

FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE Newsletter



Vol. 21 No. 2

P.O. Box 644, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

June 2011

COME JOIN US!

You may not be able to avoid Friends of Leclaire in June. They'll be all over town! The first event is the annual Route 66 Festival on June 10-11 at City Park where Friends of Leclaire will be at the History Tent with other not-for-profit historic organizations. Following the festival on Sunday, June 12th at 4 pm is the annual Municipal Band Concert at Leclaire Park, and the following Saturday, June 18th we will be hosting our regular third Saturday booth at the Goshen Market.

We are, of course, looking for volunteers, so if you can help out, please call 656-1294 or e-mail friends@historic-leclaire.org. No experience needed. Can't work a two hour shift? Just stop by to say "Hi!"

GARDENERS WELCOME AT LECLAIRE PARK!

Friends of Leclaire would welcome your help planting, weeding and watering at Leclaire Park. Our next regular work day will be Saturday morning, June 11th, the day before the Leclaire Park Band Concert, but you can put in a few hours any time.

Landscaping at the south end of the park did well last year with lots of watering, but a few plants had to be replaced so will need plenty of water until they are established. There are plans to add more mulch and there are always weeds to be pulled. Call Mike Reinhardt at 656-1294 to help.

JUNE MEETING DATE CHANGED TO JUNE 7 INSTEAD OF JUNE 14.

NEW ALDERMAN IN LECLAIRE

Keith Short was elected Alderman for Ward 5 which covers all of Leclaire north of Franklin Avenue. If you have questions or concerns for Alderman Short, call 806-6921. If you live south of Franklin, your alderman is Rich Rezabek, 656-0171.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

With the summer construction season here, residents of Leclaire are reminded that since we live in a National Historic District, city ordinance requires that a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) be approved before making any changes to the exterior of your property, including fences, garages, etc. as well as houses. Applications are available free of charge through the Edwardsville Public Works office. Changes to landscaping do not require a COA.

Statistics show that this kind of building ordinance in historic districts increases property values and discourages the kind of landlords who do not care about their properties.

Route 66 Festival

Edwardsville City Park Opens Friday, June 10th 5 PM

- Food, beverage and art vendors
- Historic tents & displays
- Children's area until 8 PM

6:30 PM – Mondin Band Classic Rock

9:00-11:30 PM – Butch Wax and the Hollywoods

12 AM – Festival closes

Saturday, June 11th

8:00 AM – 10k Run

10:00 AM – Post race awards

- Food, beverage and art vendors
- Children's area
- Historic tents and displays

11:00 AM - Trolley tours on the hour

- Face painting clown and balloon artist begin

12:30 PM - Showcase of Local Talent on the main stage

2:30 PM - Exit 12 (Main Stage)

4:00 PM - DANG (Main Stage)

- Last trolley tour goes out

5:00 PM – Cars may begin assembling at Lincoln Middle School parking lot

6:30 PM – Fanfare (Main Stage)

- Car Cruise begins

8:00 PM – Children's area and art vendors begin to close

9:00-11:30 PM – Bob Kuban Brass Band on the main stage

12 PM – Festival closes

LECLAIRE PARK BAND CONCERT

Sunday, June 12th – 4 PM

Park clean-up Saturday, June 11th at 9 AM

Bring your rakes!

STATE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE VISITS EDWARDSVILLE

If you notice extra visitors around LeClaire on June 2nd it's because the 2011 Statewide Preservation Conference of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is being held at the LCCC campus in Godfrey this year, with their kick-off events in Edwardsville at the Wildey Theatre. Visitors are encouraged to visit Edwardsville's historic sites while they are here. The theme for the June 2-4 conference is "Old is Our New Green." For information go to www.iahpc.org.

FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE ANNUAL MEETING

At the annual meeting in April the following officers were elected to the Friends of LeClaire Board:

President	Mike Reinhardt
Vice-President	Will Kraus
Secretary	Kathy Krishnan
Treasurer	Jim Milgrim
Trustee	Edna Grench
Trustee	Cindy Reinhardt
Trustee	Jennifer Rutherford

Friends of LeClaire can be reached by calling President Mike Reinhardt (656-1294) or any of the other board members, or by sending an e-mail to friends@historic-leclaire.org.

