

Why I Moved (Back) to St. Louis Hills

by Julie Lagow



Mike and Julie Lagow have now moved to St. Louis Hills three times. They plan on raising their children Noah, Charlotte and Harper in the neighborhood. Photo provided by Julie Lagow.

I have often heard it said that if you grow up in St. Louis, no matter how far you go or how long you are gone, you will always find your way back. For our family, this can also be said about St. Louis Hills. We have lived in the neighborhood three separate times.

Our first home in St. Louis Hills was a one bedroom apartment on Nottingham overlooking Francis Park. I grew up in St. Louis, but my husband did not. He came to the city alone to look for an apartment prior to our move back to the area in 2009. I remember him calling to say, "I found a great place on Francis Park, do you know the area?" My aunt and uncle had lived in Saint Gabriel's parish and I had some memories of the neighborhood.

We instantly fell in love with our new neighborhood. It was the perfect mix of city living and tight knit community. We loved watching the activity of the park right out our front window, walking to pick out our Christmas tree at Ted Drewes or grab a sandwich at Legrand's.

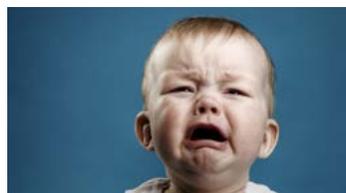
Though we loved that little apartment, we were eager to start a family. In 2010, we purchased a home in Affton, on the same street where I grew up. We enjoyed our new house and growing family, but we quickly started to miss St. Louis Hills.

■ Cont'd on page 6

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!

A couple of years ago, we decided to begin hand-delivering this newsletter to all St. Louis Hills residents regardless of whether they were active members of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association.

However, printing four thousand newsletters and



rounding up volunteers to visit every residence in the neighborhood is a costly and time-consuming process. Starting with the next issue, we will begin delivering this newsletter only to those who have paid SLHNA membership dues within the previous year.

HELP MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER BE THE BEST IT CAN BE

If you would like to advertise in a future issue please contact Terry North at tcnorthdesignlines@sbcglobal.net. To submit an article or if you have an idea for future content, please contact us at slhnnewsletter@gmail.com

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Thank You, Mr. President

by the SLHNA Board of Directors

We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to Chris Murphey, who has served as President of our neighborhood association since January 2016.

In light of several recent changes in Chris's life - a new baby and a new job - Chris decided that he was no longer in a position to serve as President of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association.

On behalf of all of the residents of St. Louis Hills, we again thank you for your service to our great Association.

Lawn and Garden Judging Underway

by Terry North



One of last year's winners of a lawn & garden award.
Photo by Terry North.

Be advised that Lawn and Garden judging began on May 15 and will conclude on June 30.

The award signs will be in the winning lawns by July 3rd.

Backyards are judged by invitation only. You will have to notify me directly at (314) 494-4959 and I will have judges come by your residence.

Remember, if you won last year you are not eligible to win again this year.

- Categories for Awards -

Best Lawn (it all starts with the Grass!) -- 13 awards given out

Best Block -- 1 award given out

Best Multi-Family -- 2 awards given out

New this year: Best Corner at Francis Park -- 1 award given out

Good luck to all interested parties!

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Springtime in St. Louis Hills

by Lisa Clark



Left to right: Baskets of Easter goodies wait to go home with every child at Ascension's Easter Egg Hunt, live chicks, ducks, and rabbits bring smiles to kids of all ages, speaker Renee Gibbs speaks to a room full of women at a free half-day retreat, preordered plants line the hall at Word of Life School for Ascension's plant sale. Photos by Lisa Clark.

Spring weather has been slow to arrive this year, but that hasn't stopped the residents of St. Louis Hills from enjoying some annual springtime events! That's certainly the case in the southwest corner of Francis Park, where Ascension Lutheran Church hosted three of its favorite neighborhood events.

On March 17, Ascension's free family Easter Egg Hunt reached record numbers this year as hundreds of people gathered for a morning of fun. In addition to three egg hunts divided by age group, families enjoyed face painting, crafts, cotton candy, attendance prizes, live animals and a bounce house. Kids could get their picture taken with the Easter bunny, and all families received a free Easter book. Pastor Matt Clark began the morning with a warm welcome to all.

"It was a joy to see so many children and families from our congregation, school, and neighborhood community,"

said Pastor Clark.

The fun continued on April 7, when dozens of ladies of all ages attended the annual Women's Breakfast Tea. Generations of women enjoyed the free event, which included a breakfast and a speaker for this half-day retreat. This year's speaker, Renee Gibbs, focused her talk on "Speaking the Truth in Love." Women left with encouragement and a take-home gift of wildflowers, reminding them that "speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in . . . Christ" (Ephesians 5:15). As a fun nod to the St. Louis Hills women of yesteryear, many in attendance donned their favorite hats.

