

MARQUIS

NOVEMBER 2005

Founded by the residents of Lafayette Square

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 11

Residents fight Praxair reopening

By April Breeden
Lafayette Square

At the October Lafayette Square Restoration Committee (LSRC) meeting, three motions* were passed. The first created a Praxair Neighborhood Task Force. The second stated that the LSRC opposes the issuance by the City of St. Louis of any building, occupancy or other permit that would enable Praxair to resume or continue operations at the existing Chouteau site (vote of approximately 150-1). The third stated the LSRC is opposed to Praxair reopening in any residential area in the city (vote of approximately 145-6).

These motions were created in reaction to Praxair's recent attempt to obtain a building permit and resume operations at the Chouteau facility. To date, City officials have denied that permit and both Alderman Reed and Mayor Slay have guaranteed concerned neighbors of their continued support regarding this matter. However, Praxair has filed an appeal and a hearing is now set for Nov. 10 at 1 p.m.

Everyone present at the October LSRC meeting was allowed to vote on the motions, regardless of whether they were members of the LSRC. In addition, flyers were distributed in the north-

west quadrant of Lafayette Square the weekend before the meeting, which briefed residents on the facts to date regarding Praxair's attempts to resume operations and encouraged them to attend the upcoming meeting. This is the section of the neighborhood where Praxair is located and where numerous households sustained damage to their homes, vehicles and pets during the June 24 explosion.

The Praxair Neighborhood Task Force is an independent group and neighbors need not be active members of the LSRC to become involved. The Task Force will work alongside the LSRC, the Lafayette Square Business Association (LSBA), and other groups who seek a common goal: To protect the safety and value of the historic Lafayette Square neighborhood by actively opposing Praxair reopening at the Chouteau location. April Breeden, a neighbor who lives a block from the Praxair site and who sustained damage to her property in the



A mechanical failure is believed to have caused the fire and subsequent explosions that rocked Lafayette Square on June 24. Neighborhood residents and officials are fighting the reopening of Praxair at the Chouteau location.

Frtiz McAvoy photo

June 24 explosion agreed to chair the new Task Force.

The Task Force is encouraging a neighborhood-wide letter-writing campaign. The letters will be most effective if sent

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Gala at the Grotto: A grand evening indeed

By Tim Gore
Lafayette Square

Oh, what a night! Saturday, Oct. 1 in Lafayette Square was quite a night indeed as 140 people celebrated the beautiful past, present and future of Lafayette Park, as the Lafayette Park Conservancy hosted the first annual Gala at the Grotto. The evening celebrated the individuals and organizations that have contributed to the Park House exterior renovation and donated items to improve amenities in the park. The guests and the grotto were both dressed in their finest, with the grotto graced by lights on the bridge, luminaries on the paths, floating candles on the water and uplit trees. While music played by students from the Clayton High School orchestra filled the air, celebrants enjoyed tasty food catered by SqWires Restaurant and Market and bid on a wide variety of silent auction items. By the time the evening was over, \$5,700 had been raised for the Conservancy, and a very good time had been had by all.

The evening's highlight occurred as Artemus Phillips and Roderick Thompson, former neighborhood residents and continual Park volunteers, arrived on horseback dressed in their finest equestrian regalia to present a special award to Ruth Kamphoefner for her years of dedicated service to the Park. In recognition of her loving nurturing of Lafayette Park, the Lafayette Park Conservancy Board voted to create the Ruth Kamphoefner Award to be given annually to someone who has provided extraordinary contributions to Lafayette Park. And what better individual to honor with the first presentation

of that award than Ruth herself.

Listed below you'll find the individuals and organizations honored during the first gala. The exterior renovation of the Park House is now complete. Thanks so much to Matt Brazelton and Pete Snyder for overseeing the renovation, to the Whitaker Foundation for their \$25,000 challenge grant, to the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee for its financial support, to Alderman Lewis Reed for providing City matching funds for the project, and to R.G. Ross construction for their excellent workmanship on making the renovation a reality. The Conservancy is already at work on a new landscape plan for the Park House as well as an interior renovation of the building, and a replication of the gazebo that once stood behind

the Park House. Visitors to the Park will soon see the first steps of these new plans coming to life.

Money raised by the Gala at the Grotto will be used to help develop plans for future projects in the park designed to bring the Lafayette Park Master Plan to life. To learn more about the Conservancy, the Lafayette Park Master Plan and projects already undertaken to fulfill the goals of that plan, please visit the Conservancy's website at www.lafayettetpark.org. The Conservancy thanks everyone who attended and helped create a wonderful evening. Based on response from those in attendance, Oct. 1 may have been the first annual Gala at the Grotto, but it certainly won't be the last.

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Bethany Spaulding photo

Pete Snyder (from left), Roy Peterson and Michael Sleight partaking in the festivities at the Gala at the Grotto, which raised more than \$5,700 for the Lafayette Park Conservancy.

Praxair releases info about cause of June fire

The following information was provided by Praxair, Inc.

Praxair Distribution, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Praxair, Inc. (NYSE: PX), announced Sept. 29 that it believes a mechanical failure in a gas cylinder caused the major fire at its St. Louis distribution facility on Chouteau Ave. on June 24 this year.

Praxair believes that the premature release of a safety relief valve on one or more gas cylinders containing flammable gas may have contributed to the extent of the St. Louis fire. Praxair does not manufacture cylinders or valves.

"In the weeks since the fire occurred on that very hot Friday afternoon, Praxair safety experts have worked closely with both the St. Louis Fire Department and the Police Department to establish the cause of the fire," said Praxair Distribution President Wayne Yakich.

"The most significant piece of evidence we have is a surveillance videotape, which was focused on a section of the storage yard containing cylinders and which captured what we believe is the actual beginning of the fire," Yakich said.

"However, there was major fire damage to all the cylinders and, as a result, it has not yet been possible to establish exactly which cylinder began the fire or what type of gas was contained in it. We continue to work with a valve manufacturer in an effort to determine the exact cause."

Praxair said that following the fire it inspected all of its propylene and propane cylinders in its inventory and at customer sites throughout the United States and Canada. As part of this inspection, a detailed review was also conducted of the storage and filling procedures for flammable gas cylinders. It also reviewed special precautions regarding leak checks and weight measurement procedures for these cylinders.

