



Clockwise from upper left: The 6500 block of Prague, known as “Candy Cane Lane,” was one of three winners of the best-decorated block award; Louie and Fredbird pose in front of the Francis Park Christmas tree at the annual lighting; the 4700 block of Prague, known as “Angel Avenue,” was another best-decorated block winner. Photos of Angel Avenue and Candy Cane Lane by Kristi Foster (www.kristifosterphotography.com). Photo of Christmas tree lighting by Brad Arteaga (www.arteagaphotos.com).

The most wonderful time of the year

by Rob Curtin, Caitlin Kremer and Michael Kremer

The 19th annual St. Louis Hills Christmas Tree Lighting was held on Sunday, Nov. 25, 2018. Despite the wild weather conditions earlier that day, the rain and wind held off for a beautiful evening and a great start to the Christmas season.

An estimated crowd of nearly 1,000 was on hand to see the tree at Nottingham and Childress light up for the holiday season, as well as to see Santa, Mrs. Claus, Fredbird, and Louie. Ray and Mary Anne Braun once again provided their musical talents, giving the evening a festive soundtrack, while revelers enjoyed cookies from Dad’s Cookie Company, hot chocolate from Nestle, coffee from Starbucks, and horse-drawn carriage rides down Nottingham.

The SLHNA Board and Friends of Francis Park would like to thank Tom Gilmore and Gilmore Electric, Alderman Tom Oldenburg, State Representative Donna Baringer, Collector of Revenue Gregory Daly, all the volunteers and sponsors that made the event possible, and Mayor Lyda Krewson for lighting the tree.

We look forward to having everyone back for the 2019 tree lighting on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 7:00 pm. If you’d like to volunteer to help with the lighting in any capacity, Cont’d on page 2

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Christmas events (Cont'd from Page 1)

please contact Rob Curtin at jrcurtin3@gmail.com.

Right around the same time as the tree lighting, our neighborhood was coming alive with festive light displays. This year's Holiday Light Award Committee had a challenging task deciding which ten individual homes and three blocks were most worthy of awards from the Neighborhood Association.

Nine judges submitted their top ten choices for homes, making sure to include homes from each section of the neighborhood. This year, 37 individual houses were nominated! Winners included first time award recipients as well as homes that had been honored many times before.

The winners of best-decorated home awards received gift cards to local restaurant Edibles and Essentials. The gift cards were generously donated by the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association and Edibles and Essentials. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all those in our neighborhood who worked hard decorating their homes this year!

Ten Best Decorated Home Award Winners:

- 6488 Murdoch
- 6203 Walsh
- 4716 Prague
- 5809 Delor
- 6246 Itaska
- 5405 Donovan
- 6220 Walsh
- 6538 Neosho
- 6546 Itaska
- 5901 Highfield

Three Best Decorated Block Awards:

- 4700 Prague (Angel Avenue)
- 6200 Walsh
- 6500 Murdoch (Candy Cane Lane)



Five of the ten best-decorated homes in St. Louis Hills. 37 homes were nominated by nine judges. Photos provided by Caitlin Kremer.



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From the President

by Nan Vordtriede



This past Holiday season began with the annual Christmas tree lighting in Francis Park. Crescendo into the beautiful Winter Wonderland Holiday Party, with exceptional food, laughter, music, and raffles of baskets from local businesses. To complete the season's festivities, an appropriately orchestrated grand finale, with our spirited and traditional neighborhood Holiday displays and judging. DID YOU FEEL IT? Feel that

sense of St. Louis Hills spirit, tradition, energy, involvement, community, and celebration within our neighborhood? I would like to thank you all.

It is with that same energy I'd like to introduce myself as your new St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association (SLHNA) president. I am honored to have been nominated and look forward to working with you during the three-year term. For those I haven't met and look forward to meeting, my name is Nancy (Nan) Vordtriede. Since I value St. Louis Hills history, I am proud to share both that I am a lifelong resident of St. Louis Hills and my beautiful childhood home was on the 6000 block of Highfield Road. I later lived on the 6000 block of Southland Ave (an original built home for our grandparents) and now reside on the 5900 block of Hilgard Place. Simply proud to say I have lived in the city, in the St. Louis Hills area and have experienced several historical changes in the neighborhood. Wouldn't change a thing.

Easily coaxed out of retirement, I am a trained musician and

retired Organist/Choir Director. I am on the 33rd year working for a third generation owned, 91-year, specialty tool and gaging manufacturers representative. I serve quarterly on a council as an advocate for the elderly. As a member of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association, I have served two terms as Block Captain Committee Co-Chair, served two terms as Treasurer and am currently serving on numerous committees (Marketing, S&P, History, SLHNA SC). I am on the Friends of Francis Park Board and serve on the Run for the Hills Committee.

