



FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE

NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Volume 29 No. 1

MEET THE CANDIDATES AT WARD 5 ALDERMANIC FORUM

Friends of LeClaire will sponsor a non-partisan Aldermanic Forum on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Edwardsville, to introduce voters to the two candidates for Ward 5 Alderman. The church is located at 406 Hillsboro Ave., and the forum will be held in the church parish hall. For over 20 years, Friends of LeClaire has encouraged area residents to vote in local elections by making it easier for them to know the aldermanic candidates through these forums. FOL does not endorse one candidate over another. The forum is free and open to the public.

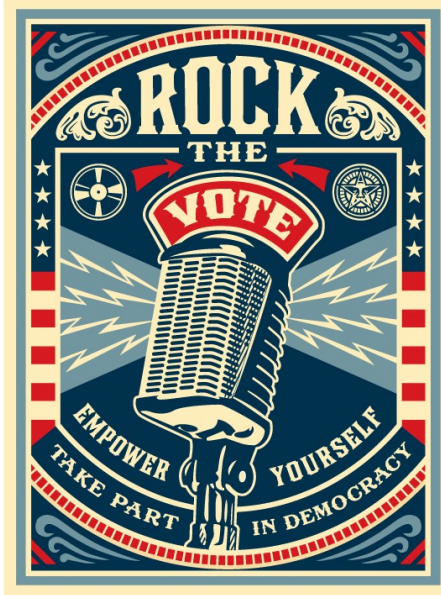
Election day is Tuesday, April 2 but early voting began Feb. 21 at the Madison County Administration Building. Voter turn-out for local elections is usually low which means a vote (or decision not to vote) counts more than in national elections.

Each candidate will answer a number of questions prepared by a committee followed by questions written by audience members and read by moderator Joel Morsch. Morsch is non-partisan, having recently moved to the area. Candidates answers to a set of biographical questions provided the following information:

Brent Daniels, 43, has been a resident of Edwardsville for 20 years. A native of Alton, he originally came to Edwardsville to attend SIUE where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts. He previously completed a Culinary Arts degree at Johnson and Wales University. Daniels was employed in banking and finance for many years before leaving to start a lawn service business, Grasshopper

Lawn and Landscape. Daniels says he is running for office because he wants to "make a positive difference for his community."

William Krause, 32, has been a resident of Edwardsville for 14 years. A native of Carrollton, he originally came to Edwardsville to attend SIUE where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in Business Administration. He went on to earn a Master's degree from St. Louis University in Urban Planning and Real Estate Development. He is the owner of Krause Properties, a property management firm. Krause has been the alderman for Ward 5 since 2015. Prior to that, he served as chairman of Edwardsville's Historic Preservation Commission. Krause said he is running for office because he "believes we need to improve our infrastructure in established neighborhoods, expand our parks with more passive green space, and develop our community in a responsible smart-growth manner." Krause said, "I am focused on roads, recreation and reinvestment. I will champion our values as a community that is inclusive and respectful, where everyone is welcomed, and diversity is valued."



Following the forum, there will be a tour of the church for those interested. The furnishings at St. Andrew's are the largest known collection of items made by the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company in LeClaire.

If you have questions about the forum, please call 618-656-1294.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM TO HOST "A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM"



The annual fundraiser for the Edwardsville Children's Museum, "A Night at the Museum," will be held Saturday, April 27 from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. at the museum. The museum is located in LeClaire at 722 Holyoake Road. Participants will dine in the museum, then enjoy tours showcasing the incredible new exhibits that have been installed inside and outside the building. Reservations for this event can be made on-line beginning March 1 at edwardsvillechildrensmuseum.org. or by calling 618-656-2094. Please note that the museum will close at noon on April 27 so organizers can set up for the evening event.

Summer camps and classes are also being planned at the museum. If interested, check their website after March 1 when on-line registration will be available.

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

www.historic-leclaire.org ♦ friends@historic-leclaire.org ♦ 618-659-2108

FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE - NEWS

FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE: ANNUAL REPORT

As the Friends of Leclaire begin planning for 2019, I think it's only appropriate that we look back on last year's accomplishments. As always, 2018 was a busy year in Leclaire. In the park we held several clean-up events, planted annuals in the beds, and installed



FOL President Rob Nickrent

new landscaping by the restrooms. The Friends of Leclaire also promoted our neighborhood at the Goshen Market and through our usual annual events including the Bonifest run, our band concert/ice cream social, the luminaria, holiday party and, of course, at Leclaire Parkfest. Once again Parkfest 2018 was "the best ever" - a comment we seem to hear every year. And of course the newsletter continues to provide the information and fascinating house histories that our members enjoy.

Of all the Friends' accomplishments this year I'm most proud of our recent work with the Edwardsville Children's Museum.

Through the success of Parkfest and the generosity of our members, Friends of Leclaire was able to sponsor a new exhibit focused on the neighborhood and the Leclaire School.

Of course none of the things listed above would be possible without the work of a too small (hint, hint...) band of intrepid volunteers who spend countless hours in service to their community, as well as the continued generosity of our members.

Thank you for your support, and we'll see you in the park.

