

MARQUIS

DECEMBER 2008

Founded by the residents of Lafayette Square

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 12

Meet me in the Square

Lafayette Square puts on its holiday finest for annual Holiday Parlor Tour Dec. 14

By Terry Linhardt
Lafayette Square

"Meet me in St. Louis, Louis. Meet me at the fair. Don't tell me the lights are shining anyplace but there."

Meet Me in St. Louis is a romantic musical loved by many people who live in St. Louis. Who doesn't remember the scenes of Christmas at the Smith household, when the family thought it would be their last Christmas in St. Louis? That movie, set in 1903 and 1904 helps us recall a wonderful, magical period in St. Louis.

In 1904 the lights were shining at the World's Fair. But in 2008, the lights are shining brightly in Lafayette Square.

Wouldn't it be nice to be transported back to those magical days, when individuals slowed down to enjoy the wonder of the winter holidays and the company of friends and neighbors?

Unfortunately, science has not perfected time travel, so we cannot be physically transported back to the turn of the 20th century. However, on Dec. 14 the residents and visitors to St. Louis can once again enjoy the hospitality and graciousness of a Victorian Christmas. On that day, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., 12 homes in the Lafayette Park neighborhood will open their doors to visitors, starting with the Park House within Lafayette Park. In addition, one of the neighborhood churches will be open to visitors.

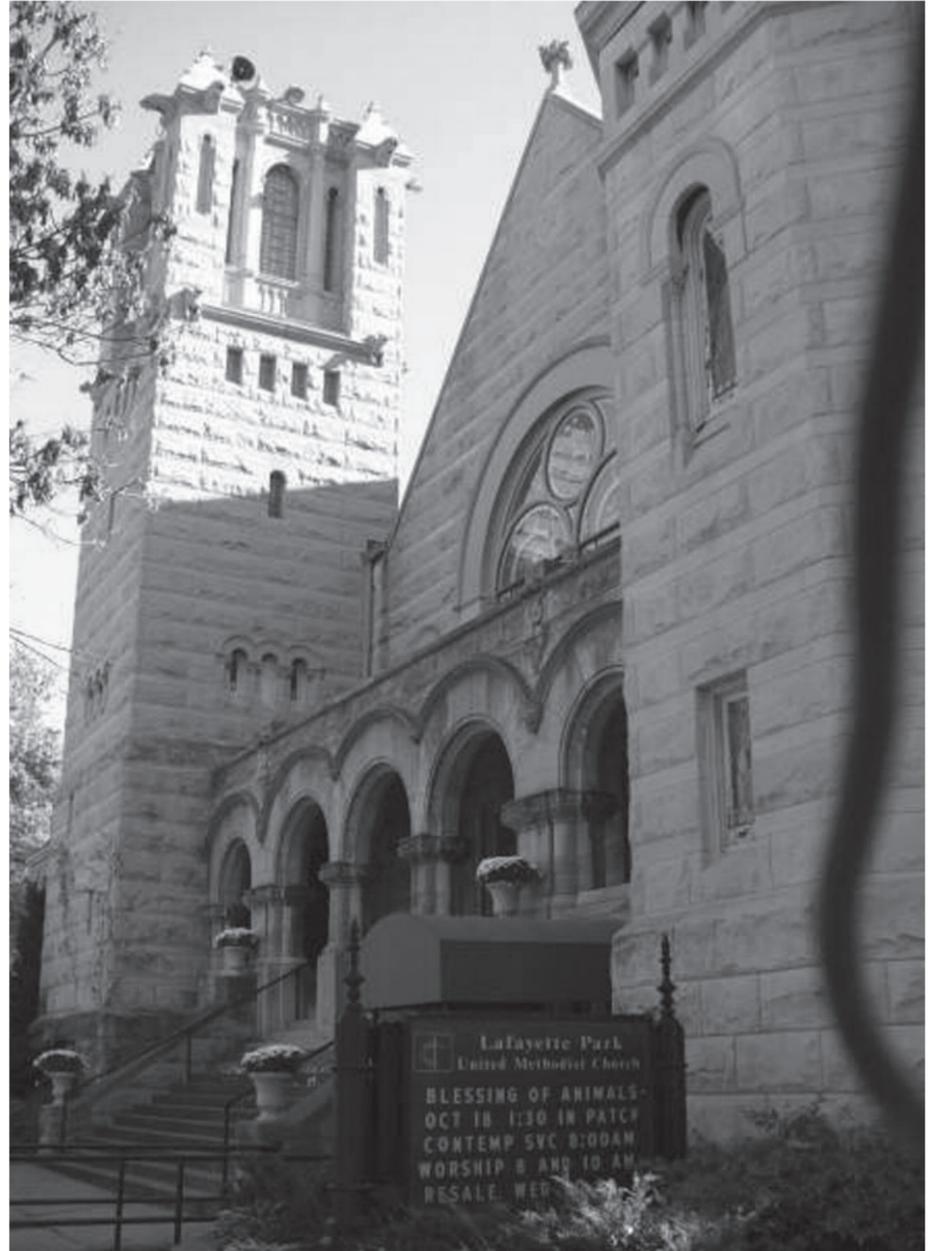
Tour information and tickets are available by calling 772-5724 during regular business hours or by visiting the neighborhood website, www.lafayettesquare.org.

Lafayette Square is a neighborhood that includes fine Victorian-style mansions, many of which were constructed in the post-Civil War era. Located just southwest of downtown, the architecture of Lafayette Square earned the neighborhood recognition on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Lafayette Park, the oldest park west of the Mississippi, was originally designed as a Victorian strolling park. Along with the neighborhood homes, the park itself is gradually being restored to its days of Victorian grandeur. Throughout the year, the park serves as a focal point for various activities that appeal to the citizens throughout the metropolitan area. Those activities include summer band concerts, outdoor movies and vintage base ball as it was played in the 19th century. The warmer months now see Lafayette Park hosting numerous weddings as well as being a destination point for wedding photographs. Such items as the central lake, the grotto and numerous flower plantings make the park a very picturesque location.

For 40 years the residents of Lafayette Square have opened their homes at various times and invited visitors to see the splendor of gracious city living. The 2008 Holiday Parlor Tour is a rich offering of homes decked out in their holiday finery. Some homes are "grand ladies" representing the very finest architecture of the late 19th century. While a few homes are "repeat favorites," other homes have not been open to the general

See Parlor tour, page 6



Lafayette Park United Methodist Church will be featured on the 2008 Parlor Tour Dec. 14.

Walking Home offers unique look at homelessness

By Debra Crowe
Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

When I was in college, a group of friends convinced me to go camping.

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January Marquis Deadline:
Wednesday, Jan. 7

I agreed, as much as anything, so they would stop asking. I'm not the camping type. I don't like dirt, I don't like bugs, I don't like summer without air conditioning, and I don't like starting the day without my morning shower. They were so sure that once I tried it, I'd come to appreciate the great outdoors. I didn't think so, but I did figure that once I'd tried it, they would see that it wasn't for me and they would leave me alone. So I went camping.

