sheila Simpson  
 David Spagna  
 Linda Weiner  
 John Weller

## FAMILY

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 Maria Louisa &  
 Jim Bradshaw  
 Nancy & David Bridwell  
 Kim Cerny & Jay Divine  
 Nancy & Tim Delahanty  
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 & David Juedemann  
 David Horr

& Darren Sekiguchi

Anthony Malench  
 Kim & Roy Peterson  
 Susan & Paul Sauer  
 Carolyn & Jim Willmore

## BOTANIST

Wardwell Buckner  
 Martin Daly  
 Jocelyn Jones  
 Susan Pinker-Dodd  
 & Larry Dodd  
 Margaret A. Wayne

## HISTORIAN

Hannah Krigman & Jon  
 Ritter Jane & Bruce Robert

## PRESERVATIONIST

Diane Davitt  
 & Dr. Joseph Seria

## BENTON SOCIETY

Melanie &  
 Dr. Anthony E. Fathman  
 Kati Guerra  
 & Felicia Foland  
 Sarah & James Kimmey  
 Meyerkord, Rineberg  
 & Graham

## LAFAYETTE SOCIETY

Phoebe Dent Weil

## Lafayette Square Restoration Committee 2007 Membership Form

### MEMBER INFORMATION

Name(s) .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone .....

Email address .....

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- General (\$10 per person)
- Renovationist (\$35 per person)
- Restorationist (\$60 per person)
- Preservationist (\$150 – Individual or Family)
- Marquis Circle (\$250 – Individual or Family)
- Friends of LSRC (Non-resident -- \$10 per person)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 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.

**Please return with check or money order to:  
 LSRC Membership, 2023 Lafayette Ave., St. Louis, MO 63104**

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

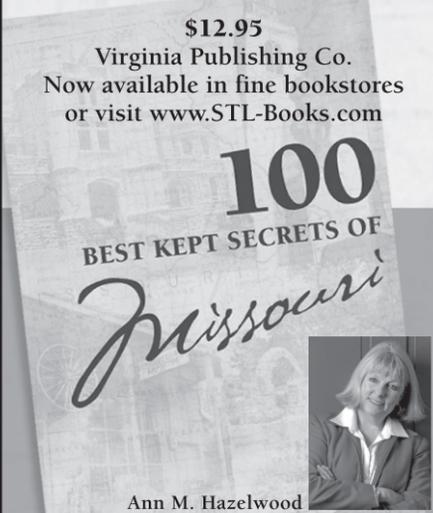


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## For Rent

**SPACIOUS 2500+ SF, 3BD, 2.5BA,** RENOVATION, MASTER SUITE, MAIN FLOOR LAUNDRY, OPEN FLOOR PLAN WITH TWO FIREPLACES, WOOD FLOORS THROUGHOUT. 2 CAR GARAGE, CHARMING! NEAR SOULARD, LAFAYETTE SQUARE, BENTON PARK. \$995/MO., 2114 ANN AVE. 314-570-7500

## Services

**PROUDLY HELPING RESTORE AND BEAUTIFY THE CWE.** - CARPENTRY, ROOFING, BRICK LAYING, TUCK POINTING, PLASTERING. 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE, LOCAL REFERENCES AVAILABLE. INSURED, HIGHEST QUALITY WORK, FREE ESTIMATES. CALL ANYTIME. 314-220-3638 ASK FOR MATT.

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## For Sale

**ANTIQUES FOR SALE:** 1890'S EASTLAKE CHAIR IN GOOD CONDITION. ALSO, ANTIQUE CHINA 8-PIECE PLACE SETTING, CHATHAM PATTERN. 314-416-8983.

# McAVOY REALTY

(314) 531-1900



**3419 HAWTHORNE BLVD. \$899,900**  
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?



**4387 WESTMINSTER PLACE \$349,900**  
Large stately home in the CWE in need of renovation. Great woodwork, elegant staircase, pier mirrors, multiple pocket doors, built in closets, double parlor. This 9 bedroom home has 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, a large lot and a 2 car brick garage.



**1904 RUTGER \$349,900**  
Contemporary town home in beautiful Lafayette Square neighborhood. Top notch kitchen with an open floor plan to living and dining room. Three large bedrooms and 1-1/2 baths upstairs. Great side lot and finished lower level.



**4621 WESTMINSTER \$439,900**  
Breathtaking turn of the century brick and stone 6 bedroom home in Central West End neighborhood. Ideal for entertaining or growing family. Nicely updated kitchen features Viking SS appliances and granite countertops. Three car garage.



**2029 BAYCROWN COURT**  
Attractive, two-story frame on a quiet cul-de-sac with spacious deck. Four bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, oversized closets, partially finished walk-out basement, hardwood floors, fireplace, wired for stereo. Coming Soon!!!



**1410 DOLMAN \$299,900**  
Currently an automotive repair shop this prime piece of land in Lafayette Square is ready for redevelopment. Commercial building is 3750 sq. ft. and the lot size is 6250 sq. ft. Its not about what it is, but what it could be.