I wrote a portion of this quote in one of my History Committee reports back in 2016 and will add to it. I have always felt this warm, relaxed, architecturally diverse sense of community. Where else can you walk out your door with the intention of doing yard work, going for a walk, or visiting a local business and end up talking to your neighbor for hours? Where else can you work with such a wonderfully talented group of people that foster such a sense of community?

As you pack away the holiday lights, ringing in the New Year anticipating all it must hold, I would like to encourage three things, FIRST, renew your \$30.00 annual St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association Membership (SLHNA) dues. This is a small monetary investment toward activities to keep our area strong, our community together and a newsletter communicating other neighborhood efforts.

SECOND, check one of the boxes to volunteer. You are the important spokes that make the wheel spin! We count on your talents, ideas, and energy.

THIRD, I challenge you, email or write me with one or both of the following: Have a major concern, or a (realistic/reasonable) idea for improving the neighborhood or a new Committee?

In the interim, if you need to contact me directly, feel free to email president@stlhills.com, call (314) 616-6468 or write SLHNA President, PO Box 190314, St. Louis, MO 63119.

Safety tip: Park smart!

by Pat Talley, Crime & Safety Education

Park Smart - Don't make it easy for them!

- Lock your car
- Don't leave anything of value inside
- Call 9-1-1 if you see anything suspicious

The sure way to attract more criminals to our area is to make their visits bountiful. Leaving items of value visible inside your parked car is a very effective way to attract thieves. Sometimes it's a quick smash-and-grab break-in. Other times, they can go through your belongings at their leisure. They get all kinds of things, ranging from purses and laptops to small change. Recently a gun was stolen. In many cases, the cars are unlocked.

Hence this newsletter's reminder to PARK SMART.

Here are some tips from the Safety Committee:

- Lock your car
- Remove keys
- Keep packages inside the house or at least out of sight
- Secure large items in the trunk
- Don't leave your purse / wallet in view; best to take it with you
- Electronic equipment is especially tempting
- Call 9-1-1 if you see anything suspicious

Remember: It's within your power to contribute toward a safe neighborhood for all.

Police, aldermen and citizens tackle crime in south city

by Priscilla Buehrlen DeGuire

"[St. Louis Hills] has a low amount of person crime such as homicides, robberies and aggravated assaults, according to Judge Jimmie Edwards, Director of Safety for the City of St. Louis. "Thus, the reason for large increases/decreases in violent crime are based on just a few incidents. That being said, currently year-to-date compared to the same time in 2017, Holly Hills is down 9%, St. Louis Hills is down 19% and Southwest Garden is down 51%."

"While the police department still has a shortage of approximately 130 officers, the residency waiver has generated a lot of interest and inquiries," stated Edwards. "Thus far, nine

applications have been completed by non-city residents."

In November 2017, Tom Oldenburg, 16th ward alderman, played a big role in helping get out the vote in the special election in which Proposition P was on the ballot. More than 80% in the ward voted "Yes," which was the highest citywide.

The half-cent sales tax is expected to raise \$19.5 million annually which will not only allow for additional police officers on the streets, but will also enable the City to pay competitive wages to police officers and firefighters.

In April, Oldenburg authored an ordinance ■ Cont'd on page 6



Alderman Tom Oldenburg speaks during a meeting of the St. Louis Hills Safety Committee general meeting. Photo provided by Nan Vordtriede.



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Neighborhood crime (Cont'd from Page 4)

that ensures these funds will not be reallocated to be used elsewhere without Board of Aldermen approval.

“The biggest thing we have been doing to prevent crime is to educate our residents,” explained Captain Michael Deeba of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) South Patrol. “If you are driving home and turn onto your street and something doesn’t look right, something or someone is suspicious, drive off and contact us. We will drive you home.” The South Patrol can be contacted at (314) 444-0100.

“When someone calls 911 and does not wish to be contacted back and does not remain to be a witness for the officers for the police report to provide us with probable cause we have no recourse,” noted Captain Deeba.

Captain Deeba went on to say that they are critically understaffed; however the number of police officers covering the St. Louis Hills area has not decreased.

“We have representation at all 23 neighborhood general community meetings in the South Patrol area,” Captain Deeba stated. “I have had a few neighborhoods start up or bring back their safety committees during this past year.”

The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Safety Committee was established in May of 2018 with Tom Scheifler and Janice Starbuck serving as co-chairs. Information regarding this committee is available at <http://stlhills.com/about-slhna/committees/>. The committee has six sub-committees including Crime and Safety Education, Business Security, Neighborhood Watch, Neighborhood Impact Statements and Security Cameras.

The Crime and Safety Education Subcommittee has held two recent educational campaigns. The first was “Make the Call,” stressing the importance of calling the police every time residents see criminal or suspicious activity. The second campaign was “Park Smart” reminding residents to remove all items from sight and lock their cars when they park their vehicles.