Saturday night, it rained. Sunday morning, what had the night before been six people squeezed sardine-like into one tent was a mad tangle of arms, legs and other people's blankets. The closest bathroom was far enough that, unless we were desperate, even the girls looked for a suitable dense stand of bushes. It was quite an experience; one that, in the many years since, I've never felt the desire to revisit. I prefer the comfort of my sofa and my bed, the coziness of my kitchen and the freshness

of my tiled bathroom. And I am so very lucky to have the choice.

For the 1,300 homeless in St. Louis, living on the street, in a park or beneath a bridge offers little to no comfort. Their beds consist of a cardboard box and whatever blanket they may have been able to acquire. Food comes from neighborhood churches or shelters. Showers are a little harder to come by. The cold and wet of winter and the suffocating heat and humidity of Midwest summers are realities they have no choice but to endure.

For most of us, the plight of the homeless is beyond our true understanding. It's like so many other things that, not having experienced it firsthand, we can't comprehend. On Nov. 8, I got just a little taste of it.

Walking Home was an event sponsored by, and for the benefit of Centenary CARES, an outreach ministry of Centenary United Methodist Church. Located at 1610 Olive

St., CARES is a daily drop-in center for individuals and families who are homeless and hungry. The first in what is planned to be an annual event, the purpose of the walk was to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness and to increase understanding of what it really means to be without a home, without clothing appropriate for the season, without money for medical care, without food.

On the morning of the walk, I stood in front of my hall closet trying to decide which pair of gloves to wear. On Saturday's walk, I met a couple that was sharing one pair of gloves. During the current economic crisis in our country, there are many who have curtailed their spending by dining out less frequently or cutting back on vacations. On the walk, I met those who depend on the kindness of others for food and have no jobs from which to take a vacation. Many of us have complained that "I have nothing to

See Homeless, page 7

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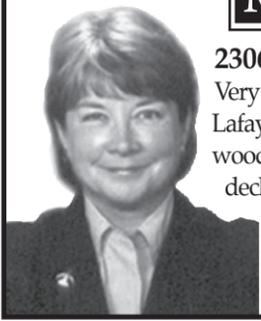
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Editor's Note

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

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

— Kara Krekeler, editor
367-6612 x29 or kara@westendword.com

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.

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Resolve to get involved in '09

By Don Terrill
LSRC President

Season's Greetings!

This is my first attempt at saying hello in an informative way. I hope it works. First of all, I want to say "Thank You" to Past President Pete Snyder and all those who served the LSRC so well over the past year. It is always so inspiring to see your neighbors step forward and volunteer their time and energy to make your community better. It is hard to believe that Lafayette Square could be any better than it already is, but we all have ideas about what we think it could ultimately become — I do! So, thank you all for your "above and beyond" efforts for the past year!

On to the new year. First of all we have the Holiday Tour. Once again, our neighbors have stepped forward with their usual energy and effort to share the beauty of Lafayette Square with everyone in the bistate area. There is always something going on in the area — a positive reason to live in the city — but the annual Lafayette Square parlor tour is always at the top of the

list! Beautiful Victorian homes, horse-drawn carriages and smiling faces reflect the warmth of the holiday season. The good news is that this atmosphere does not stop here. Spring brings our beautiful park blooming back to life, followed by the garden tour, concerts in the park and movies in the park! Plus the Park Conservancy and the Arts Council always have many surprises in store.

Believe it or not, this all means opportunity for you — opportunity to participate and be an active part of the change that can take place. Politics don't matter. Your voice and your actions in helping Lafayette Square are what matters. The three different organizations (the LSRC, Park Conservancy and Arts Council) all need your help. They each have a significant voice in what happens in Lafayette Square and they each reflect your voice in the next step forward. Give yourself a holiday gift, make a New Year's resolution and join at least one of the organizations that make Lafayette Square such a wonderful place to live.

Happy Holidays! Welcome home for the holidays!



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Classic cocktails make a comeback at 33 Wine Bar

By Laura McCarthy
Marquis contributor

Lafayette Square has become an accessory to a revolution — a cocktail revolution — and Ted Kilgore, one of the few masters of spirits and mixology in the St. Louis region, is the revolutionary.

On occasional Monday nights, as determined by the hosts' availability, Kilgore and a band of like-minded bartenders descend upon the Square to host "Blood and Sand" cocktail nights at 33 Wine Bar on Park Avenue with one mission in mind: to broaden St. Louis palates with high quality cocktails.

With principles such as using fresh, natural ingredients, consistently measuring each drink and professional, knowledgeable presentation, there's just one problem: Kilgore may ruin his customers for any other bartender.

Better known by St. Louisans as the bar manager at Monarch Restaurant in Maplewood, Kilgore is quite influential in the beverage industry — in June he was named one of the Beverage Network's 10 Trendsetting Mixologists nationwide, and provides consulting services for spirits brands.

"Once people get a taste for a great quality cocktail, they won't be satisfied with sweet-'n-sour, off-the-gun swill any more," Kilgore said.

And he's right. Having first discovered Kilgore's talents for myself in July at Monarch, I have since convinced several friends to join the revolution. Now there's no turning back. Once satisfied with something-sweet-plus-vodka drinks, I have an entirely new appreciation and curiosity for the array of possibilities in spirits and liquors that actually have flavor and character.



Laura McCarthy photo

Ted Kilgore

In a day and age where commercialized, artificially flavored vodkas dominate bars and nightclubs, Kilgore's methodology recalls a golden age of cocktails from the early 20th century, using classic techniques and combinations with more modern and updated twists.

And given the chance, Kilgore or anyone else working with him can tell you the origins of the drink you are about to enjoy. Kilgore once explained that the rise in popularity of cocktails in America can in part be traced back to a need to add some nutritional value, to the habit of drinking alcohol. Hence, for example, a raw egg in any flip cocktail or the lime juice in a vodka or gin gimlet, which Kilgore said was first consumed by sailors to ward off scurvy. This guy knows the history behind everything he serves.

"Blood and Sand," Kilgore said, "is

a classic cocktail said to have been invented in honor of the 1922 movie *Blood & Sand*. It starred Rudolph Valentino, and he played a bullfighter. It was based on a Spanish book written in the late 1800s."

"This cocktail revolution has been well underway in more metropolitan areas like New York and London for quite some time. St. Louis just needs a little push in the right direction," Kilgore said, adding that he seeks to help usher in this "new golden age" to the Midwest by regularly visiting places like New York City and attending top industry events all over the country.

But for all his knowledge, Kilgore is incredibly humble with his customers. "It's really all about getting people to try new things," he said at a Blood and Sand night in September.

The best way I have found to describe Kilgore's drinks to others is as a culinary experience — the presentation, the aroma, and finally the taste from the tip of the tongue to the back of the throat.

At the last cocktail night at 33 Wine Bar I attended on Nov. 10, I simply requested a drink with tequila and received an El Diablo, which was presented with a burnt orange peel rimmed around the glass. The resulting smoky aroma was the perfect complement to the tequila and bitters in the El Diablo.

But my favorite was a drink on the night's menu called a Desayuno de Havana, which included chamomile-infused Ron Matusalem Silver rum, Apry (apricot brandy), fresh lime, simple syrup and bitters.