**410 N. NEWSTEAD #9W \$369,900**  
Dramatic designer remodel with a spectacular kitchen, hardwood floors and existing fireplace. Upper level unit with full bathroom, center hall plan, great views, large rooms with built in bookcases and oversized windows.



**3014 LEMP \$315,000**  
This three story features thermal windows a large rec room, second floor laundry, spacious sitting room, large butler's pantry and mud room. Come see this top of the line city home!



**3023 EADS \$279,000**  
This stately 2-story in the prestigious Gate District features top of the line accoutrements like gleaming hardwood floors, walk-in closets, whirlpool tub, wood burning fireplaces, oversized cabinets and tax abatement.



**2341 PARK \$339,900**  
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.



**3801 CLEVELAND \$274,900**  
Majestic turn of the century home with natural woodwork, multiple fireplaces, large bay windows and a full front porch. This 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath home has great amenities of old paired with modern conveniences.



**4000 CLEVELAND \$269,900**  
Stunning family home in the heart of Shaw with a new kitchen and bath, great hardwood floors, additions of a 2nd floor porch and breakfast room. 4 large bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Coming Soon!



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



**5742 KINGSBURY PL. \$267,000**  
Meticulous three bedroom, two bath townhouse in park like setting. Fresh traditional decor, updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, view of Kingsbury Square. Two level decks, close to Forest Park and Metrolink.



**1936 COMPTON HILL \$269,900**  
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 Hill Reservoir gem.



**4121 FLAD \$229,900**  
Rehabbed 4 bedroom 3 full bath home ready for viewing December 9th, open house, all are welcome 2:00 to 4:00pm. Open floor plan and 2248 Sq Ft provide lots of living space. All new systems and home warranty plan. Call Jennifer 314-753-5046.



**2306 CHEROKEE \$210,000**  
Town home with large storefront space, ready for your creative interior design. A unique building! Already framed-in. Includes new electric, gas lines, water & sewer, roof, vinyl windows, garage w/ electric door opener, & newly renovated storefront.



**3407 UTAH \$185,900**  
Contemporary style w/ a homey feel. Large 2 BR, one & one half bath townhome (upstairs & downstairs) in the heart of Lower Grove East. Spectacular kitchen w/ island & stainless appliances, open floor plan, blonde bamboo flooring, accent lighting, all new electrical, plumbing, air conditioning & heat, new roof, and 2 car garage. 2 car garage, & ample size backyard will be available and separate for the 3 townhomes.



**6547 WINNEBAGO \$171,900**  
Big brick bungalow. This home is just shy of 2000 sq. ft. not including the partially finished basement which has a family room and full scale bar. Three large bedrooms and two & a half baths. Art glass, hardwood floors, 2 car garage, nice yard, a great home.



**5116 PENNSYLVANIA \$140,000**  
Nice 4-family, fully leased in a quiet location just north of Bates and Highway 55. Each unit has hardwood flooring in living room and bedroom. Updates have been performed as needed to units.



**6541 MARQUETTE \$139,900**  
The Lustron. This has more than a stainless steel kitchen, roof, walls and closets are all constructed of stainless steel. This property has been rehabbed and has a unique and very interesting history. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 1 car garage.



**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



**300 W. LORRETTA \$130,000**  
Rehabbed brick bungalow. New thermal windows, designer white kitchen, updated bathrooms, new driveway, fresh paint and carpeting. Three bedrooms with one being a large 2nd floor space.



**3238 MINNESOTA \$114,900**  
Delightful south city brick bungalow with spacious interior, meticulous condition, art glass, fireplace mantle, original well maintained woodwork, two bedrooms, two baths, garage parking. Additional living space in finished basement.



**517-19 FASSEN \$90,000**  
Four family in Carondelet area near the hot Iron Barley restaurant. Exposed brick and pocket doors. Two units ready for tenants. Two gutted and ready for rehab. Easily converted to townhomes.

## TWO FAMILY APARTMENTS



**2350 ALBION \$279,900**  
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.



**1212 SHENANDOAH \$239,900**  
Terrific townhouse style, two-family in the heart of Souldard. Each unit has been remodeled with carpet, fresh paint, updated kitchens & bath. Well appointed with exposed brick, stained glass and a deck off the master bedroom.



**7212 DARTMOUTH \$199,900**  
Great duplex in a sought after University City location. Large units with hardwood flooring, secured basement garage parking, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Pleasant yard with a patio.



**805 RUSSEL \$219,900**  
Sharp renovated two family in Souldard. 1 bedroom unit with new granite and stainless steel kitchen, new bathroom plus a 3 story townhome unit with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths.



**709 BATES 01/01/08**  
Delightful two story brick duplex with hardwood floors, off street parking, fresh, clean, painted interior. This property has many updates and would be a great investment or an affordable option for owner occupancy.