"An inspiring and refreshing time, I enjoyed most being encouraged by the new friends I made among the women gathered," said first-time attendee Kim Kuntz. "A beautiful morning of fellowship!"

The warmer weather came just in time for Ascension's next event. On April 28, their plant sale drew the neighborhood in for an opportunity to beautify the lovely gardens of St. Louis Hills. Plants filled the halls of Ascension's connected school, Word of Life. Visitors were able to pick up their preorders, browse garden decorations, purchase additional plants, and even grab a bite to eat for breakfast! Plant selections included bulbs, herbs, perennials, and even potted plants.

"The plant sale itself has certainly grown from its humble beginnings," said Marie Muhlke, perennial plant sale volunteer. "And the best part of the event is the seeds of friendship sown today."

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Neighborhood Spotlight: St. Andrew Presbyterian By Chip Kastner

"I'm not the oldest member of St. Andrew Presbyterian, but I've been a member longer than anyone else in the congregation," Helen Jones says. She's belonged to the church since it was located at 6933 Hampton, the current location of All-American Collectables. She grew up in south St. Louis and attended the AAA Busch School, back when the area south of Eichelberger was mostly woods and the part of Holly Hills leading to the school was still a dirt road.

Helen's husband Donald grew up closer to Southwest High School (now Cleveland NJROTC / Central VPA High School), which they both attended. He joined the church before they married there in 1962. Both of their sons were baptized at the church, and while Helen and Donald moved to the county in the mid-1960s, they are still active participants at St. Andrew.

Many members of the parish commute from the county, some as far away as Ballwin, because they grew up in the area. Others joined when Carondelet-Markham Memorial, a Presbyterian church in the Carondelet neighborhood, closed in 2010. The current minister, John O'Connor, came from Carondelet-Markham and many of his parishioners followed.

While the congregation is small -- about 35 active members, with some additional members who cannot attend regularly for health reasons -- it gained approximately a half-dozen members in the last year alone.

The church, and many of its members, are active in the community. (Cont'd on the next page)

Stay Up to Date on Jefferson City Legislation

by Donna Baringer, 82nd District of the Missouri State House



Throughout session, there were last minute bills filed that required quick feedback. When I asked the residents of the 82nd district how they felt about the daylight saving time legislation being heard in one of my committees, I quickly got several responses.

I also received over 1,300 responses to my mailed survey from people all over the district. I value your opinion and appreciate those who have contacted me throughout session. After the first report was released in the investigation into the governor, I sent a quick survey via my email blast and received over 100 responses in the first 24 hours.

I am so grateful to each individual that sends their input to me. For the 100th General Assembly in 2019, I hope you sign up to receive my email blast so you are able to stay up to date on the legislation being worked on in Jefferson City, and so you too can give me your feedback.

If you are interested in being added to our email list, please email donna.baringer@house.mo.gov.

Representative Donna M. C. Baringer

District 82

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“We give a lot, and we work hard, and we are a friendly, warm congregation,” Helen says. “We welcome anyone, and anyone can come join and worship with us.”

In May, the church holds “Cereal Sundays,” in which they collect boxes of cereal during services every week. At the end of the month, the cereal is donated to area children who are able to eat breakfast at school during the school year but would otherwise go hungry at breakfast time during the summer.

In July, the church collects school supplies and backpacks, so that needy children going back to school have everything they need for the upcoming year. At the end of October, members put up a “Mitten Tree” for members to hang mittens, scarves and hats which are donated to area residents who need warm winter clothes.

Church leaders also organize an annual spaghetti dinner and chili dinner, which are respectively held in the spring and fall. These events are open to the public, and money raised from the events is placed into a fund maintained by the church. At the end of each year, the fund is donated to an organization such as the Salvation Army or Samaritan’s Purse. One year, they purchased a cow that was donated to an African village to provide the villagers with fresh milk.

In addition to its charitable activities, the church has opened its door to other organizations as well. A separate congregation also holds services in the church on Sundays, and the building has often played host to addiction treatment groups and other gatherings. Classrooms in the lower level of the church are used by the congregation for Sunday school, but during the week the rooms are utilized by Christy Park Montessori, a preschool for children ages two through five.

“We are always out to help people, and whatever we can do to help make the community better,” Helen adds. “We try to be good citizens to the community. St. Louis Hills is a wonderful area.”

If you are interested in reading more about the history of St. Andrew Presbyterian, this newsletter published an article on the church in February 2007. It can be viewed at https://issuu.com/slhna/docs/slhna_newsletter_feb_2007.



Clockwise from top left: A stained glass window named “The Good Shepherd” has adorned three south city Presbyterian churches since 1875; St. Andrew Presbyterian has stood at 5905 Loughborough Ave since 1960; John O’Connor has been the minister of the church since 2010, when the Carondelet-Markham Memorial Church in the Carondelet neighborhood closed; the inside of St. Andrew’s is said to resemble an upside-down fishing boat. Photo of John O’Connor by Helen Jones; photos of church interior and exterior by Kristi Foster Photography (www.kristifosterphotography.com).