WHAT DOES FOL DO?

Every year for the annual meeting President Mike Reinhardt puts together a list of Friends of LeClaire (FOL) accomplishments. It's amazing to see how much has been accomplished by a small core of the membership with a love for LeClaire. Here's his 2010-2011 list:

- Participated in Channel 4's coverage of Edwardsville in a local community series featuring a segment on LeClaire; Cindy Reinhardt & Will Krause were interviewed.
- Established an account with the Greater Edwardsville Area Community Fund to make tax-exempt donations possible.

- Updated IRS paperwork
- Coordinated the planting of a memorial garden and landscaping at the southwest corner of LeClaire Park. Plaques in honor of the Carroll and MacDonald families were installed. Plantings included six large trees, four ornamental trees, three spruce and 23 bushes. All of these were watered every two days by Jim Milgrim and Mike Reinhardt during a very dry summer.
- In October FOL hosted another successful Parkfest with great crowds and weather. The number of vendors, visitors and compliments was gratifying.
- Hosted a forum for the Ward 5 aldermanic candidates.
- Spread the history of LeClaire to surrounding communities and Edwardsville through publicity for Cindy Reinhardt's new pictorial history of LeClaire from Arcadia Press. Publicity about LeClaire included articles in the Intelligencer, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Alton Telegraph & Belleville News Democrat in addition to many presentations and book signings. A portion of the proceeds were donated to Friends of LeClaire.
- Raised funds for maintenance of the water fall at LeClaire Park through a fund raiser hosted by Bob and Mary Blain.
- Held three LeClaire Park gardening work days.
- Hosted a band concert at LeClaire Park by the Edwardsville Municipal Band.
- Hosted a booth at the Goshen Market on the third Saturday of each month for the season.
- Published and distributed four newsletters.
- Participated in the Route 66 Festival with a table and posters in the History Tent.
- Continued to improve and expand our web site which had

over 8,000 hits from Dec 2010 to May 2011. Transcribed newspaper articles that on-line now number over 400 pages.

- Purchased new LeClaire tote bags and additional shirts for resale.
- In cooperation with Edwardsville Beautification and Tree Commission, planted hundreds of daffodils at the Children's Museum.
- Printed copies of Debbie Heidemann's "Search and Discovery: LeClaire Park" for use in local schools.
- Celebrated the holidays with an open house hosted by Bob and Mary Blain.
- Reached a membership of 128 individuals

LeClaire, past and present, has received a lot of good publicity in the past year thanks to the hard work of the Friends of LeClaire membership. Twenty-two years ago LeClaire was a little known piece of Edwardsville history. Now, thanks to FOL and Edwardsville's Historic Preservation Commission, its important history is becoming known locally and nationally. And it is a more desirable place to live.

People seem to be taking more pride in our neighborhood. And the park is looking better every year, with visitors commenting on how much they enjoy its "old-time" ambiance.

I want to thank my fellow board members for their enthusiasm, their readiness to volunteer whenever needed, and for serving another term. We have several other very dedicated members who are also always there for park clean-up, LeClaire Parkfest, and other events or tasks.

To accomplish all of the above in just one year requires a dedicated membership. Volunteers make a difference in the lives of a community. Thank you for being a member of the Friends of LeClaire and for all your help.

Mike Reinhardt

MEMBERSHIP IN FOL

Membership dues for Friends of LeClaire are used to promote the history and preservation of the historic LeClaire neighborhood. Founded in 1890 as an experiment in cooperative living, LeClaire was designated a National Historic District in 1979. Walking tour brochures, books, DVDs and other materials on the history of the neighborhood are available. Send an e-mail to friends@historic-leclaire.org or call 656-1294 for additional information. Members receive quarterly issues of the LeClaire newsletter.

Interested in joining Friends of LeClaire? Renew your membership or join Friends of LeClaire for just \$10 per year by mailing a check to: Friends of LeClaire, P.O. Box 644, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Please include your name, telephone number, e-mail and street addresses.