The committee monitors the SLMPD crime statistics for St. Louis Hills and adjacent neighborhoods to understand trends and identify areas of concern.

Some advice from Captain Deeba about keeping yourself and your property safe include: Don’t leave valuables in your car; ensure you have lighting around your residence; and use visible security cameras. If there are street lights out on your block, or if the canopy of trees obstructs your light, contact the Citizens’ Service Bureau (CSB) and your alderperson to get the city to resolve the issue. The CSB can be reached at (314) 622-4800. Tom Oldenburg, the alderman for the 16th ward can be reached at (314) 896-0204 or oldenburgt@stlouis-mo.gov. You can sign up for his e-newsletter and receive regular updates from his office by visiting www.ward16stl.com.

Tom Scheifler has posted details on Nextdoor about the “Alley Camera Project.” He has spearheaded this project for his block. These cameras provide all the block residents with access to live and recorded video of their alley and can be beneficial in helping police to find criminals. If you go to the St. Louis Hills community on Nextdoor, you can sign up to receive information about what’s happening in the neighborhood.

In a recent town hall meeting, Colonel John W. Hayden, Jr., SLMPD Chief, credited the installation of the rectangular cameras in intersections with traffic lights in helping reduce crime in the areas where the cameras have been installed. These cameras are connected to the SLMPD Real Time Center. He said the plan is to add the cameras to the Dutchtown and downtown areas in the near future.

Judge Edwards reported that the Carjacking Task Force is making significant progress in apprehending persons committing these types of robberies. “Unfortunately many of these suspects are juveniles,” Edwards said.

The number one priority in 2019 for Edwards will be reducing gun violence. Domestic violence and drugs are also at the top of his list.

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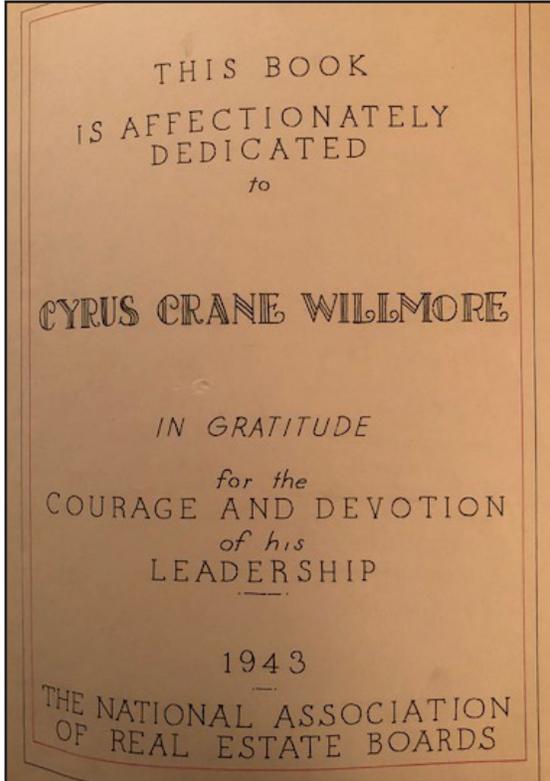
A special thanks to Susan Mueller

by Nan Vordtriede

The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association History Committee would like to sincerely thank Susan Mueller, granddaughter of Cyrus Crane Willmore, for her generous contribution of some of his memorabilia. Susan said she was around 5 or 6 when he passed away. He was a true “optimist” as shared by her mother to her, and she thanks the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association History Committee for continuing their dedication towards research.

She hopes there will continue to be more people like her grandfather.

We would also like to thank Maureen Ragsdale for the transport of the information to us. If you would like to donate to or join the History Committee, please email membership@stlhills.com or call (314) 616-6468.



Memorabilia of Cyrus Crane Willmore, ontributed by his granddaughter Susan Mueller. Photo provided by Nan Vordtriede.

Salon Fleur de Lis (Cont'd from Page 5)

Salon Fleur De Lis can be found in the high-quality Aveda products they use. Alicia is a partner with Aveda and occasionally sits on a product development panel, working hand in hand with the Aveda Company on new products, including the very popular 100% naturally derived hair color.

Salon Fleur De Lis has been recognized as a Top 200 Salon four years running. The staff at Salon Fleur De Lis is a well skilled group of stylists, not afraid to help the customer change their look. They take pride in their consultation with their clients, working to ensure complete satisfaction.

Education is a high priority to Alicia and her staff, as stylists are encouraged to grow their knowledge and skill set. In business, you can tell how well an organization is run by their turnover; but most of the staff have been at the shop for four to eight years.

This Salon is very dedicated to several St. Louis Hills neighborhood area functions as a contributing sponsor. At Art in the Park, the staff maintains a booth and offers face and back massages, as well as hair braiding for kids throughout the day.