As a result of these inspections, Praxair learned that a particular relief valve was releasing gas from propylene cylinders prematurely, before the normal safety parameters were exceeded. As a result, Praxair removed 8,000 cylinder valves from service and replaced them. The valve manufacturer issued an inspection notice in July and a recall notification in August for certain valves in propylene gas service.

"At this time, we have not been able to link any particular manufacturer's valves to the start of the fire in St. Louis as all the cylinder valves at the origin of the fire were very badly damaged," Yakich emphasized.

Praxair has also designed and is beginning to install at its cylinder production facilities specially adapted secure areas for the storage of propylene and propane cylinders.

Continued to page 4

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

Submissions, including articles, photos and story ideas, are highly encouraged, but the editor reserves the right to edit for grammar, space, clarity and appropriateness. Deadline for submissions is the 18th of the prior month. Contact the editor at info@westendword.com or call 314-367-6612 x27.

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VIRGINIA PUBLISHING CO.

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St. Louis, MO 63108
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Honoring our volunteers

By Jim Willmore
LSRC President

At the time of transition to new leadership of the LSRC it is traditional to recognize those who have made a difference in our neighborhood.

Many neighbors joined me at the Gast Haus on Sept. 18 to show our appreciation for people who have worked hard and in many cases selflessly on behalf of the common good. Karen and Pete Snyder were recognized with the Elizabeth Cook Newcomer's Award. The Snyders make their home available for many events, including several home tours, LSRC after meeting socials and special tours on behalf of the Park Conservancy. They support the Perfectos Base Ball team, are members of the Conservancy and Peter founded the Business Association. And all of this remarkable and important work was done within the first five years of moving into the square. Strong work, Karen and Pete. Mary Ann Goodson, Lewis Reed,



President Jim Willmore (left) awarding a President's Award to Greg Plattner. Greg is chair of the Lafayette Park Arts Council, which produces the summer concerts, has headed the Opera Promenade, and has been a selfless worker in the park.

Wardwell Buckner, Matt Brazelton, Kerry Brooks, Steve Davis, Greg Plattner and David Diehl were recognized with President's Awards. John Herlihy received the Community Service Award for his co-chairing of last year's Holiday Tour with Mary Ann Goodson, his remarkable work on the Spring Tour and his excellent organizational work on the Gala at the Grotto.

This year the awards were photos of the Park House taken from the 1894 report of the Board of Improvement of Lafayette Park. To all who stepped up to help during this year, my heartfelt thank you. It was an eventful year and I was privileged to serve as you president.

I know I leave the LSRC in the excellent hands with the election of Houston Smith as our president.

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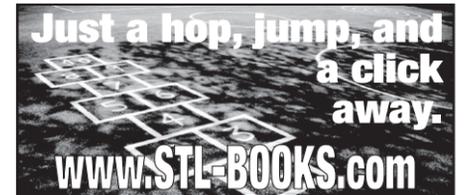
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Fight Praxair

Continued from page 1

immediately (prior to the upcoming hearing) and should be directed to: Lynn Wentz at the Board of Building Services. Letters of concern can also be directed to Mayor Slay, Alderman Lewis Reed, Public Safety Director Sam Simon & Operations Manager Ron Smith. For the addresses and contact information of these officials, readers can refer to the list of "important contacts" on page 10 of this month's *Marquis*. The Task Force would like to keep a copy of all letters sent and kindly requests residents copy them on all correspondence regarding this matter.

Other activities of the Task Force include creating and distributing signs that state the neighborhood's opposition to Praxair reopening at their current site and developing a neighborhood-wide petition. To order signs, make a donation toward the cost of signs, inquire about the letter-writing campaign or petition, or volunteer contact the Praxair Neighborhood Task Force:

www.praxairwatch.com
praxairtaskforce@yahoo.com
 314-772-5724 (press ext #1).

*Please note that the exact wording of the LSRC motions is not final until voted on and approved in the reading of the minutes at the upcoming November LSRC meeting.

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Cause of fire

Continued from page 1

ders. This will ensure that an appropriate area of separation exists between cylinders with flammable gases and other cylinders. It will also ensure than any future premature release of a safety valve on one of these cylinders will not result in a similar event as the one which occurred in St. Louis.

At the Chouteau Ave. site, Praxair will store cylinders containing acetylene, propane, propylene and other flammable gases in the former acetylene filling room. This filling room is protected by a deluge fire suppression system designed to shower the entire area with massive quantities of water should a fire be detected. This deluge system was in place at the time of the fire on June 24 and functioned as intended, protecting the cylinders stored there.

Sequence of events on June 24, 2005

The surveillance videotape showed a section of the storage yard at the Chouteau Ave. site, which included the area for returned cylinders. The ambient temperature on that day was approximately 100 degrees Fahrenheit. (Note: Cylinders returned by customers typically are not completely empty and contain some liquid and gas.)

The videotape revealed a safety relief device on a cylinder located in the area where empty propane or propylene cylinders were stored at the site apparently venting with high energy. The escaping gas ignited and the subsequent high-pressure flame impacted other cylinders in the area, heating them to the point that they too started to vent.

Once the fire was underway in the area containing returned propane and propylene cylinders, most of the nearby cylinders containing propylene or propane caught fire. These cylinders started to explode and this spread the fire to trucks containing acetylene gas cylinders.

Editor's Note: Praxair has announced that it intends to resume activities at the Chouteau site until a new location can be made operational, which could take 12-18 months. The company is currently in the process of obtaining the proper permits to rebuild and occupy the site.

Mark your calendar for the holiday tour on Dec. 11

By John Herlihy & Mary Ann Goodson
 Lafayette Square Holiday Tour Co-Chairs

The Lafayette Square Holiday tour is set for Sunday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The tour will feature 11 decorated parlors, carolers, carriage rides, and our Victorian group strolling through the neighborhood.

It's hard to believe that the annual Lafayette Square Holiday Tour is now less than two months away. The committee has been busily working on the details since July, and we're very excited to feature many homes that have never been on tour before and many that haven't been on tour in several years. In addition to the homes, which look beautiful in any season, the holiday decorating will spotlight the individuality of the homeowners. The holiday tour has grown over the past several years, so we've extended the hours of this one-day tour to nine hours. We'll be starting at 10 a.m. this year, instead of Noon. This should accommodate the attendees that like to get an earlier start, as well as those who would like to see the homes lit up for the early evening.

Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$15.00 by sending in a check to the LSRC Holiday Tour, 2023 Lafayette Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63104. Your name will be added to our will-call list, and you can pickup your tickets on tour day. If you provide an email address with your check, we'll email a confirmation. Additionally, you can purchase tickets via phone, by calling (314) 772-5724 (MasterCard and Visa accepted). We will have live operators starting Nov. 21. However, you can leave a message before then, and we'll call you back to take your reservation. Also starting in November, we'll be selling ticket vouchers for \$15.00 at neighborhood businesses (e.g. SqWires and Ricardo's). Day-of-tour tickets can be purchased for \$18.00.

If you're interested in volunteering to help with the tour this year, please email



Peek inside homes like this during the Lafayette Square Holiday Tour on Sunday, Dec. 11.

John Herlihy at JohnHerlih@aol.com or call 314-606-8613. We're in need of volunteers for docents, day-of-tour sales, and pre-sales phone shifts. Volunteers will be added to the will-call list and can attend the tour, free of charge. Additionally, all volunteers are invited to attend the post-tour party on the evening of Dec. 11, at SqWires Annex.

Thanks in advance for your continued support of the Lafayette Square tours. All proceeds of these tours goes toward the continued improvement of Lafayette Park and the Lafayette Square neighborhood.

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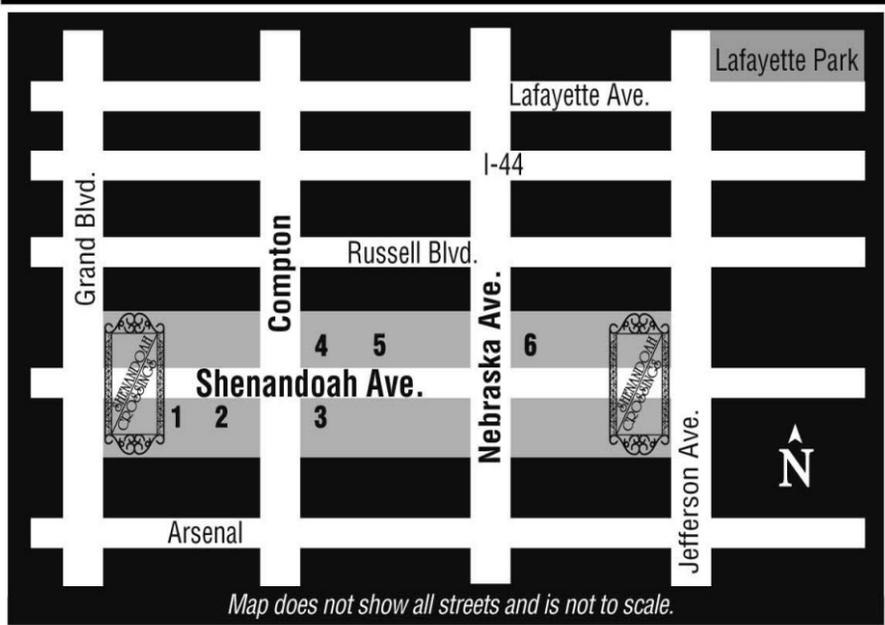
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JEFFERSON

Gala at the Grotto

Continued from page 1

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Lafayette Square Restoration Committee
R.G. Ross Construction

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Individuals and Organizations Honored for their Donations to the Grotto and Lake Area:

Ruth Kamphoefner - For her years of volunteer landscaping in the park, especially the grotto. A bench donated by her friends and neighbors was placed in the grotto.

John Nicholson - For his significant contribution toward replicating the historic cast-iron urns on the grotto bridge

Bob and Nora Stewart - A bench in their memory was donated by their friends and neighbors in the LSRC

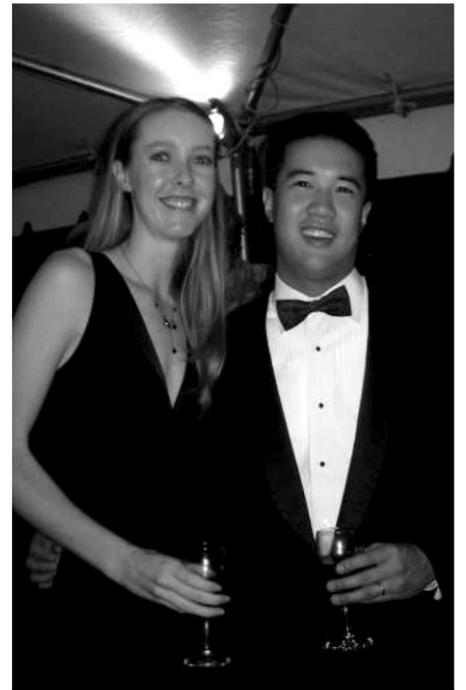
The Budde Family - For donating a bench in memory of Sean Budde

The Mason Jar Questers - For donating a bench in honor of their Lafayette Square visit

Billie Jean Portas - For donating two benches in the park

City of St. Louis Parks Department - For their ongoing maintenance of the park and support of the Master Plan

City of St. Louis Police Department - For their constant efforts to provide a safe and enjoyable park experience for all



Bethany Spaulding photos

Victorian and formal attire were the occasion during the Gala at the Grotto.

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4901 Washington - CWE luxury loft - 2 bedroom, 2 bath

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By Jeanette Mott Oxford
State Representative, District 59th

Decades after the official demise of segregation, too many U.S. schools that serve large numbers of children from low-income families are still separate and unequal. An example of such disparity stares us in the face at 3450 Wisconsin. At recess throughout St. Louis County children swing and climb and go-round on various kinds of playground apparatus, but not the award-winning children of Shepard Accelerated eMints Academy who must make do with a bare asphalt schoolyard and two broken basketball hoops.

The Shepard PTO and a task force made up of local citizens committed to public education are determined to do something about this by the time that Shepard commemorates its 100th anniversary in May 2006. Volunteers are collaborating to raise funds for playground equipment and a new school sign.