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Why I Moved (Back) to St. Louis Hills (Cont'd from Page 1)

After we moved out of the neighborhood, we were frequent visitors, attending church at St. Gabriel's and taking our dogs to the park. In the summer of 2013, my husband noticed a "For Sale" sign on a house directly across from Francis Park in the 5000 block of Donovan. The opportunity to be back in what we now considered "our neighborhood" seemed too good to be true. We made an offer and it was accepted the next day. We were immediately welcomed by our neighbors on each side. They instantly made us feel a part of the community we had missed.

We know that some of the things we cherish most about St. Louis Hills have their roots in the people who have called this neighborhood home before us. I'm a bit of a history nerd, and enjoy hearing stories from neighbors about the previous families that have lived in each of our houses or their own memories of playing in our backyard as a kid. While doing a remodel in the basement of our Donovan home, we found the signatures and date the previous owner left at the time of their own remodel. We left it intact for future homeowners to see.

In 2014, we were offered an opportunity to return to Pensacola, Florida where I had completed my residency and Mike had lived for 15 years. Pensacola was a special place for us as we had met and were married there. We made the difficult decision to leave our dream home and explore this opportunity while our children were little.

While we will always be glad we took such a risk, it did not take long for us to realize that we wanted to raise our family not just in St. Louis, but specifically St. Louis Hills. It has that special neighborhood feel that we just couldn't replicate anywhere else. By 2016, we were back in St. Louis and looking for our next St. Louis Hills home. We moved back into that first house we had bought in Affton, telling ourselves we were going to be patient and wait for just the right house. As luck would have it, we did not have to wait long. In October of 2017, we purchased our current home in the 6200 block of Itaska. (Yes, we have lived on three sides of the park!)

St. Louis Hills was just as we had remembered. Our neighbors were warm and welcoming. One even brought us a warm apple pie... really! We know plenty of people who live in neighborhoods where they don't even know the people who live in the houses next to them. That was the opposite of the experience we were looking for. When we run into our neighbors from Nottingham and Donovan, it is as if our address has never changed. Just like the infamous St. Louis question "Where did you go to high school?", people in St. Louis Hills ask "What street do you live on?", because invariably, they know at least one family (or grew up) on your block. We knew this is where we wanted to raise our children. We wanted them to have the memories of growing up that only St. Louis Hills can provide.

The years ahead will be filled with walking our children to school, block parties, Easter egg hunts, trick or treating, Christmas tree lightings, t-ball at the Nottingham School, activities in the park and a myriad of other memories. For now, we're just happy to be settled in to our forever St. Louis Hills home, secure in the knowledge that we are raising our children in the only place that truly felt right.



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DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Dues are only \$30 per year and can be paid through PayPal by visiting <http://stlhills.com/slhna-membership> or through a check made out to the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association and mailed to SLHNA, P.O. Box 190314, St. Louis, MO 63119-6314.

Of course, even if you aren't a member, you can always get a digital version of the latest issue by visiting www.stlhills.com, checking our Facebook account at www.facebook.com/SaintLouisHills or by signing up for email updates at www.stlhills.com. You can also find print copies in many neighborhood businesses.

Jack Frost, Mother Nature & Me

by Terry North

I have been thinking about writing an article addressing cold weather plants and flowers. But that is not much of an article. It's pretty simple around here: Phlox and Pansies. Under normal conditions the Forsythia and Lilac trees will bloom and the Tulips you planted last Fall will pop up through the mulch and present beautiful color and texture to your landscape. Then there's the Daffodils and my favorite: Siberian Iris. FYI, we are in the 6b growing zone.

Note: I said "under normal conditions."

It has been a strange start to the growing season to say the least, and anything other than normal. Here it is the end of April as I write this, and the Dogwoods are just beginning to open.

My yard looks like a wasteland. I forgot to plant any tulips, or any other bulbs for that matter, and what Siberian Iris I have from last year has been very late to open. I have no Lilac tree although I promised to plant one last year, don't really like Forsythia, the Zoysia has been late to green and regardless of what and how I treat for weeds they seem to be the only thing growing.

This winter we lost:

- 1 Mature Burning Bush -- who kills a Burning Bush?
- 3 Mature Crape Myrtle -- I know, they are sensitive around here
- 1/2 of our prized 20-year-old Japanese Maple -- This hurts the most!
- 2 Pyramidal Alberta Spruce -- easy peasy to replace
- 2 Japanese Boxwoods -- also easy to replace
- ...and a Partridge in a Pear tree

My 2 year old Troy Weed Eater shot craps. Won't buy one of those again! My 24 year old Snapper finally cut its last yard and the Craftsman replacement is a pathetic excuse for a mower.



