

# Francis Park events kick off August 11



by Chip Kastner and Rick Palank

It may be hard to believe with the brutal St. Louis summer bearing down on us, but the end is in sight. July is, on average, our hottest month; although August only tends to be a degree or two cooler, things start cooling off a bit in September and October. Except, of course, when they don't.

Regardless of the famously unpredictable weather patterns, the three months from August through October bring a number of exciting events to Francis Park. If you're new to the neighborhood, or just haven't had the chance to check out any of these events in the past, you should definitely try to attend at least one.

The events kick off in the afternoon of August 11, with Grub & Groove, a concert featuring live music from various St. Louis musicians as well as food and drinks from various local restaurants. The event has been held since 2011; proceeds from the event are used to improve Francis Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Food vendors this year include Adam's Smokehouse, Aya Sofia, Byrd & Barrel, Edibles & Essentials, Ices Plain & Fancy, LeGrand's Market, Mama's on the Hill, Mission Taco Joint, Narwhal's Crafted, STL Pretzel Boys, Pi

■ Cont'd on page 2

Left: The statue of David R. Francis will be installed in Francis Park on October 7. Below: On August 11, Grub & Groove will kick off a summer and fall full of unique events in Francis Park.



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## Francis Park events (Cont'd from Page 1)

Pizzeria, Salt + Smoke, Tapped, and 1764 Public House. Beer will be provided by 4 Hands Brewing Co.

If you're interested in volunteering, or just learning more about the event, visit [www.grubandgroovestl.com](http://www.grubandgroovestl.com).

On September 1, the second leg of the Gateway Cup -- Tour de Francis Park -- will be held around the park. This is the 33rd year of the Cup, which is held across four days in different St. Louis neighborhoods over Labor Day weekend.

Each day of the event contains 9 races, beginning with amateur events and building up to men's and women's professional races. The professional races attract 150 national and international cyclists, who average 30 miles per hour around the courses as they compete for a total cash purse of \$70,000.

The races start at 11:00 am with Juniors races; the final race, the men's professional, starts at 5:30 pm. The other legs of the Gateway Cup are held on August 31, September 2 and September 3 in the Lafayette Park, Hill, and Benton Park neighborhoods. For more information, please visit [www.gatewaycup.com](http://www.gatewaycup.com).

On September 15, at 8:00 am, the 27th annual Run for the Hills will be held. This is a 5k race through the St. Louis Hills neighborhood. Registration is \$25 and includes a T-shirt (\$30 if paid on the 14th or 15th of September), or \$60 for a family registration that includes three shirts.

There's also a 1 mile walk / fun run and competitive youth run held at 9:00 am. Registration for this event is \$20 and includes a T-shirt (\$25 if paid on the 14th or 15th of September), or \$60 for a family registration that includes three shirts.

Regardless of how you participate, all proceeds from the event go to benefit Francis Park. Meet in front of St. Gabriel's Church prior to the event. More details, as well as a registration form, can be found on page 13 of this newsletter.

After the run and walk events, three rounds of footgolf will be held in Francis Park. Tentative tee times are at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Each round of footgolf should take about 90 minutes. The top scoring footgolfers will return to play the last three holes in front of a festive gallery at 4:30 pm.

On September 30th, from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm, Art in the Park will again be held around the lily pond in Francis park. This event attracts artists of all kinds from around the country, who sell their artwork from tents set up around the pond. Food vendors also have a presence at the event.

The proceeds of this event are used to pay for the installation of art exhibits in the park. For more information, visit [www.artintheparkstl.com](http://www.artintheparkstl.com).

Finally, a once-in-a-lifetime event is coming to Francis Park at 1:00 pm on Sunday, October 7: The dedication of the statue of David Francis in the park that bears his name.

The David R. Francis Committee has raised over \$150,000 for the statue. Donations are still encouraged to cover the cost of installation, landscaping, and upkeep. Please consider donating. A donation of only \$250 will memorialize you, your children, or another family member with an engraved clay brick.

For more information about donating, David R. Francis, the world-famous sculptor Harry Weber, and Memories of Francis Park, please [www.drftmemorial.org](http://www.drftmemorial.org).



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# Neighborhood Spotlight: Salt + Smoke

by Chip Kastner



Before Tom Schmidt opened Salt+Smoke on Delmar Boulevard in 2014, he was best known for Franco, his French bistro in Soulard. “We would cure, smoke and age up to 15 different salume and charcuterie at any given time,” Schmidt says. “Barbecue really holds to the same ethos but is much more attractive to everyone and less stuffy. We were able to take that same passion and experience and translate it into something more fun that everyone can enjoy and not be intimidated by.”

Unique to St. Louis-area barbecue restaurants, Salt+Smoke offers an extensive variety of nearly 200 whiskeys, with a particular focus on bourbon. “We smoke our famous brisket over post oak, which is exactly what bourbon is aged in. The two are really complementary as both provide immense, bold flavor,” Schmidt says.

