



Run for the Hills is still on, with changes

by Wayne Myrick

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St. Louis Hills 2018

RUN FOR THE HILLS

THIRD SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER - 8:00 AM

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One of my favorite memories of the Spring and Summer of 2020 is watching the constant stream of runners and walkers circling Francis Park during the quarantine. I'm not sure the sidewalks of St. Louis Hills have ever overflowed as much as they have this year. Thousands of us needed an escape from our homes and used our extra time to improve our health and enjoy our beautiful park and neighborhood. I'm certain that most of you were likely getting yourself into shape for the 29th annual Run for the Hills! It's the perfect way to support the park that you love and to crush your goal of running or walking the 5k course and achieving your best time ever!

Friends of Francis Park and the St Louis Hills Neighborhood Association welcome you to join us for our Run for the Hills 5k Run this September. With many events and park fundraisers canceled because of the pandemic, we believe the Run of 2020 must go on! For the well-being and safety of our runners and volunteers, this year's version will look much different but will still keep the tradition alive for the 29th consecutive year.

What's different in 2020?

Registrants for the Run will receive a T-shirt and course map and will be encouraged to run the 5k race on their own between September 12 and September 19. The course will be clearly marked on the map you receive. There will not be a 1 mile walk or youth race.

We will have a socially distanced T-shirt pick-up on the morning of September 19 at 8 am in Francis Park. For those who want to pick up their shirts earlier, we can arrange a designated pick-up location in the neighborhood.

Runners will record their own times and will be encouraged to

share photos of themselves on our social media sites with your T-shirt and race time if you want to share.

What makes the Run for the Hills the best 5k in StL?

- You are so ready for this—you've been training all spring and summer!
- A fast course winding through the beautiful St. Louis Hills neighborhood.
- The most popular T-shirt in St Louis Hills will be back!
- You are supporting the park which has been an essential part of your life, especially in 2020. 100% of the money raised from the Run for the Hills is spent directly on our treasured neighborhood centerpiece, Francis Park.

As most, if not all, of our park fundraisers have been wiped out this year, this may be our only park fundraiser in 2020.

- Received the Best Neighborhood Support Award over all other St. Louis metro area races! I hope we can live up to that distinction again in 2020.

Yes, it's going to be kind of a weird Run for the Hills, but what can we expect; it's been a weird year! We are hoping to provide an opportunity for you to get out and

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Gateway Cup still planned for Sept. 5

by Gary Wells

The SLHNA has been in contact with the Gateway Cup bicycle race organizers, and the Tour de Francis Park bicycle race is still a “go” for Saturday, September 5th! This is just one of four races around different neighborhoods in St. Louis on Labor Day weekend every year. These are qualifying time trial events for professional cyclists and they really do not want to skip them if at all possible.

This is subject to change if there are any new restrictions set by St. Louis City or the State of Missouri for public events at that time. Updates may be found at <https://gatewaycup.com>.

As you may have heard by now, Art in the Park has been cancelled this year and Grub & Groove has been postponed indefinitely. With the additional cancellation of school and parish picnics, there hasn't been much going on in the neighborhood lately. So if the Gateway Cup does go on as planned, we may see bigger than ever crowds as people are desperate for something to do.

We are working with the Gateway Cup organizers to make sure that vendor tents and viewing areas are spaced far enough apart to avoid spreading the virus as much as possible. We may either string tents in towards the lily pond or further up and down Nottingham. We may possibly push some tents over to other sides of the park. We will almost certainly restrict people from the strip of grass right along the street, especially where the athletes are gathering at the starting point. It is not known at this time whether there will be children's races.

All of this will require volunteer assistance. If you would like for this event to run as smoothly as possible, please consider giving just an hour or two in the lead-up to the race and on the day of the race. We need help distributing “no parking” notices to the houses along the route, hanging up banners, setting up tents, staffing the neighborhood association tent during the event, keeping crowds spread out and taking things down. Just an hour or two of your time is all we are asking. Please contact Gary at membership@stlhills.com if you are available to help with the bicycle races.

Run For The Hills (Cont'd from Page 1)

accomplish your fitness goals, raise some money for our park and add the best comfy and super cool T-shirt to your wardrobes. Next year, we will storm back for our 30th Annual Run For the Hills which will be the biggest and best event in the history of St. Louis Hills!

You can sign up by electronic registration through Big River Running's Chrono track system. The link to register is <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/58636> and is also available at www.stlhills.com. There will not be any paper registrations.

Please remember to support our loyal Run sponsors that are shown in the 2019 banner. Thank you for supporting our Run, our park and our neighborhood!

