

MARQUIS

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Founded by the residents of Lafayette Square

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Happy 150th Birthday, George!

Washington statue honored during Feb. 16 ceremony

By Carolyn Willmore
Lafayette Square

The Cornelia Green Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored George Washington with a wreath-laying ceremony in Lafayette Park on President's Day. This annual patriotic event, which began in 1968, was held in front of Houdon's statue of George Washington at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 16. The Lafayette Park Conservancy once again provided a reception in the Park House before the event.

Pamela Davis, regent of Cornelia Green Chapter, introduced honored guests from the Missouri State Society DAR, including Honorary State Regent June Lanz, State Vice Regent Donna Nash and State Regent Lemira Parks. Rev. Kathleen Wilder, pastor of Lafayette Park United Methodist Church, delivered the invocation and benediction. The guest speaker was Douglas Niermeyer, former commander-in-chief of the Missouri Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), the Missouri branch of an association of former Union military officers. The Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard, Eastern Missouri Continental Color Guard Company, posted and retired the Colors.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the placement of the statue of George Washington in Lafayette Park. The 1874 Report of the Board of Improvement of Lafayette Park described the statues acquisition in 1869:



Carolyn Willmore photo

Pam Davis cuts into a birthday cake for the Washington statue at a Lafayette Park Conservancy reception before a Feb. 16 wreath-laying ceremony.

"A bronze statue of Washington was purchased by the Board and erected this year. This statue is a copy of the original in the capital at Richmond, Va., taken from life by the celebrated French artist Houdon. Monsieur Houdon came to this country during the lifetime of Washington, expressly to model a statue of that distinguished man,

and spent three months at Mount Vernon, engaged much of the time upon the work of the model. It is undoubtedly a correct representation of the 'Father of his Country' as he was in 1788, when the original was made. It is regarded as a fine work of art, and the Board deemed it a valuable acquisition to the city as well as to the park. The erection

was made the occasion of a large gathering of our citizens, at which his honor Mayor Nathan Cole presided and appropriate addresses and music followed. The day was signally pleasant, and the crowd evidently enjoyed the growing development of beauty and art in and about the park."

See Statue, page 5

Mayoral race heats up before April 7 election

By Tim Woodcock
Marquis contributor

The April 7 general election sees Mayor Francis Slay running for a third term in office, with opposition from three

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April Marquis Deadline:
Wednesday, April 1

challengers.

Slay took 61.6 percent of the vote March 3 to win the Democratic primary. The most serious threat now appears to come from Maida Coleman, a State Senator who was elected as a Democrat but who is now running as an Independent. Rounding out the field is Elston McCowan of the Green Party and Robb Cunningham, a Libertarian. No Republicans have filed for the office.

There has been only one debate among the mayoral candidates, and Slay did not attend the event, saying his record speaks for itself. Among the achievements touted in recent campaign literature: an improved business culture; support for the charter-school movement and after-school programs; a more effective approach to problem properties; and an increased number of jail cells in the city.

While Slay is generally credited as having ushered in a period of growth for the city, his second term saw his reputation suffer from scandals in the police department and controversy over his decision to

sack head of the fire department Sherman George. Additionally, residents have been torn over his support for charter schools at the expense of the St. Louis Public Schools.

At the candidates' forum on Feb. 26 at Harris-Stowe State University, Coleman said one of her top priorities would be reform of the police department, which on her campaign website she characterizes as rife with "cronism" and "nepotism."

Coleman said that as a state senator she has been an advocate for St. Louis Public Schools. As a state senator she opposed efforts by the state to create an appointed board to oversee the schools. Coleman wants to remove those emergency powers and to return to power a locally elected school board.

Additionally, the city should be chasing federal stimulus money to shore up the local job market, she said. Without a strong local economy, the city cannot expect to have the tax base needed to maintain its infrastructure, she said.

McCowan, the Green candidate, said he would be an "activist-mayor," who would

take a stand on social-justice and environmental issues. He said the city should apply pressure in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C., for more transit funding. He also said city government should be more involved with job training, particularly in those neighborhoods with the highest unemployment rates.

The Green Party is looking to solidify its position as the second largest party in the city and to become a serious opposition party. In the 2005 mayoral election, the Green Party candidate took 21 percent of the vote.

Robb Cunningham said that as a representative of the Libertarian Party he is under no delusion that his party can win. The importance of running is to make Libertarian ideas part of the political debate. At its core the Libertarian message aims to get people away from thinking that "government is going to take care of me," he said. Specifically, he said St. Louisans should consider privatizing its education and transit systems, which would be more efficient than to keep plowing tax money into them.