"Ted and I are trying to heighten the awareness and quality of traditional mixology," said TJ Vytlačil, co-founder (with Kilgore) of Blood and Sand

Consulting, a budding consulting firm in the beverage industry.

"We've [been getting] a great response from people ... especially a lot of 33's regular clientele who are more accustomed to drinking beer or wine on a regular basis. We're really opening people's eyes to how cocktails should taste," Kilgore said. He added that Jake Hafner, owner of 33 Wine Bar, opens up his space for the events as a friend and colleague.

"We host these nights because a place to drink cocktails and spirits at this level does not exist in St. Louis. There is a growing demand for establishments like Blood and Sand, as well as just being a really fun time," Vytlačil said. "Once we have a guest experience what we can do, they generally can't get enough. We have a nifty underground following with some die-hard fans."

The Blood and Sand cocktail nights are typically themed with a different menu and featured punch, sometimes dictated by a featured sponsor, such as Nov. 10's Ron Matusalem, a Cuban-style rum from the Dominican Republic.

But if you want the full experience, arrive early, claim a front row seat at the bar and watch Kilgore work some crazy magic. Maybe even ask him to surprise you instead of ordering the usual vodka tonic. (Don't even think about ordering a cosmopolitan.) With approximately 300 drinks in his repertoire and counting, Kilgore has a knack for zeroing in on his customers' tastes — even ones they may not realize they have. Call me a fanatic, but I stand by my word.

Since these cocktail nights are typically only publicized through email and word-of-mouth, call or visit Kilgore at Monarch or Hafner at 33 Wine Bar to find out the next date.

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LPUMC goes all out for Christmas events

By Debra Crowe
Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

At this most wonderful time of the year, Lafayette Park United Methodist Church offers you many ways to celebrate.

An annual favorite, this year's Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for the morning of Dec. 13. (Please call the church office at 771-9214 for time.) There will be food, games and prizes and a visit from the Great Elf himself, so bring your kids and your camera and start the weekend with a morning of family fun. While you're there, visit the Resale Boutique for a bit of holiday shopping.

On Dec. 21, the choir of LPUMC will fill the sanctuary with the sounds of the season in their Christmas oratorio. Accompanied by music director Kourtney Strade on the church's century-old Kilgen pipe organ, the choir will present a variety of classics and familiar favorites. This event is open to the public and is free of charge. Amid the hustle and rush that can dominate this time of year, take this opportunity to relax and reflect on the true spirit of the season. For the time, please call the church office.

On Christmas Eve, there will be two services at the church. At 4 p.m., there will be a family worship service, featuring the youth choir and led by the children of the church. Focus will be on the *Journey to Find Jesus*, an interactive message that will take participants all over the sanctuary. At 9 p.m., there will

be a traditional Christmas Eve service, with reception following in Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the church.

While you're contemplating wish lists this holiday season — your own or those of your loved ones — please remember those in our city who have so little. LPUMC will conduct an ongoing coat drive during the winter months. Anytime you're at the church, you may leave clean, mended coats on the coat rack in Fellowship Hall downstairs. They will be collected and distributed to those who are in need.

If you've driven by our lovely building and wondered what it looks like inside, this year's Lafayette Park Holiday Homes Tour on Dec. 14 offers you the opportunity to find out. See the theater-style octagonal sanctuary with its four balconies, inclined seating design and cherry pews and altar rail. Soak in the light as it comes in through the lovely stained glass windows. Note the beautiful detailing on the pipes of the Kilgen pipe organ, which was built in 1901, rebuilt in 1945 and restored in 1999. If you can, begin your visit by joining us for the 10 a.m. service, then stay for coffee in Fellowship Hall before you begin your tour. The sanctuary will be open from 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Lafayette Park United Methodist Church is located at 2300 Lafayette Ave., one block east of Jefferson. Sunday worship times are 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday school classes for all ages meet at 9 a.m. The Resale Boutique is open each Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information call 771-9214 or visit www.lp-umc.org.

Amendment's passage is troubling precedent

By Jeannette Mott Oxford
State Representative, 59th District

It was so exciting to see the long lines of people waiting to vote on Nov. 4! A healthy democracy depends on informed and active citizens, so I hope we have similar turnouts — or even higher — in all future elections.

I celebrate the progress that is signaled by finally seeing the election of a person of color as president of the United States. After centuries of legal inequality and the struggle to overturn it, this is an encouraging and joyful achievement, but certainly not the finish line, on the way to full equality.

But another outcome of the Nov. 4 election offers reason for deep concern. Missourians overwhelmingly voted (86.3 percent) to amend the Missouri Constitution to require that all "official proceedings" (like school board or city council meetings) be conducted in English. Obviously this made sense at a surface level, but when I debated the sponsor of this legislation, Rep. Nieves, he admitted that no such meetings in our state had yet been conducted in anything but English. When I asked how will this constitutional amendment would change life in Missouri, Rep. Nieves replied that "nothing will be different tomorrow."

So if there is no problem to solve and amending the constitutional will mean no change, why do it? My fear is that this amendment enjoyed widespread support because of the belief that those who speak Spanish are not learning English, a belief that is a myth according to our good friends at the International Institute

on South Grand.

I thought of Amendment 1 when I read an article called "The Logical Conclusion to the Illogic of Bigotry" by Rev. Richard Groves in *The Inspiriter* newsletter of the Affirming and Welcoming American Baptists organization recently. Groves writes:

"We must be continually aware of what is happening in our culture — in the media, in the political sphere, in our community life. Not because any single act or expression is of great significance, but because each act or expression contributes to a climate, an atmosphere, which, if it becomes pervasive, can make acceptable attitudes and behavior that violate the rights and dignity of individuals and are harmful to society as a whole. If we allow a climate of incivility, hatred and hostility toward people who are different — whether gays and lesbians, illegal immigrants, Muslims or whoever — to grow, we will have no right to complain when that climate makes acceptable behavior that we do not and cannot accept.

"Bigotry destroys beauty, holiness, dignity, truth and ultimately itself...By exonerating hatred and limiting love, by elevating all that is base and destroying all that is decent and honorable, bigotry destroys the humanity of the bigot. Self-destruction is the logical conclusion of the illogic of bigotry."

Groves concludes (and so do I!): "It is up to each of us to see that a climate is created in our families or in our circles of influence such that when a seed of bigotry falls it dies because it finds no soil in which to grow."

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Fall is time for planting

By Linda Weiner
Lafayette Square

Quote of the month

"At the moment of planting a bulb, all is hope, no dismay. Then there is surely something hauntingly symbolic about burying a living thing toward a sure resurrection, at a moment in the season when everything else is dying or on the way out.

— May Sarton,
American writer

McAvoy's donate trees and bushes

Kudos to Mike and Carolyn McAvoy for their generous gift to Lafayette Square! Thanks to their donation, missing trees were planted on the Park's perimeter as well as throughout the park. Larry Dodd and Ward Buckner formed a dig-and-cover duo not to be missed!