A beautiful stand of Phlox and a pot of Pansies -- perfect for early spring color.
Photo by Terry North

As a 3-time winner of the St. Louis Hills Lawn & Garden award, I'm more than a little embarrassed to say the least. It's time I lace up the work boots and get a new attitude! Take some Motrin, clean off the hand tools and GET BUSY.

Here is the one thing that is growing well for me and I bet for you too: As Spring finally comes around, the patio furniture comes out of storage (what do you mean you leave yours out all winter?), and grills fire up along with the Tiki Torches -- everything starts to look better!

As you begin to hit the local nurseries and garden stores, i.e. Bayers, Colors of Spring and Lowes, I do have 2 other suggestions for you to visit, and these are both unsolicited:

Rolling Ridge Nursery / 60 N. Gore Ave. (off Lockwood in Webster)

Garden Heights Nursery / 1605 S. Big Bend Blvd (south of I-64 on Big Bend)



This is Henbit, and to eradicate you need Weed-B-Gon.
Photo by Terry North.

These are great retail nurseries and garden centers.

Both have unusual plants that are correct for our 6b growing zone, as well as tons of good advice. I don't know about you, but I get tired of planting the same thing every year. The above 2 nurseries will give you an abundance of fresh ideas!

So, what happened to my landscape??? ...It's called WATER!

Don't neglect to WATER. Fertilizing is probably not a bad idea either!

I'll see you in the yard!

By the way, Lawn & Garden judging runs from 5/15 to 6/30.



Promote Your Event for Free in This Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association (SLHNA), an organization dedicated to encouraging active participation in the St. Louis Hills community. However, we're a small team of volunteers and don't necessarily know about all the goings-on in the neighborhood. That's why we're interested in hearing more from you.

What first drew you to the St. Louis Hills neighborhood? Let us know. Did you undertake a memorable home improvement project? We wouldn't mind hearing about it. Interesting stories about your house, its past residents, its virtues or its problems? We would love to hear about that too. Do you have any questions about city ordinances that you'd like us to look into? Send them our way. If you're worried about your skills as a writer, don't worry -- we're happy to interview you via email, phone or in person. Just send us a note at newsletter@stlhills.com.

Furthermore, if you are holding -- or just held -- an event in the neighborhood, we would like to help you promote it. If you have an article about and/or photographs of an event, or just want to add your event to our calendar, send all of the details to us. We strive to publish this newsletter every three months, so please time your submission appropriately.

That being said, we don't want this newsletter to turn into a dozen pages of advertisements. Therefore, if you're promoting an event, there are a few restrictions.

First, the event must be open to the public. Exceptions to this are if the event has a minimum age requirement, or is only open to children and their parents or guardians.

Second, the event must be held in the St. Louis Hills neighborhood, which means east of the city/county line, south of Chippewa, west of Hampton and north of Gravois. We can be flexible if your event is within a couple blocks of the neighborhood.

by Chip Kastner

Third, at least one of the following criteria must be met:

1. The event is completely free to attend, no donations or other contributions are being solicited, and no goods or services are being promoted or offered for sale at the event.
2. The event is held in Francis Park, Willmore Park, Buder Library, a street or other public area, and any appropriate permits will be secured.
3. The organization holding the event is a registered nonprofit organization, or 100% of all proceeds from the event are donated to one or more registered nonprofit organizations. We will ask for references from the stated recipients of any proceeds.

All submissions will be attributed to their submitter, and may be edited for style, content and length. The SLHNA has final say over the inclusion of all such content.

If your event does not meet the listed criteria, you can still take out an advertisement by contacting Terry North at tcnorthdesignlines@sbcglobal.net.



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Your Love Is Big Enough

by Terry North



Without question, one of the most popular television shows of the past two years has been *This is Us*. This past season, the character of Randall Pearson, played by St. Louis native Sterling K. Brown, and his family take in a foster child. The drama, the compassion and the need for someone to step up and be there for a child caught in the middle of life's unfair and unforeseen circumstances is well-depicted. The episodes that follow are heart-wrenching and illustrative at the same time.

Have you ever wondered how the foster care system works or how to begin the process of fostering a child? Recently, I was introduced to Christina Robb at Good Shepherd Children & Family Services in University City. Christina is a Family Development Specialist at the organization and was happy to sit down with me to discuss the process. Good Shepherd is an agency that places children with a foster family and is affiliated with Saint Louis Partners in this endeavor.

The process begins by assigning a specialist to a prospective family. From there, a meeting with all the members of the immediate family and a visit to the home to check out the environment takes place. Once all of the preliminary checks have passed, the prospective foster parents begin a 27-hour training course, three hours a week for nine weeks. After completing this course, the licensed foster parents are ready to accept a foster placement. Total time to become a licensed foster parent can be 4-6 months.