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Spring is almost here; so is spring parlor tour

By Don Terrill
LSRC President

Happy springtime to all!
We know that it is really the beginning of spring not because the weather is starting to warm up, but because the LSRC Board of Directors received its first update on the Spring Parlor Tour! Yes, it is time again for all residents of Lafayette Square to polish off their egos and call Ian Stallman to say, "Ian, you don't know me but I have the most beautiful and unique house in Lafayette Square and I would love to be on the Spring Parlor Tour!" What a great opportunity — the 40th anniversary of the Spring Parlor Tour (have I said Spring Parlor Tour enough times?). You'll be in all the local newspapers, maybe on TV, maybe even on the internet. Everyone will know that you do have the most beautiful and unique house in Lafayette Square! By the way, Ian also needs a variety of volunteers to help put the event together and to execute it. Give him a call, he is in the phone directory.

It won't be that much longer before you see your next-door neighbor volunteering

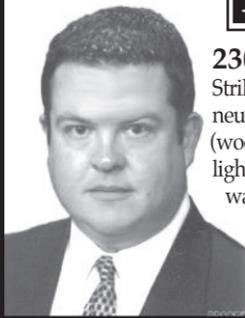
in the park or on the median on Jefferson or Park Avenue. This is what Lafayette Square is all about: people helping people. If you are not already active in the neighborhood, find someone who is and ask what you can do to join the fun.

We have the LPC (Lafayette Park Conservancy) — Bob Bischoff is always looking for someone to talk to about the history and present and future beauty of our park. Pete Snyder needs fun-loving people to help the Arts Council work on the summer concert series or Movies in the Park. He has lineups for both that are bigger and better than last year. Linda Weiner has plots of land ready to be planted in the community garden, and the Beautification Committee always needs hands that like to get dirty in soil.

All these groups were started as part of the LSRC in one way, shape or form. So, if you are thinking, "Why should I join the LSRC?" The answer is, "To help our community grow and be even better than it already is, if that's possible!"

Keep reading the *Marquis* and encourage your neighbor to do the same. The news of the neighborhood is in your hands!

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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.

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 kara@westendword.com or call 314-367-6612 x29. For advertising info, contact jsackman@westendword.com or call 314-367-6612 x23.



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Cabrini to host Flying Nun Run March 28

On March 28, in beautiful Tower Grove Park, St. Frances Cabrini Academy will host its third annual "Flying Nun Run" 5K race. On that day the fastest runners and the slowest walkers the South Side (and beyond) has to offer will gather for a 5K run (3.12 miles) and a one-mile fun walk.

In homage to its patron saint, the event is called the Flying Nun Run. In the course of her work establishing hospitals, orphanages, and schools for the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Frances Cabrini traveled thousands of miles around the world. In fewer than 30 years, she crossed the ocean 30 times and visited eight countries. She worked at an extremely fast pace.

Unlike St. Frances, you don't have to be capable of traveling at great speed to participate in the Flying Nun Run. If you're in the mood for competition or just a

relaxing run, sign up for the 5K. If you feel like strolling through the park and chatting with a friend, go for the one-mile walk. All participants will receive a Flying Nun Run long-sleeve T-shirt.

Prizes for the 5K will be awarded to winners in all age groups, and attendance prizes will also be given out.

You can register online by visiting the Cabrini website at www.cabriniacademy.org. If you have any questions or would like to support the race in some way, call Kate Fortier at 865-4170.

St. Frances Cabrini Academy, located at the corner of Arsenal Street and Oregon Avenue, provides a quality education to a diverse student body in grades Kindergarten through eighth grade. If you would like to learn more about Cabrini, call 776-0883 or visit the website.

SLPL now circulating games

The St. Louis Public Library is excited to announce that it is now circulating Microsoft Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii video games!

These gaming systems are incredibly popular and the library has worked to provide a variety of games for everyone from the novice to the advanced gamer. We offer movie tie-in games (Lego Batman, Bee Movie, Chronicles of Narnia), sports (College Hoops NCAA 2K8, Madden NFL

2009, Mario Super Sluggers) and strategy (Command and Conquer, Elder Scrolls IV).

Patrons can check out up to four titles at a time and keep them for a seven-day loan period. All games are housed at the Film Library, 1415 Olive St., but can be placed on request and delivered to any SLPL branch. You can also search for them on our online catalog by using either "Nintendo Wii Video Games" or "Microsoft Video Games."