When Schmidt looked to add a second location, St. Louis Hills was a natural choice. “South City has been loyal and full of great families and small businesses forever, but the last ten years has seen a huge resurgence that I felt was being somewhat ignored for flashier areas,” Schmidt says. The location allows them to own the building and parking lot, both of which are fairly large and help the restaurant’s ever-growing catering division.

The building at 5625 Hampton previously housed Mathew’s Kitchen from 2011 to 2016, and before that was the home of Del Pietro’s for 35 years. Over the decades, the building was added to in the only way possible without closing for months at a time: Constructing a new building on the outside of the existing one and punching a hole through the wall on the day construction was completed. Schmidt wanted to open up the space and tie all the rooms together, as well as add in natural light and carry

Clockwise from upper left: Salt+Smoke has been located at 5625 Hampton since October 2017; the restaurant’s smokers go to work on another batch; the restaurant’s bar serves nearly 200 varieties of whiskey. Photos by Kristi Foster Photography ([www.kristifosterphotography.com](http://www.kristifosterphotography.com)).

over the casual and hip backyard barbecue theme from the first restaurant. The project’s large scope introduced various delays, but the restaurant opened last October.

“We were thrilled with the crowds and certainly surprised, especially in the way that people really care about our success and treat us like family. It has been great,” Schmidt says.

This past spring, Salt+Smoke was the victim of a string of burglaries. The police arrested two suspects after reviewing the surveillance footage. After the arrest, the St. Louis Hills neighborhood rallied around the restaurant. “Without any of my knowledge of it, over 100 residents volunteered to sign an impact statement that ■ Cont’d on page 6

# Safety Committee: Make the call

by Patricia Talley, Crime & Safety Education

Recently, gunshots were heard at Jamieson & Itaska. There was a lot of chatter on Nextdoor St. Louis about it, but not one call was registered with the 9-1-1 Call Center. When no calls come in, the police do not consider that an incident occurred. With no record of calls, we get less attention from patrol cars. The obvious conclusion to draw here is that to get the attention we deserve, we need to become more vocal about our concerns.

Here are some tips on when you should call 9-1-1:

- When a crime is in progress
- When there is an immediate threat of harm to a person
- Discovery of a human body
- Medical emergency
- When you've identified a suspect to a crime
- When there's a need for crowd control
- When you hear gunshots or a call for help

When to call 231-1212:

- Incidents involving minor injuries or an assault where no injuries are detected
- Property damage
- Peace disturbance
- Illegal trash dumping
- To report stolen car or other property

When you make the call, you should be ready to answer as much of the following as you can: Who, What, When, Where, How and Why.

As a community, it's important that we take the initiative and become partners with the police department in keeping our neighborhood safe. We have the power to keep our streets safe and keep crime from happening here, but it will take the involvement of us all to make a difference.

# Jefferson City tackles expired temp tags

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



This past session, I was able to pass legislation that was a concern of residents in the 82nd District and beyond. By now, everyone has seen vehicles on the roads with expired temporary license plates and the problem is getting worse. The Department of Revenue issues temporary license plates when someone buys a car in order to

give people some extra time to pay their taxes.

When I purchased a car in 2017 and went to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to get my permanent license plates, I noticed that the DMV did not have a process in place to dispose of temporary tags. DMV license facilities are independently owned and operated by individuals contracted by the state of Missouri. The legislation I passed, that becomes law in August 2018, requires the Missouri Department of Revenue to collect temporary tags and destroy them before issuing permanent license plates.

It has been found that a large percentage of those driving with expired temporary tags are more than likely uninsured.

In the future, I hope to work with the Department of Insurance to further address this issue.

If you have ideas for future legislation or notice an issue that you would like to get addressed, please email me at [donna.baringer@house.mo.gov](mailto:donna.baringer@house.mo.gov). It is an honor to serve as your state representative and appreciate your input.



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# South City Trash

by Chip Kastner

I didn't know it at the time, but I nearly violated section 11.02.235 of the city code within a week of moving to St. Louis Hills. I had just gotten my gallbladder removed, and was getting restless from sitting around the house. So, I ignored my doctor's advice and decided to throw out the pile of scrap lumber left in the garage from the previous resident.

As I got ready to place a large amount of loose lumber in the dumpster, a neighbor spotted me and quipped that there were six households who needed to share it. In my shame, I quickly brought my offending items back into the garage. I got out my reciprocating saw, and much smaller pieces of lumber went out to the dumpster in wrapped batches over the next several weeks.

In addition to prohibiting this kind of rude behavior, the city code prohibits people from putting items in the dumpster that weigh more than fifty pounds, exceed three feet in length, or prevent the lid of a dumpster from closing. Furthermore, between collections, individuals are prohibited from placing more than 350 pounds or one cubic yard of trash in the dumpsters. (By the way, a cubic yard is a little over 200 gallons.) While you are supposed to use the dumpster nearest your house, you are allowed to use other dumpsters if the one nearest you is full. If it doesn't qualify for the dumpster, you should set it out for bulk pickup.