If you are looking for a new 'do, a cool cut or any Aveda product, give Salon Fleur De Lis a try. I am confident you will be well taken care of and pleased with your experience. They can be found at 6762 Chippewa Street, St. Louis, Mo. 63109 or contacted at (314) 457-0009.

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Salon Fleur de Lis has more than doubled its capacity since it first opened with four chairs in 2010. Photo provided by Alicia Strobel.

Lanai Coffee under new ownership

by Chip Kastner

Rich Carter and his wife moved to St. Louis Hills in June of last year, based on the neighborhood's history and the recommendations of friends. "We love the style of homes and feel at home here," Carter said.

Less than four months later, he and business partner Jake Schlanker purchased Lanai Coffee, the coffee shop in Francis Park that opened in 2015. While Carter has a background in business and an MBA from Webster University, it was exactly what he and Schlanker were looking for.

"We wanted to purchase a business that involved making people happy," Carter said. "The neighborhood and park were amazing and we moved forward with the purchase."

While they kept the name, Carter and Schlanker have developed some new product lines for food and drinks, changed the logos and colors, and extended the hours so that people can more enjoy the brand. Carter's personal favorite menu item is the turtle latte, a drink he describes as "amazing."

"The most rewarding aspect of the business is meeting the customers and making them happy. We get to talk to all kinds



Rich Carter and Jake Schlanker pose behind the counter of Lanai Coffee, the coffee shop in Francis Park that they purchased in October 2018. Photo provided by Rich Carter.

of people and it's wonderful to meet them," Carter added.

On the other hand, the location of the stand in Francis Park can also be a drawback. "It can be raining some days and then turn sunny," Carter said. "It is hard to predict when to stay open with Missouri weather."

Are you a Friend of Francis Park?

by Joni Ott

Friends of Francis Park (FOFP) had our best year yet in 2018. We had a banner year in proceeds from Run for the Hills, and a very successful shared Christmas Tree Lighting with the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association (SLHNA). Our lily pond was spectacular thanks to the dedication of our water gardeners, and the corner gardens were beautiful as always.

All of our funds to perform these valuable services come from the proceeds of Run for the Hills and from our members. FOFP funds the flowers on the corners and the plants in the lily pond. We provide maintenance that is not covered in the city budget, such as painting the racquetball and handball courts. We share the costs of the Christmas tree lighting with the SLHNA, and FOFP also pays a summer maintenance worker to water the plants and perform other maintenance tasks to keep our park looking beautiful. We also provide the mutt mitts.

Perhaps our biggest accomplishment to date was to install the

David Francis statue, thanks to the diligent work of the statue committee. We are continuing to raise funds for landscaping and maintenance of the statue area, so if you would like to contribute or buy a brick please visit www.DRF.org. You can also send a check to the address listed below. All funds for the statue are accounted for separately from our general funds.

FOFP is run entirely by volunteers. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so membership and statue contributions are generally tax deductible as permitted by law. With the new year comes a new membership drive. If you would like to become a member and contribute to our efforts, we have three suggested membership levels: \$25 for individual, \$40 for family and \$100 for benefactor, but any amount is appreciated.

Checks, along with your name, address and email address may be sent to Friends of Francis Park, c/o Judy Murphy, 6559 Itaska, St. Louis, MO 63109.

Neighborhood improvements in the works

by Tom Oldenburg,
Ward 16 Alderman



Happy New Year, St. Louis Hills Residents!

I hope that this note finds you well-rested from a holiday season filled with memorable neighborhood events. Whether you participated in the house tour, attended the annual Christmas tree lighting, celebrated at the St.

Louis Hills holiday party or simply decorated the exterior of your own home - you helped show St. Louisans just how much our neighborhood embodies the holiday spirit.

Looking ahead to 2019, my work continues to be comprised of two main areas: tackling citywide issues through the Board of Aldermen, and assisting Ward 16 residents with their day-to-day problems.

On the citywide front, I recently began working to implement plans for St. Louis to become a "smart," technology-oriented city. Included was legislation that will make it easier for St. Louis to permit the installation of "small cell" wireless nodes on City-owned property such as utility poles, street lights

and traffic signals. Small cells - which are used by wireless service providers in place of larger towers to help expand the availability of high-speed networks - are more aesthetically pleasing, use less power, and can be used to bolster coverage in areas that towers cannot reach.

I also worked closely on the financing package for a proposed Major League Soccer (MLS) stadium downtown. Along with Board President Reed and my colleagues on the Housing, Urban Development and Zoning (HUDZ) committee, I remain focused on mitigating any risks associated with the proposal - and on laying the groundwork for other transformative real estate development adjacent to the stadium. The final proposal won overwhelming support from the Board of Aldermen, and the MLS could choose St. Louis as an expansion city later this year.