FOL President, Rob Nickrent

THANK YOU!

Friends of Leclaire are grateful to Bob and Ellen Nickrent who organized the Luminaria event in December as well as all the volunteers who came to help on a very cold night!

We are also thankful for the wonderful hospitality of Bob and Nancy Blain who hosted the Friends of Leclaire Holiday Social. As always, it was a wonderful time to mingle with neighbors and friends before the holidays.

FOL ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 9

The annual meeting of the Friends of Leclaire will be held Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p. m. in Room 201 of Building N4 at the Historic N. O. Nelson Campus of LCCC in Leclaire.

Members of Friends of Leclaire are encouraged to contact Andi Smith at 692-7343 if they are interested in serving on the board of Friends of Leclaire which consists of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three trustees. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting.

Friends of Leclaire is a 501(c) charitable organization that focuses on the preservation of the history and public spaces of the former Village of Leclaire.

HALE AVENUE CONSTRUCTION COMING

A year ago this month, this newsletter reported on coming construction on Troy Road. This year we are pleased to report that construction on Hale Avenue, which includes everything between Jefferson and Troy Roads, will begin in late spring-early summer (April-May). The \$1.1 million dollar project will include installation of a new water main, replacement of storm sewers, new sidewalks, asphalt pavement with v-gutters and new driveway aprons. The city also plans to improve the parking area next to Leclaire Park.

Before work begins, the city will hold public information meetings that residents can attend to ask questions and gain additional information. Residents will also receive fliers telling them the dates and info will be posted on the city's web site.

This is a big project and will take nearly a year to complete, depending on weather conditions. The city plans to do it in phases, beginning with the replacement of water lines. The work is being done in a way that they hope will least impact residents. No widespread boil orders or loss of services are planned at this time and only very brief interruptions in water service as homes are disconnected from old water lines and attached to the new.

MARCH FOL MEETING CANCELLED

Note that since the Aldermanic Forum is held on the regular Friends of Leclaire meeting date in March, that meeting has been cancelled.

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 ~

See Complete
Friends of Leclaire
2019 Calendar
on Page 4

Call 618-656-1294
to volunteer for FOL events

THE CHARLES S. COTTER HOUSE

A Brief History: 1107 Troy Road

In October 1905, Charles Henry Crocker (known as Henry) paid \$360 for a lot on Troy Road in Leclaire. Soon afterwards, he and his wife, Minna, had a house constructed on the lot. It was an beautiful Dutch Colonial Revival with an impressive Gambrel roof, unusual for its front facing gable. The builder and architect are unknown, however, Minna's brother-in-law, John H. Theuer, was a popular Edwardsville contractor, so it is likely he was hired for the job. Whether the Crockers built the house for themselves or to sell will never be known, because Henry and Minna never occupied the house.

Henry and Minna, who married in 1867, were both natives of Edwardsville, born into well-respected families. Henry lived all his life on the "Crocker Place," the family farm west of town that he took over after the death of his father in 1885.

In his later years, Henry had tuberculosis and in 1905 the disease finally reached a point where he retired from farming. Henry and Minna moved to a house at 415 St. Louis St. and started building the house in Leclaire. Unfortunately, Henry's health declined faster than anticipated and he died in June 1907.

Three months later, Minna sold the house on Troy Road to Charles Cotter and his wife Elizabeth Pruitt Cotter for \$2,500, making them the first owners to occupy the house. The couple's friends called them Charlie and Libby.

Like the Crockers, Charlie and Libby were also Madison County natives who came from prominent pioneer families who arrived before 1830. Charlie, the son of William H. and Mary Ann Kimball Cotter, was born on the family farm north of Edwardsville in 1853. His parents were wealthy farmers, but although he would own a farm, during most of his career, Charlie was a salesman for International Harvester. He was very successful in this endeavor and combined with inheritances from both his parents and Libby's, the couple was very comfortable financially, to the extent that they could

afford to have a live-in servant in their home.

Two years after purchasing the house on Troy Road, in 1909, Charlie retired.

Libby was the daughter of Wiley and Martha Lyon Pruitt and grew up on the family homestead approximately a mile south of Bethalto. She was born in 1858 and in 1880 married Charlie in a service performed at her parent's home. The couple had just one child, a daughter, who did not survive early childhood. Libby died in 1911 at the age of 50. In her obituary it recalled that she had been "an invalid for several years." In June 1911, three physicians came to the house on Troy Road where they performed intestinal surgery, but Libby did not survive.

Charlie continued to live in the house until April 1914 when he sold it to a local attorney, Bert Waggoner and his wife Lela. He then moved to the St. James Hotel on Main Street where many single men and women had permanent quarters. That fall he ran for sheriff on the Progressive ticket and lost, but made a good showing.