Barr Branch Public Library upcoming events

March

16 Storytime. Stories, songs and more. Groups of five or more register in advance. Preschool. Ages 3-5. 11-11:30 a.m.

17 Got Game? X-Box 360 and Wii gaming. Teen. 4-6 p.m.

18 Crayon Etching: Celebrate Youth Art Month by creating a multi-color etching with crayons and a toothpick. School age. 4-5 p.m.

19 Game time. Families. 4-5 p.m.
GED: Path to Success. Adult. 4-6 p.m.

24 Study Lounge: Get homework help, listen to music and hang out with friends. Teen. 4-6 p.m.

26 GED: Path to Success. Adult. 4-6 p.m.

30 Storytime. Stories, songs and more. Groups of five or more register in advance. Preschool. Ages 3-5. 11-11:30 a.m.

All events take place at the Barr Branch of the St. Louis Public Library, 1701 S. Jefferson Ave. For hours or more information call 771-7040.

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Shop and Read

HGTV visits the Square

By Araceli Kopiloff-Zimmer
Soulard

My husband and I, Araceli Kopiloff-Zimmer and Richard Zimmer, bought an old mortgage company at 2024-26 Lafayette Ave. in Lafayette Square and are opening an antique store and café called Rue Lafayette. The building was built in 1926 and it is located directly across the street from the Park House.

A few months ago, we found out through the Soulard Restoration Group that a crew from DIY Network was looking to film an episode in our lovely historic neighborhood.

I contacted them, submitted a DVD of our project and to our huge surprise they selected us to feature in a program called *Renovation Realities*, which airs on both DIY and HGTV networks. Crews from both networks came to film us for five days for an episode that will air on both networks in April. We will post the air dates on our website as soon as we find out.

The show focuses on homeowners doing renovations on their own with no help from professionals. My two girlfriends and I were given three tasks: taking down a wall; taking up old tile and laying new tile with a decorative medallion in the center; and building a counter for the café.

The show will surely be a comedy because none of us know the first thing about renovation or possess any type of skills in that area. Despite our pratfalls, we hope to open the shop in April. There will be great shopping, delicious food, art and many unique elements that we have acquired having lived internationally. We will have authentic Parisian croissants, delicious coffee and many other amazing pastries created by our executive chef, Natalia Penchaszadeh.



Photo courtesy of Araceli Kopiloff-Zimmer

Araceli Kopiloff-Zimmer rests for a moment while working on renovations to an old mortgage building on Lafayette Avenue. The building will soon house Rue Lafayette, an antique store and cafe. The renovations were filmed by HGTV and DIY network for airing in April.

Rue Lafayette will be a romantic place for dates, with quaint outdoor seating overlooking the park and extra cozy on cool days warmed by an outdoor fire pit. It will also be a great place for kids. We will have toy sailboats that children can take to the two lakes in Lafayette Park. My vision is to have children play at the lakes like they do in Paris at the Luxembourg Gardens.

We are having a huge grand opening with music, drinks and food. To get on the guest list, sign up at our website at www.ruelafayette.us and select "Guest Book." You will be notified of the opening date, HGTV air date and Grand Opening Gala. To see our chef's dishes and experience, please visit her at www.zinur.com.

Anti-meth bill pits public safety against public health

By Jeanette Mott Oxford
59th District State Representative

House and Senate committees recently held hearings on bills that would require a doctor's prescription to obtain many common cold, flu and allergy medications that long have been available over the counter. Senate Bill 160 sponsored by Sen. Jason Crowell and House Bill 496 sponsored by Rep. Scott Lipke target medication containing pseudoephedrine, a necessary ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Missouri has steadily increased restrictions on the availability of pseudoephedrine products, such as Sudafed and Claritin, in recent years. Under current law, individuals are limited in the amount of such products they can buy per month and must show identification and sign a log book when making purchases. Missouri, however, remains the national leader in the number of meth lab busts.

Law enforcement officials say making pseudoephedrine products prescription-only will drastically reduce meth production in Missouri. Supporters say a similar law adopted in Oregon in 2006 virtually eliminated meth labs in that state.

However, medical groups say that requiring a visit to the doctor's office for minor maladies would place additional burdens on an already overburdened health care system and increase costs for patients and their insurers.

Representatives from districts with large numbers of elderly, low income, or minority residents among their constituents were especially concerned about

the costs and difficulties involved in additional medical appointments and prescriptions.

What do you think about this legislation? I may be voting on it later this session and welcome your thoughts.

Missouri to get \$4.3 billion from federal stimulus

On Feb. 18 Gov. Jay Nixon outlined his plans for spending the estimated \$4.3 billion in federal aid Missouri expects to receive from the national economy recovery bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama days earlier. Nixon had already included \$800 million in spending in his proposed state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Nixon's three-pronged plan includes developing "human capital" by investing more in public schools and job training programs, improving the state's transportation and information infrastructure, and creating jobs in the fields of science and emerging technologies.

