



FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE

NEWSLETTER

December 2017

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LUMINARIA IN LECLAIRE DECEMBER 3



Friends of Leclaire will host the third annual Luminaria Walk on Sunday, Dec 3, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m at Leclaire Park. The sidewalks at Leclaire Park will be lined with 1,500 luminarias creating streets of lights through the park. Visitors can stroll the park, stopping for hot chocolate (courtesy of Sacred Grounds Coffee Shop) and perhaps a sweet treat for children (young or old). Carolers are invited to stop by to perform a song or two from the bandstand. This is a very family friendly event for attendees and volunteers. Volunteers (children welcome) will meet at the park at 5 p.m. to set up the lights. If you are willing to volunteer in advance to fill bags, please call organizer Bob Nickrent at 618-407-5268. A rain date for the event is set for Dec. 10.

HARTMANS TO HOST PARTY

Mark and Beth Hartman will host this year's Friends of Leclaire Holiday Social at their home at 1006 Madison Avenue on Tuesday, December 12 beginning at 7 p.m. Those planning to attend should RSVP to 618-823-8623 so Mark and Beth will know how many to expect.

All current members of Friends of Leclaire are invited to attend the Holiday Social which is a potluck where attendees are asked to bring "finger foods," an appetizer or dessert. The party is held in lieu of a December FOL meeting. If you are a dues-paying member of Friends of Leclaire, please join us for this annual celebration of the season with good food, wonderful conversation, and an opportunity to renew acquaintances with friends and neighbors.

The Hartmans are long-time residents of Leclaire and regular volunteers for Friends of Leclaire.

MAKE IT A LECLAIRE XMAS!

There may not be a storefront in Leclaire, but there are many gifts available for the holidays from Friends of Leclaire. A variety of shirts include unisex or women's t-shirts (\$15), hoodies (\$30) or long-sleeved t-shirts (\$18), books on Leclaire history (\$15 and \$22), Leclaire tote bags (\$4), gift certificates for a membership in Friends of Leclaire (\$15), and memorial bricks (\$50) for around the bandstand. For merchandise, call Bob Nickrent at 618-407-5268. For a gift membership, call William Krause at 618-540-5950. To purchase a memorial brick, fill out the application that can be found at historic-leclaire.org or call Mike Reinhardt at 618-656-1294.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Since most of our members renew their memberships at this time of the year, we encourage everyone to send in your renewals (or order a gift membership for a friend) as soon as possible. Reminders are sent out but they are an expense that can be avoided. (FOL keeps their membership dues low so they are affordable to all.) To renew, simply send a check for \$15 to FOL, P. O. Box 644, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Include your name, address, phone and email address. If you have any questions, contact FOL Membership Chair Will Krause at 618-540-5950.

A LECLAIRE LOVE STORY

Their first date was ice skating at Leclaire Lake. This past month they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at the historic Leclaire home where they have lived for over half a century. Friends of Leclaire extend heartiest congratulations to FOL members Don and Evelyn Schaake on their milestone anniversary!

PHOTOGRAPHIC TREASURES

In 1990, Mary Blain copied hundreds of photographs of local families in preparation for Leclaire's Centennial. Many of the photos were used for posters still displayed annually at Leclaire Parkfest. Since Mary's death earlier this year, her daughter, Kelly, has been going through Mary's documents and bringing dozens of photographs to Friends of Leclaire. We are very grateful for all of Mary's work nearly 30 years ago and this legacy of Leclaire family images.

The photo at right is from that collection. It is a portrait of Jacob Mueri (1872-1940), a brass worker in the Nelson factories who lived at 902 Troy Road. Jacob was a Swiss immigrant.



Friends of Leclaire ♦ P. O. Box 644 ♦ Edwardsville, IL 62025

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RECENT NEWS

JAMES REVELLE OF LECLAIRE

LECLAIRE PARK SURVEYED

After Leclaire Parkfest, Friends of Leclaire spoke to local surveyor Jeffrey Pauk of Madison County Surveyors about the possibility of obtaining a new survey of Leclaire Park. As it happened, he was teaching CNST 482 Advanced Surveying Systems at SIUE this fall and they needed a project. On Sunday, November 12, Jeff and eight students spent four hours measuring every stationary object in the park to include it on the survey, even barbeque grills. There will be additional work to convert all of the measurements into a map, but Parkfest vendor coordinator Theresa Morrison will be delighted with a new and improved map for next year's festival. Thank you to Jeff Pauk and his SIUE students!!