Friends of Francis Park keeps park in top shape

by Tom Byrne

In the nine years since a group of neighbors formed the not-for-profit Friends of Francis Park (FOFP), the organization has worked on a lot of projects with many different groups to improve the park.

“We’ve done a lot of work with gardens,” said FOFP President Tom Byrne. “We initially built a small garden on the steps leading down from Tamm Avenue to the creek to honor one of the long-time park volunteers. We also partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation to build the native plant garden and gazebo in a perpetually swampy area of the park, and worked with a Boy Scout troop to plant native plants along the sides of the creek to stabilize the banks. Most recently, we hired Landscape St. Louis to backhoe the formal gardens near the park entrance at Nottingham so that the volunteer gardeners could restore those gardens this spring.”

Projects have also included facility improvements. FOFP had the handball and racquetball courts painted and fixed. The organization partnered with the city to put signs at the crosswalks leading into the park. It partnered with Grub & Groove to install the distinctive banners at the corners of the park, and worked with Grub & Groove and the city to install LED lighting in the park. FOFP partnered with the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association to upgrade the electric facilities used for the Christmas tree lighting. It also worked in partnership with the David Francis committee to fund and install the David Francis statue. Contributions to the statue are tax deductible because of FOFP’s status as a not-for-profit organization.

“Working on big projects is nice,” Byrne said, “but I am most proud of the day-to-day work we do on the park, with the help of our members, our partners and volunteers.” FOFP has purchased lawn equipment and tools for the park, including the “gator” used for maintenance work, and partnered with the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association to purchase a commercial-sized lawnmower that is used to mow around the

lily pond and for park events.

Each spring, FOFP pays for plants needed by the volunteer corner gardeners and for the lily pond, and arranges for mulch delivery from the city. Every summer, FOFP pays for maintenance workers who water young trees and other plants, pick up branches and litter, and perform other basic maintenance activities. “In the fall we get native trees to plant from Forest Releaf,” Byrne said. “Last year we planted more than 50 native trees in the park.” And in the winter, FOFP co-sponsors the Christmas tree lighting with the Neighborhood Association.

“A lot of our success has been due to collaboration with our partners and the generous contribution of time by volunteers,” Byrne said. “The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association has been a big supporter since the beginning. They paid our fee to initially apply to be a not-for-profit organization. They provide volunteers to help with park clean-ups and other events. They partner with us in supporting the Christmas tree lighting. And most recently, they are partnering with us to hire a security guard to patrol the park on some weekend nights this summer and fall.”

Run for the Hills has also been a key supporter. They have contributed all of their proceeds to help with the day-to-day maintenance of the park ever since the Run started, and they have contributed those funds to FOFP since it was formed. And most recently, “The Elevens” Footgolf event has also contributed its proceeds to help the park. Last but certainly not least, our alderman, Tom Oldenburg, and the City Parks Department under Parks Director Greg Hayes and Parks Commissioner Kim Haegele have also been valued partners. Tom Oldenburg and the City Parks Department regularly consult FOFP on park issues and have consistently supported our initiatives.

“Our partners are great, but we also need members,” Byrne said. “If you enjoy the gardens in the park, or the lily pond, or the trees, or the David Francis statue, or the Christmas tree lighting, please consider becoming a member.” Family memberships cost \$100 per year, but individual memberships are as little as \$25 per year. Use the form below to join, or visit our website at friendsoffrancispark.org. “The coronavirus pandemic has helped most people realize how important parks are,” Byrne said. “If we work together and pool our resources, we can make sure that Francis Park remains as beautiful as it is now and for future generations.”



FRIENDS OF FRANCIS PARK

Please return this form to: **Judy Murphy, 6426 Eichelberger, St. Louis, MO 63109**

Name: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: _____

Annual Membership Level

Individual: \$25 ____ Family: \$40 ____ Benefactor: \$100 ____ Other ____

David Francis Statue Amount : _____

The importance of a SLHNA membership

by Carol Wilson and Gary Wells

Thank you to every resident of St. Louis Hills who during the past few months of closings, canceling and social distancing stepped up to support local businesses because you recognized how much they needed us and how valuable they are to our community. Now as life begins to inch its way toward normal we are asking you to step up again, this time for your St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association because it is time for your membership renewal. Or, if you are not currently a member, we hope at this time you will consider becoming one. New residents enjoy their first year free.

This year has been challenging because we have had to cancel events that everyone enjoys and which bring us needed revenue, such as the St. Louis Hills House Tour. However, the SLHNA board continues to meet via Zoom, and while our expenses are lower, we still need to strengthen our membership. As a resident since 1986, I can tell you that this is one of the most cost-effective investments you can make in your home and community. SLHNA contributes to the neighborhood's stability, which for decades has resulted in strong home values.