Once a family gets the call, they will be introduced to the child to be sure there is a good match. If so, the child moves in and one begins what may be the most rewarding experience of their life. Good Shepherd stays involved with and connected to the relationship with the ultimate goal of moving the child back with their mother and father. The average length of stay for a foster child is highly variable, and on occasion a family will have the opportunity to adopt the child they are caring for. The agency tries to keep siblings together, however there is no guarantee that will happen.

Nobody does this for the money! While there is a small monthly stipend, much of the expense falls into the pockets of the fostering family. There is a daycare expense allocation until the age of thirteen, and the State of Missouri provides for medical care as well.

At the end of the day, providing for a foster child is done out of love, no doubt! It would seem the opportunity to change the course of a child's life is well worth the commitment it takes.

The agency has a great need for foster homes willing to accept older children and siblings at this time. If one has interest in looking further into becoming a foster parent, call their intake number at (314) 938-5690 or visit their website at www.saintlouispartners.org.



YOUR LOVE IS BIG ENOUGH
You have what it takes to be a foster parent.
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We need foster parents who can provide a safe and loving home for kids ages 6-18, kids with elevated needs, and sibling groups.


Call 314-938-5690 or visit saintlouispartners.org

SLHNA Safety Committee Update

by Janice Starbuck and Tom Scheifler

As newly appointed co-chairs of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association (SLHNA) Safety Committee, we have quickly learned two important things that every neighborhood resident should know:

1. Everyone should report any crime or suspicious activity they hear or see by calling 911, even if they know someone else has already called. More calls equals more action. The police are unable to respond in the short term or the long term if they do not have the data (record of calls to 911) they need to support our concerns. In many ways, if you don't call - it didn't happen. We need to be the squeaky wheel.
2. We can potentially influence a judge to sentence criminals more harshly for crimes committed in our area with neighborhood impact statements. An impact statement is similar to a petition that highlights how a local crime negatively impacts quality of life, home values and prosperity in our neighborhood. We already have a small team of impact statement writers; what we need most is signatures!

Impact statements can be signed 24 hours a day at the Second District Police Station on Sublette. Unfortunately, after two weeks, the impact statement related to the brisket burglary at Salt n' Smoke had just 30 signatures. Our committee will explore ways to notify everyone when an impact statement is available for signing and ways to make them available in the neighborhood to sign. We can and must do better! Who wasn't upset that one of our newest businesses was discouraged by crime? We need to let our outrage be known.

We have also learned that the top three concerns of the Safety Committee members are:

1. Crime in general
2. Education/Neighborhood Watch
3. Surveillance cameras

The Safety Committee will work closely with Alderman Oldenburg and the Second District police via St. Louis Hills Liaison Officer Vince Stehlin to address these and other issues.

We are in need of volunteers with various talents. Everyone can help. If you can walk, talk or read you have a skill we can use.

Please contact us if you are interested in helping. You can reach us at Safety_Committee@stlhills.com.

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Social Media Fraud Hits Second District

By Vince Stehlin, St. Louis Hills Liaison Officer

With Facebook evolving rapidly into new ventures, it's not easy for users to grasp the unspoken rules of the social interactions within. Recently, in the 2nd district there have been several reports made involving fraud and thefts of residents using this platform to buy/sell items. Below are just a few helpful reminders when considering this avenue.

Meet in a public location and bring a friend

It's good to meet where there are plenty of people - a grocery store, coffee shop or police station. Bring a friend and let others know where you're headed.

Make the payment in person

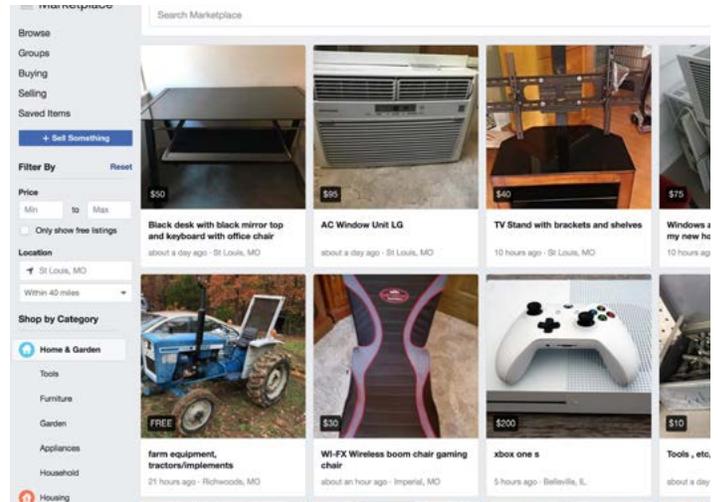
Messenger payments, PayPal or cash are good options. When selling an item, consider asking for full payment instead of installments.