While the stimulus package was being debated, I contacted Missouri's nine Representatives and two Senators to ask that funds be used to save Metro bus routes that are scheduled to be cut and to prevent the loss of more than 600 Metro jobs. Unfortunately it appears that the stimulus funds can only be used for expansion of public transportation systems, not for operating expenses.

A few of my House and Senate colleagues are making noise about refusing the federal funds. Hopefully we will be able to talk them out of that foolishness so that Missouri does not lose its funds to other states.

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Annual favorites coming up at LPUMC

By Debra Crowe
Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

If you're new to the neighborhood — or to Lafayette Park United Methodist Church — enjoying good food in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere provides a great opportunity to meet some of our regular attendees and learn about our church and its activities.

A perennial favorite of those activities is coming up soon — the annual corned beef and cabbage dinner. Served March 14 from noon to 7 p.m., it's your chance to enjoy great home cooking at an incomparable price. In addition to corned beef and cabbage, the menu includes carrots, green beans, bread and butter, dessert and a drink all for the price of just \$7 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12. Kids under age five eat free. For those who prefer, the option of roast beef and potatoes will be available, as well. If you don't have the time to dine in, call 771-9214 and place your order for carry-out. You can enter Fellowship Hall, where the meal will take place, from either the door under the

awning on the north side of the church or from the side door from the parking lot on the west side. For pick up of take-out orders, go straight to the kitchen at the south end of the hall.

Another much-anticipated annual event is the Easter Egg Hunt in Lafayette Park and it's coming up soon. On April 11, bring the kids — and baskets or bags for holding their eggs — to the southwest corner of the park at 10:30 a.m. The Easter Bunny will be there to kick off the morning's festivities. The area will be divided into sections to accommodate different age groups, so even the little ones will have plenty of opportunities to find eggs. Following the hunt, come back to the church for games and food — and the chance for the kids to celebrate their egg-hunting fortunes! Round out the weekend with a return visit for Easter Sunday service. For details, see next month's issue of the *Marquis*.

Lafayette Park United Methodist Church is located at 2300 Lafayette Ave., one block east of Jefferson. You can reach us by phone at 771-9214 or visit our website at www.lp-umc.org.

Flora Conservancy to host plant sale May 9

Flora Conservancy of Forest Park is sponsoring a plant sale at the Jewel Box from 9 a.m. to noon May 9. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase gardening equipment and plant material for the gardens of the Jewel Box, Pagoda Circle and Cabanne House in Forest Park. These floral gardens of Forest Park are maintained by Flora Conservancy volunteers and city of St. Louis Parks Department who work together in a partnership.

Many of the flowers offered at the sale can be found on the Missouri Botanical Garden's Plants of Merit list making them appropriate choices for your home garden.

A small sampling of the plants offered

at the sale includes: abelmoschus, angelonia, asclepias, bromeliads, brugmansia, cannas, cigar plant, coleus, elephant ears, evolvulus, herbs, ixora, Moses-in-the-cradle, Norfolk pines, oleander, peppers, salvia, scaevola, shrimp plant, tomatoes, torenia and tunera.

All of these plants can be found in the gardens of the Jewel Box throughout the summer and you are invited to visit often to watch them grow and mature. We encourage you to collect seeds from these plants in the autumn to start in your own yard next spring.

For more information about Flora Conservancy visit www.floraconservancy.org or call Karen at 304-6831.

Volunteers needed for spring gardening work

By Linda Weiner
Lafayette Square

Quote of the month

"Working with the soil doesn't automatically endow man with either wisdom or philosophy but it does make him aware of orderly sequences such as night and day, summer and winter, bud, blossom and seed. And of such certainties as life, death and change. Knowing those things, a man can live with himself and probably get along with his neighbors."

— Hal Borland (1900-1978),
American writer

Gearing up for spring volunteerism

As spring approaches the phone begins to ring and the computer buzzes with gardening interest. In early spring we can always count on Operation Brightside to steer volunteers our way and help us prepare to "blitz" our neighborhood and our basements!

The first organized spring cleanup will be April 18 when we expect 60 St. Louis University volunteers to divide up between the Jefferson, Truman and Park Avenue medians and Lafayette Park. Thanks go to Keith Welsh, Sue Pinker Dodd and Patricia Barber for volunteering to supervise these energetic but generally clueless gardening volunteers. We will need additional supervisor volunteers and additional wheelbarrows for the event, so please call me at 621-7071 or e-mail me at Linderweiner@prodigy.net to help. Meet at the Washington Statue at 9 a.m.