A reminder: The Friends of LeClaire web site has many LeClaire resources available including photos, memoirs, newsletters, transcribed newspaper articles from a hundred years ago, and links to research materials and other historic sites in Edwardsville. www.historic-leclaire.org

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

The Children's Museum located in LeClaire at 722 Holyoake Road has a number of summer camps scheduled this year for both older and younger children. With dates starting in June or July, the camps have a variety of activities for any interest and are reasonably priced too. Call them at 692-2094 or visit their web site at www.childrens-museum.net. There is also a link to the Children's Museum on the Friends of LeClaire web site.

LAWNIN "MANSION" FEATURED

The former home of Louis D. and Julia Nelson Lawnin at 311 Jefferson Road in LeClaire was one of the buildings featured in a series on historic Edwardsville buildings. The articles are published in the

Edwardsville Intelligencer during the month of May. Edwardsville's Historic Preservation Commission sponsors the series each year to bring attention to National Historic Preservation Month. Below is an article from the past describing the housewarming party thrown by the Lawnins. The house, which once was a single family home, now includes three house numbers, 309, 311 and 313.

Wednesday, November 22, 1905
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Lawnin last evening threw open their new home in LeClaire to their Edwardsville friends. On last Friday evening they entertained LeClaire people. At last night's reception there were present over one hundred and fifty guests.

The house was decorated with chrysanthemums, pink ones in the living rooms and white in the dining room where the colors were green and white. In the later hours of the evening the young people danced in the third story, where a ball room has been arranged. The Thomas orchestra provided music.

The house warming was one of the largest social affairs of the month. From out of town there were present Miss Alice Clark, Fred Leonard and Albert Worthington Lawnin, of St. Louis, and Miss Aline Burden, of Lexington, Mo.

October 21, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer
LeClaire Lectures.

As in previous years so this winter a course of lectures and entertainments will be given at LeClaire. The first Tuesday of each month will be reserved for these occasions. The program is so far arranged that definite announcement can be made of the following events:

Tuesday, November 1, lecture, "Away to the North with Nansen," by Albert L. Berry, illustrated by stereoscopic views.

Tuesday, December 6, readings, dramatic and humorous, by Prof. F. M. Cranden, of St. Louis.

Tuesday, January 8, readings by Rev. John Snyder, of St. Louis

Mr. Berry, whose lecture comes first on the course, is a successful business man. It is a common supposition that business men have no time for anything outside of their commercial pursuits. Mr. Berry, however, is an exception. He has taken much interest in Nansen's heroic expedition to the far North, and has prepared an illustrated lecture descriptive of the expedition and of the region to which it was made. Young and old enjoy tales of adventure and Mr. Berry's tales of adventure should fill the house with an interested audience. No admission fee will be charged.

November 4, 1898
Edwardsville Intelligencer

Late comers to the lecture at LeClaire school house Tuesday evening went home again without gaining admission to the house. The ordinarily commodious building did not suffice for the audience which gathered there and even standing room was not to be had. Prof. A. L. Berry's lecture on Nansen's trip of exploration to the frozen north was very good as were also the stereoscopic pictures with which it was accompanied.

May 19, 1899
Edwardsville Intelligencer
**John Tabor Victim of Serious
Accident**

John Tabor, employed at LeClaire, was horribly hurt yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock. A crew was engaged in removing a big block of marble weighing 30,000 pounds from a flat car. They had the block raised a foot from the car when the balance rope seemed insecure, and it was thought advisable to lower the block again and take a different grip. The men started the crab, about which the cable was fastened, backward, but the tension



Marble Yard Courtesy of Madison County Historical Society

was too great and the handles of the windlass slipped from their hands. One of the whirling handles struck Tabor squarely under the chin and almost tore his jaw from his head. The jaw bone was cut in two like paper and the bone shattered to bits. His throat was also torn by the force of the blow, so that when water was given him, he could not swallow, the liquid escaping through a gap in his throat. Tabor was taken to the office of Dr. Jos. Pogue where the doctor, assisted by Dr. A. B. McKee attended his injuries. It was the second accident of the kind that has occurred at the marble mill in unloading that car. A few days ago in removing another block, the windlass slipped and struck Henry Merkel on the leg, from the effects of which he is still laid up.