Report listings that look suspicious

Check seller profiles, see what else they've sold and read listing descriptions carefully. If something seems off, report it using the Report link on the listing.

Know what items and actions are prohibited

We don't allow the sale of illegal or stolen items. For a



full list of what is prohibited, review the commerce policy (<https://www.facebook.com/policies/commerce>).

Check out other tips from trusted sources by visiting the National Cyber Security Alliance's website (<https://staysafeonline.org/>) and get to know the FBI's internet crime prevention tips (<https://www.ic3.gov/preventiontips.aspx>).

Stay safe,

P.O. Vince Stehlin
St. Louis Hills Liaison Officer
District Two



Who Used To Live In My House?

by Dennis Northcott, Associate Archivist for Reference, Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center

The Missouri History Museum Library has a near-complete collection of News of St. Louis Hills from 1937 - 1952. They recently indexed personal names and street addresses from the newsletters and uploaded it to their online Genealogy and Local History Index at <http://genealogy.mohistory.org/genealogy/source/589>.

Anyone can visit the site and search for names of family members or ancestors who lived in the neighborhood during this time period. You can also search for your home address if you want to learn more about your home's previous residents.

If you find anything that interests you, you can order a photocopy of the page to be mailed to you for a fee; or, you can visit the Library and Research Center in person (see <http://mohistory.org/library/visit-the-library-research-center/> for details) to view the newsletters and make copies for 25 cents per page.

Anyone can also search the entire Genealogy and Local History Index at <http://genealogy.mohistory.org/>, which includes hundreds of other publications, documents, and photos from their collections, in addition to the News of St. Louis Hills newsletters.

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A Twisted Experience

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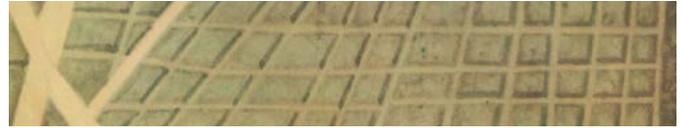
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A Part of Keeping Home

by Nancy Vordtriede



In 1929, the first home in St. Louis Hills was built by contractor R.C. Micotto at 6226 Itaska. Thirty days after development began, the stock market crashed. Despite the onset of the Great Depression, an opening celebration was held in July 1930 and was attended by then-Mayor Victor Miller and a campaigning Harry Truman. Two thousand roses were placed on all front lawns and one hundred thousand irises were planted in Francis Park. A 35-foot lot sold for as much as \$2,100.

The growing St. Louis Hills development was enriched with clubs, activities, and committees: A spark which showed itself in simple cooperative neighborhood efforts. Each day offered opportunities, a part of keeping home.

The St. Louis Hills Garden Club found its roots (no pun intended) in 1934. The club originally dealt with the beautification of yards, front yard contests, and all landscape phases but eventually found themselves doing in-depth studies of trees and shrubs suitable for the area. Club members collectively held flower shows and won ribbons during shows at the Arena. Garden Club parties were held: Gardenias for the women, carnations for the men, an eight piece orchestra, a luncheon, and chances sold.

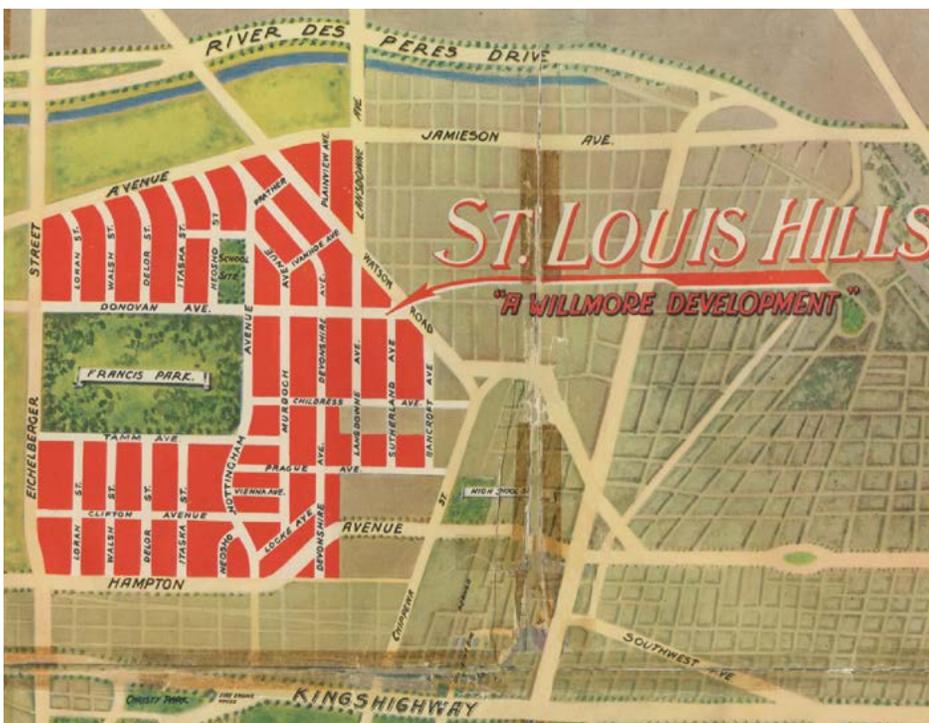
The St. Louis Hills Little Theatre organized in 1939, featuring two plays and one musical comedy production each season. The “little theatre” was a community affair: Tryouts were open to all, and season tickets were sold. City-wide play tournaments were also held, and certain cast members would receive trophies as well!