New trees planted around the Square

Many thanks to the city's Forestry Division for planting trees at New LaSalle and in the medians along Park Avenue, as well as replacing numerous street trees. Thanks also go to Alderman Kacie Starr Triplett for her budgetary support of beautification efforts and to Matt Brazelton and Jeff Jensen of the business district for spearheading the Park Avenue median efforts. I just can't wait to see them blooming again!

Lafayette Park workdays a success

Many thanks to all who came out to spruce up Lafayette Park during October and November when there were several formal workdays, as well as the usual Saturday and Wednesday crew members. The park has never looked as manicured as it did this season thanks to the Forestry Division, the Flora Conservancy of Lafayette Park and the many neighborhood and guest volunteers. To

volunteer or to join the Flora Conservancy, call me at 621-7071. There are still some canna and spent perennials that could use our care and mulching to be done on the sunny days to come.

Pathways project is coming

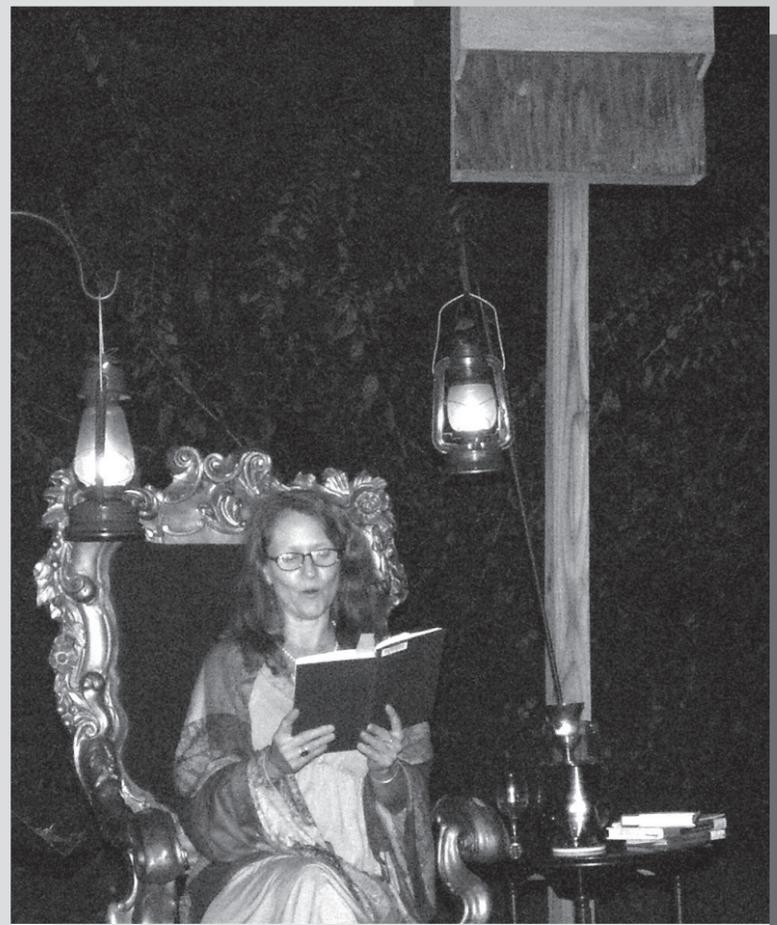
The Lafayette Park Conservancy is investigating the possibility of improving the pathways in and around Lafayette Park and is seeking plans. If you would like to be involved in this project, please call or email me and I will keep you informed of opportunities for input, grant writing and other possibilities.

Poetry fundraiser update

On Sept. 20, the first fundraiser was held at the Lafayette Square Community Garden, the proceeds of which we will use toward the building of stone columns. Thanks to the efforts of many, the Poetry in the Garden event raised \$800 toward the estimated \$2,000 cost of construction. Our thanks to Dian Davitt and Joe Seria for their donation! If you would like to contribute to this project, you may still do so by writing a check to the LSRC and noting "community garden columns" in the memo section.

Don't forget to reserve your community garden beds for 2009

Have you ever wondered how you can rent a bed for \$20 a year at the community garden? Each February, gardeners meet to plan the next calendar year and at that time, a count of available beds is made and posted in the *Marquis* or at LSRC meetings. We have been adding beds since 1997 when the community garden formed and currently have 31! And still a waiting list of 2! If you would like to put your name in for a bed, please email me at Linderweiner@prodigy.net or call co-leader Steve Mann at 773-2002 to be added to the waiting list.



Bedtime stories

Margaret Howard reads during the Poetry in the Garden fundraiser for the Lafayette Square Community Garden, held Sept. 20. The event raised \$800 for the garden. The money will be used to build columns on the Park Avenue side of the garden. Eventually, fencing will be attached to the columns.

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Parlor tour from page 1

public for over a decade. Still others are being opened to the public for the first time. In addition, there is a special treat this year: two of the homes on the tour were built within the past few years. They represent the very finest combination of century-old elegance combined with state-of-the-art amenities. Rest assured, even repeat visitors will find something new to enjoy this year.

All homes will have docents available to help answer any questions which our visitors might have. And make it a point to check out the variety of floral arrangements on display at each home. These are created by Studio Flora, the Lafayette Square florist located at Lafayette and 18th streets.

While going to the various homes, be sure to include a visit to the Lafayette Park Methodist Church, which celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2008. It is beautifully decorated, and will also feature periodic organ recitals throughout the day.

In addition to the homes, the businesses of Lafayette Square will be open during the Holiday Parlor Tour. Conveniently grouped near Lafayette Park, the businesses offer an array of goods and services, catering both to the needs of neighborhood residents and to the many visitors that frequent Lafayette Square throughout the year.

Prior to the day of the tour, many of the businesses of Lafayette Square will be selling Parlor Tour vouchers at a discounted pre-event price of \$15. The vouchers may be exchanged on the day of the tour for an actual tour booklet. (The tour booklet also serves as your ticket.) Remember, the line for individuals with vouchers moves faster!

Lafayette Square businesses selling Parlor Tour vouchers are Four Muddy Paws, Lafayette Square Antiques, Soda Fountain Square, SqWires Restaurant,

Park Avenue Coffee, Looking Glass Designs, Schwaig Art Glass and Ricardo's Restaurant.

Most individuals choose to walk from one home to another on the annual Holiday Parlor Tour. However, for those who desire, it is just a short drive from one grouping of homes to another. There is ample parking around Lafayette Park and it's always free.

For those wishing to better relive the era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, free horse-drawn carriage rides will be available from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Carriage rides are a wonderful way to see the area immediately around Lafayette Park at a pace that is reminiscent of the late 19th century. Life seems to slow down as your horse and carriage driver take you on a leisurely tour around the park.

Your tour will begin at 2023 Lafayette Ave., just inside Lafayette Park at Mississippi and Lafayette. The Park House serves as a police substation as well as a neighborhood meeting place and tour center. The Park House will also be decorated for the holidays.

In addition to obtaining tickets or exchanging vouchers at the Park House, visitors may want to take the opportunity to purchase a souvenir of the event or to get that stocking stuffer for someone special.