Back in our neighborhood, safety continues to be my top priority. We have been successful at privately raising funds to install new security cameras at the intersection of Hampton and Chippewa, which will aid police in both deterring and solving crime. Soon, we also will see the installation of cameras and other safety monitoring equipment elsewhere in our neighborhood. To learn more about the Hampton / Chippewa Technology Project, contact a member of the SLHNA Safety Committee or visit the Ward 16 website.

Careful planning and coordination will soon result in the completion of more than \$600,000 in improvements to Francis Park. I want to thank the Friends of Francis Park for their continued support and oversight of these efforts - and the residents of St. Louis Hills for their patience with ongoing construction. Enjoyment of all the new amenities is just around the corner.

Lastly, if you have an issue that you want to discuss, please contact me at (314) 896-0204 or oldenburgt@stlouis-mo.gov. You can also follow me on Facebook or Twitter (just search for @OldenburgSTL to get started) or sign up for my e-newsletter at www.ward16stl.com.

No matter what your preferred method of communication is, please know that I look forward to hearing from you soon.



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I am St. Louis Hills

by Ann Curry

My husband, Matt, and I moved from Chesterfield to St. Louis Hills in the fall of 2016. After only a few weeks of house hunting, we felt blessed to find our new home on Highfield Road. For us, it checked all the boxes. It's close to our daughter, son in law, and granddaughter who live around the corner on Rhodes. Our recently engaged daughter is also moving close by on Childress. It's also close to Francis Park and everything the City of St. Louis has to offer. Its size and floor plan are just right. And, importantly, it's part of the St. Louis Hills community.

We lived on Prague in St. Louis Hills about 25 years ago, so we had some expectations about moving back to the neighborhood. We were looking forward to being part of a community, which was something we missed when living in Chesterfield. We found that living in Chesterfield we were part of a subdivision rather than being part of ■ Cont'd on page 12



Matt and Ann Curry moved back to St. Louis Hills after living in Chesterfield for 25 years. Photo provided by Ann Curry.

Renew your membership the easy way!

by Gary Wells

Christmas Tree Lighting, House Tours, Safety Committee programs, newsletters that tell you what's going on - all of this and so much more are made possible through your neighbors and through membership dues.

We are very happy to have so many neighbors who support the all-volunteer St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association. We work throughout the year to make this neighborhood something special. Your contributions allow us to do what we do.

Sometimes, though, it is easy to forget your contribution. There are many things going on for all of us, and writing a check once a year may not even make it on your "to do" list.

That's why we are encouraging residents to renew online. You can visit our website at www.stlhills.com, go under the "Membership & Benefits" section and click on "Join/Renew". From there, just follow the instructions.

Once you're signed up through PayPal, the renewal each year becomes a snap! There should also be a list off to the side where you can check off which events or committees you are particularly interested in.

For those who choose not to renew in this format, don't worry - we will send out renewal cards early in 2019. Please be sure to continue supporting the SLHNA. Thank you - and have a wonderful 2019!

The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association invites you to add value to the community with your 2019 membership dues and volunteer efforts.

You can join or renew by remitting \$30 using one of these methods:

-PayPal - - <http://stlhills.com/slhna-membership> (Preferred Method)

-Cash/Check by Mail - - Mail in payment along with this card to:

SLHNA, P.O. Box 190314, St. Louis, MO 63119-6314

NEW MEMBER Contact membership@stlhills.com for questions/suggestions

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ APT.# _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

We're a neighborhood organization promoting community spirit through our many activities. We run on volunteers. **Please check at least one activity or committee which you think adds value.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art in the Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Party | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing / Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Tree Lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Run For the Hills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Committee/Block Capt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Francis Park clean up team | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gateway Cup Races | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Ambassadors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grub N Groove | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Tennis Tournament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History / House Tour 2020 | <input type="checkbox"/> Streets & Property / Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Decoration Awards | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Committee |

St. Louis Hills is for the birds

by Chip Kastner

Don't call me a "birder." I don't donate to the Audubon Society or go venturing out into the woods with a pair of binoculars. I could confidently describe to you the calls of only three or four species, and I'm more likely than not to go running to Google if I see anything more exotic than a cardinal.

But, I'll admit having a longtime fascination with birds. After I graduated from college, my future wife and I went to Europe for a couple of weeks. Looking through the photos I took at the time, a recurring theme is random pictures of pigeons and ducks. I've put out bird feeders once or twice in the past, but was always discouraged by the ever-present squirrels.

As almost anyone who's lived in St. Louis Hills for more than a week can tell you, we have a particularly ferocious variety of "tree rats" around here. I tried to grow tomatoes one year, but only managed to harvest two before they were all carried off by hungry rodents. If we buy pumpkins for Halloween,

squirrels chew all the way through in order to get to the seeds. Decorative corn stalks flanking the door in the fall turn into a gigantic mess if you leave the dried cobs on them. And I'm not even getting into the really serious damage that squirrels can cause to a home if allowed.