The St. Louis Hills Music Club began with musical meetings, followed by performances from classical prominent musicians. The main activity of the club was choir and choral works learned and performed by members of the club.

Spring forward to current day: Clubs are now named Committees, but our neighborhood value, return on investment, and sense of “club activities” still remains the same.

Having read a tidbit of history, I encourage my fellow neighbors to participate in a part of keeping home. Join a committee, activity, or event as a volunteer, whether it be Run For the Hills, Gateway Cup, Block Captain Program, Safety Committee, Art in the Park, Welcome Committee, Francis Park Clean-Up, etc.

Call or email me if you would like to volunteer: Nan Vordtriede, (314) 616-6468, membership@stlhills.com





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Home Security Cameras Help Catch Criminals By Chip Kastner

Like many neighborhood residents, I attended a meeting at Bishop Dubourg High School last winter regarding a recent increase in carjackings across the nation. Several of the speakers at the meeting said that one of the most cost-effective steps a resident can take to help catch criminals is to install a home security camera or video doorbell.

At the time, I was on the fence about the idea. I didn't have a home security camera, and never owned one in my life. However, we decided to purchase a \$200 Nest Cam a little while after the meeting and install it in our living room. (I want to note that I do not have any business relationship with or financial interest in any companies whose products are discussed in this article.)

As long as you have a smartphone and a home Wi-Fi network, setup is incredibly simple. You begin by downloading the free Nest app from either the Apple or Android app store and set up an account. Within the app, there's a button to add a new device; this prompts you to scan a code that's located

on the camera. From there, it takes you through a few simple steps and within a few minutes, the camera is up and running.

Through the app on your phone, you can set up features such as sending you notifications when motion is detected. The notifications can be suppressed when you're home, or during certain times of day. The video stream is immediately and securely sent over the Internet to Nest for storage and viewing, so you don't need to worry about someone destroying the camera and any collected video. You can even use your phone to talk through the camera to anybody within earshot.

The main drawback is that, out of the box, Nest only keeps a few hours of video clips. You can pay a monthly rate to have them store either five, ten or thirty days of video; the rate is discounted for any cameras beyond the first.

Another feature of the subscription is that you can use Nest's website to draw "activity zones" in the camera's field of vision. I have dogs, and they tend to wander around my living room and set off the camera notifications constantly

while I'm at work. Therefore, I've set up zones that are difficult for the dogs to enter but almost impossible for a human to avoid. I only get alerts if motion is detected in one of these zones.

While the camera occasionally sends me false alarms, we were happy enough with the product that we purchased a Nest Cam Outdoor for the backyard, which has an identical price and set of features but is also weather-resistant and includes a long power cord and mounting hardware. This monitors my entire backyard.

Finally, we purchased the Nest Hello, a video doorbell that costs \$230 and provides a nice view of the entire front yard. In addition to the features of the cameras, if you pay for the subscription it will also learn people's faces and tell you who is at your front door. The activity zones are quite helpful here as well, so that we're not alerted to

people on the sidewalk or cars in the street. The big catch with the doorbell is that unless you know what you're doing, you need an electrician to install it for you.

Nest also makes higher-end cameras that have much better resolution and also recognize familiar faces. However, we don't

own them and I cannot personally attest to whether they are worth the extra expense.

I also know several people who are very happy with their Ring or Skybell video doorbells. You may have seen that Ring was recently acquired by Amazon (Nest has been owned by Google for several years); Ring also offers security cameras. These products have slightly different feature sets from each other and their Nest counterparts, so do your research; but both companies' doorbells start at a lower price than the Nest Hello and have less expensive storage plans. Furthermore, many of Ring's products optionally come in a battery-powered version so that you don't need to run a wire or hire an electrician.

While everyone's yard and home are different, in my situation the doorbell and outdoor camera were enough to make it virtually impossible for anyone to unexpectedly approach my house without being recorded by one of the two cameras. We've never had to use our cameras to identify the perpetrator of a crime, but they do help provide extra peace of mind.



The doorbell camera alerts me to motion on the front porch while I'm at work. This time, it was a squirrel. Neighbors' houses and vehicles have been blurred. Photo by Chip Kastner.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! (Cont'd from Page 7)

Christmas season. We are looking for a Committee Chair to help pick out the best displays in the neighborhood.