While this is a common sight throughout St. Louis, filling a dumpster so much that the lid can't close is against city code. When this happens, you should use another dumpster instead. Photo by Chip Kastner.

In addition to being a good neighbor regarding trash disposal, there are several steps that you can take to improve the cleanliness of your block. You can try out "plogging" -- short for picking up litter and jogging -- if you're out for a run or walking your dog. Better yet, you and your neighbors can coordinate a small scale cleanup and flower planting with help from Brightside St. Louis at <http://www.brightsidestl.org/what-we-do/cleaning/project-blitz/>.

The city is also in the process of upgrading its trash truck fleet. A \$3 per month increase for trash collection was approved in July 2017, and is being used to purchase new trash trucks. A total of eighteen new trucks, costing a quarter of a million dollars each, are scheduled to be delivered through the summer. Within three years, the city's shortage of functional trucks should be resolved.

However, illegal dumping is still a major issue in the city of St. Louis, and the police department's Trash Task Force is currently gathering data to determine which alleys have the worst dumping problems, in order to deploy cameras in the areas where illegal dumping is the most serious problem. Footage from these cameras is being used to identify and take action against offenders..

If you see illegal dumping in progress, or know of a location where it regularly occurs, you can call the Citizens Service Bureau at 314-622-4800, send a tweet to @stlCSB, or file a report via the city of St. Louis' website. These reports from civic-minded citizens are a critical component in resolving the costly problem of illegal dumping.



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## Neighborhood Spotlight: Salt + Smoke (Cont'd from Page 3)

the judge will take into consideration when sentencing the couple," Schmidt says. "It was really kind and assuring that so many people cared enough to do that."

When asked about his favorite menu items, Schmidt brings up the White Cheddar Cracker Mac, which was a creation of his wife's that he calls "addictively good." The dish is made from scratch, and without cutting corners: The recipe starts with a light roux from milk, butter and flour before the addition of cream and white cheddar; the noodles are added, and then the dish is oven-baked with crushed Ritz crackers on top. "The mac and cheese itself is rich and creamy as it should be, and the crackers add a crispy, buttery crunch," Schmidt says. "I try not to eat it anymore because I had mac n cheese every day for three years, and no one can keep up that pace, but it always will be my first love."

As far as whiskey goes, Schmidt's favorite is the Buffalo Trace Salt+Smoke Single Barrel Bourbon on

the rocks. "We were able to select our own specific barrel from Buffalo Trace and buy the whole thing," Schmidt says. "It's much richer and more full bodied than the original and it goes great with the brisket."

In addition to the barbecue and bourbon, Salt+Smoke also offers a number of creative cocktails. Schmidt's favorite is, perhaps unsurprisingly, the "Salt+Smoke," which combines Laphroaig 10 year single malt scotch, Amaro Nonino, a tarragon simple syrup, and lime juice.

Now that the location on Hampton has been open for the better part of a year, Schmidt has become fond of the neighborhood. "It is a really close and active area. Everyone seems to have an event or charity or social enterprise they are working on, and that just creates all these fun ways to meet your neighbors and help others, or just get to know each other," Schmidt says.

## \$600,000 in improvements coming to Francis Park

by Tom Oldenburg, Ward 16 alderman



This marks my second summer representing the St. Louis Hills neighborhood. As always, my work is mostly comprised of two main areas: tackling citywide issues with the Board of Aldermen, and helping Ward 16 residents solve their day-to-day problems.

One recent citywide issue that I took on was ensuring that Proposition P's public safety tax dollars would be used as voters intended. I successfully passed Board Bill 246, which protects Proposition P funds from special budget reallocations unless an independent appropriations bill - complete with certain required information - is first approved by the Board of Aldermen. That bill will hold Aldermen individually accountable for any attempt to divert Proposition P tax dollars to another use.

Back in our neighborhood, we have laid plans to make more than \$600,000 in improvements to the jewel of St. Louis

Hills, Francis Park. Below are some of the upgrades that are planned:

- Construction of a brand new bathroom near the playground
- Purchase of new playground equipment
- Window, roof and façade upgrades to the current Park Building that is adjacent to the tennis courts
- A dedicated path from the playground to the tennis courts area
- Electrical upgrades to support the many events hosted in the park
- By popular demand, construction of two pickleball courts on the east side of the tennis courts

I want to thank the Friends of Francis Park for their continued support of these efforts. They share in this good news and are equally excited about being able to enhance the experience of residents and visitors who are seeking recreation and relaxation in the park.

Finally, if you need help with an issue or want to chat, you can always contact me at (314) 896-0204 or [oldenburgt@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:oldenburgt@stlouis-mo.gov). You can also follow me on Facebook or Twitter; just search for @OldenburgSTL to get started.

# Four neighborhood students offered scholarships

by Joyce Bytnar

Four eighth graders have received the annual SLHNA Scholarship for 2018. They are:

- Jaynie Chatman from St. Gabriel, who will attend Rosati-Kain
- Grace Goeddel from St. Raphael School, who will attend Cor Jesu Academy
- Corie Longland from St. Ambrose, who will attend Bishop DuBourg High School
- Sam Zychinski from St. Gabriel, who will attend SLUH

These students were judged on academic performance, community service, extracurricular activities, a letter of recommendation, and an essay. The students received their awards in surprise announcements at their grade school completion ceremonies.