Thus, it shouldn't have been surprising to me that my early efforts to feed the birds in St. Louis Hills ended in disaster. I started off with a simple wooden feeder that I secured to a branch with rope. They chewed through the rope, sending the feeder crashing to the ground where they were able to feast at their leisure. I replaced the rope with metal picture-hanging wire, but they just braved the jump down to the feeder and stole the seed anyway.

I replaced the wooden feeder with a plastic tube feeder that had a built-in squirrel baffle. I came home from work the very next day to find it on the ground,  Cont'd on page 13



Clockwise from upper left: Four bird feeders offer a variety of food for birds; a yellow-rumped warbler shows off a hint of his namesake; a male cardinal gathers seed to bring to his mate; a dark-eyed junco scouts out the terrain; two goldfinches and a house finch share a bird feeder. These photos were taken in a single 30-minute period in Spring 2018. Photos by Chip Kastner.

Let's go to the show!

In '39 as the Great Depression was releasing its grim grip, Brinkop real estate had its auto-centric Hampton Village Shopping Center underway. A key building in the plan was a movie theater designed in the Williamsburg style that was to have been about where Schnucks is today. World War II put the kibosh on the idea; at war's end, the notion was revived, but the flight to suburbia had started, soon to be followed by TV; and theater owners were more interested in following people to the county than adding to their theater stock in the city. Plus they needed to strategize about their fear that television would kill many movie theaters. So that theater-to-be never was, which allowed others near St. Louis Hills to have extended lives.

There was never a movie theater in St. Louis Hills but there were several a short distance away, with the Roxy being the nearest at 5500 Lansdowne at Wherry. It opened in 1910, was razed in 1975 and replaced by 2 homes. The Avalon at 4225 S. Kingshighway, a half block south of Chippewa opened in 1935, closed in 1999 and was demolished in 2012.

To the north there was the Macklind at 5415 Arsenal, which operated as a theater from 1910 to 1951. The building's still standing. The Columbia at 5217 Southwest had its opening day on February 1st, 1926. After its movie days were done it became a racquetball club. Soon it suffered a fire and was empty for

by Ron 'Johnny Rabbitt' Elz, KMOX Radio's 'Route 66' Saturdays 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

years, but today it's a unique home and art studio. There was the Ivanhoe at 3239 Ivanhoe that was there from 1925 until May of 1960 at which time it was demolished and replaced with a 2 story apartment building.

There were 4 show choices on Gravois near St. Louis Hills: The Kingsland at 6461 Gravois that got its start in 1924 and lasted 60 years. It was replaced by an Aldi store. The Grant opened in 1923 at 8006 Gravois and in '37 was renamed the Annex. It hung on 'til 1950. The Crest, the only post-WWII theater on our list, opened in '48 at 8800 Gravois and closed in 1976.

Wehrenberg had planned a Ronnie's Affton in 1947 at Gravois and Elgin, but it didn't happen. The area's most ornate and largest movie-house, with 1,314 seats and a full balcony with boxes, was the Granada at 4519 Gravois. It stayed around from 1927 to '92.

We have 9 ghost theaters on this list, and 2 that didn't make it past the drawing board. Today in this same district we have none, and it's unlikely we'll ever have another.

On Thursday, Feb. 21st from 10:30 to Noon, I'll conduct a free presentation on neighborhoods at the Missouri History Museum titled "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" and I hope all our readers can attend.

I am St. Louis Hills (Cont'd from Page 10)

a neighborhood. We found ourselves driving to the city for restaurants (Bartolinos, Russell's, and Piccadilly at Manhattan are a few of our favorites) and city celebrations. There is a sense of ownership in the St Louis Hills community that is so special. I am always so impressed with the time and commitment our new neighbors have to making our parks and parishes and neighborhood so beautiful

We were also eager to spend Friday nights during Lent at the parish fish fry and summers at the picnic. There were also the more informal neighborhood gatherings that seemed to pop up, like the "Five Bells" happy hour that would happen on Prague when the church bells would ring after work.

Our experience back in St. Louis Hills over the past two years has lived up to expectations and reaffirmed our decision to move from Chesterfield. Even in our first few nights in our new home, we met many of our new neighbors and connected with old friends just spending time out on our front porch. We felt welcome immediately and appreciate how many stopped by on a walk (or golf cart ride) to introduce themselves. We have felt similarly welcome in our new parish, St. Raphael, and at Francis Park and the restaurants and shops in the neighborhood where we continue to meet our neighbors. We believe that this experience is unique to the vibrant community we have here in

St. Louis hills.

We are excited for what is to come in our new home. We can't wait for our grandkids to get older and stop by our house as they walk home from school. We look forward to walking to Tour de Francis Park, Grub and Groove, Art in the Park, Summer Concerts and the other continuous activities the area has to offer. And we hope to continue to meet many more of you. There's a good chance you will find us out on our front porch, so come on by, we would love to meet you!