I am pleased to serve on the Shepard Task Force and to invite you to attend our opening fundraising event. The PTO will host a "Taste of South St. Louis Fashion Show" at 4 p.m. on Nov. 20, 4 p.m. at the Lemp Stables, 1817 Cherokee, St. Louis. Local restaurants will provide samples from their menus, and 100% of proceeds will go to the Shepard Accelerated eMints Academy fund.

To purchase tickets (or to volunteer or offer refreshments if you are on the staff of a local restaurant), contact Nancy Galvin by telephone or e-

mail: 314-322-3243 or 314-771-5230 (evenings), galvinnj@slu.edu.

The high-achieving students and faculty of Shepard were honored with one of only 12 "Gold Star Awards" given in 2005 by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and State Farm Insurance. Let's show we care and give a pat on the back where it is deserved. Checks to support the playground equipment campaign may be made to Shepard School and mailed to Carol Hall-Whittier, Principal, Shepard Accelerated eMints Academy, 3450 Wisconsin, St. Louis, MO 63118.

Attention: New Lafayette Square Residents

Has someone new moved onto your street? If so we want to make sure they are officially welcomed into the neighborhood. Please contact Julie Drefke at (314) 588-8189 or djdrefke@yahoo.com and we will get a Welcome Packet to them.

If you are a new neighbor and have not received a Welcome Packet, please contact us and we would be happy to bring one over to you. Also if you are new to the neighborhood please join us at the monthly LSRC meeting and social. Both are great ways to find out what is happening in the neighborhood, get involved and meet new friends!

Thanks for your help!

Nourish your body and soul at Lafayette Park United Methodist

By Debra Crowe
Lafayette Park UMC

It's time for turkey—and all the trimmings—at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church. On Saturday, Nov. 12, the women of the UMW will host their annual turkey dinner at the church, located at 2300 Lafayette Ave., just one block east of Jefferson. In addition to turkey, the meal includes mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, sweet potatoes, coleslaw, bread, tea, coffee and your choice of dessert. The cost is only \$6.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children age 11 and under. If you're especially busy that day, call ahead for carry-out. The number is 314-773-1346. Serving hours are noon to 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall located on the lower level of the church. You may enter the Hall directly through the street-level door that faces Lafayette Avenue or by coming down the stairs from the red door on the west side of the church, facing the parking lot. This is home-cooking at its best at a price that can't be beat, so mark your calendar for Nov. 12—and come hungry! During serving hours, the Resale Boutique will be open, including a special room devoted exclusively to Christmas-themed items. It's a great way to get started on your holiday shopping.

In addition to a wonderful dinner, we at Lafayette Park UMC would like to invite you to join us for worship and study. There are two Sunday morning services. At 8 a.m., feel free to "come as you are" for casual, contemporary worship. This is a great family opportunity. At 10 a.m., there is a more traditional service. For those of you with

young children who are a little too energetic to sit through the whole service, we offer child care for kids under age five.

Between services, at 9 a.m., there are Sunday School classes for children and adults. Young children learn lessons from the bible through storytelling, discussion and interactive play. An adult discussion group is currently meeting to focus on the issue of stress: what causes it, how we react to it, and how to deal with it. Coming soon: Disciple 1, the first installment in a series that offers a survey of the bible, both the Old and New Testaments. Meeting over the course of one year, the study/discussion group is a great way to learn about and share in the discovery of the teachings contained in the text.

November features two special services. On Wednesday evening, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m., there will be a Thanksgiving service. And on Sunday, Nov. 27, we'll kick off World AIDS Week, encouraging everyone to do whatever they can to help eliminate this terrible disease and to comfort those suffering its effect. On that same day, we will also commemorate the first Sunday of the Advent season.

For more information on any of the activities mentioned above, please call the church office at 314-771-9214. Or, if you'd like to know more about us, join us for worship on Sunday morning or for food and fellowship at Lafayette Café (6:15 p.m. each Thursday evening in Fellowship Hall) or stop by the Resale Boutique any Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You are welcome here.

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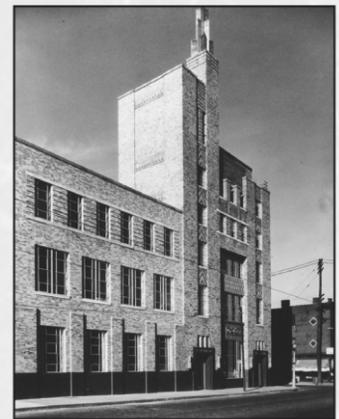
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Mississippi Place

By Gilded Age

Displays coming this summer!

Located at the northeast corner of Lafayette and Mississippi Avenues, this new development will resemble the four original mansions that once occupied this stately corner. The mansions will be divided into 16 unique and luxurious townhomes. Two-car attached rear parking in most units.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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Fall cleanup preps gardens for winter

By Linda Weiner
Lafayette Square

Quote of the Month:

Well-balanced gardens have a quality of restfulness and exquisite perfection, with plants chosen and placed like words

In a perfect poem

Jeff Cox



Linda Weiner photo

Artemis Phillips caught trimming at the Washington statue in Lafayette Park.

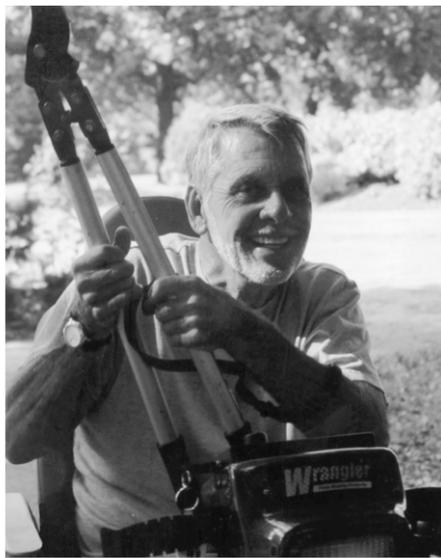
Neighbor's Naturescaping grants received from Operation Brightside

The Lafayette Square neighborhood has received another round of grants for spring bulbs! Look for new spring color in Carol Gray's territory on Nicholson Place, as well as along the Park Avenue median from Truman Parkway to Dolman. We were also granted some additional shovels for spring cleanups so look out volunteers!