The SLHNA offers these \$600 scholarships each year to at least three eighth graders whose parents have a history of membership in the neighborhood organization. The scholarship applies to the first high school year. Next year's competition will begin in March.

Clockwise from upper left: Grace Goeddel, Corie Longland, Sam Zychinski, and Jaynie Chatman were awarded \$600 scholarships by the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association.




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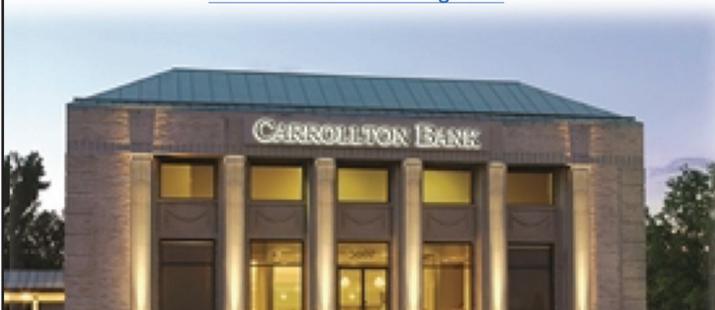
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## To the rescue! ...but which one?

by Jody Freeman

St. Louis and the surrounding areas have rescues for nearly every critter there is, but it can be confusing to find the right one. Knowing the right place to call at the moment of rescue is important; time can be of the essence. Many people want to help, but don't have accurate information.

There are two main bird rescues in St. Louis, which are often confused. Wild Bird Rehabilitation in Overland is a songbird hospital, covering hummingbirds all the way up to crows and some smaller swamp birds, such as rails, snipe, and green herons. This is a rehabilitation/hospital and cannot keep birds that will not be able to return to the wild. There is an avian veterinarian on staff and every effort is made to make sure the bird becomes strong, healthy, and ready for release. From newly hatched baby birds to adult birds, all species of songbirds are welcome.

Wild Bird Rehabilitation runs on donations only (tax deductible), so any time you can help, it's greatly appreciated. The volunteers are trained in advance of baby bird season, ready to feed incubator babies (hatchlings and nestlings) at 20 minute intervals, and fledglings every 40 minutes to an hour depending on age, from sunup to sundown. Different species require different diets, too, so it's best to know exactly what species the bird is, and know their diet. Please call in advance of delivering a bird to the clinic, no matter what age, so WBR can determine, with you, what needs to be done.



Fledglings, like these two house sparrows, sometimes look like they need help -- but they are still closely guarded by their parents. Photo by Jody Freeman.

When birds "fledge" (leave the nest), they cannot fly yet, and will remain on the ground for up to two weeks while they learn. During that time they are still closely guarded by their parents, who drop down to feed them when needed, and call to them from above to stay still, stay silent, and reassure them that they are not alone. Baby birds have no scent, which protects them from predators most of the time. Often times at this stage, well-meaning people think the baby has been abandoned, or the dog/cat will get it, but birds are very family oriented and the parents know what they're doing.

Sometimes birds build their nests in spaces that are inconvenient to us humans. If this is the case, and you see it before it's a finished nest, it can be removed. This may have to be done several times (and in very quick succession) to convince them that it's not a safe place to have a family. Please remember, they are only doing what nature intends, and are not trying to encroach on humans in any way. If there are eggs in the nest, you must leave it alone. Native birds are protected, they are not pets, and it is illegal to have them in your possession. It only takes a few short weeks to go from eggs to fledglings, and once they leave the nest, the same babies will not return. That's the time to remove an inconvenient nest. After the holidays, or other times you might leave decorations on your front door or porch, please remove them in early spring before mating season begins, as they are often mistaken for good nesting places.

A common myth, and we've all heard it, is that if you touch a baby bird, the parents will abandon it. This is NOT true. Again, parent birds are very family  Cont'd on page 9



Nestlings, like these two grackles, sometimes fall out of the nest. If you put them back, the parents will take care of the rest. Photo by Jody Freeman.

## Historical tidbits shared

by Nan Vordtriede

Through the years, St. Louis Hills has been known for its rich history, writings, research and contributions by our SLH Neighborhood Historians. A small few include Ginny Nester, Joseph J. Hanses, Pat Messmer, Ann Zanaboni, Ron Elz, (a.k.a. Johnny Rabbitt), and Paul Ritter.

For purposes of this writing, I would like to credit two past historians, Ginny Nester and Joseph Hanses, since I would like to re-share tidbits from some of their past newsletter writings through the years. Current updates I have provided.

Frederick Pittman, prominent surveyor, laid out the lots, streets, and alleys in the St. Louis Hills Subdivision. Many of the earlier lots were designated to be 35 feet wide, however this later was increased, as they were thought to

be too small. In 1929 the lots were purchased for \$2,000 with only a 35 foot frontage.