We also need a volunteer to air up our fleet of wheelbarrows in the boat house before April 18. Come on guys with those portable air pumps — you know you want to use them!

Please also mark your calendars for the Operation Brightside Blitz on May 9. We will have a gardening event at Lafayette Park but this is also the time to clear out all that stuff you want to be rid of, as the Forestry Department and waste haulers will be circling the neighborhood. Please consider donating or recycling usable junk (or unneeded treasures as they may be) instead of sending them to landfills.

If you would like to volunteer to be a

block captain for Operation Brightside, perhaps to organize your block to sweep the alley or cut down brush in a neglected spot, please contact me. Thanks to Bridget Cartwright and Jason Stokes of Wireworks and Adam Rucker of Rutger for volunteering this year and to our old faithfuls Tony Mike-sell, Patricia Barber, Ward Buckner, Don Little, Mitchell and Devyani Hunt, Suzanne Sessions, Pete and Karen Snyder, Mark and Terry Etling, Diana Gray, Don Owens, Ian Stallman, Rebecca Wright, Bob Pinkowski and Beverly McClain, Kelly Steinman, Lynne Keay, Margaret Howard and Wendy Dodd. You are appreciated!

New ornamental trees on Truman

Many thanks to Alderwoman Triplett, Chris McCarthy of Forestry and Keith Welsh for the new batch of ornamental trees on the east and west side of the Park and Truman entrance to the neighborhood. It's the icing on the cake of a well-thought-out planting extravaganza.

Party gals step forward for the Lafayette Park Conservancy

Many thanks to Lynn DeMoss and Georgie Busch for stepping forward to help with Lafayette Park Conservancy Fundraising for 2009. Lynn's special interest is in helping to raise funds to complete Stage 1 of the boat house restoration by throwing a Halloween Party for adults. Georgie has done some fundraising as a St. Louis Ambassador member and will be zeroing in on a project shortly. If you would like to help plan events, give me a call!

Lafayette Park pathways project update

We are happy to report that we have received the second proposal for creating a master plan for park pathways from John Hoal of H3 and plan to meet shortly to continue to move forward on this project. The Pathways Committee is combining efforts with the Historic Walk Committee as we share our vision and energy. Once a selection has been made for the firm to create the master plan, an open meeting for community input will be scheduled at the boat house.

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- 2050 Lafayette 3E - Condo on the Park Under \$200,000 Nearly new everything. 1100 SF
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- 1421 Dolman - New listing, 2-story home with 2 bdrms 1.5 bathc, off-street pkg.
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SINCE 2000

LPC begins sixth year of helping Lafayette Park

By Bob Bischoff
Lafayette Park Conservancy President

Have you ever wondered how the Lafayette Park Conservancy (LPC) came to be, what its mission is or what relationship it has with the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee (LSRC)? These questions seem to come up repeatedly, so I thought it might be worthwhile to relate the history of the LPC's creation.

The original impetus for founding the LPC came out of the 2001 urban planning sessions held jointly by the city of St. Louis and the LSRC neighborhood organization. The purpose of those sessions was to develop a plan that documented the neighborhood's aspirations for the development of the Lafayette Square neighborhood over the next quarter century. The resulting Lafayette Square Neighborhood Urban Plan was formally adopted by the city in late 2001.

As part of that urban planning process, it was recommended that an additional "master plan" be developed to guide the restoration of Lafayette Park, and that a "Friends" organization similar to Forest Park Forever be created to raise funds for and manage ongoing restoration and preservation projects in the park. Based on that recommendation, the Lafayette Park Conservancy was incorporated in November 2001.

In 2003, the LSRC and the city jointly sponsored the other park-oriented actions recommended by the neighborhood urban plan, holding further public meetings and paying for the creation of the Lafayette Park master plan. Its total cost was \$95,000, with \$65,000 provided by city and \$30,000 by

the LSRC.

The park master plan, adopted by the city in late 2003, additionally created the Lafayette Park Implementation Advisory Board (LPIAB), a group that reviews and oversees every major park improvement project to ensure its compliance with the intent expressed by the master plan, and recommends changes in the master plan itself should such become necessary or advisable. Forest Park, one of the few other city parks to have a master plan, has a similar group and protocol for overseeing compliance. (See the LPIAB website at www.lpiab.org if you want to know more about this important group.)