May 20, 1921
 Edwardsville Intelligencer
OPEN LECLAIRE LAKE
Swimmers Must Wear Dark
Colored Suits is Order

Grounds About Lake are Prettiest of Any Other Year

Carpenters at the LeClaire Lake had barely completed improvements at the bath houses yesterday afternoon when the first party of swimmers arrived last night after the hottest day of summer for a dip in the

cold water. Today the swimming season has opened and for the next two or three months the place will be visited by many.

L. D. Lawnin, president of the N. O. Nelson Company, said today that order must be maintained at the lake and the rules and regulations observed. "If there are violations," he said, "we will close the place up." Thomas Triggs will have charge of the lake and boats this summer and be "watcher" to guard small children.

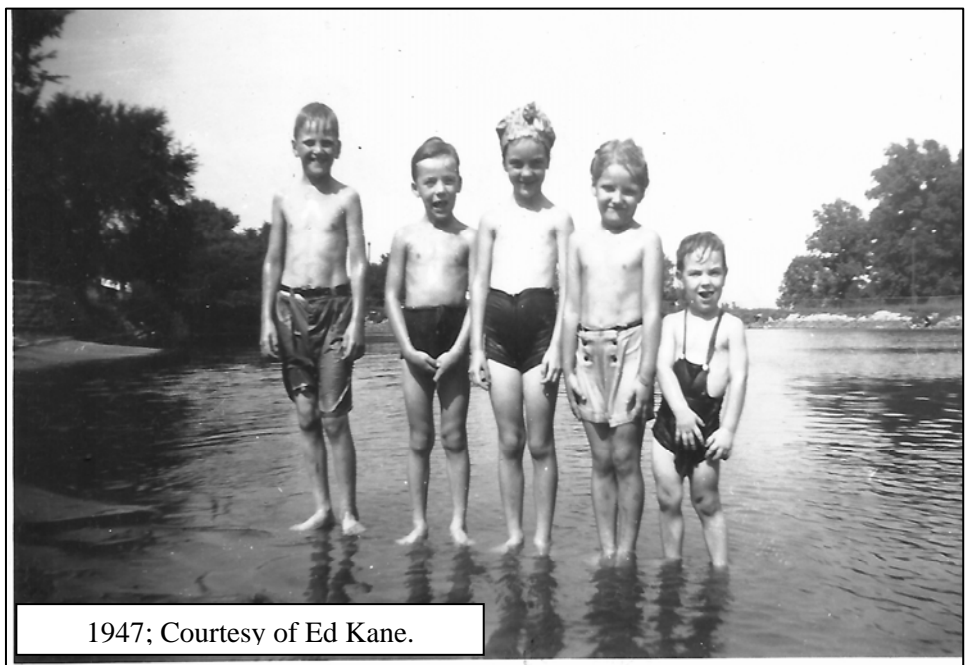
The company has gone to considerable expense to make the grounds surrounding the lake

attractive. For a month men have been trimming shrubbery, planting flower beds, mowing the grass and the place is prettier than any year in the past. Repairs have been made on the two bath houses and they will be open during the afternoons and evenings.

Mr. Lawnin said that only dark colored bathing suits will be permitted this year. Those wearing gaudy and loud colored suits cannot swim at the lake but must visit some other resorts where shapely forms and ostentatiously fine suits are the rage. Swimming at LeClaire Lake is purely for any physical benefits which may be derived.

The company intended buying six skiffs, similar to those in use, (but they) cost \$85 each while several years ago a good one was obtained for \$35, (a) price more than double that of a few years ago; the plan was given up. The roads are being repaired, low places filled and the surface smoothed. Road oil has been ordered and the drives will be sprinkled about June 1. The cost is several hundred dollars and with the placing of the oil now, followed with the customary hard rains about Decoration Day, the efforts and money would be lost.

Thanks again to Cindy Reinhardt for copy and pictures.
 Bob Blain, Editor



1947; Courtesy of Ed Kane.