In December 1938, Hoffmeister Mortuary (now known as Dignity), completes its new Georgian Colonial structure at 6464 Chippewa, Highway 66 at that time was referred to as "The Main Street of America."

In October of 1937, the first food market was built and called Binder's Market. Now called LeGrand's.

White Castle Number 24, this once porcelain enamel landmark (originally on the corner of Hampton and Chippewa) opened 11/13/1937. Its architectural design was copied from the historic Chicago Water Tower, whose embattlements and turrets were ■ **Cont'd on page 15**

## To the rescue! ...but which one? (Cont'd from Page 8)

oriented, and they don't have a good sense of smell anyway, so they'll never know you've picked up the baby and put it back in the nest. This isn't required for fledglings (fully feathered young birds), but can often be the case if the nestling fell, or even got blown out of their nest by a storm or strong wind. If the nest can be reached, carefully pick the babies back up and put them back, then stay away from the area so the parents can resume their job. For more information, please go to [www.wildbirdrehab.org](http://www.wildbirdrehab.org) or call (314) 426-6400. Remember, during baby bird season, the phones are very busy, so checking the website for information first is best. If you're ever interested in volunteering, please fill out the application on the website and you will be contacted.

Often confused with Wild Bird Rehab when it comes to bird rescues is World Bird Sanctuary in Valley Park. This is a sanctuary, for injured raptors only, (i.e. owls, hawks, eagles, and other birds of prey). The licenses for raptors and for songbirds are not the same, and neither place is allowed to have birds that aren't under their specific license. If the wrong species is dropped off at the wrong rescue, they must be transported to the correct one within a short time frame. Unlike a rehab facility, a sanctuary can house birds that are no longer able to be on their own, in the wild. These birds are used for educational purposes, mostly. Because raptors are large and strong, and have the ability to tear meat for food, it's not recommended that anyone other than a trained handler attempt to pick one up without instruction. World Bird Sanctuary volunteers are trained and are happy to assist in your rescue. For more information, please go to [www.worldbirdsantuary.org](http://www.worldbirdsantuary.org) or call (636) 861-3225.

Other rescues include:

- Bi-State Wildlife Hotline: (636) 492-1610. For questions on which rescue facility to contact.
- Treehouse Wildlife Center (Illinois): (618) 466-2990. Raptors, water fowl, small mammals.
- Geese Peace: (314) 567-2081. Canadian Geese and native ducks.
- Wildlife Rescue Center of MO (Ballwin, MO): (636) 394-1880. Mammals, bats, ducks, geese, coots, reptiles, turtles, other water fowl, and turkeys.

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# Why I moved to St. Louis Hills

by Angela Ricketts

There really is no place quite like St. Louis Hills. I have a long connection to the neighborhood, but just recently have called it home.

My childhood home growing up was just a couple miles away. My parents and my ninety-three year old grandmother still call Shrewsbury home. I grew up houses away from my grandmother on Murdoch.

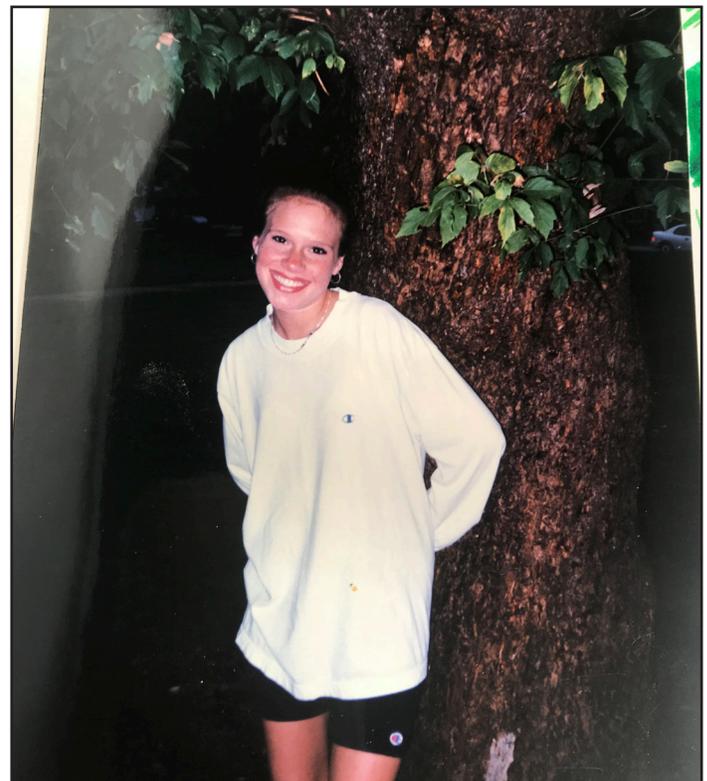
My husband is from Webster Groves, and until we met he had never experienced St. Louis Hills. He was familiar with Ted Drewes. But when we were dating, I introduced him to Francis Park. As a child, my family and I would frequent the park, often packing up my bike as I rode the dirt path as they walked. It was here I eventually found my love of walking, especially when it was at Francis Park.

