

FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE Newsletter



Charles Reiter, Beverly Schulze, Julie Hamilton, and Gary Finke planting at the Gazebo at Leclaire Lake.

Vol. 18 No. 3

P.O. Box 644, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

October 2008

TIME FOR LECLAIRE PARKFEST!

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19TH

The 17th annual Parkfest will be held on Sunday, October 19th from Noon to 5 PM at Leclaire Lake Park on Hale Avenue in Leclaire.

There will be live music and a wide variety of food, the proceeds from which benefit non-profit organizations in the Edwardsville area. In addition, there will be arts and crafts, a book sale, exhibits, pony rides, trolley tours, vintage tractors and farm equipment, and historic photographs. Details are on the back page of this newsletter.

Parking is available at Leclaire School on Franklin Avenue and at the Nelson Campus of LCCC off Troy Road.

This is also your chance to renew your membership, purchase Leclaire merchandise and view historic photos of the Leclaire neighborhood at the Friends of Leclaire booth.

GARDENING AT LECLAIRE PARK

The Edwardsville Garden Club with the Edwardsville Parks Department planted new shrubbery around the Leclaire Gazebo this spring. More recently, they planted mums that provide a splash of fall color to the park grounds. Thanks to Beverly Schulze, Julie Hamilton and Alison Lamothe of the club's Leclaire Bandstand Committee for these wonderful improvements.

FALL MEMBERSHIP

Renew your Friends of Leclaire membership and pay your dues, just \$10, at Leclaire Parkfest or send a check to Friends of Leclaire, P.O. Box 644, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

Dues help pay for this newsletter which is delivered to every house in the historic district and mailed to members outside the district. Money raised is also used to promote the history of the neighborhood and to make improvements to public areas.

Visit our web site at www.historic-leclaire.org or call FOL president, Mike Reinhardt at 656-1294.



Gary Finke and Dennis Brown installing one of the new swings.

NEW PARKFEST SIGNS

Leclaire Parkfest has new signs to announce the festival at City Park and at the Leclaire water tower. We are grateful to Sherrie Hickman of Creative Options Graphic Design for the donation of her professional services to design the graphics and fliers announcing the event.

MEMORIAL SWINGS

Three new swings have been installed by the Parks Department on the east side of Leclaire Lake Park near the memorial waterfall.

Bob and Mary Blain would like to thank friends, family, and neighbors who contributed to their son, Brian Buckminster Blain's memorial fund. It purchased a swing in memory of Brian and Nathan Gately, who died together in an automobile accident August 30, 2007.

The Blains also purchased a swing to memorialize Bob's son, Daniel, who died at age 5 in 1974, and his mother, Germaine, who died in October 2007 at 94.

The third swing was donated by the Edwardsville Junior Service Club.

COMPANY'S COMING! SPRUCE UP LECLAIRE

FOL will be providing a little TLC to Leclaire Park on Saturday, October 18th so Leclaire looks its best for Parkfest visitors on Sunday. The Parks Department will have done extra work at the park as they always do, but the flower beds will all need special attention; benches and picnic tables need to be moved, pavilions swept, sticks picked up and various other chores.

If you can help, bring your tools and meet us at the park at 9 AM, Saturday, October 18th. With enough help we can be done in less than 2 hours!

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OPEN FOR FUN

The Children's Museum was closed for two weeks in September for maintenance and repairs but has now reopened with a full schedule of events designed to entertain and educate local children.

In addition to their regular hours, the museum will host a Haunted Science Lab on Friday, October 17th from 6 to 8 PM. Kids will feel, touch, laugh and learn through this hands-on traveling science museum presented by the SIUE Departments of Chemistry and Physics.

Astronomy Day, on Saturday, October 18th from 1 to 3 PM, offers exciting demonstrations inside the museum and telescopes outside.

The Children's Museum is located at 722 Holyoake Road in historic Leclaire. The museum has new hours of 10 AM to 4 PM on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. Admission is just \$4. For more information call 692-2094 or, visit their Web site at www.childrens-museum.net.