Annual Fall Harvest Party for Gardening Volunteers held

On Sunday Oct. 16 the Annual Fall Harvest Party for all neighborhood gardening volunteers, as well as community gardeners, was held at the community garden on Park and Dolman. New gardeners Ella Heigham, Bridgit Simpson, and Lloyd Burton were shown to their new beds while old friends were bid farewell. The day was way too balmy for chili but, as always, the great chefs of the Square were prepared with a multitude of enviable edibles and delectable dishes.

Many thanks to all of you who volunteer to beautify and maintain our greenspace, whether for a minute or a season!



Linda Weiner photo

Dave Bridwell, a new neighbor on Park Avenue, wastes no time volunteering to beautify Lafayette Park (with his weapon of choice).

Muchas, Muchias Gracias

Many thanks to Mike and Sue Reardon and Don Heus for helping with the Jefferson median mini-cleanup and to Keith Welsh and the community service workers for bulb planting along the Park Avenue Medians. Thanks also to Ward Buckner, Artemus Phillips and Dave Bridwell for trimming at Lafayette Park.

Safety tips for Crime Prevention

Here are some practical, easy-to-follow tips to keep you safe this month and throughout the year:

Street Safety

- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings wherever you are, even if you think you are in a safe place. Maintain your personal space. If a person moves inside your comfort zone, move away.
- When walking alone or at night, use your body language to send the message that you are confident and that you know where you are going. Attackers select people who look vulnerable. Walk like you have a purpose.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel uneasy in any situation, follow your gut and try to get yourself out of that situation.
- Take the safest route to and from your destination. Try to stay on streets where there are lights, police patrols, or other pedestrian foot traffic. Avoid shortcuts.
- Have your keys in hand before reaching your car or house. A set of keys, with one protruding from between each finger, can be an effective weapon.

Car Safety

- Avoid parking in isolated areas. If you feel uncomfortable ask a store staff person or building security guard to escort you to your car.
- If you are concerned that you are being followed do not head directly home. Stop at the nearest gas station, open business, or police station.
- Always have your keys out and ready before leaving a building to approach your car. Immediately lock your doors upon entering your car.
- Use a two-piece key ring with your car keys separate from your other important keys. Give parking valets or mechanics your car keys only.
- If you are accosted in a parking lot, away from your own vehicle, consider rolling underneath a nearby auto. It is difficult to force anyone out from under a car.
- While shopping, if you acquire too many packages, take what you have to your car, lock them in your trunk and move your car to another location before re-entering the mall.

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September Membership Meeting Minutes

LSRC MEMBERSHIP MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

President Jim Willmore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet for the President's Awards Dinner on Sunday, September 18 was passed around. The August minutes were read and approved. New residents were asked to introduce themselves, and one couple did so.

Praxair Update – Randy Brittingham reported that 100% of the site has been cleaned and inspected, and that the city has inspected the site and declared it safe; 100% of the area outside of the site has been cleaned and inspected by the company and the city is in the process of conducting its inspection offsite. All areas identified by DNR as being affected by asbestos have been cleaned, including the school on N. Jefferson. The joint investigation by the SLPD, SLFD and Praxair into the cause of the fire is in its final stages. He offered no comment on the pending lawsuit. The insurance carrier is continuing to process claims; 68% of the 146 claims have been closed. Praxair is continuing to investigate potential new sites but may still reopen on a limited basis on the existing site for a period of time. The repairs to the building and landscaping should begin within a few weeks. Mr. Brittingham indicated that Praxair would be willing to start a Community Advisory Group as soon as they move forward. A number of residents voiced their strong objections to Praxair reopening on the site in any capacity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Andrea Ruth distributed an updated budget.

Park Conservancy – Tim Gore announced that the Gala at the Grotto will be held on October 1 from 7-10 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person. Send in the form in the September Marquis by September 21. The gala will raise money for park improvements and will honor volunteers. The gala will include a silent auction and heavy hors d'oeuvres. The event will be held rain or shine. Dress is cocktail or Victorian.

Holiday House Tour – John Herlihy reported that 11 homes are currently signed up for the tour, which is to be held on Sunday, December 11. The price of the tour was raised slightly to \$15 pre-tour and \$18 for day-of-tour sales. A pre-event will be held on Saturday

night from 6-11 p.m. The event will be co-sponsored by St. Louis Homes and Lifestyles Magazine and will feature appetizers at the Goodson home, a sneak-peak tour of some of the homes and dessert at the Herlihy-Kristof home; the cost is \$60 per person. Virginia Publishing will be putting out the tour book and will be giving the LSRC 15% of the gross revenue from the tour book. The marketing campaign is in full swing. This year's theme is Home for the Holidays. Wayne White is designing the poster. The sponsorship drive is just beginning.

Safety – Sue Pinker-Dodd announced that she will be graduating from the Citizens Police Academy next week. The phone directory is now available. The Safety Committee is undergoing reorganization to make it more effective. Captain Fila (444-2580) offered to get a van to drive interested residents to the Unity Night BBQ on Oct. 13, which is designed to unite the North, South and Central areas of the city. Officer Simonds (444-2564) compared statistics for this year to last year up to the same date: up 2 robberies this year, down 7 burglaries, down 9 auto thefts, up 1 larceny. There is talk of eliminating stickers from the license plates but any change will have to go through the state legislature. Captain Fila is looking into a deterrent plastic cover that is available to prevent license tab theft. A new policy is in effect which enables residents to get two free sets of tags as long as they have a police report number.

Development – Jane Blackwell reported that concerns have been voiced over the aluminum windows going in at the development at Mississippi and Chouteau. In its current state the code allows for aluminum windows on new construction. The Development Committee supports the request for the variance at 1621 Carroll that was addressed at the August Meeting. A motion to support this variance passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pils Posters – The Pils posters sold out during the Spring Tour. A motion to allocate \$2000 for the purchase of additional Pils posters passed.

Square One Brewing Company – Steve Neukomm is seeking support for a 1 a.m. liquor license for his new restaurant. A motion supporting the 1 a.m. liquor license passed without opposition.