Tickets purchased on the day of the tour are \$18. MasterCard and Visa are accepted. Advance ticket sales are \$15 and groups of 20 or more may obtain tickets for \$12 each. Advance purchases may be made by calling 772-5724 or by visiting participating merchants in the neighborhood.

With all due respect to Andrew B. Sterling, who wrote the original lyrics to "Meet Me in St. Louis," this year we would like to say: "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis. Meet me at the Square. Don't tell me the lights are shining anyplace but there."

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Homeless from page 1

wear!" when what we really mean is that we'd like something new. For members of St. Louis' homeless population, their wardrobe consists of the clothes they're wearing at the time.

The walk started at Centenary UMC, covered several city blocks and ended back at the church. The participants were a mix of those who support the efforts of CARES and those who benefit from its services. I happened to fall into step beside a man named Lamonte. Lamonte was pleasant and friendly, and we ended up talking our way through the streets of downtown. I learned that he was relatively new to his situation, four months homeless.

A veteran, Lamonte has worked mainly in warehouses, shipping and receiving. While grateful for the services offered by CARES and other programs, he said he wishes desperately for work and combs through all available information looking for a job.

When I asked if he had family, he told me that he does have relatives living in the area, and that they help when they can, but that their own circumstances are such that they have little extra that can be shared. He recently learned that one of his brothers is also living on the street. Lamonte shared willingly with me, hoping that it might help those who are unaware of situations like his to better understand, to realize that there are people living on the street who would desperately like to change their situation, if only they could. If only they could get a job. If only someone would offer them an opportunity to make a change.

When we returned to the church at the end of the walk, I sat at a table in

the dining room where, since opening their doors in November 2005, CARES has served over 213,000 meals to more than 177,000 people. There I met Lamonte's partner, Bobbie. Bobbie has a unique work history — she's experienced in both auto repair and cooking! Like Lamonte, she is looking hard for a job. Currently, she's registered with a temp agency and is hoping that the upcoming holiday season will bring greater oppor-

tunities to participate in the walk, I didn't have any expectations. As someone who is blessed in many ways, I just felt that I should join the event, should, as the literature promoting it stated: "Walk in their shoes. Share their story. Change our world." What I found, talking to Lamonte and Bobbie, were a couple of people who are both valiantly dealing with their current circumstances and desperately trying to change them; who gratefully accept the help offered them while

hoping for the opportunity to help themselves; who hope that sharing their story with others will help people to understand that, though currently out of work, they're working hard to reclaim their independence.

The mission statement of Centenary CARES reads: "Centenary CARES Outreach provides sanctuary for homeless and at-risk persons in St. Louis. Meals and support services for basic human needs are offered by a staff intent on eradicating homelessness by guiding guests on a path to self-sufficiency." If you would like more information on the program, please contact Lu Oros at 238-4056.

"I'd like people to know that just because I don't have a home right now, that doesn't mean I don't deserve the respect they'd give to anyone else."

— Bobbie, homeless woman in Downtown St. Louis

tunity in the culinary field.

When we spoke, however, she had been called for only one job in the previous two weeks. I asked Bobbie what she would like people to know about being homeless. "Respect," she answered. "I'd like people to know that just because I don't have a home right now, that doesn't mean I don't deserve the respect they'd give anyone else." She then told me that immediately following one job interview, she remembered a question she'd forgotten to ask. When she reentered the office she had just left, she saw her job application being torn up. "If they weren't going to even consider me, why did they interview me? It's insulting, and it's very bad for self-esteem."

I'm sure that my one afternoon's foray into the world of the homeless living in St. Louis doesn't give me a *real* taste of what it's like to be a member of that community. Unless a person has lived it, I don't see how it's possible to really *know* how it feels to be without a home. When I decided to



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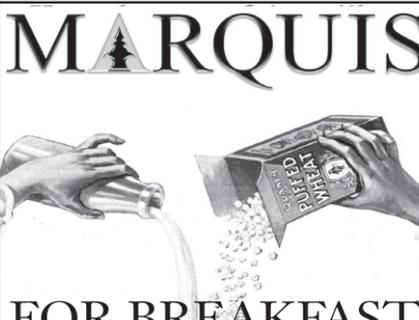


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do residents no longer take pride in Lafayette Square?

To the editor:

I placed an advertisement on page five in the November *Marquis* announcing a special offer: I was liquidating the contents of my Lafayette Square file, which held newspaper articles pertaining to that neighborhood dating back to the early 1950s. It was not my desire to get rich on this treasure horde of material, which included articles from the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, *St. Louis Star-Times* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

There were also numerous early 1970s house tour booklets with interesting descriptions of homes with only three to four rooms completed, old pictures of both sides of the 1800 block of Kennett Place, tickets, tornado coverage, maps, John Bryan material, a full-page spread from 1959 on the destruction of mansions on Whittemore, pictures of the Blair-Huse house with the front doors missing and interviews with Tim Conley over the course of several years (in which I was amused to see that his house had more rooms in each subsequent interview). There was also a detailed 1970 interview with two men from New York who had to have been among the first gays to see the potential in the Square. (Their comment

that St. Louis was "really too much" for abandoning these houses for subdivision houses, was rather interesting to me.)

I really wanted to see these items go to owners of houses in Lafayette Square. I kept thinking of how marvelous these items would be framed (especially since this would conserve them), how interesting they would be to future tour visitors and how envious the neighbors would be when they spotted a framed original 1962 *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* full-page spread "A Neighborhood of Distinction" or the 1952 *Globe-Democrat* article showing many of the houses on Lafayette Avenue with vintage 1930s automobiles in front of them, hanging on your wall.

The articles were quickly snapped up, but to my total surprise and regret, only Ronald Taylor, who lives on Rutger Street, was a buyer from that area. Instead, the items were sold to appreciative folks in Belleville, Alton and as far away as San Francisco. Actually, the bulk of the file was sold to one woman in Belnor, Mo.

Has everyone in Lafayette Square lost interest, or are they just jaded?

Jeffrey Drane Kimbrell
Darlington, SC

Letters policy

Go ahead, tell us what you really think! Send letters to the editor to Kara Krekeler, c/o West End Word, P.O. Box 4538, St. Louis, MO 63108. Letters may be faxed to 367-0727 or sent by e-mail to kara@westendword.com. All letters must be signed by the writer, but names can be withheld for publication upon request. All letters are subject to editing for length, clarity and grammar. For information call 367-6612 ext. 29.

Gardening diva helps couples grow too

By Patricia Barber
Lafayette Square

Linda Weiner is a catalyst for discovering the rewards of working together.

Linda is Lafayette Square's unanimously proclaimed Gardening Diva. As a volunteer, Linda gathers together collections of plants and "planters of all ages" who share the robust work of watering them and tending them. (We imagine Linda coming out mornings just before dawn, bending down and encouraging the plants to "grow, grow, grow.")

And grow they do — in community gardens and on the Park Avenue, Truman Parkway and Jefferson medians. Some seasons the plantings are interesting, the next they are impressive, then wonderful and finally magnificent. Such are the rewards of working with Linda.

In her day job, Linda works with couples to invest robust repair strategies in rescuing their own relationships. As a relationship and communication specialist in private practice, Linda also teaches graduate level courses in human sexuality at Washington University, is a published author and presents at professional workshops and conferences.