Those of us who have been in the neighborhood for 10, 20, 30 years or more are very proud of the resiliency and consistency of our association. The Safety Committee, Building/Streets

Committee and Business Committee work diligently behind the scenes to keep our slice of St. Louis safe and vibrant. The Easter Egg Hunt, Holiday Lighting Awards, Lawn & Garden, Gateway Cup and Run for the Hills events are all organized and successfully run by our volunteers. The newsletter which you are reading right now is made possible by some advertising revenue, but mostly by membership dues.

We realize that some folks want to take a more active role than others, but regardless of whether you join a committee, attend events or simply pay your dues, as a member you are contributing to the events and projects that promote the beauty and sense of community that are the hallmark of St. Louis Hills.

At \$30 a year, membership in SLHNA is a great bargain. Yes, we are working on automated renewals but we are just not there yet, unfortunately. You can pay online at <https://stlhills.com/membership-benefits/slhna-membership/> or fill out and mail in the membership card which you can find in this newsletter. Please join us or renew TODAY! If you are uncertain about whether you have already paid dues for 2020, contact us at membership@stlhills.com.

Thank you for your support and, as always, we'll see you around the neighborhood!

Block Captains are in the know!

by Gary Wells

Well, here we are. 2020. What a year, huh?

Yeah, there's been a lot to talk about, even just for things happening in the '109. But there's not always a lot of good, solid information going around. Sometimes there are police sirens, sometimes there are new people moving in, sometimes there are questions about upcoming events. Just a lot of questions.

Do you know who probably knows what's going on along your street? The Block Captains. Now, we're not saying that Block Captains know everything. But they're pretty good at finding out what they don't know.

The shame of it is that not every block in the Hills has a block captain. Strange, huh? You'd think people would want to have a "go to" person within hailing distance from the front porch. But nope. A lot of people just going along not knowing.

Hey, here's a thought - why don't you be a block captain? Yeah, why not! It's easy-peasy. Just sign up with Mary Jo Gabel at mojogabe@sbcglobal.net and tell her, "Hey, MJ - I want to be 'in the know' as a Block Captain."

■ Cont'd on page 5

**The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association
invites you to add value to the community with your
2020 membership dues and volunteer efforts.**

Join or renew now by remitting \$30 using one of these methods:

- Online via PayPal -



Scan the QR Code with
your smart phone or
navigate to the
membership page at
stlhills.com

- Check by Mail -

Mail payment along with this card to:

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

NEW RESIDENT? ☐ The first year of membership is FREE.
Contact membership@stlhills.com for questions.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ APT.# _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We rely on volunteers for the following events and committees. Please check any which you are able to assist:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Tree Lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Captains/Neighborhood Watch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Francis Park Cleanup Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gateway Cup Bike Races | <input type="checkbox"/> History Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Decoration Awards | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Party | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Tour (Biennial event) | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn and Garden Awards | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Liaison Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Run For the Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Streets & Property |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Committee |

“Volunteers needed,” it reads...

by Nan Vordtriede, President, SLHNA



Our St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association membership card header invites you to add value to the community with your membership dues (\$30) and volunteering. The body of our card encourages in bold print, “VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.” It is true! Your efforts keep the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood

Association a well-oiled machine. The SLHNA has several committees and events that rely on our volunteers.

While some needs might be chairing a committee or event, other needs include volunteers to help facilitate the committee's end goals on event day or through neighborhood communication methods. Why volunteer time, you ask? Dedicating time as a volunteer provides the opportunity to make new friends, network, and increase social skills, all while connecting, increasing the value in, and bettering the community in which you live. The result provides significant neighborhood benefits

of strength, investment, and beauty within the community. No work is too small, and volunteers who provide their time, a precious commodity are important resources for an organization.

Some would say volunteering sets a good example for others and bridges the generation gap. By volunteering, you inspire others down the path to get involved, making a positive change in the community, all while meeting new people and providing exciting community opportunities together. Others might say it is a way of staying healthy by reducing stress and providing a greater perspective and self-awareness. Others might say, whatever the volunteer task is, this is their investment back into the community they know and love! For some, it just plain gets them out of the house, exploring new areas of interest. Here are 6 good reasons to volunteer for the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association.

- Make a Difference within the community.
- It is an opportunity to connect and help build your community.
- Use your skills in a productive way, while expanding your horizons.
- Make new friends, meet, and enjoy good people.
- A means of getting or staying healthy/a wellness booster too.
- Volunteering is GOOD for You!