The Committee Chair recruits volunteers to judge the lights. The neighborhood is divided into several sections, and each judge is tasked with determining the best-decorated homes in their section and bringing them to the Chair for a final vote. Winners, who must be active members of the SLHNA, receive gift certificates donated by local businesses. Awards are also given for best-decorated blocks.

Judging starts the weekend of the Francis Park tree lighting and ends right before Christmas.

If you are interested in being a Committee Chair, please email Nan Vortriede at treasurer@stlhills.com.

Annual scholarship

The SLHNA gives out three \$600 scholarships every year to graduating eighth graders whose parents are members of the neighborhood association. The Scholarship Chairman contacts the principals of the schools in the neighborhood (St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, Busch School of Character, and Word of Life School) in March to ask them to send out information about the scholarship, which includes an application form with all pertinent facts, to parents via school newsletters and weekly bulletins. The chairman also asks the people in charge of the church bulletins to include information about the scholarship in the weekly church missives for a couple of weeks. The chairman makes sure the SLHNA website also contains current information and a current application.

Applications are sent to the SLHNA P.O. Box in April. The chairman then makes copies of all the material sent by the applicants and asks 4-6 judges to score the applicants in four areas. The chairman then tallies the scores and the three top-scoring applicants receive the scholarships.

For the past few years, the scholarships have been awarded at graduation ceremonies at the end of May. The chairman or a representative of the SLHNA attends the ceremonies and after contacting the principals involved, is placed on the graduation program and presents the scholarships to the students during the event. The chairman then contacts the SLHNA treasurer to write the checks, and the chairman sends a letter and checks to the high schools involved.

The outgoing chairman will be happy to walk the new chairman through the process in March of 2019. The documents used in the past can be digitally transferred to the new chairman.

If you are interested, please contact Joyce Bytnar at (314) 481-5550 or jebytnar@gmail.com.

SAINT LOUIS HILLS HISTORICAL QUIZ

by Rick Palank

Have you ever wondered what businesses used to be located in and around St. Louis Hills? Take the quiz to see if you can guess the original business that used to be where the current business is now located.

Address & current business at location			Original business at address (shuffled)	
1	6456 Chippewa	IHOP	A	Lammert Furniture Company
2	6536 Chippewa	Self-service car wash	B	Parkmoor restaurant
3	4923 Hampton	St. Louis Pizza & Wings	C	Venker Drug Store
4	4301 Hampton	Bank of America	D	Del Pietro's
5	6436 Chippewa	Forte Spa	E	Steak N Shake
6	5625 Hampton	Salt & Smoke	F	Kroger
7	6650 Chippewa	Francis Park Dentistry	G	Brune's Market
8	6622 Chippewa	Starbucks	H	Earl's "66" Service Station
9	6725 Chippewa	Enterprise Bank	I	Joseph Nesser Motor's Inc.
10	6900 Chippewa	Total Access Urgent Care	J	Windsor Inn

Correct Answers: 1.H; 2.I; 3.J; 4.F; 5.G; 6.D; 7.C; 8.E; 9.B; 10.A



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NOTABLE DATES

June 19, 2018 - Traveling Tuesdays at Buder Library
Buder Library's monthly program will be going to Hawaii. Everyone is invited to attend a Luau and is urged to dig their Hawaiian shirts out of the closet to wear.

June 21, 2018, 7:00pm - Not So Quiet! Concert at Buder Library
Portrait - The Music of Kansas will be performing in the library's south side parking lot.

August 11, 2018 - Grub and Groove
A free annual concert event in Francis Park brought to you by Friends of Francis Park. The event showcases live music and food and drink from local restaurants.

September 1, 2018 - Tour de Francis Park
The second leg of the Gateway Cup, an annual professional cycling race in four St. Louis neighbors, is held around Francis Park.

September 15, 2018 - Run for the Hills
An annual 5k run or 1 mile walk around Francis Park, with all proceeds benefiting Francis Park.

September 30, 2018, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm - Art in the Park
Family, friends and neighbors enjoy art, music and food surrounding the majestic lily pond at the center of Francis Park.

October 14, 2018, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm - 2018 House Tour
Several area residents graciously open their homes for the public to view the distinct architecture of the St. Louis Hills neighborhood.

If you would like to advertise in a future issue please contact Terry North at tcnorthdesignlines@sbcglobal.net. To submit an article or if you have an idea for future content, please contact us at slhnanewsletter@gmail.com

St. Louis Hills
News and Views



Publication of the
St. Louis Hills
Neighborhood Association

cmkastn@gmail.com
PO Box 190314
St. Louis, MO 63119-6314

Editor

Chip Kastner

Layout

Greg Haupt w/The Done Dept.

Advertisements

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