Linda says she has seen a recent increase in the number of individuals and couples seeking help to understand and repair their unraveling relationships. She describes them as "couples who had fallen in love and then in the dedication of raising their children, building careers and caring for their parents realized the curious absence of that spark of feeling for each other. It is a common theme of having had that connection, losing it and



Linda Weiner

hoping for its revival."

Linda's new program, Intimate Reconnections, invites couples to a Valentine's weekend retreat in an idyllic Caribbean setting. In the program, Linda plans on leading each couple in daily counseling and educational group sessions to learn about communication and common relationship challenges, relaxation and mindfulness, setting the stage for the return of intimacy and connection.

As part of the couples' retreat, Linda includes a three-month telephone follow-up to ensure that the transition back to everyday life provides a space to sustain the progress made. The website www.intimateREconnections.com offers resources for couples and gives more information about Linda and her work in the community.

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Join the Lafayette Park Conservancy

The Lafayette Park Conservancy was organized in 2001, on the 150th anniversary of the park's dedication. Its mission is restoring, beautifying and improving Lafayette Park. The Conservancy, together with the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee and the St. Louis Parks Department, created a comprehensive master plan in 2003 for the development of Lafayette Park, and it is that master plan that continues to guide our actions.

Ongoing support of the Conservancy is critical in helping to meet multi-year park improvement goals, including the restoration of the Benton monument, the renovation of the boathouse, the re-creation of the music stand and the resurfacing and restoration of park pathways. Decades of deferred maintenance have tarnished the magnificence of historic Lafayette Park, but with your help we can and will restore its sparkle.

Your participation makes possible the accomplishment of both small and large projects in Lafayette Park and helps pay for ongoing maintenance. During 2007, for example, we finished replacing the beautiful urns on the grotto bridge — which had been missing for several decades — and began renewal of the Washington statue plantings.

In 2008, the Conservancy held a number of events, including a monument celebration, a gala and an auction, to raise more than \$24,000 toward the \$160,000 restoration of the statue and monument honoring Thomas Hart Benton, Missouri's first senator. The Conservancy

also completed several smaller projects and commissioned design documents for restoring the music stand, the revolutionary war cannons and resurfacing the park pathways.

If you agree that restoring significant park features and upgrading of park infrastructure (lighting, paths, benches, etc.) in a historically sensitive manner is a worthwhile civic effort that can open Lafayette Park to add a wider circle of park patrons and increased use and enjoyment for all, consider joining the Lafayette Park Conservancy. Your membership not only provides crucial funds for operation, park maintenance and improvement projects, but even more importantly demonstrates widespread community support as the Conservancy seeks significant larger funding from grant providers to accomplish such projects.

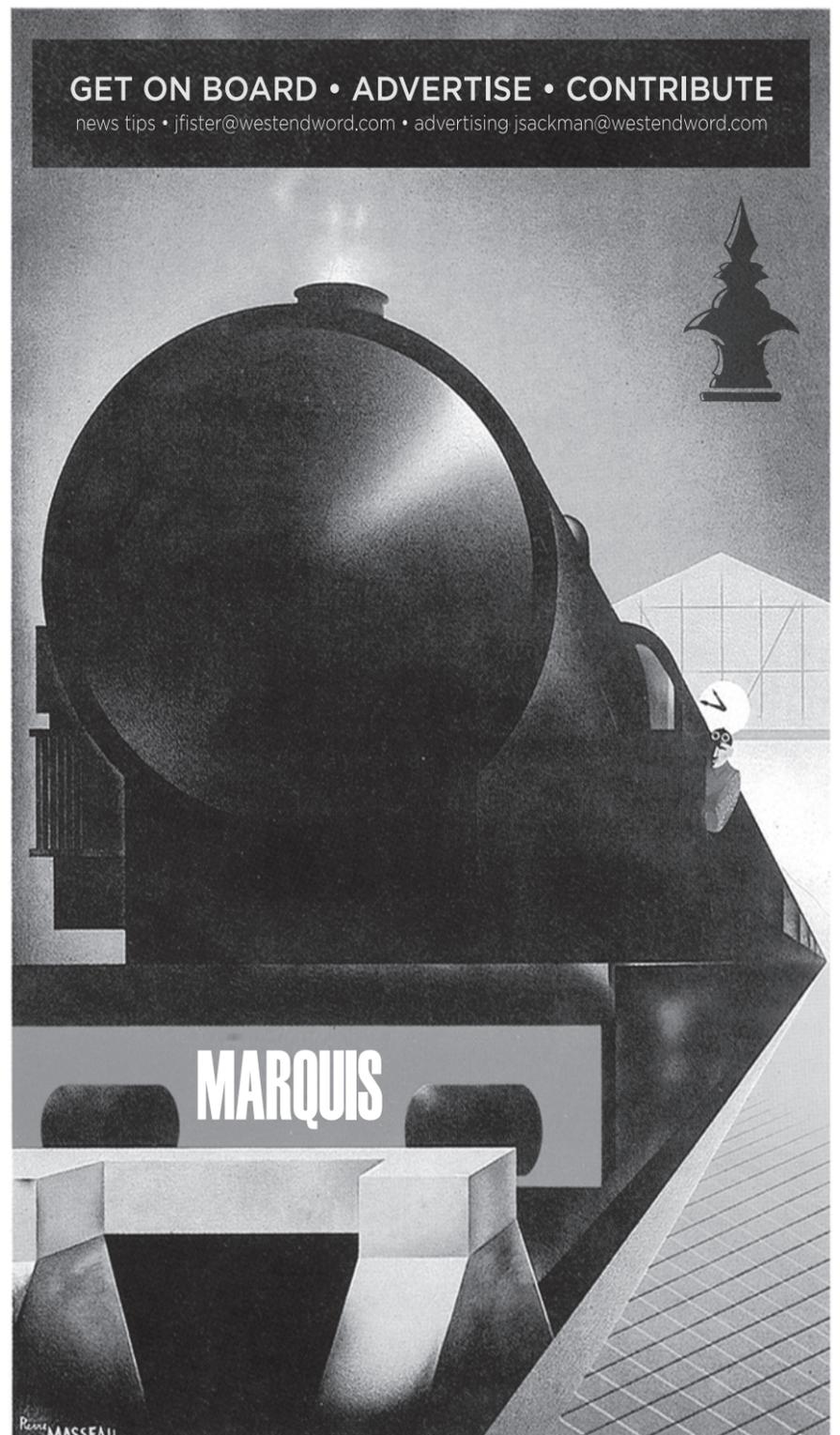
Many, many thanks for your past contributions to the Lafayette Park Conservancy. We look forward to your renewed support for and advocacy of St. Louis's historic Lafayette Park. To join the Conservancy or to renew your membership, just fill out the membership form on page 11 indicating your desired membership level and enclose payment. Your membership will then run for 12 months from the date of receipt, or will be extended by 12 months if you are renewing.

For further information, see our website at www.lafayettepark.org.