VINTAGE BASEBALL RETURNS TO LECLAIRE FIELD

Three games will be played for this year's Vintage Baseball Day at Leclaire Field on Saturday, October 18th beginning at 11:00 AM. The St. Louis Perfectos, New Baden Juniors and the St. Louis Unions will play the 3 games in round robin format.

Many area residents stopped by to enjoy the game last year where teams played by traditional 1860 rules...no gloves and players must always be gentlemen. No profanity is allowed, players cannot yell at the umpire or opposing players and a fly ball can be caught after it bounces once and still



Dennis Brown, Monty Morrison, Gary Finke and Cody Clayton installing new flagpole.

count as an out.

The event is free and open to the public. For additional information contact Deanna Oberneufemann at 692-7538.

WINTER CONCERTS

Edwardsville Parks & Recreation will again offer a winter concert series in the Leclaire Room at the N. O. Nelson Campus of LCCC on Troy Road. There will be a total of six concerts, all on Friday evenings at 7 PM. Last year's concerts filled up quickly, so we recommend that you obtain tickets as soon as they become available in mid-October at the Parks Department office in City Hall or at the Edwardsville Public Library. There is a suggested \$7 donation per ticket.

The schedule isn't complete yet, but the first two concerts will be Fiddleback on November 21st and the Great Rivers Choral Society and Upper Alton Handbell Choir on December 12th.

NEW FLAGPOLE IN LECLAIRE PARK

The new flagpole in Leclaire Park was presented to the City by the Kiwanis Club of Edwardsville. It was installed July 31, 2008.

ARTICLES FROM THE PAST....

Edwardsville Intelligencer
September 24, 1890

LECLAIRE LACONICS
Bulletin of Events at the N. O. Nelson
Suburb.

The brick laying on the Bath Tub Works is going rapidly forward and will be completed in several days. The foundations will (.....) in for the Tining Works. These two buildings will be pushed to an early completion.

In general improvements the principal order is still road making and sidewalk building. These will be extended into the tract adjoining the one to which work has been confined until now. The water system also will receive an addition of 600 feet which will extend into the new tract.

The streets have been named. The principal one, which runs in front of the Club, and extends to Troy road, will be known as Holyoke; another has been christened Hale, and others Forest Park, Jefferson and Meisseni. The houses have been numbered. Number signs, or stakes have been put up. This is to avoid confusion, in charging material to the several buildings.

MINOR MENTION

J. E. Falls spent Sunday with his folks in St. Louis.

G. Davidson, of New York City, now has charge of the plumbing.

The electric lighting has been completed in the Cabinet Works.

George Newcomb, who has been timekeeper, has returned to St. Louis.

George and John Chamberlain, of St. Louis, have a contract for painting.

Another reel of fire hose has arrived, and the force will soon be organized into a brigade.

John Childs has been plastering one of the houses with adamant, for the St. Louis Adamant Co.

J. H. Van Arsdale is fitting up his machine shop, in the addition just completed, adjoining the boiler house.

Henry Messmer, who has had charge of the lumber stock, has resumed his former position in John Stoltze's lumber yard.

The Litchfield Herald says A. O. Van Hying and J. S. East went to Edwardsville to work for the N. O. Nelson Company at Leclaire.

A child's breast pin, three-cornered gold bar, set with garnets and pearls has been lost. The finder will receive reward. Apply at INTELLIGENCER office.

E. K. Smart is the first purchaser of a lot. He secured a site on Holyoke road and will erect a 5 room cottage. It will be No. 17. He will bring his family from Carlinville.

Will Thomas, of Carlinville, who has been with the company about 2 ½ years, has charge of the finishing shop of the Cabinet Works, under Supt. J. D. Wilson, and has several boys under him. He keeps things moving.

A great deal of inconvenience has been caused and some damage has been done by visitors to the grounds, who thoughtlessly drive over lines and stakes which have been placed to indicate measurements. Sometimes, about one in ten, the driver will reset the stake, but never in the place where it stood before. Later, when new measurements are to be made it is taken for granted that the stake is in its proper place, and it is not until some time afterward perhaps that a discrepancy is discovered. These little misdeeds have caused a great deal of annoyance, and until the streets have been graded, visitors will be kept out of the residence part. Another act of more serious character has been practiced the past several days. Visitors to the grounds strayed into an apple orchard near by and helped themselves to apples. Nothing was said about this until the other day, children and some older persons came along with baskets and sacks, and even barrels, and went into the orchard and filled them with apples. The orchard is not a part of Leclaire, but belongs to A. W. Metcalfe. The Leclaire people purchased several rows of trees since for apples, for their use, and the orchard henceforth will not be quite as public an enterprise.