Nominations – The following nominations for positions on the LSRC were made:

- Membership Secretary: Dave Diehl
 - Board Secretary: Sandy Herde, Chris Salinas
 - VP Elect: Dane Drefke
 - President: Houston Smith
 - 3 Board Directors: Linda Weiner, Chris Westmeyer, Julie Drefke
 - VP Elect Development: Suzanne Sessions
 - Treasurer Elect: Susan Sauer
- Elections will be held at next month's membership meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

• Tracy Smith, a resident of Benton Park and owner of the three-family at 2348 Rutger, would like to relocate her mortgage company to the Davis Trailer site. She intends to use half of the existing building for her office and to use the other half as a small business incubator.

• Linda Weiner announced that Tear Up the Turf will be held on Saturday, September 17 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. She thanked the city and Michael Lance for the improvements on Dolman and requested an update on 18th and Chouteau.

• Otis Williams announced that the fundraising goal for the playground at Peabody Elementary School has been met. Last year the LSRC donated \$5k to the cause. The playground has been installed and a ceremony will be held at 8 a.m. on September 29. Peabody again improved its scores on the MAP testing and was

honored as School of the Year by a local newspaper.

• Ruth Kamphoefner announced that ground-cover, bulbs and perennials will be given away at the work day at the Park House on Saturday.

• Jim Willmore reported that there has been much discussion about the nature of the business and the liquor license for the grocery store to be opening on Chouteau. No hearing has been set regarding the liquor license. Jim met with Lewis Reed about the issue yesterday and hopes to meet with the owner of the grocery store soon. Neighborhood sentiment appears to be strongly against a liquor license for this establishment. Residents questioned the precedent that would be set if the neighborhood were to deny support for a liquor license and the implications this could have on upscale grocery stores such as Whole Foods or Trader Joes that may seek to move into the neighborhood in the future. Residents were encouraged to visit other sites of this grocery store, which are located at 39th and Shaw, 14th and Cass, and on St. Louis Avenue. It was noted that a spectrum of liquor licenses exists and conditions may also be set on a liquor license.

• Kathleen Wilder thanked residents for their response to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort at LPUMC; nearly \$3500 was raised. Pumpkins will be delivered for the pumpkin patch on October 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The social was hosted by Pete and Karen Snyder.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Yin, Membership Secretary

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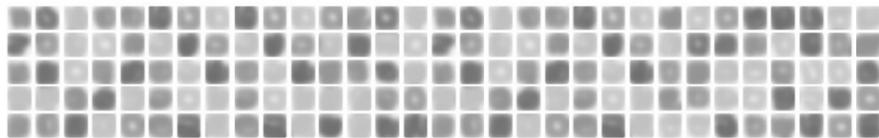



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A Walker's World by Melanie Harvey

Cherokee Street: End to End

Cherokee Street from end to end presents a microcosm of South St. Louis. The mile-and-a-half walk from DeMenil Place to South Grand displays French origins, German influences, and the 20th century cycle of urban expansion, decay, and renewal – with enough empty spaces for the 21st century to make its mark. Eclectic shopping and unique dining opportunities could make this walk last all day!

Before there was beer, there was fur. St. Louis was founded by a Frenchman; its economy was based on the fur trade. The elegant Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion, at the east end of Cherokee Street, is one of the few visible remnants of the French presence here. Fur trader and trail guide Henri Chatillon built a farmhouse on five acres facing the Mississippi in 1848. New owners in 1856 wanted a summer home away from the crowded urban core. Dr. Nicholas DeMenil incorporated it into an impressive Greek Revival residence in 1861.

After fur there was beer. (Also cotton, tobacco, lumber, shoes, iron, and brick.) The French heritage was engulfed by rapid industrialization and German immigration. In 1864 the Lemp Brewery became a neighbor to the DeMenils, leaving downtown for access to the caves which provided cool temperatures year-round. Already in its second generation, Lemp was one of twenty breweries - including the new alliance of Busch with Anheuser. Lemp

dominated the market until 1900; in doing so it built massive brick structures (in Italian Renaissance style) and employed thousands of people. The buildings remain, partially occupied, awaiting a developer with unbounded imagination and very deep pockets. How can those immense curved granaries be adaptively preserved...?

The Walkable City (preserved). Mixed-use development was the norm before the invention of the automobile. Anyone who didn't work at home was likely to work nearby. People walked to go to market, to attend school and church, and to socialize. Cherokee's Historic Antique Row, from Lemp Avenue to Jefferson, maintains that texture in a shopping district dedicated primarily to nostalgia. Browsing for your collectibles of choice can be delightful on a lazy weekend. Plaques by historian Nini Harris provide a self-guided tour of the neighborhood with stories of the people who once lived and worked here.

The Streetcar City (still on the move). West of Jefferson, Cherokee Street changes character. Art Deco elements infiltrate the German vernacular and "re-muddled" storefronts reflect expedient choices from the recent past. Commercial development in the early 1900's, with access by streetcar, made the area a destination for shopping and dancing. The splendid Casa-Loma Ballroom of 1926 is a living link to this era in Cherokee Street history – a great

dance floor and live music in a variety of styles draw diverse crowds from all over the St. Louis region.

A new energy on the street is demonstrated by colorful murals and informational signage, some in Spanish, demanding your attention. People are out and about for shopping, talking, and eating all during the week. Stores offer basic goods to people who need everything on a limited budget; eateries offer fresh unpretentious food. Focus is on the present facing the future rather than the past. Perhaps a century from now the Mexican immigrants of Cherokee Street will be memorialized also, and St. Louis will have expanded in some new cultural dimension...?

The Car-Dependent City (faceless and unsure). The westernmost segment of Cherokee is less clearly defined than the others. It is interrupted by the great slash of Gravois Road – a formidable obstacle to a mere pedestrian – leading to generic shopping centers and fast-food franchises surrounded by parking lots. Cherokee dwindles to an end at Grand Avenue...

...but if you make it across Gravois safely, do keep walking: Grand South Grand is right around the corner! Begin at the welcoming multi-lingual Carpenter Branch Library, next to lovely Utah Place....

Melanie Harvey is an urban enthusiast, avid walker, and independent tour guide. She can be reached at www.DaytripperMO.com or 314-367-3098

Lafayette Square Restoration Committee
2005 Membership Form

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name(s) _____
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Telephone _____
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- I am interested in volunteer opportunities (e.g. House Tour, Bike Race).
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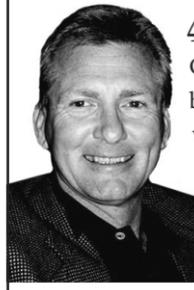


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Classifieds 367-6612

Residential For Rent

TOWER GROVE AREA • VERY QUIET STREET – 2 BR, 1 bath duplex, w/without garage, full basement, C/A. Call 314-603-0028, ask for Tina.