— Lafayette Park Conservancy

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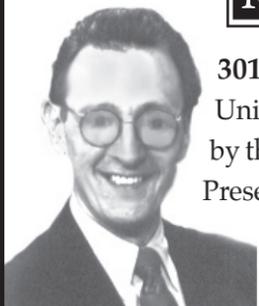
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November LSRC membership meeting minutes

NOV. 11, 2008 LSRC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was held at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church with approximately 48 residents in attendance. President Don Terrill called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the September and October minutes as presented by the secretary. Sign up sheets for Holiday House Tour docents were distributed.

Committee reports

Safety — Don Owens reported that he has been taking off graffiti on the dumpsters in the Vail/Mississippi alley. Graffiti has also been an issue on a wooden fence on Chouteau by the Mississippi Lofts. This issue has been on going over the past year. Don, Ron Taylor and Officer Brian Min met with the owners of the fence to determine remediation of the graffiti. Cleaning is pending and involves the cooperation of Operation Brightside and the current owner of the fence. Painting the fence does not appear to be a solution by either party. Don met with the Neighborhood Stabilization Officers to create a new hit list of problem properties. One of the identified properties identified on 18th Street may be up for sale.

Officer Min reported six larcenies in the Square last month: five car break-ins and one burglary. Year-to-date, crime is down 29 percent in Lafayette Square. There are still some issues with the area around 18th and Chouteau with gangs of kids getting in trouble. Please call 911 if you see any large groups of kids in the neighborhood so the police can keep an eye on them. Also, additional police and neighborhood surveillance was requested for Missouri

and Lafayette Ave. adjacent to the Methodist church. There have been frequent car break-ins and thefts in the area. Additional lighting has been added to this area. Keep your presents out of your car this holiday season and don't have your presents and valuables highly visible inside your home so as to discourage any potential car or home break-ins.

The Jefferson Bridge is scheduled to open at the end of December in time for the eastern portion of the I-64 construction shutdown.

Finance — Sue Linhardt reported that there is \$43,257 in the checking account and \$148,507 in savings for a total of \$191,000. Currently we're at 77 percent of budgeted income and 88 percent of budgeted expenses. The 2008 Holiday Tour is coming up and is expected to generate \$17,500 in revenue with a \$9,000 expense budget.

Development Committee — Mark Etling reported that the building at 1106 Dolman was reviewed with a developer/rehabber. The age of the building needs to be determined, as well as whether or not it is covered by our historic code. The two-story building adjacent to the former Edge Restaurant near LaSalle was damaged during the Praxair explosion. There has been an inquiry as to whether this building can be demolished. The committee is not inclined to allow this but more research needs to be done to determine the exact boundaries of our historic district to see if this building is covered. This is also the case with the stone house on Missouri.

House Tour — J. Watson Scott (Scottie) reported that the Halloween party organized by Susan Woffard Jones was well-attended by many of the surrounding neighborhood children.

Pete Snyder reported that there are 12 homes/buildings on the Holiday House Tour this year including the Methodist

church and the Park House. All homes on tour were listed in the November *Marquis*. Drawings of the proposed gazebo will be displayed in the Park House. The Methodist church will be hosting organ recitals throughout the day. Docents are needed for the homes. The list of sponsors is being finalized. Posters for distribution will be available at Four Muddy Paws, 1711 Park Ave. Neighbors can pick them up to distribute around the city and in their place of business. Postcards are due to be mailed the week of Nov. 17.

New business

Park House gazebo — The Lafayette Park Implementation Advisory Board and Cultural Resources have approved the plans for the proposed gazebo, according to Pete Synder. BPS is reviewing the plans for ADA compliance.

Beautification — Linda Weiner thanked Jeff Jensen and Matt Brazelton for coordinating the efforts on the improvements to the Park Avenue median. More trees are to be planted in the median and the bump-outs. Linda also thanked Pat Barber and Erin Budde for their hard work on the Jefferson median as well as Robin and Steve Mann for their work in the community garden. A special thank you to Ward Buckner for planting the trees between the fence and the sidewalk around the park, which were a gift from Mike McAvoy.

Arts Council — The Arts Council continues to struggle with financial burdens but a \$10,000 pledge has been made to the Arts Council for 2008-09 as reported by Pete Synder. The November article in the *Marquis* goes into more detail on the challenges of the Arts Council and their support of the Summer Concert Series. The concert budget is over \$15,000 each

summer. Any interested individuals who would like to be a part of the Arts Council task force should contact Pete Synder.

Old business

A motion was made, seconded and approved for Linda Skinner to become the new vice president and president-elect.

Announcements

The annual membership meeting of the Lafayette Park Conservancy is at 3 p.m. Nov. 16 in the Boat House.

Meeting schedule

The Arts Council of Lafayette Park will meet at 7 p.m. Nov. 13 in the Park House. The LPC will meet at 3 p.m. Nov. 16 in the Boat House.

The LSRC Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. Nov. 18 in the Park House.

The LSBA will meet at 8 a.m. Dec. 2 at Bailey's Chocolate Bar.

The LSRC Development Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 in the Park House.

The LSRC Membership meeting will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 9 at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church.

The 2008 Holiday Parlor Tour will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The social was hosted by Chelia Holmes and James Smallwood. Many thanks to our hosts!

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Jensen,
membership secretary

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Sharon Stockmann
Kenneth Stone
Aaron Taylor
Brian Till
Cynthia Todd

\$60 RESTORATIONIST

Kevin Bohnenstiehl
Ward Buckner
Julie Callahan
Mike Callahan
E. & L. Heigham
Chelia Holmes
Chuck Jung
Mary Kay Jung
Bill McCarthy
Tom Modglin
Bill Odman
Lucy Schreiber
James Smallwood
Tara Spevack
Margaret Wayne

\$150 INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY PRESERVATIONIST

Kerry Brooks & Stephen Davis
Addy & Paul Donnelly
Carol & David Fisher
Alice & David Galt
Chris & Mary Ann Goodson
Ferris & Gray
Lynda & Mike Green
Nathan & Samantha Hahn
Charles & Patricia Hoffman
Tom Malench & Steve Wilson
William Z. McCarthy
Carolyn & Mike McAvoy
Kenneth & Mary Ploch
Suzanne Sessions

\$250 INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY MARQUIS CIRCLE

Sarah Duffy & Edward Smith
Cheri & Wayne James
Tamara Keefe-Do
Sarah & Jim Kimmey
The Kincaid Family
Hannah Krigman & Jon Ritter
Anne Perkins & Mary Sale
Carolyn & Jim Willmore

\$10 FRIENDS OF LSRC (NON-RESIDENT)



LAFAYETTE PARK CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name(s) _____
 Address _____

 Telephone _____
 E-mail address _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

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

Please return with check or money order to:
Lafayette Park Conservancy,
2023 Lafayette Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63104
www.lafayettepark.org

Memberships are valid for one year.
 If your contribution is eligible for a matching gift, please submit a matching form from your company.

Lafayette Square Restoration Committee 2008 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.*

LAFAYETTE SQUARE MARQUIS



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD YOUR NEWS. CONTRIBUTE.