Picture: Students shown working on the Leclaire Park survey include (from left) Eleanor Schumacher, Dustin McCurdy and Jasper Capriotti

IN MEMORY OF MIMI

Leclaire Parkfest vendor Taqueria Z donated a portion of their profits to Friends of Leclaire in memory of Mimi Zanger, a former resident of Leclaire, whose son, Mike Zanger, is one of the owners of the restaurant. Mimi Proctor Zanger lived on Ruskin Avenue until her death in 1991. A donation of \$100 was made in her memory because of her love for the Leclaire neighborhood and especially Leclaire Park.



James Revelle, the original owner of 905 Hale Avenue (story on page 3), is pictured in two known photo postcards, but not identified in either. The photo above of the Leclaire Cooperative Store has his name on it and it is reasonable to assume he is one of the men in the photograph. Below is a portrait of the Leclaire Blues baseball team in 1909 when James Revelle was their pitcher. If you have a copy of the photograph below with the men identified, please call 618-656-1294. (Above courtesy of Cindy Reinhardt, below courtesy of Christine Taul)



About Friends of Leclaire

Friends of Leclaire (FOL) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing the history and heritage of the Leclaire National Historic District. The organization promotes Leclaire's heritage through advocacy, education and community involvement.

FOL conducts business meetings at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month except in December when the regular meeting is replaced with a holiday social and January when it's just too cold!

All members are welcome to attend meetings which are held in Room 201 of Building N4 at the Historic N. O. Nelson Campus of Lewis & Clark Community College in Edwardsville.

Coming Soon ~

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dec 3 | 6-9 p.m. Luminaria in Leclaire |
| Dec 10 | Rain Date for Luminaria Walk |
| Dec 12 | 7 p.m. FOL Holiday Social |
| NO FOL MEETING IN JANUARY | |
| Feb 13 | 7 p.m. FOL meeting |
| Mar 13 | 7 p.m. FOL meeting |

905 HALE AVENUE - THE REVELLE HOME

The home at 905 Hale Avenue has one of the best locations in Leclaire, across from the lake. The house was completed before Nov 5, 1912, in time for newlyweds James Elijah Revelle, Jr. and his bride, Hermenia "Minnie" Sehnert Revelle, to move in following their wedding at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Edwardsville.

Both were well-established in Leclaire before moving into the house on Hale Avenue. Minnie was the youngest daughter of Louis and Frances Sehnert who owned and operated the Sehnert Hotel on Wolf Street. A great nephew, Lee Sandlin, wrote about the Sehnert family in a best-selling book, *Distancers: An American Memoir*, in 2004. Many in the Sehnert family built homes in Leclaire.

James grew up in Stallings, a farming area southwest of Edwardsville in Nameoki Township. In fact, his mother's maiden name was Stallings so they were well-rooted in that community. In 1892, James's father was hit by a train. He eventually recovered only to be struck by lightning and killed in 1897. His widow and children stayed on the farm for a time, but in 1899 Sarah Stallings Revelle and her four youngest children, including James, Jr., moved to Edwardsville to a home at 143 North Kansas Street.

James was a tall, athletic young man who captained the Edwardsville bowling team and was a pitcher for the Leclaire Blues baseball team. In 1906, after clerking at other stores in town, he found a job as assistant manager at the Leclaire Cooperative Store. Two years later he took over as manager. The Leclaire store was located near the Leclaire factory buildings on Wolf Street near the Sehnert Hotel.

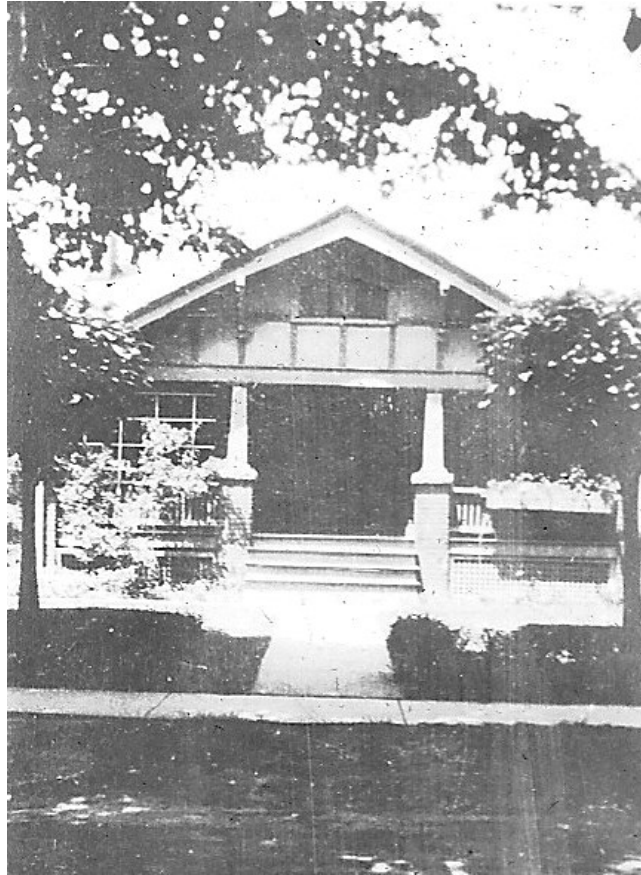
In 1915, James left the Leclaire Cooperative Store to start his own business, Revelle's Grocery at 144 N. Main Street in the Tunnell Building. Four years later, James and Minnie sold the house on Hale Avenue to Charles Edwards and moved to 147 N. Kansas where the Edwards family had previously been living. The Kansas Street location put the Revelles next door to James' mother and just a block from Revelle's Grocery.