As I got older, I played at the playground with my friends while my mom walked the park.

Then as a preteen, I began to walk the park on my own with my Walkman. My mom walked one direction and I walked the other, feeling a sense of growing up. Later, when I could drive, I would come to the park most evenings ■ Cont'd on page 11



Above: The Ricketts family moved to St. Louis Hills in 2016. Below: Angela Ricketts grew up in Shrewsbury, but spent much of her childhood and teenage years in Francis Park. Bottom left: The Ricketts children pose in front of their St. Louis Hills home. Photos by Angela Ricketts.





# St. Gabe's Boy Scouts clean up Francis Park

by Scott Hoffmann, Secretary, Boy Scout Troop 4 & Cub Scout Pack 4

During Spring Clean-Up at Francis Park, Boy Scout Troop 4, St. Gabriel the Archangel, went to our usual assignment and cleaned out the creek. I say "usual" because we have been creek cleaning for quite a number of years. We were first invited to help with park clean-up five Scoutmasters ago under Dick O'Brien. We are currently being led by Brian King.

Whenever Troop 4 has an activity in Francis Park, our Boy Scouts naturally gravitate to the creek. Since the creek is a backdrop for several of our Scout activities, we have an obligation to try to keep it nice for "the next guy." Often, "the next guy" happens to be Troop 4.

Cleaning the creek involves removing accumulated sticks

and leaves and putting the debris in plastic bags. It is hard, dirty, smelly work, but it does come with an immediate reward. The stagnant black water begins to flow again and magically turns clear.

We still haven't found the Croc shoe one of our Scouts lost after slipping in the mud several years ago. That lost "croc" has become part of Troop 4 lore. We tell the Scouts to be on the lookout for it every time we "muck out" the creek.

Every year at our Troop meeting closest to Veteran's Day (November 11), Troop 4 holds a "flag retirement" ceremony in the bench area near the creek. We retire old and tattered flags by burning them in a fire pit in a very respectful ceremony.  **Cont'd on page 13**

## St. Louis House Tour returns October 14

by Joyce Bytnar

The biennial SLHNA House Tour will take place on Sunday, October 14, from 10 am to 5 pm. Tickets will be \$20 before the event, and \$25 the day of the event. The ticket tent will be located at the intersection of Eichelberger and Childress in front of the tennis courts. Information about purchasing pre-event tickets can be found on the SLHNA website ([www.stlhills.com](http://www.stlhills.com)). Pre-paid tickets can be picked up at the ticket tent starting at 9 a.m. the day of the event. Some local businesses will be selling pre-event tickets, including Abigail's Gift Boutique (5611 Hampton Ave.), South Side Hardware (6401 Hampton Ave.) and The Done Dept. (5301 Hampton Ave.).

Two trolley cars will be available if needed for transportation to the houses, and hungry travelers can patronize Russo's Gourmet Food Truck which will be located near the ticket tent from 10 am until 2 pm.

Event Chairman Rick Palank and his committee of Kathy Fellin, Joan Sharkey, Carol Wilson, and Nina Chastain have been working since the last house tour in 2016 to coordinate this year's event. There are ten stops on the tour including both two-story homes and ranch homes, built from the 1930's to the 1950's. In addition, the St. Gabriel parish rectory and Ascension Lutheran Church are included. Many of the homes have been expanded with bump-outs and additions in the rear, and some have been gut-rehabbed. One of the houses is on Candy Cane Lane!

Rick Palank, neighborhood historian as well as coordinator of the event, says the first house tour of St. Louis Hills was held in September of 1952 to benefit the "new Nottingham School" that was under construction at the time. House tours were held sporadically in the years following until 2010 when they began their regular appearance every two years. Rick has been involved since then because he wants to increase the awareness and the popularity of St. Louis Hills. A lifelong resident of St. Louis Hills, Rick is particularly pleased when he hears remarks from people who are not familiar with the area but visit the houses on the tour and are both surprised and impressed by the neighborhood they have discovered, calling St. Louis Hills "a gem."

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**St. Gabe's Boy Scouts clean up Francis Park** (Cont'd from Page 12)

One year we had quite a few flags to retire, so the flames got to about 8 feet tall. A diligent Francis Park neighbor, unaware of our ceremony, called the Fire Department stating the park was on fire. The Fire Department responded very quickly, and just as quickly, discovered our Scouts, in full uniform, reverently retiring flags. It is now standard procedure for Troop 4 to notify the Fire Department whenever we have a flag retirement ceremony.

A few weeks after the spring park clean-up, the Bear Den (3rd grade) of Cub Scout Pack 4, St. Gabriel the Archangel, decided to clean the creek. Yes, even our young Cub Scouts have a requirement to do community service.