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Greetings from Jefferson City!

by Donna Baringer, Missouri
District 82 Representative



As I write this, the Missouri State Senate and House are gearing up for the 100th legislative session. I am excited and honored to be your representative as my colleagues and I gather to deliberate on the laws and resolutions that will help to make our state a better place for all Missourians.

From January to May, the Capitol building will be abuzz with legislators, staff, and constituents as we work to pass bills through the House and Senate. I want to invite any and all constituents of the 82nd district to come visit the Capitol during this time.

The Capitol building is open to the public, and guided group tours happen starting at the top of each hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding the noon hour. You can also schedule tours through my office by calling my assistant at (573) 751-4220.

If you'd like to stay updated on the legislation I'm working on, or reach out to voice your opinion about a bill that's being formed, please email me at donna.baringer@house.mo.gov. You can also sign up for my newsletter at my website, www.donnabaringer.com.

I really hope you'll come visit us during session, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you as I work to pass legislation that will help the constituents of the 82nd District.

Backyard Birdwatching (Cont'd from Page 11)

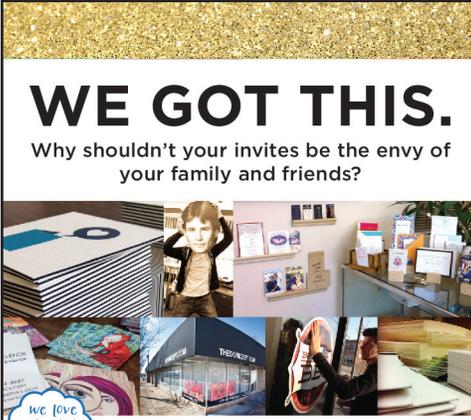
smashed to pieces -- I have absolutely no idea how that happened.

I was about to give up, when I was given a gift of a squirrel-proof bird feeder made up of a plastic tube surrounded by a spring-loaded metal cage. When birds land on the feeder, they're able to access the food; but when a squirrel jumps on it, its weight will cause the cage to slide over the food openings so that they can't get in. I was skeptical that it would work, but after a year and a half the squirrels have basically given up trying to get in. They tried for awhile, as evidenced by the claw marks all over the outer cage, but they've never knocked it down and I've never seen them succeed in eating from it.

Thus began a minor obsession, as I now have four squirrel-proof bird feeders offering different varieties of food to various types of birds. I've since found that, despite being located in the city, all of the trees in St. Louis Hills make a good environment for attracting a variety of birds. With the help of a knowledgeable neighbor, I've seen cardinals, house finches, downy and hairy woodpeckers, dark-eyed juncos, goldfinches, yellow-rumped warblers and Carolina wrens eating from the feeders; mourning doves clean up anything that falls to the ground.

Unfortunately, when you sign up to feed birds, you sign up to feed all the birds. "Bully birds" like grackles, sparrows and starlings show up more often than I'd like, and I've occasionally seen a red-tailed hawk hanging out on nearby power lines, looking for a meal of his own. An explosion of feathers I found in my backyard suggests that he's succeeded at least once.

If you're interested in feeding the birds, buying local is easy. Southside Hardware on Hampton, in the St. Louis Hills neighborhood, is stocked year-round with bird seed and other supplies; Bayer's Garden Shop, also along Hampton a little north of St. Louis Hills, has a good selection as well. If you buy only one type of seed, I recommend shelled sunflower; many area birds love it, and it doesn't leave a mess in your yard. There are other great options, including shelled and unshelled peanuts, suet nuggets and Nyjer; the cheap mixes filled with random in-shell seeds tend to attract mostly sparrows and make a mess in the lawn.



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Volunteers plant 45 trees in Francis Park

by Chip Kastner

During the Francis Park cleanup event on Nov. 10 of last year, a team of volunteers worked to beautify the park by planting 45 new trees.

Coordinators Brad Arteaga, John Burghoff, Jerry Murphy and Joe (Pepe) Greco worked to procure the trees from Forest ReLeaf of Missouri (<http://moreleaf.org>). Over the last 25 years, more than 200,000 trees provided by Forest ReLeaf's nonprofit nursery have been planted in Missouri and Illinois; 61% of those trees have been planted in the Greater St. Louis area.

In advance of the tree planting, Arteaga and Greco picked up the trees from Forest ReLeaf and dug holes throughout the park for their planting. Ten Hackberry, ten Overcup Oak, ten Nannyberry Viburnum, ten Shumard Oak, and five Smooth Sumac trees were delivered.



Volunteers Gary Newcomer, Jody Freeman, Jerry Murphy, John Burghoff and David Newcomer take a break to pose during the tree planting event in Francis Park. Along with Tom Oldenburg, Nan Vordtriede, Barb Liebman, Joanne Terry and Ed Bewen, they planted 45 trees on November 10. Photo provided by Nan Vordtriede.