Prior to the formation of the LPC, the LSRC was the primary advocate for and friend of Lafayette Park. Indeed, one of the LSRC's stated purposes has always been to "re-establish Lafayette Park as a focal point." To that end, the LSRC has initiated and completed a number of park projects over the 40 years of its existence, culminating in its largest and most visible contribution, the magnificent restoration of both the exterior and interior of the Park House, which it now leases as its headquarters. In 2009, the LSRC plans to complete a gazebo addition to the western end of the Park House, expanding its usability as an event venue and adding to the overall beauty of this southeast corner of the park.

The Lafayette Park Conservancy, although incorporated in November 2001 so that its founding could commemorate the 150th anniversary of the park's original 1851 dedication, did not actually begin holding meetings

See LPC, page 7



George Washington Statue, Lafayette Park, St. Louis, Mo.

Image courtesy of Ron Taylor

A postcard of the the Washington statue from the early 1900s

Statue from page 1

Walter B. Stevens published a history of the Washington statue in *St. Louis the Fourth City, 1769 - 1909, Vol. I*, a portion of which follows here.

"The statue of George Washington which stands in Lafayette Park was located in an honorable position only after much discouragement. It was one of six casts made by W. J. Hubbard, a Virginian, from the original marble at Richmond. The sculptor was Houdon, of the highest rank in Europe. He came to this country at the solicitation of Jefferson and Franklin, while they were in Paris, to undertake the work.

"He was welcomed by Washington at Mount Vernon and during his stay took a cast of the head of his host. In that way he obtained a perfect likeness of Washington. Returning to France, he carved the statue in marble. The commission was given by the legislature of Virginia in 1780, when Benjamin Harrison was governor of the state. The act of the legislature stipulated that the statue of General Washington was to be 'of the finest marble and of the best workmanship.'

"When the marble statue was completed,

Hubbard obtained permission from the Virginia legislature to have a bronze statue cast from the original. He brought workmen from Munich and made six casts. One of the six went to New Orleans, one to Richmond, Va., one to Montgomery, Ala., one to Charleston, S.C., and one to New York.

"The sixth was brought to St. Louis by Mr. Hubbard in 1860 and was exhibited in Spencer's art emporium on Fourth street (sic). The artist had been led to believe that the city council of St. Louis would purchase the statue, but when he arrived the council had changed though a new election and refused to make the purchase."

The Board of Improvement of Lafayette Park later purchased the statue for \$7,000 and installed it in the park in 1869. Over the years, various groups and individuals have maintained the Washington statue. A bronze plaque commemorated a restoration by the National Society of the Colonial Dames in the State of Missouri to celebrate the 1976 Bicentennial.

In 1980, the Cornelia Greene Chapter rededicated the George Washington statue as a Daughters of the American Revolution historic landmark. In 2002, the statue was restored by the St. Louis Ambassadors.



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February LSRC membership meeting minutes

MINUTES FOR FEB. 10, 2009 LSRC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting was held at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church with approximately 58 residents in attendance. President Don Terrill called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the January minutes as presented by the secretary. Sign-up sheets for 2009 after-meeting socials were distributed.

Special presentation

Mayor Francis Slay — Mayor Slay thanked the neighborhood for its active involvement and tremendous reputation for improving our neighborhood. He has great respect for the history and architecture of Lafayette Square and for our neighborhood becoming a top destination for for visitors plus our beautiful park. Alderwomen Phyllis Young and Kacie Starr Triplett were also in attendance.

Mayor Slay is running for re-election in spring 2009. His priorities include a continued focus on making St. Louis a better place to live with a passion for keeping our neighborhoods clean and safe. He has implemented a new reverse 911 system so that homebound seniors can be contacted in the event of an emergency (e.g. extreme heat or cold) plus he has expanded a meals-on-wheels feeding program. Jobs and education remain his top priorities. Billions of dollars have been spent in developing our neighborhoods.

The city has also become more efficient in repairs, as well as trash removal, grass cutting and lighting. The plight of our homeless has also received assistance with the addition of a veteran's coordinator. Bureaucracy has been streamlined by holding managers accountable for their individual departments. Diversity in government is also a top priority.

Education remains a major issue for his administration including preschool and after-school programs. Mayor Slay supports free charter schools to enhance better quality education options. Mass transit is also critical to our future as a city.

The economy is challenging city government too. Sales tax is down 3 percent, the earnings tax is flat. The city is projecting a \$10 million shortfall this fiscal year and a \$26 million budget gap in next year's fiscal budget beginning on July 1. The city has hired a consulting firm to assist them in the budgeting process. Their suggestions have included eliminating some of the top department positions. A pension task force has been established to ensure the continued long-term liquidity of this fund.

In terms of the proposed Dolman Development project he rejects the current proposal (see New Business – Development below).