Whatever your reason might be, “Volunteers Needed” so volunteer today by emailing membership@stlhills.com. If I can answer any questions or be of help feel free to contact me by emailing president@stlhills.com.

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Karen Hilkerbaumer - 315.752.9473 | gbomber@swbell.net
Julie Headrick - 314.258.2169 | hea102@sbcglobal.net

Block Captains (Cont'd from Page 4)

She'll plug you into the regular notices and stuff, maybe a meeting once or twice a year, and you're the one who gets all the news first. You'll be the coolest kid on your block!

What a sweet offer! Just one e-mail and you start 'knowing' stuff. Go ahead, reach out to Mary Jo TODAY!!!



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Voting during the COVID-19 pandemic

by Donna Baringer, District 82 State Representative



To ensure that no one misses voting due to COVID-19, modifications have been created for the upcoming August and November elections. You can choose to vote in person, by absentee or by mail-in. If you vote in person, the St. Louis City Board of Elections (BOE) will require voters to wear a mask and keep six feet apart. The BOE will provide hand sanitizer and

plexiglass shields. This will be the case whether you vote at your polling place or choose to vote absentee in person at the BOE. The city is in need of poll workers, so if you are available, please consider it.

If you would like to vote absentee, you must fill out the application request form checking off one of the approved reasons to vote absentee and turn it into the BOE. There is a modification on the application which is referred to as reason #7. This reason allows anyone 65 or older to vote absentee as

well as anyone who has a medical condition that they feel would be compromised by being out in public during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reason #7 would NOT require your absentee ballot to be notarized. You can go to the City BOE website and print the applications or I can drop the needed application off to you.

The third category is referred to as vote by mail-in ballot. Since this is the first time Missouri has done mail-in, a new application request form was created because of its separate guidelines. Any registered voter can request to vote by mail-in, however, as of this write up, a notary is required. This could change since the NAACP and League of Women Voters went to the courts and asked that the notary requirement be removed. It is highly unlikely a decision will come out before the August election, but is expected for the November election. Vote by mail requires a stamped, correctly labeled envelope that can only be delivered by the United State Postal Service.

I hope this brought clarity and if you need further information you can go to the BOE website at <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/board-election-commissioners/> or call my office at 573-751-4220.

Art in the Park plans to return in 2021

by Michael Zensen

We've all heard the expression "You never know what you've got until it's gone." One thing is for sure, every single person in the country has experienced this in their lives over the past few months, some more than others.

One aspect of loss is that it can help focus on the blessings around us.

A peaceful, quiet and traffic-free spring in St. Louis Hills only reinforces this little corner of south St. Louis truly as a neighborhood. Francis Park remained a center of activity and a way to get some relief from the confines of one's home. Neighbors gathered in socially distanced lawn parties. Landscaping and beautification filled time usually spent in trafficked routes from activity to activity.

The uncertainty around the ability to gather, and the economic impact of COVID-19 on our friends, neighbors, sponsors and food vendors, led us to cancel Art in the Park 2020.

 Cont'd on page 7



Art in the Park is normally held around the Francis Park lily pond in September. The 2020 event has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however it plans to return in 2021. Photo by Jim Prasch.

Staying safe while going back to school

by Gary Wells

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a lot of area schools are grappling with their schedules for the new school year. Some are looking at returning to their regular schedules, many are thinking about staggering their schedules so that they have different kids on different days. Some are looking at only having school 3 or 4 days a week. A lot of this is still up in the air.

One thing is almost certain though - traffic around schools in our neighborhood is going to be different during the school year. Please be cautious driving around any of the schools or the library as there may be an increase in school-aged children being out in the neighborhood during the work week because

of these shifted schedules. Stop signs mean STOP! Pedestrians always have right of way when they're at or in a crosswalk.

Also, pay close attention to your school's announcements regarding drop-off and pick-up times and procedures. Make sure that anyone who may pick up your children gets all of the little nitty-gritty details, too.

Finally, be aware that schools are often easy places to pass along germs. If a family member, friend or neighbor requests social-distancing or extra sanitary measures, please be respectful as they try to keep their kids and their household healthy.

Art in the Park (Cont'd from Page 6)

Created by your neighbors Ann Layton, Jamie Lenze and Tami Redding, Art In the Park is one of the many neighborhood events that helps make this area a neighborhood. As with all the neighborhood events, it takes committed volunteers to plan, execute and make the event happen.

Eventually, science will triumph over this contagion and we will be back to planning Art in the Park 2021.