23XX RUTGER - 2 BR plus basement, \$675. Deck & off-street parking. DW, refrigerator & stove included. Merry, 503-7574.

2 BRAND NEW APTS AT 18th & CHOUTEAU - Hardwood floors, spiral stairs, SS appliances, historic style. Merry, 503-7574.

Donations Wanted

YARN DONATIONS - Cathedral Parish group needs washable yarn to knit prayer shawls. Call Eileen at Cathedral, 373-8204, to drop off donations.

Services

GENERAL HAULING SERVICES CO. – Anything removed fast! Appliances, debris, concrete, fences, pools, trees, cars and trucks. Demolition. Odd jobs. Timothy 314-307-1201.

HOME REPAIR & RENOVATIONS – Carpentry, ceramic tile, drywall, plaster repair, basement walls, painting, staining, paint removal, kitchens, baths, decks, porches. Ed at 314-504-1255.

GUTTER CLEANING – US ARMY engineer takes on any roof for gutter cleaning & minor roof repairs. Also power washing and window cleaning. No house too tall, no job too small Fully insured. 314-220-3638, ask for Matt.

Residential For Sale

3415 LEMP– 3-story town homes, \$269,900 each. Historic rehab, Benton Park. www.rwoodrealty.com. Mike Streb, 314-808-6356, R Wood Realty, 314-645-6033.

Office Space for Rent

EUCLID PLAZA BULDING – 1st floor, parking, 1,704 sq ft. Spacious, large windows, must see! \$2500/mo. www.rwoodrealty.com or R Wood Realty 314-645-6033 ext 225.

PRIME SOUTH COUNTY OFFICE building for lease near major interstates. One-story, 2,100 sq ft, perfect for health professional or small business, plenty of parking, easy access. Call 314-780-0974.

Autos For Sale

2000 NISSAN QUEST MINI VAN – 6 cycle, room for 7, factory VHS player for rear passengers, other nice options. Like-new condition. 55,000 miles. Dark green, \$12,500. 314-514-0663.

ADVERTISE!
367-6612 x25 or x26

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LAFAYETTE SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ~BLOCK CAPTAIN LIST~

BLOCK	RESIDENT	PHONE
2300 Albion Place	unrepresented	
2-38 Benton Place	John Bishop	771-1272
16-1700 Carroll	Kim Peterson	421-6272
18-2300 Chouteau Ave	unrepresented	
10-1300 Dolman	Gail Tate	588-8001
14-1600 Dolman	Cynthia McCafferty	436-0434
18-1900 Hickory	Ron Fagerstrom	421-3696
20-2100 Hickory	Denise and Russell Dow	436-7646
2200 Hickory	unrepresented	
2300 Hickory	Terry Winter	771-4438
1800 Kennett Place	Danita Davis	771-4929
16-1700 Lafayette	Diedre & Mike Gray	814-0654
18-1900 Lafayette	Alan Loehr	664-6554
2000 Lafayette	unrepresented	
21-2200 Lafayette	Dan Friehs	664-8186
2300 Lafayette	Mike Callaghan	772-7234
18-1900 Lasalle	Terry and Mark Etling	621-1437
11-1300 Mackay Place	Jeanette Wallace	772-7727
10-1100 Mississippi	unrepresented	
12-1300 Mississippi	Susan Pinker-Dodd	231-5367
14-1600 Mississippi	Paul Sauer	865-2566
1700 Mississippi	Monica Billingsley	772-8648
11-1300 Missouri	Julie Stone	865-5505
1400 Missouri	Pat Hoffman	771-4381
15-1600 Missouri	Tom Dahms	773-6436
1700 Missouri	Mike Callaghan	772-7234
1700 Nicholson Place	Alicia Von Stamwitz	772-9710
20-2100 Park Ave	Carolyn McAvoy	231-4937
2200 Park Ave	Wally Steinman	772-8104
2300 Park Ave	Don Owens	664-1264
1700 Preston Place	John Behl	771-8337
18-1900 Rutger Street	Sharon Hoffman	231-7202
2000 Rutger Street	Ron Taylor	421-1671
22-2300 Rutger Street	William Garcia	776-3778
11-1300 South 18 th	Walter Moody	421-3137
1400 South 18th	Tim Reedy	241-1484
1600 South 18th	Mary "One" Johnson	772-2499
1700 Simpson Place	Trace Shaughnessy	865-0539
1500 Vail Place	Lynne Keay	772-2790
1700 Waverly Place	Jay Divine	664-2984
2300 Whittemore Place	Dave Diehl	664-4840
Park Ave. Business District	unrepresented	

Block captains compile and update a "phone tree" for residents on their block (residents can help out and let your block captain know if you have recently moved in) and communicate with them and the police on safety issues which may occur in their areas. Block Captains are also available for their neighbors to contact if they are victims of crime to obtain info regarding crime prevention and resources to assist in solving neighborhood problems. (Of course, residents always need to call 911 and report all crimes also.) BC's communicate problems in their areas to the LSRC Safety Committee and to the Fourth District Police Dept., so that everyone becomes aware of safety issues and can jointly work to solve them. 10/12/05

McAVOY REALTY

(314) 531-1900



14 WEST POINT LANE \$507,000
Fabulous sprawling ranch situated on park-like lot w/ mature trees, updated & delightful kitchen features rows of custom champagne oak cabinetry. Expansive rooms are ideal for entertaining, formal paneled fireplace.



7 LADUE HILLS DR. \$398,000
Fantastic home on well-established cul-de-sac. Three bedroom, 2 bath house. Dining room floors freshly refinished. New dishwasher & new electric range/stove in 2003. New double pane thermal windows. Call Karen Weiss 276-0476.



2806 MCNAIR \$389,900
Complete rehab, 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath, 2800 sq. ft. of elegance. 2 master suites, 3rd-floor master includes laundry and deck. All appliances included (stainless). Granite countertops, 2-car garage.