On the day of the planting, Burghoff and Murphy were joined by a team of volunteers that included Alderman Tom Oldeburg.

A survey performed several years ago found 873 trees in Francis Park with a total retail value of \$2,935,000. Since then, several hundred additional trees have been planted by Friends of Francis Park and the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association.

According to Forest ReLeaf, trees provide a number of benefits to a community. These include environmental benefits such as reductions in ozone and carbon dioxide, interception of rainfall and reductions in flooding.

Additionally, the benefits to a neighborhood can be substantial. Trees can reduce noise levels by up to 50%; planted around the home can reduce cooling costs by up to 30%, and each large tree in your yard can increase your home's value by 1%.



John Burghoff and Nan Vordtriede plant one of 45 new trees in Francis Park. Photo provided by Nan Vordtriede.

They didn't tell me that there would be centipedes

by Chip Kastner

I would like to start off with an apology to my wife.

As she casually thumbs through this newsletter, she's eventually going to get to this page. And she's probably going to scream when she sees the picture to the right. But I promise, the picture is there for educational purposes.

You see, I grew up in the suburbs and only moved to St. Louis Hills about four years ago. Before moving here, I had seen these bugs maybe twice in my entire life. I mistakenly thought they were silverfish, which seems to be a common misconception.

They're actually called house centipedes. And from the neighbors I've talked to, it seems almost everyone in St. Louis Hills has found at least a few in their house.

But while silverfish are pests that eat books, carpet and clothing, house centipedes are usually harmless to humans. They eat other bugs like bed bugs, cockroaches, silverfish, spiders and termites.

Still, if you've ever seen one dash across the wall at an alarming speed, it's hard not to panic. I'll squish them on sight, because while they no longer bother me, they still horrify my wife.

Some quick online research suggests that they like to hide in woodpiles, compost heaps and leaf piles, so if you are having trouble with them, you may want to clear these potential habitats from around your house and you keep your gutters clean. I also always get my house sprayed by a pest control



House centipedes look scary and are frighteningly fast, but eat other bugs and usually don't pose a threat to humans. Photo by Chip Kastner.

company four times a year.

Why their apparent attraction to St. Louis Hills? Houses in the city are typically packed closely together, and older houses are often not sealed up as tightly as newer ones. These two factors make the area a perfect habitat for thirty-legged invaders.

Speaking of old house pests, if you read the article on page 11, you saw that I am a backyard bird feeder. If you decide to follow in my footsteps, I have some word to the wise: Store the bird seed in tightly sealed containers! (The same advice goes for grass seed, by the way.) I made the mistake of setting the bags of seed on a shelf in my garage, and I invited in some mice who chowed down on the seed and left a nice mess behind.

The same basic principles that apply to house centipedes also apply to mice: Densely packed, imperfectly sealed houses make a great habitat, and you'd also do well to keep wood piles and other shelters away from your house. Mice can get through holes as small as a dime, so plug any openings you see with steel wool, caulk and/or spray foam depending on the situation. Of course, once the mice have entered a building, it's too late and you'll have to consider your removal options.

I've heard nothing but horror stories about glue traps. If you don't check them frequently, they're basically starvation traps, which is needlessly cruel; if you try to remove the mice from the traps, you can mutilate them. I had a friend who was planning on releasing a caught mouse into the wild, so he put the glue trap (with mouse) in a bucket and poured some vegetable oil in the bottom to loosen the glue. Once free, the mouse jumped out of the bucket and escaped back into his house!

The company we use to spray for bugs tells  Cont'd on page 16



A mouse hides out in a small gap in the tuckpointing. Small holes can be plugged with steel wool, caulk and/or spray foam. Photo by Chip Kastner.

St. Louis Hills
News and Views



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NOTABLE DATES

January 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m. (Buder Library lower level) - St. Louis Hills board meeting

February 27, 2019, 7:00 p.m. (Buder Library lower level) - St. Louis Hills board meeting

March 28, 2019, 7:00 p.m. (Bishop Dubourg High School Cafeteria) - St. Louis Hills general meeting (doors at 6:30)

April 27, 2019, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (6535 Eichelberger St.) - Ascension Lutheran Plant Sale

December 1, 2019, 7:00 p.m. (Francis Park) - St. Louis Hills Christmas tree lighting

Household Pests (Cont'd from Page 15)

me that snap traps are the way to go, and I've always had pretty good luck with them. The old-fashioned wooden ones are okay, but I've always found them to be hard for mice to set off and harder to set. I now spring for the pricier plastic ones: They're easy to set, they're hard for mice to eat from without setting off, they get the job done quickly, and they have a convenient handle so that you can pick them up without touching the rodent. Best of luck if you find yourself battling either of these common pests!

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