While clearing even more debris from under the stone bridge, the Bears made a surprising discovery: Part of the debris being pulled out turned out to be a handgun. The

Bears immediately told their Den Leaders, who then called 9-1-1. Police arrived and took possession of the handgun, which we later found was a 9mm pistol.

After further investigation, Den Leaders were told the gun was so corroded it would take some time to trace the gun's origin and last known owner. Corrosion was so advanced, police were having difficulty trying to determine how to remove any bullets still in the gun to render it inert.

At the May Pack Meeting, our Bear Den was recognized by Cub Master Tom Lake for recognizing a potential danger and immediately notifying an adult to handle the situation.

Pack 4 adults were greatly impressed that our third grade Bears had paid attention and followed the Scout safety rules they had been taught.



# RUN FOR THE HILLS

## 27 Years Running in St Louis Hills

### Saturday, September 15, 2018

**8am – 5K Run • 9am – 1 Mile Walk & Competitive Youth Run • Awards Following**

**Location:** Francis Park in St. Louis Hills. Use St. Gabriel Church on your GPS (6303 Nottingham, 63109).

- \*5K–Starts at the intersection of Donovan & Itaska Streets and ends at Nottingham & Tamm Avenues.
- \*1 Mile Walk & Fun Run–Starts & ends at Nottingham & Tamm Avenues.
- \*1 Mile Competitive Youth Run–Starts on Nottingham midway between Childress & Donovan and ends near Nottingham & Tamm Avenues.

**Entry Fees:**  
 \$25–Individual 5K (\$30 if registering on Friday, 9/14 or Saturday, 9/15)  
 \$20–1 Mile Walk & Fun Run and Competitive Youth Run (\$25 if registering on Friday, 9/14 or Saturday, 9/15)  
 \$60–5K Family registration (includes 3 unisex t-shirts)

**Questions:** Call (314) 749-8661.

**Registration:** Preregister with this form or [www.sthills.com](http://www.sthills.com) or <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/41359>. Family registrants must complete this form and mail or register in person on Friday 9/14. Checks payable to: Friends of Francis Park. Mail entry to: Run for the Hills, P.O. Box 190314, St. Louis, MO 63119-6314.

**Post-Race Ted Drewes, Bagels & Fruit+Awards+Microchip Timing By Big River Running+A Cool T-Shirt+You=Continued Beautification of Francis Park!**

---

**SINGLE PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION**

(1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age as of 9/15/18 \_\_\_\_ M F Event:  5K  1M Walk  Youth Run  Neighborhood Supporter **Shirt Size** (see above for options) \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY REGISTRATION**

(1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age as of 9/15/18 \_\_\_\_ M F Event:  5K  1M Walk  Youth Run  Neighborhood Supporter **Shirt Size** (see above for options) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age as of 9/15/18 \_\_\_\_ M F Event:  5K  1M Walk  Youth Run  Neighborhood Supporter **Shirt Size** (see above for options) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age as of 9/15/18 \_\_\_\_ M F Event:  5K  1M Walk  Youth Run  Neighborhood Supporter **Shirt Size** (see above for options) \_\_\_\_\_

**WAIVER:** I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also know that there will be traffic on the course route. I assume the risk of running in traffic. I also assume any and all other risks associated with running this event including but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, the conditions of the roads, all such risk being know and appreciated by me. In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I for myself, my executors, administrators and assignees do hereby release and discharge St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association, Friends of Francis Park, and all other sponsors and supporters and all agents, and persons acting for and on behalf of all such entities as a result of my participation in said event. **PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE:** (or responsible party if under 18)

# 2018 St. Louis Hills Lawn & Garden Awards

by Terry North

On June 30th we concluded the St. Louis Hills Lawn & Garden judging for 2018. Ten judges canvassed the neighborhood beginning early May. They weathered the cold, the rain, the heat (you'd think they were working for USPS) to view and nominate the best lawns and gardens in St. Louis Hills.

I have heard it said that the Lawn & Garden award is political, nothing could be further from the truth! It is simple math, those homes with the most votes win the award. A home cannot win consecutive years.

This year we had our first unanimous winner in a long time and a few first time winners. It is quite a joy for me to see the excitement and appreciation on a home owner's face to realize they won!



6203 Walsh St. was the first unanimous winner of the St. Louis Hills Lawn & Garden Awards in a number of years. Photo by Terry North.

Through my 9 years of involvement with L&G I have seen significant improvement in the way lawns and their landscapes have transformed. Is this due to the award? I doubt it, but there does seem to be a greater sense of pride and aesthetic interest in the curb appeal! We are seeing more hardscapes, more unusual plants and improved planting designs each year. It makes judging harder. Keep it up!