EMAIL KARA TO FIND OUT HOW: KARA@WESTENDWORD.COM

PIAZZA REPUBBLICA 20 - TELEF. 6336

S. p. A. Richter & C. - Napoli



Services

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TILES & STONES HOME IMPROVEMENTS – kitchens/baths, stonework, ceramic tile, marble, carpentry, drywall, decks refinished. Insured. Free estimates. 636-677-9005

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McAVOY REALTY

(314) 531-1900



4100 FLORA PLACE \$599,000
Arts and crafts style home on a fantastic tree lined private street. 5 gorgeous bedrooms and 3.5 luxury baths along with a fantastic 1st floor layout.



2229 PARK AVE \$525,000
Overlooking Historic Lafayette Park, this Victorian style home is unique & pristine! Gourmet kitchen. Mahogany library w/ secret sauna, 3 large bedrooms



7250 FORSYTH BLVD. \$479,000
This is a must see duplex within walking distance to the heart of Clayton & Washington University. 2 bedroom units w/ great living rooms, updated kitchens, nice baths.



5092 WESTMINSTER \$469,900
Great Central West End home located on a very family friendly private street. 5 beds, 3.5 baths, 3 car garage.



30 OAK BEND CT. \$399,000
A classic split level home built in 1959. Well maintained w/ no updates. 2,700 sq ft. 2 large BR, 1 1/2 baths, 2 car gar. Lot is in 2 parcels totaling over 1/2 acre. Huge sunrooms on each level.



3535-41 SALENA \$399,999
Great updated brick 4 family in the style of four attached wall townhomes. Great level of finish on these 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath premium units. All units rented!



4483 MCPHERSON \$399,900
Arts and crafts style masterpiece. 6 BR, 3.5 baths, a large yard, long driveway, hardwood flrs, premium kitchen, beamed ceilings in living rm with an amazing fireplace.



3500 VICTOR ST. \$374,500
Victorian beauty with 5 bedrooms and 3 baths. Unbelievable woodwork, a sweeping staircase, fireplaces with exquisite mantels, gourmet kitchen.



1205 MISSOURI \$335,000
A Victorian beauty featuring a brand new, high-end kitchen and dining area, spacious living room, finished lower level, 2nd floor laundry.



425 HANLEY \$303,900
Great Clayton home with an updated interior, 2 story garage, sharp deck, 3 large bedrooms, 3 great baths. Property is in need of some repair and being sold as-is.



3315 SHENANDOAH \$299,900
Spectacular 3 story 5 bedroom 3.5 bath property on large lot w/ garage. New hardwood & marble floors, grand oak staircase, impressive master bedroom suite and dramatic facade.



1229 ALLEN MKT LN. \$270,000
Multiple building property which contains 3 separate living spaces. Main building is 3 bedrooms with an amazing master suite. Call Scott Maddux at (314) 369-3786 for more information.



3213 RUSSELL \$259,900
3-story Victorian rehab. Tall double front drs; dramatic staircase; hrdwd flrs; spacious LR & DR w/ decorative fireplaces; eat-in kitchen w/ center island & custom oak cabinets.



2642 SHENANDOAH \$224,000
This Fox Park gem is a recent gut rehab with the building's historical integrity maintained. Features include an incredible private side lot.



6404 CATES \$224,900
Large and impressive this is a great deal in U City! Underground parking, luxury kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace, laundry room and a deck with views of the city



6160 WASHINGTON \$229,900
Spectacular 4 BR, 3 bath Skinker-DeBaliviere area home w/ wood floors, updated electric & plumbing, newer kitchen, lighting & window.



5479 PERNOD \$218,500
Great brick bungalow with 4 BR, 2 full baths. This home features stunning hardwood flrs, great updated second floor w/ extra living space & a one car garage.



3214 CALIFORNIA \$217,000
Award nominated historic 2 bd/ 2.5 bath home which has been restored to better than original condition! Call Scott Maddux at (314) 369-3786 for more information.



3674 BLAINE \$200,000
Newly renovated 4 BR, 2 bath home in the Tiffany neighborhood with bamboo flrs, new kitchen w/ great cabinets & appliances. Nice yard w/ a great deck.



1212 SHENANDOAH \$198,900
Terrific townhouse style, 2-family in the heart of Souldard. Each unit has been remodeled w/ carpet, fresh paint, updated kitchens & bath. Well appointed w/ exposed brick, stained glass.



4003 FLAD \$195,000
Wonderful Shaw home with hardwood floors throughout a sharp new addition, 3 beds, 1.5 baths and a great yard. Call Jennifer Hamlet at (314) 368-8047 for more information.



2040 RUSSELL \$195,000
Brick 2-family with a 1 bed & 1 bath first floor apartment; 2nd and 3rd floor are a 4 BR 1 bath unit w/ an attached greenhouse! 2 story carriage house has great potential for another unit.



2020 WASHINGTON \$194,000
Fabulous 6th floor unit with top-of-the-line features an open floorplan and great views of the city!



2112 WAVERLY \$189,900
Features include pocket doors, high ceilings, stained glass, wet bar and a dramatic sitting room at the top of the stairs. Located in the McKinley Heights.



2306 HICKORY \$182,000
Very nice two-family in historic Lafayette Square. Each unit has woodburning fireplaces, a great deck, open kitchens to living room a large bedroom and updated bath.



2702 MISSOURI \$194,500
Charming Benton Park home with nicely updated kitchen, spacious living and dining room with original pine floors and a 3rd floor great for a 4th BR suite or media room.



3001 CHIPPEWA \$189,900
Store front with 500+ sq ft white box finish and half bath. 2 room efficiency behind commercial area. 4 room, 2 bedroom apartment upstairs with laundry.



2859-61 WISCONSIN \$184,900
Two properties, one price! Great rehab with two townhomes each with 2 bedrooms 1.5 baths. Quality kitchens and baths, quiet cul-de-sac, Benton Park North!



7331 YATES \$179,900
4 Bed, 3.5 Bath immaculate home. Spacious living with an updated kitchen, big backyard and an above ground pool! Call Scott Maddux at (314) 369-3786 for more information.



3016 GEYER AVE. \$175,000
Unique treasure offered for sale by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Victorian Second Empire Style!



8534 KATHLEEN \$159,900
Large gingerbread home with stained glass windows, hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace, 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, bonus family room, and an attached basement garage.



3635 HUMPHREY \$158,000
Beautiful condos in a great location. Walk to all the restaurants and shops on grand South Grand. 6 units available. Several different layouts to choose from, each unique.



2413 S. 13TH ST. \$156,900
See this fantastic 1br/1ba condo on a tree-lined block of historic Souldard. Exposed brick walls, hrdwd flrs, gourmet kitchen w/ granite countertops & stainless steel appliances, large LR w/ mantle.



1525 HOGAN \$139,900
Beautiful 1.5 story newer home in the heart of St. Louis City with 3 beds, 2.5 baths and an attached 2 car garage.



1017 BATES \$129,900
This spacious beauty has 5 BR, upstairs laundry, updated kitchen, an office, mudroom, sunroom, sanctuary, living, FR and DR. Renovated & ready for living large.

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