If you love this event and would like to help plan or volunteer to work the event, please email volunteer@artintheparkstl.com. Please take every opportunity to patronize our sponsors and food vendors who are highlighted on our website. Without the neighborhood, our generous sponsors, and our delicious food vendors this event is not possible. For a list of sponsors and food vendors, please visit www.artintheparkstl.com.

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David Francis: The man behind the park

by Mike Truax, President, 1904 World's Fair Society

Residents of St. Louis Hills know and appreciate Francis Park, the heart of the neighborhood. Its 60 acres provide several venues for neighborhood events, facilities for sports and games, a playground and a lily pond. And, there's a statue of David Rowland Francis in the middle of the Park.

But how much do you know about David Francis, who the park is named for? Or about the effort that went into erecting his statue in the center of the Park?

The statue notes that he served as Mayor of St. Louis, Governor of Missouri, and led the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (also known as the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair). But there's so much more to know about the park's namesake.

Francis' Early Career

David Rowland Francis was born in Richmond, Kentucky, and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 1870.

Francis quickly became a very successful St. Louis businessman in the mercantile and grain exchanges in St. Louis. He also became a leader in St. Louis politics.

In 1884, he was elected mayor of St. Louis (serving 1885-1889), and in 1888 he was narrowly elected governor of Missouri (serving 1889-1893). Not only was he the youngest governor ever elected, he was the only mayor of St. Louis who became Missouri governor.

In 1892 a fire at the University of Missouri destroyed the Academic Hall. Governor Francis is credited with keeping the university in Columbia, and in 1895 the David R. Francis Quadrangle was dedicated in his honor. A bronze bust of Francis sits at the south end of Francis Quadrangle. A popular MU student tradition is to rub Governor Francis' nose before taking a test, in order to get an A.

From 1896-97, Francis served as U.S. Secretary of the Interior under President Grover Cleveland, and established many friendships and connections in Washington, D.C. He also acquired a large amount of undeveloped land in southwest St. Louis for a vast farm. This land included much of St. Louis Hills.

The World's Fair

Francis organized the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company (LPE) in 1898-99, and became its President. By 1901 he garnered \$15 million to begin building the World's Fair. Five million came from each of three sources: the State of Missouri, private stock



A portrait of David Rowland Francis, the namesake of St. Louis Hills' Francis Park. Image provided by Mike Truax.

sales, and a loan from the Federal Government.

Francis proposed part of his land in southwest St. Louis as a potential site for the World's Fair, along with St. Louis' other larger parks, Fairgrounds Park, Carondelet Park, and Forest Park. But Francis' land would require more money for significant upgrades to host the fair (for transportation and infrastructure). Forest Park was the obvious choice.

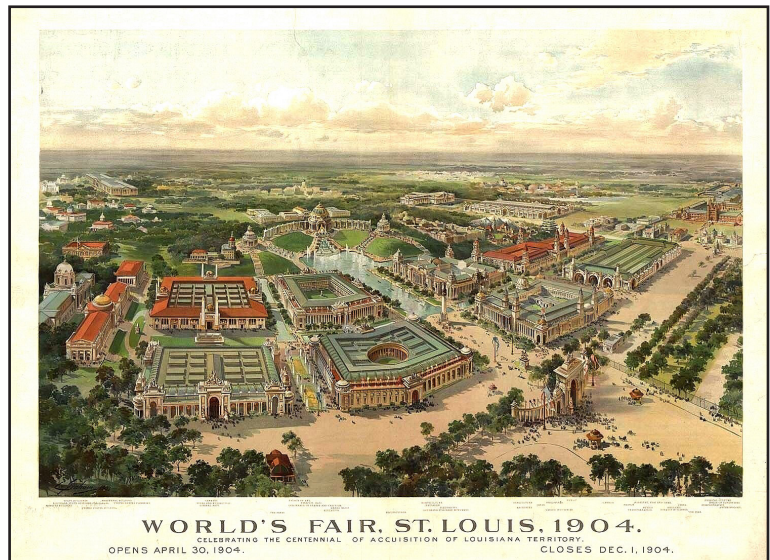
The Fair's delay from 1903 to 1904 allowed Francis to successfully visit Europe and encourage European kings, emperors and rulers to increase their participation. It also allowed the LPE to convince the International Olympic Committee to move the 1904 Olympics (the third modern event) from Chicago to St. Louis, to be held in conjunction with the World's Fair.

The World's Fair was a major success, admitting some 20 million visitors to see the sights from over 40 countries, see the latest inventions and innovations of science, and be entertained by people and concessions from around the world. Francis was called the "The most photographed man in America."

In 1905, he toured Europe again to thank kings, emperors and other rulers for their part in the successful exposition. In 1905-1909, he oversaw the demolition of the Fair, the restoration of Forest Park, returned to his businesses, and watched his family grow.