Committee reports

Safety — Don Owens reported that another of the problem properties is now up for sale on the problem property hit list.

Officer Bob Lang introduced the new captain for the Third District. Captain Gwen Spicer has served on the department for 31 years. Her phone number is 444-2580.

Safety reminder: There was an armed robbery on Jan. 22 on Mississippi. It was a car theft but the victim was an excellent witness, staying calm and securing a good description of the perpetrators and a license plate number. Tag stealing remains a top concern. The best defense is to cover the plates, use your club and keep absolutely nothing in plain view, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant.

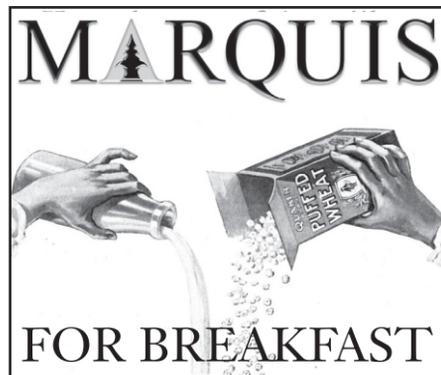
Finance — Currently have \$1,100 in membership year-to-date and approximately \$195,000 in the bank with \$50,000 in the unreserved fund balance above our operating balance.

Community Affairs — Liz Lohman is working on making the Lafayette Square website a portal of useful information for the neighborhood, including archiving the general meeting minutes, upcoming events, book clubs, etc. Liz can be reached at ejlohman@gmail.com.

Membership — Jeff Jensen reported that the new LSRC membership year began in January. New membership applications for 2009 were distributed at the LSRC meetings and published in the *Marquis*. The membership rates did not increase from 2008. Reminder that only paid members of the LSRC can vote on fiduciary decisions of the LSRC.

New business

Request for funding from the Lafayette Park Conservancy — President Bob Bischoff presented a letter from the LPC to the LSRC proposing the following donation from the LSRC for the 2009 fiscal year: \$3,000 for operations and maintenance of the park; \$6,500 for a historic walk and tour; \$6,000 for the Revolutionary War cannons; and \$6,000 for pathway restoration. The total request



is \$21,500.

The membership had an opportunity to pose questions. Bob will detail the proposal in the March issue of the *Marquis*. The proposal will be evaluated by the LSRC Board and brought before the membership in March for a formal motion. The general membership will vote on the motion at the April meeting. The membership will also vote on whether or not the LSRC will \$20,000 out of its unreserved fund balance for the Park House gazebo project at that meeting.

You must be a paid member of the LSRC as of Tuesday, April 14 in order to place your vote.

Development — The committee evaluated the preliminary plan for a proposed addition to 1824 Kennett extending to the east.

A conceptual proposal was also evaluated for Dolman. As presented, the plans include townhouses of 1,500 and 1,800 square feet based on 18th Street row house designs. The plans call for painted brick facades with vinyl siding on the remaining three sides of the residence. There is continuing dialogue with the city and our alderwoman. The Dolman area was originally under the Hope VI project and received federal funds from that program for the installation of sidewalks, historic lighting, alley improvements and connecting Dolman to 18th Street, which was an urban plan proposal.

The proposed development would allow three to four of the proposed homes to be purchased below market price to those eligible under this program. This is not a mixed-income development. Those homes would still be built exactly as the others (interior and exterior), hence the

fair market value would still be the same as the others. Under this program, if the owner sells the house before they are fully vested (10 years for example), a portion of the capital gains would go back to the city.

Announcements

The LPC will host a wreath-laying ceremony at the Washington statue at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 16 with the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Park House will be open at 9:30 a.m.

The Barr Library is celebrating Black History Month. Calendars of upcoming events were distributed at the meeting.

Alderwoman Phyllis Young of the Seventh Ward reminded the membership that while she is running unopposed during the March primary, she does have a Green Party opponent running in the April general election. She requested the neighborhood's support.

Meeting schedule

The LSRC Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. March 3 in the Park House.

The LSRC Membership meeting will be at 7 p.m. March 10 at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church.

The Development Committee will meet at 7 p.m. March 17 in the Park House.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. Jackie Johnson and Merry Dahms, 1209 Dolman, hosted the social. Many thanks to our hosts!

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Jensen
membership secretary



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LPC from page 5

until late 2003, following the adoption of the Lafayette Park Master Plan. In the five years since, the LPC has gradually developed and broadened the scope of its park projects and the fundraising activities needed to support them to the point where projects now underway have an expected total implementation cost of nearly \$3 million. The LPC intends to spend \$150,000 in 2009 to implement the first phases of these projects, and will continue to raise funds aggressively toward their eventual completion (see related article below).