Note: Some names are spelled incorrectly (i.e. Holyoke) but

they are copied exactly as printed in the 1890 newspaper. The spellings were corrected in the paper later.
Editor's Note: Thanks again to Cindy Reinhardt for copy. I smiled at the misspelling because I grew up in Holyoke, Massachusetts, the first planned industrial city in the U.S. N. O. Nelson considered naming Leclaire, Holyoke but said there was already a Holyoke. Holyoake Road is named for George Jacob Holyoake, a great supporter of Robert Owen and cooperatives. Holyoke was named after Elizur Holyoke, an early settler. Bob Blain

LETTER FROM MR. NELSON

Leclaire's founder, N. O. Nelson, wrote wonderful letters to his children and grandchildren. The letter transcribed here was written to his son Frank three days after President James Garfield was shot on July 2, 1881. Garfield died of his wounds in September, making his presidency of 6 months, 15 days the second shortest in history.

The letter was handwritten on N. O. Nelson Manufacturing stationary. It is reprinted here with permission from the Madison County Historical Society who owns the original copy. We thought it an appropriate letter for an election year.

Sadly, Frank was not to grow to be a "big man" nor would he tell his children the words of advice passed on by his father. Frank, born in 1875, died in 1882.

My Dear Frank, July 5, 1881

When you are grown a big man – 5'11" in your boots and 180 lbs, you must remember as one of the stories to tell your children and our nephews and nieces that in 1881 while you were swimming off the coast of Maine a bad, bad man shot and almost killed the great and good President Garfield. It is to be hoped you will not have it to tell he was killed. My boy, you must always think of the President of the United States of America as the greatest and best man living. Greatest because he is the symbol of the power of this country which gives to every man, woman, child and animal full protection in every right, and best, because all of us have chosen him as the fittest example of our virtues and our patriotism. Always think well of your country and its chief and make it your duty and pride to keep them pure and great.

Affectionately, Your Papa

Pictured below are children at the Leclaire Kindergarten in 1919-1920. A professional photographer took the portrait. It is unknown whether they were in costume for a play or for Halloween. The picture was donated to the Children's Museum by Mrs. Dorothy Solter of Edwardsville. It is printed here with permission of the Children's Museum now located in the old Leclaire School House.





LECLAIRE PARKFEST

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 19

NOON - 5 PM • Held at LeClaire Park on Hale Avenue in Edwardsville, Illinois

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Noon - 2:30 pm **Old St. Louis Levee Band Trio**
Dixieland Jazz

2:30 - 5 pm **The Lodge Brothers**
Old Time Folk Music

FOOD

Beer & Wine Garden hosted by Crushed Grapes plus...
Italian Beef, Brats, Walking Tacos, Funnel Cakes,
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Curly Fries, Kettle Korn, Nachos,
Steak Kabobs, Lemon Shake-ups and MORE!

Parking available at LeClaire School on Franklin Avenue, the Nelson Campus of LCCC or on streets within the LeClaire neighborhood. (no shuttle service). Handicap parking available next to park.



PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

ARTS & CRAFTS

Browse a variety of crafts booths including jewelry, needlework, Groovyware tie-dyed clothing and MORE!

TROLLEY TOURS

Pleasant narrated trolley rides through the LeClaire National Historic District provides a glimpse into the past.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Crafts & activities center, face & hair painting, games and pony rides.

BOOK SALE

Thousands of used books. Something for everyone. Lots of bargains!

PET ADOPTION

Looking for a new best friend? Hope Animal Rescue will be available for pet adoptions.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Working honey bee hive, historic photographs & memorabilia, vintage tractors & farm equipment!

For information visit www.historic-leclaire.org

This festival made possible by a grant from the City of Edwardsville • Festival graphics by Creative Options Graphic Design, Inc.