The profits from the World's Fair funded several legacy items for St. Louis. A bronze statue of Saint Louis was sculpted and dedicated in 1906, as the original statue at the Fair was carved from temporary materials. The profits also paid for the World's Fair Pavilion and the Jefferson Memorial, to become the new home of the Missouri Historical Society.

Francis tried his hand at politics in 1910, but  **Cont'd on page 9**



Among his many other accomplishments, David Francis organized the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Image provided by Mike Truax.

David Francis (Cont'd from Page 8)

his bid for the Democratic nomination for Missouri Senate failed. He never again ran for public office.

Francis returned to public service when he was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson to be U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Empire in 1916. He witnessed the Russian Revolution of 1917.

On Christmas Eve of 1916, Francis was serving in Russia at the time. As the holiday lights were lit at St. Louis' City Hall, a man dressed as Santa Claus appeared and presented a deed from David Francis to the city. The deed would transfer 60 acres from Francis' land to the city, for the purpose of creating Francis Park. Francis' message from Russia read "St. Louis has done everything for me; I'd like to do a little for St. Louis."

Francis died in 1927, survived by his six sons. He was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery. Francis Gymnasium and Francis Olympic Field at Washington University are named for him.

Meanwhile, landowners of what became St. Louis Hills (including Cyrus Crane Willmore) began to develop this open land in the 1920s. Wilmore's vision was to keep business on the main streets, provide plenty of land for schools, churches, and parks (Francis Park was a great start), and develop family residences along tree-lined streets. The St. Louis Hills neighborhood was fully developed by the 1950s.

Building the Statue

A statue honoring David R. Francis had been discussed for many years by the St. Louis Hills Homeowners Association (later the Neighborhood Association) and the Friends of Francis Park. In August 2015, a group of St. Louis Hills residents gathered to begin the initiative, and a formal Committee for the statue effort was established in early 2016.

It didn't take long to identify Harry Weber as the right sculptor for the job. He masterfully captured the essence of many other prominent St. Louis and Missouri icons in his sculptures, including several St. Louis Cardinals near Busch Stadium, Chuck Berry, and the Captain's Return on the riverfront (commemorating Lewis and Clark).

A major fundraising effort raised over \$165,000 for the statue in just three years. Funds for landscaping, lighting, and the surrounding plaza were also secured. Today, the statue of David Rowland Francis proudly honors this great St. Louisan.

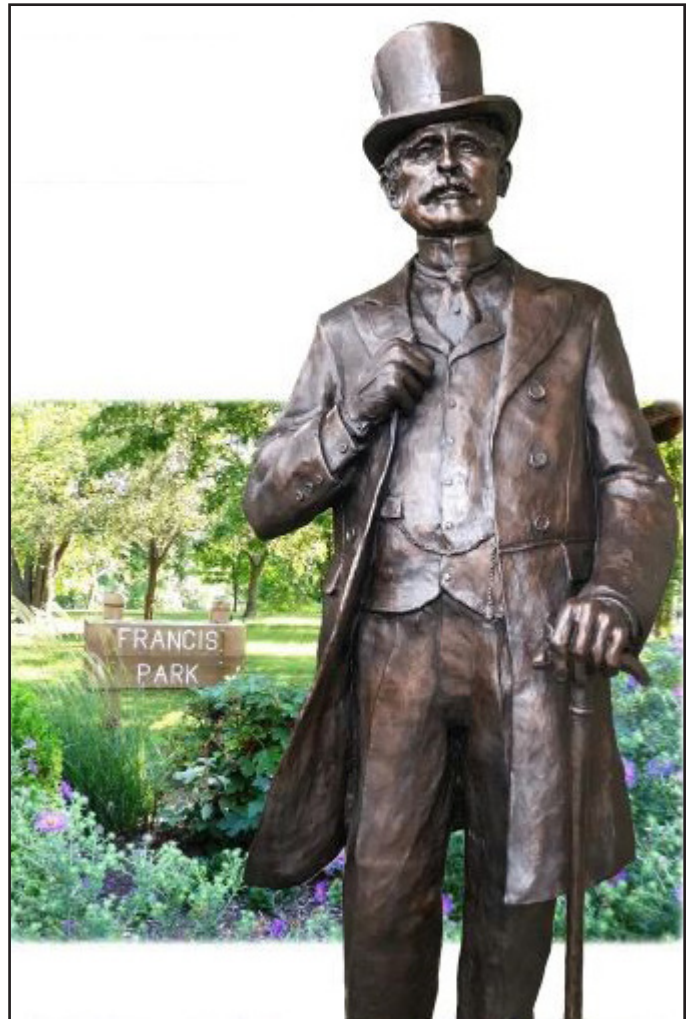
The 1904 World's Fair Society

The 1904 World's Fair Society was founded in 1986 to promote the memory and memorabilia of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. David R. Francis was the driver of the World's Fair, from its inception and construction, its successful operation for seven months, and the demolition and construction of legacy buildings.