Like Forest Park Forever and the Friends of Tower Grove before it, the Lafayette Park Conservancy builds its

constituency of supporters from not only the greater St. Louis metropolitan area, but from a much larger regional area, for it has found that Lafayette Park draws patrons from out-state Missouri, Illinois and even farther away. As the first municipal park of significant size developed west of the Mississippi, and as the first great creation of the famed landscape architect Maximilian G. Kern, and his personal favorite, Lafayette Park occupies an important place in United States history.

It is well deserving of our efforts to restore and preserve it for future generations. If you would like to join in those efforts please visit our website at www.lafayettepark.org to learn more about how you can help.

2008 was best fund-raising year yet for LPC

With the final results in and the books updated, I am pleased to report that the Lafayette Park Conservancy completed its most successful financial year ever in 2008, raising a total of \$34,485. Our two fundraising events, the progressive dinner and the Hosmer/Benton gala, contributed \$23,550, while the balance was received from grants, donations, membership dues and merchandise sales. Administrative and operating expenses consumed \$2,110 of the funds raised, leaving \$32,375 available to help fund both capital projects and ongoing maintenance in the park.

Together with funds raised in prior years and \$38,100 held for us by the LSRC for restoring the boathouse, the Conservancy had on hand at the end of 2008 just over \$120,000. These funds have already been budgeted to be

spent during 2009 on projects that are currently under way, including re-roofing the boat house; cleaning and conserving the Benton statue; preparing architectural documents for resurfacing and edging park pathways; seeking funding for rebuilding the 1876 music stand; and remounting on a new carriage and pad the first of three Revolutionary War ship's guns.

Finding funds to accomplish these and other important park projects is an exciting and rewarding challenge. If you think you might find that kind of work interesting and would like to participate, please contact the Lafayette Park Conservancy to volunteer. Just drop us a note at the Park House, 2023 Lafayette Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63104, or visit www.lafayettepark.org for more information.

— Bob Bischoff

DeMenil Players to delve into Civil War-era St. Louis

The DeMenil Players will present a radio-style play reading of *St. Louis: Blue & Gray* at the Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion at 3352 DeMenil Place at 12:30 and 3 p.m. March 15.

St. Louis: Blue & Gray tells the story of day-to-day life in St. Louis during the Civil War. The story is told through first-hand accounts, images and memories written by ministers, a nurse, soldiers and homemakers who witnessed events in St. Louis from 1861 to 1865.

St. Louis: Blue & Gray was researched and written by south St. Louis natives, and sisters, author/historian NiNi Harris and artist Sheila Harris. They researched the play through the collections in the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site and the exceptional collections in the history and special collections departments of the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library.

Volunteers of the Chatillon-DeMenil Museum formed The DeMenil Players in 2007 to present radio-style readings of plays based on St. Louis history. Members of the DeMenil Players include

Bob Officer of Souldard, Bill Hart of Benton Park, Jack Corey of Dutchtown, Jim Rygelski of The Hill, Edna Dieterle of Mattesse, Michael Allen of Old North St. Louis and Doug Dunphy and Lois Waninger of Carondelet. Each March they present a reading at the DeMenil Mansion to open the museum home's tour season. The last two seasons they have presented plays about early baseball history in St. Louis and the fiasco of prohibition in St. Louis.

The play readings are part of the effort by the volunteers and friends of the Chatillon-DeMenil Museum Home to use the arts to interpret St. Louis history.

A Greek-Revival museum home, the Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion is one of the rare landmarks in St. Louis that is directly connected to the city's French roots and heritage. The museum is open for tours Tuesdays through Saturdays. The mansion's historic carriage house is the site of the popular Cafe DeMenil.

The readings of *St. Louis: Blue and Gray* are free and open to the public. For more information call 771-5828.



**Lafayette Square Restoration Committee
2009 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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MEMBERSHIP FORM**

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

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- 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,
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www.lafayettepark.org**

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1205 MISSOURI \$335,000
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3315 SHENANDOAH \$319,900
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5479 PERNOD \$209,900
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2859-61 WISCONSIN \$184,900
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314 N. BROADWAY \$180,000
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3228 LAFAYETTE \$169,900
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2707 MCNAIR \$164,900
Wonderful rehabbed 2 bedroom 2.5 bath home in a great location, Benton Park North. Both bedrooms are master suites with their own full baths. The large eat-in kitchen is a dream!



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Charming attached wall townhouse in Lafayette Square with true Victorian facade and spacious front porch that overlooks a delightful courtyard. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, fireplace, garage parking.



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