For 2018 the winning Lawn & Garden homes are:

- 6203 Walsh / Owners Mark & Julie Jacob (this was a unanimous selection by all 10 judges)

- 5815 Walsh / Owners Scott & Mary Kay Kirchner (second top vote-getter)
- 5809 Delor / Lawrence & Donna McEvoy
- 6253 Murdoch / Jonathan & Laura Hanks
- 6433 Murdoch / Robert & Judy Macek
- 6519 Murdoch / John & Marci Kuehner
- 5859 Loran / David & Janet Lemay
- 5011 Donovan / Thomas & Susan Campbell
- 5938 Hilgard / Nancy Vordtriede
- 37 Wilmore / Thomas & Jeanne Magee
- 6776 Westway / Robert Chester
- 6551 Itaska / James & Vicki Prasch
- 6013 Southland / Bernice Zaldo

#### Best Back Yards:

- 6565 Delor / Joann Devine
- 6542 Itaska / Daniel Flier & Andrew Formenti
- 5847 Loran / Douglas & Julia Hurst

#### Best Multi-Family:

- 5826-28 Loran / Joann Krause
- 5509 Jamieson

Best Corner at Francis Park (One may not know this, but each of the four corners of the park are designed and maintained by volunteers throughout the year):

- The corner of Tamm and Nottingham



The corner of Tamm and Nottingham was deemed the best corner of Francis Park. Photo by Terry North.

**Historical tidbits shared** (Cont'd from Page 9)

reproduced in miniature porcelain enamel. Hamburgers were 5 cents each! Sadly, this was eventually replaced by Fox photo and Target's parking lot.

A baseball field was at Target's location around 1938.

In July 1947, Hampton Village was described as the "World's Largest Drive In Shopping Center." Some of the shops were Sweetin's Floor Coverings, Johnnie Brock's Gifts, Gorman and Raab Toys, Eitenne Coiffures, Leon's Reducing Salon, and Caswell's and Hartman's Ice Cream. Incidentally a golf driving range and miniature golf housed Hampton Village before it was built.

In 1955, Joe Mittino operated a restaurant and dance lounge at 6600 Watson Rd. It was called "Shangra-La." It then became Garavelli's and now is American Eagle Credit Union.

In 1983 three St. Louis Homeowners' Association members donated fifty metal signs to the City of St. Louis to designate the St. Louis Hills area. These blue and white signs (This

was our true logo colors) were the gift of James T. Curran, Thomas May, and Joseph J. Hanses. Can you locate these signs today?

Now test your knowledge:

Cafe 66 was originally where Flaming Pit was later built. What is there now?

Lammert's Furniture was on what corner? McCall's Magazine featured in its June 1936 issue a "Home of the Month" in the 4900 Block of Tamm. Any idea which home? Lammert's Furniture was the decorator of this home in the issue.

Do you have historical memories or stories you wish to share? The St. Louis Hills History Committee appreciates all contributions of historical data. We also encourage you to share your stories and memories with us too. Interested in the History Committee? Email Nan Vordtriede at [membership@stlhills.com](mailto:membership@stlhills.com) or call 314-616-6468.

**2018 St. Louis Hills Lawn & Garden Awards** (Cont'd from Page 14)

Best Church:

- St. Raphael the Archangel

Congratulations to all of the winners!

I think our judges had so much fun that we are set for 2019! However, you never know what life brings, if you have an interest in being a judge for 2019 let me know and I will save your contact information.

Keep in mind, a beautiful lawn is where it all begins, and that starts in the fall with overseeding and fertilizing. A little different if you have Zoysia grass, don't fertilize past August 15th. Weeds... do your best to control them, catch your grass alternately. Water as necessary, an inch a week minimum, Zoysia loves water. Water in the early AM, never at night!

As for a landscape plan, start now, it doesn't happen overnight. The best landscapes have taken several years to mature. Water features are very popular and quite therapeutic as well, good consideration! My suggestion is to get a pad of grid paper and start laying out your planting bed(s). Be creative with shapes. I take a garden hose to lay out the template of a shaped planting bed, then cut the design from that shape. Personally, I despise the black plastic borders, using natural materials is far more interesting. Many do not know that the city provides authentic Cobblestones to city residents at a nominal fee. Contact the Street Department if you have an interest.

I could go on... see you in the yard!

In the last issue of this newsletter, a graphic accompanying the article "A Part of Keeping Home" was not properly credited to Drew Niermann, who provided it. We regret the error.



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or send a \$30 check to St. Louis Hills NA,  
P.O. Box 190314, St. Louis MO 63119-6314.

## NOTABLE DATES

August 11, 2018 (Francis Park) - Grub and Groove

August 15, 7:00 pm (Buder Library lower level) - St. Louis Hills board meeting

September 1, 2018, 11:00 am (Francis Park) - Tour de Francis Park

September 15, 2018, 8:00 am (Francis Park) - Run for the Hills

September 15, 2018, 11:00 am to 4:30 pm (Francis Park) - Footgolf Tournament

September 30, 2018, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (Francis Park) - Art in the Park

October 7, 2018, 1:00 pm (Francis Park) - David R. Francis statue dedication

October 14, 2018 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (Francis Park) - 2018 House Tour

October 25, 2018, 7:00 pm (Bishop Dubourg High School Cafeteria) - St. Louis Hills general meeting

November 25, 2018, 7:00 pm (Francis Park) - St. Louis Hills Christmas tree lighting



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