For over 30 years, the Society has met every month to enjoy programs about the Fair, and published a monthly newsletter about the Fair and the Society's activities. Over 250 members continue to keep the memory of the 1904 World's Fair alive.

The Society conducted fundraising for the statue of David R. Francis at its 2017-18 meetings. The donation was made, and the Society also participated in the dedication on October 7, 2018.

To learn about the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, you can learn more about the Society at our website (www.1904worldsfairsociety.org). We also have an active Facebook group, with discussion, memorabilia, photos, and history.



A major fundraising effort raised \$165,000 for a statue of David Francis, installed in Francis Park in 2018. Image provided by Mike Truax.

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Time and again: A memory guide to 1952

by Ron 'Johnny Rabbitt' Elz, KMOX Radio

As William Faulkner once said, "The past is never ended; it isn't even past." And, in these times it's interesting to think of our past, in the context of today. One way to do this is by walking or riding back in time. So consider this article a short visit to places from another period in our corner of the world, for which we've randomly selected 1952.

For a respite from a hot night, taking in a movie at an air-cooled theatre was a good option, such as at the Roxy, a 738 seat red brick theatre at 5500 Lansdowne at Wherry. It opened in '26 as the Southhampton and became the Roxy in '31. There are 2 houses at the site today that replaced the movie-house in 1975.

Maybe in '52, in case you missed it at the Loew's State or Loew's Orpheum downtown, you could have seen Singin' in the Rain with Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor at the Roxy. Another nearby theatre was the Avalon at 4225 S. Kinghighway. It opened in 1935, closed in '99 and was razed 8 years ago.

Bowling was another good summer fun option at the modernistic Stein Brothers 24 hour bowling alley at 3911 Hampton, which was operated by Otto Jr. and C. R. Stein. It was one of the hottest hot spots at the edge of St. Louis Hills during World War II. Since '86, the year Stein closed, it's been almost the site of an artsy-looking Lindell Bank & Trust branch. Actually, where the bank is, at the northwest corner of Hampton and Chippewa, there was a 3-D Stag Beer billboard and the Stein parking lot, with the bowling building more to the north.

Across the street on the southwest corner, in 1952 was a tiny White Castle and a bit west was Bill Hoppe's drive-in hamburger stand where he invited you to "Hop into Hoppe's." Both places had carhops. There were also carhops at the Steak 'n' Shake at 6622 Chippewa, and at then a not very busy Ted Drewes Frozen Custard at 6726 Chippewa, which had been there for 11 years. This was before they offered the Johnny Rabbitt Chocolate Covered Cherry Concrete.

Across from Ted's at 6701 it was a mid-century modern Parkmoor where they too offered car-hop service at the honk of your horn by "The Boys in the Orange Jackets." Moellinger Pastries, later the Grau bakery, was at 6735 Chippewa.

In '52 the Biederman's furniture store was still to come at Chippewa and Jamieson (Catholic Supply is in that building today), and catty-corner 'across the intersection the Lammert's furniture store was still a dream of Martin Lammert III. The strip mall with Total Access Urgent Care is there now.

Seek the past with a stroll to discover such things as Stan 'The Man' Musial's 1952 house in the 5400 block of Childress. What's at 6600 Chippewa, the spot where Joe Mertino had his Shangri-La? What dining house is where the Ruggeri-Rotty restaurant was in '52? That address is 3801 Watson. This list could go on with hundreds of places, but our space in time is gone.

Have fun remembering the used to be.

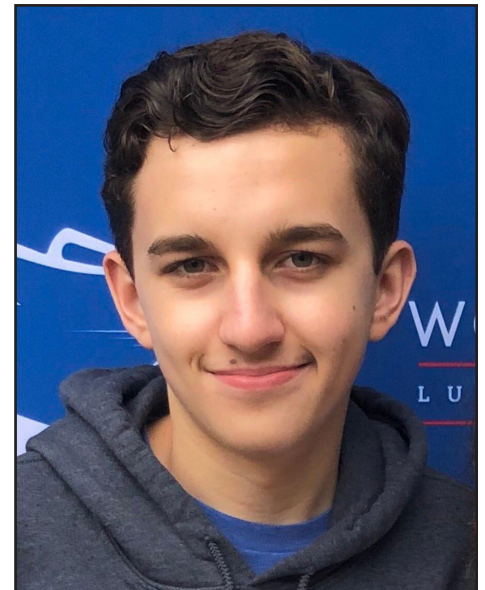
SLHNA grants scholarships to two area students

by Michelle Cheli

The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association provides up to three one-time scholarships per year in the amount of \$600 for applicants on the basis of scholarship, leadership and service in school, church and community.