The Revelles remained in Edwardsville until the death of James' mother, Sarah in 1921. That year he sold his grocery business and began a career that took the family all over the country. For many years he was a salesman for Quaker Oats before retiring to Florida.

The second family to purchase the house, Charles and Emma Edwards, were on Hale Avenue for only a short time before following their daughter to California. In Edwardsville, Charles and his brother William ran the Edwards Brothers Ice House

at 333 S. Kansas Street. Alverita's School of Cosmetology occupies that building today.

In 1922 the house was purchased by Fred and Anna Feldmeier Kuethe who moved in with their three children, Elsie, Raymond and Helen. The Kuethe children were teenagers and thoroughly enjoyed Leclaire Lake as evident in many photographs of them passed down through the family and shared by Roger Buchta of Glen Carbon.



905 Hale Avenue in the 1920s after it was purchased by the Fred and Anna Kuethe family. (Courtesy Roger Buchta)

The Coroniotis family purchased the house in 1938. Costa Coroniotis, a Greek immigrant, was a wholesale meat dealer and the buildings across the back of the lot are a reminder of that legacy. Part of them contained refrigeration units for his business. Costa and his wife Magdalena also left a wonderful photographic record of the house which was shared by their daughter, Helen Coroniotis Wiemers..

There was a short-term owner in the late 1950s that did not occupy the house. He rented the house to Julius Elwood Barth and his family who moved into the house about 1961, and purchased the home in 1969. Elwood had been a business partner of Costa Coroniotis, so the refrigeration unit included with the property made it an ideal home for the Barth family. The current owners purchased the property from the Barth family, but the refrigeration facility was gone when they purchased the home.

Unlike many Leclaire homes, this house occupies all of its originally platted lot. Even though most Leclaire lots on the east side of Troy Road were platted with 100 foot street frontage the majority of these lots were split into two building lots. James Revelle originally purchased the south half of Lot Ten and another party purchased the north half. In 1939 the Coroniotis family purchased the vacant north side of Lot Ten, and it has been sold as one lot ever since.



The pictures below show (left) the Mrs. Anna Kuethe and her children, Helen, Elsie, and Raymond circa 1922. At right are sister Helen and Elsie at Leclaire Lake in the 1930s. (Courtesy of Roger Buchta)

LECLAIRE PARKFEST 2017



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK - FOL PROVERB

Okay, so we didn't write that ancient proverb, but we certainly believe in it! Friends of Leclaire would like to thank everyone who made the 26th Annual Leclaire Parkfest a resounding success. The festival was blessed with a beautiful day (despite worrisome forecasts), generous volunteers, and the wonderful contributions of more than 50 vendors.

Friends of Leclaire volunteers included Shawn McCue, Festival Coordinator; Theresa Morrison, Vendor Coordinator; Bob Nickrent, Sponsors; Cindy Reinhardt, Publicity; William Krasue, FOL Booth and Trolley Tours; Jim Milgrim, Cashier; and Site Supervisors Al and Kim Pauli. Dozens of others worked with them in various capacities assisting vendors, working the Friends of Leclaire booth, putting up signage and cleaning up the park following the festival. We extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone!

We are grateful for the assistance and cooperation provided by the Edwardsville Parks Department and the Edwardsville Police Department as well as the patience of all those living near Leclaire Park who were willing to share their quiet neighborhood with the thousands of visitors who came to enjoy the festival.

A special thanks to our sponsors (shown below) who made it possible for FOL to hold the festival each year. Please consider patronizing these businesses. They care about our community!

We hope you enjoyed Leclaire Parkfest this year. The photographs on this page (and on facebook) are a reminder of that beautiful day and the great people who all worked together to make it happen. Photographs shown here are from Bob Gill, Theresa Morrison, Cindy Reinhardt and Laurie Frey.



THANK YOU **LECLAIRE PARKFEST** SPONSORS
26TH ANNUAL
PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE



These local businesses care about their community. Many of them have been long-time sponsors of Leclaire Parkfest and we appreciate their generosity. Please consider taking your business to them, and if you do, be sure to tell them "Thank You" for caring.