1922 SIDNEY \$385,000
Benton Park restoration. Over 3,000 square feet. Meticulous work. Huge custom kitchen with cherry cabinets. Hardwood floors. 3 bedroom/bathroom suites, 2 fireplaces. Wonderful 2-story rear porch. Victorian side porches and grand new mansard roof and cornice. New 2-car garage.



5133 IVONDALE LN. \$359,900
This South County home is situated on 2 lots comprising 1.6 acres total. Great established neighborhood. This spacious home features more than 1800 square feet, has a 2-car attached garage, large, screened-in patio, covered breezeway,



2109 LYNCH \$350,000
Dramatic Victorian replica in Benton Park historic district. Breathtaking spaces. State-of-the-art kitchen. Thermal windows. Brick construction. Exciting artist-designed interior. Completed soon, some interior choices still available to buyer.



McAVOY REALTY

2118 Lafayette \$610,000

Beautiful painted lady in Lafayette Square. You will be amazed by all of the historic charm mixed with contemporary style. Custom kitchen, huge screened porch, hardwood floors, a must see!

CAROLYN MCAVOY (314) 531-1900 • (314) 757-1007



2808 MCNAIR \$349,900
Rehabbed 2250 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths; master suite with Jacuzzi. Gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances and concrete countertops. Two-car secure garage, all-new mechanical systems and roof.



219 JACKSON \$339,900
3300 square foot beautiful home. Walking distance to historic St. Charles. Four bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Separate apartment with private access. Oversized, 2-car attached garage. Large eat-in kitchen and 3 decks.



3917 FEDERER \$314,900
Absolutely gorgeous example of a Holly Hills GEM on preferred tree-lined & landscaped Federer Place. Gleaming hardwood floors throughout, accented by beautiful natural woodwork and crown molding.



4036 OSAGE RIDGE \$299,900
Spectacular atrium ranch with scenic overviews, two-level cedar deck on 6.5 acres. Master bedroom suite w/ walk-in closet and Whirlpool, five bedrooms, three baths, pleasantly landscaped, finished lower level and oversized two-car garage.



5100 ATHLONE CT. \$298,000
Newly constructed atrium ranch on 4.3 acres w/ gorgeous panoramic view. Great kitchen, full front porch, master bedroom suite, 2 wood-burning fireplaces & deck w/ scenic view. Walkout lower level could be finished for additional living space.



2029 RUTGER \$289,900
Gorgeously rehabbed two-family home in historic Lafayette Square. Ideal for an owner-occupant with a bottom unit available for rent, with 2nd and 3rd floor available for owners. Within walking distance from park on a quiet street.



1722 NICHOLSON PLACE \$289,000
Wonderful Victorian home 1/2 block from Lafayette Park. Built in 1890, many original features remain to add period charm to this restored home. Hardwood floors, art glass, fireplaces, curved staircase, great master suite.



3220 INDIANA \$274,900
Outstanding brick manse in Benton Park historic district, 1/2 block from park. Completely rehabbed with new kitchen, zoned heating & cooling, stunning staircase, new wood floors, spacious rooms and off-street parking.



2120 PORTIS \$269,900
Rehabbed Shaw Gardens-area brick 2-family w/ new kitchens & baths, new furnaces & central air, thermal windows, refinished hardwood floors, new lighting fixtures, off-street parking, spacious rooms & enclosed porch.



2025 RUTGER \$269,900
Historic Victorian rowhouse pleasantly placed on cul-de-sac with very little traffic. Marked by predominately wood floors, three fireplaces featuring marble mantles. Antique light fixtures complete the first floor. Master bath includes separate shower and tub.



4149 CASTLEMAN \$267,500
Classic 2.5-story home in popular Shaw neighborhood. Unbelievable 100 x 114 lot, fully fenced w/ electric gate opening to drive & oversized 2-car garage. Open floor plan w/ beautiful natural wood staircase, original woodwork & exposed brick. Two patios for entertaining outdoors.



2125 NEBRASKA \$257,750
Chance to own a completely remodeled three-story brick house with new kitchen and baths, new flooring, fixtures and fireplace mantels. Nice original staircase. Two-car garage and pleasantly landscaped yard. Completion date 9-05-05.



4100 OLEATHA \$249,900
Commercial building at a great location at the corner of Oak Hill & Oleatha. Formerly occupied by the House of the Living Bread Church & Food Pantry. Two levels, central air conditioning, pastor's office, large parking lot set on a knoll above the street.



2115 WITHNELL \$249,900
Wow, this house has it all! Living room, dining room and parlor all on the first floor. Stainless steel and granite kitchen. The master bedroom suite includes a deluxe bath with 3 shower heads.



2322 LOUISIANA \$239,000
Amazing total rehab town home in Tower Grove East. Bamboo floors, ceramic tile, elegant woodwork, and exposed brick throughout! Spacious kitchen with 42" maple cabinets, center island. Beautiful master suite with additional sitting room, new systems! Two-car garage.



2021 WITHNELL \$199,900
Totally rehabbed home featuring many updates. The kitchen is fun, bright and unique. The master bedroom features a sunny bathroom enclosed with glass brick. Lots of windows; lots of charm.



58717 NINA PLACE \$184,900
Welcome to one of the most spacious of all the Nina Place condos. This highly desirable 3rd floor end unit provides tons of natural sunlight. Gated, secured parking. Bonus sunroom/office area.



1926 PRESIDENT \$159,900
Charming Benton Park Victorian, nicely landscaped with new light maple kitchen and two baths, freshly painted interior with new flooring throughout, partially finished basement plus secret loft on second floor.



3907 MCDONALD \$159,900
Attractive buff brick two-story situated on raised knoll above street. First and second floor side porches; finished room in basement. Some thermal windows. Delightful well-kept interior. Call for an appointment.



1256 SELLS AVE. \$129,900
Beautifully rehabbed Tudor with new architectural shingle roof, nice landscaping, refinished oak floors on first; new carpeting on second. Freshly paved driveway. Two remodeled baths. New maple kitchen w/ breakfast room.



3902 MIAMI \$128,900
Delightful four-bedroom home. Completely remodeled brick two-story with new kitchen and baths, new barber carpet, fenced yard, thermal windows, and freshly painted interior. In convenient south city location.

www.McAvoyRealty.com