Please contact Steve or Michelle Cheli with any questions at mmcheliz@yahoo.com. Visit <https://stlhills.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/scholarship-application-2018.docx> to download an application and eligibility rules.

Congratulations to the 2020 Scholarship Winners! Jack Jennings of Word of Life Lutheran School will be attending Lutheran South High School. Dominic Arteaga of St. Gabriel School will be attending CBC.



Dominic Arteaga (left) and Jack Jennings (right) received the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association's 2020 scholarships. Photos provided by Michelle Cheli.

Annual lawn and garden awards granted

by Sarah Seger

Congratulations to the 2020 winners of our annual St. Louis Hills Lawn & Garden Awards. There were many great contenders to choose from this year. We saw beautiful landscaping, interesting color combinations and well-kept grass throughout the hills. A big thanks to all of our judges who canvassed the neighborhood making nominations. Anyone interested in participating in judging next year, feel free to reach out to Sarah Seger at sarahseger15@gmail.com.

Lawn & Garden

5881 Itaska St
5924 Childress Ave
6404 Rhodes Ave
6529 Delor St
6534 Murdoch Ave
6548 Murdoch Ave
6765 Itaska St
5485 Childress Ave
6551 Itaska St
6013 Southland Ave
37 Willmore Rd

Church

St. Raphael the Archangel

Park Corner

Tamm & Nottingham

Multifamily

5828 Loran Ave
5865 Loran Ave

Block

6500 Delor St
6500 Itaska St

Backyard

6371 Devonshire Ave
5831 Eichelberger St



St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church won the lawn and garden award for Best Landscaped Church. Photo provided by Sarah Seger.

Fairy Gardens: Imaginations, possibilities

by Jonathan Haynes

In the US Army Basic Training I was taught to pay attention to details. Instilling the skill of close inspection was delivered this way. To scrutinize details involves discipline and focus. Outdoor fairy gardens have opened a whole world of details.

After adding to the public fairy garden with my grandchildren, my visions changed. Not because my eyeglass prescription expired, but because nooks and crannies, gaps in trees, and nuanced deformities are calling me to create. Now when I travel the urban forest I savor infant possibilities growing in me.

Imaginations Possibilities

By Jonathan Haynes

I never lost my wonder for nature's bounty
Harvesting hackberries, mulberries, and cherries
All around the city for free.

The public fairy garden set my imagination free
As I have aged and gained maturity
I have not lost the ability to see

What may lie behind that door under a tree?
The world around me still produces what I need
It is not always packaged in urban utilities

Get close to the ground you can always clean your knees
Taste the wind, hear a tree, and capture a breeze
Contemplate an ancient creek, investigate nature's debris

What you don't use, you don't get to keep!

Is your imagination asleep?

Won't you join me to explore the possibilities?



An exhibit from one of the many fairy gardens that have popped up around St. Louis Hills. Photo provided by Amy Kidwell.

St. Louis Hills
News and Views



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To view all past newsletters, and
for information on upcoming events,
visit www.stlhills.com.

Visit the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association
on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stlhills

Let's get into the habit every night
at 9 p.m. Make sure to always
lock car doors, roll up windows,
lock your house and secure your
valuables...



Park smart: Lock it or lose it

by Pat Talley, Crime and Safety Education

The surest way to attract more criminals to our area is to make their visits profitable. 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. At other times they can go through your belongings at their leisure. They get all kinds of things, from purses and laptops to guns and money. In many cases the cars are unlocked, hence this newsletter's reminder to PARK SMART. Why make it easy for them?

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 or 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.

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NOTABLE DATES

September 5, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Francis Park

Tour de Francis Park

September 12 - September 19

Francis Park

Run for the Hills

October 29, 7:00 p.m. (doors at 6:30 p.m.)

Bishop DuBourg Cafeteria

St. Louis Hills General Meeting

Grub & Groove, Art in the Park and the St. Louis Hills House
Tour have been cancelled for 2020 due to the COVID-19
pandemic. We hope to see you at these events in the future!

These events are major fundraisers for St. Louis Hills
and Francis Park. For information on how you can contribute
to the neighborhood, see pages 3-5.