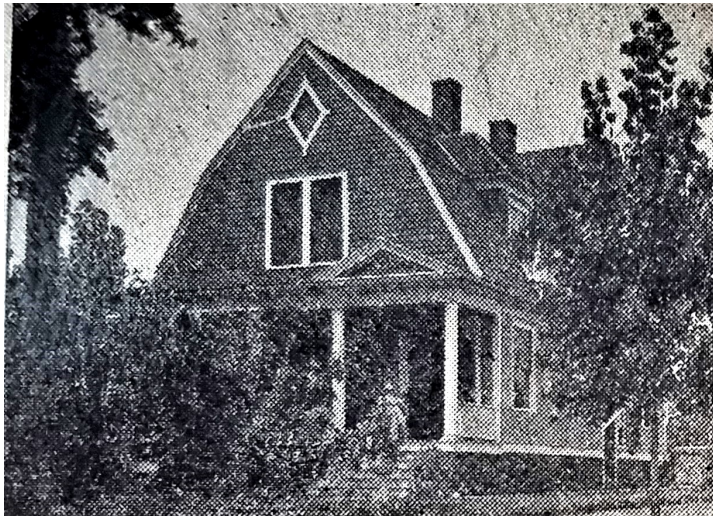
He had a sudden illness three weeks after the election and died two months later. His obituary on Jan. 18, 1916, in the *Edwardsville Intelligencer* said, "His friends like to remember the many fine qualities that Charlie Cotter possessed. He was a man who valued his home highly, and his wife's death was a great blow to him. He often mentioned her affectionately to his nearest friends. He had a high sense of honor, and in his political dealings was always "on the square." Many times in the last 25 years he had the

opportunity to "sell-out" or at least to discard people he was supporting, and thereby advance his own interests. He always declined to betray anyone who was depending on his word, and in doing so incurred the enmity of more than one professional politician. Cotter helped more than one young man with funds until the latter could establish himself, and there were many incidents in his life which will be pleasant remembrances to those who really knew him."

Continued page 4



1107 Troy Road today (above) and as pictured in the *Edwardsville Intelligencer* in 1912. (Reinhardt)



July 15, 1929, *Edwardsville Intelligencer*: For Sale: My seven-room residence in Leclaire, 1107 Troy Road. Strictly modern and in good condition, Lot 70 x 150. Double garage. Plenty of shade and fruit trees. Will sell reasonable. B. G. Waggoner."

FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE - GET INVOLVED!

SPRING CLEAN-UP - APRIL 13

Leclaire Park will be the focus for volunteers on April 13, 9-11 a.m. as they perform the annual spring clean-up at Leclaire Park. In addition to “fishing” trash out of the lake, workers will clean-up the shore line, turn mulch to freshen gardens and plant some hardy annuals like snapdragons. Bring rakes, gloves or other tools with you and join our group of volunteers who demonstrate their commitment several times each year by making Leclaire beautiful!

FOL HOSTS WATER STATION FOR BONIFEST

Friends of Leclaire will again host a water station on Saturday, May 25 at the midway point of the Bonifest 5k Run as it passes through Leclaire. Volunteers serve water, but also are a cheering squad to encourage the runners. Whether you're 8 or 80, there is something for everyone and we always have a good time. Volunteers should meet at 8 a.m. at the south end of Leclaire Park in front of 1101 Lake Avenue where the Pauli family generously gives us access to water each year. Bring some bells or other noise makers to help entertain the runners as they whip past Leclaire Park.

LECLAIRE PARK BAND CONCERT

The date for the annual summer band concert by the Edwardsville Municipal Band at Leclaire Park has not been scheduled yet. Please watch for an announcement in the next newsletter or on our facebook page. As they have done the last few years, FOL will host an Ice Cream Social featuring free ice cream during the concert intermission!

FOL LECLAIRE YARD SALES CANCELLED

Friends of Leclaire will not be organizing a neighborhood-wide yard sale this year due to lack of participation in past years.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON LECLAIRE

If you know a teacher or local organization that would like to learn more about Leclaire, call 618-656-1294. Programs and walking tours are available at no charge as part of continuing the mission of Friends of Leclaire to educate area residents about the history of the former village. Programs in the past have been provided for grade school classes, community groups and university classes studying public history. Most recently, a program was given for SIUE Life-Long Learning Program. The FOL website is also a great resource for teachers interested in covering the history of Leclaire in their local history curriculum.

Save the Dates! FOL 2019 Calendar

- * **Mar 12** **Ward 5 Aldermanic Forum**
- * **Apr 9** **FOL Annual Meeting**
- * **Apr 13** **Leclaire Park Clean-Up**
- * **May 14** **FOL Meeting**
- * **May 18** **FOL at Goshen Market**
- * **May 25** **Bonifest Run Water Station**
- * **Jun 8** **FOL at Route 66 Festival**
- * **Jun 11** **FOL Meeting**
- * **Jun 22** **FOL at Goshen Market**
- * **Jun** **Band Concert/Ice Cream Social**
(Concert Date TBA)
- * **Jul 9** **FOL Meeting**
- * **Jul 20** **FOL at Goshen Market**
- * **Aug 13** **FOL Meeting**
- * **Aug 17** **FOL at Goshen Market**
- * **Sep 10** **FOL Meeting**
- * **Sep 21** **FOL at Goshen Market**
- * **Oct 8** **FOL Meeting**
- * **Oct 12** **FOL at Goshen Market**
- * **Oct 19** **Leclaire Park Fall Clean-Up**
- * **Oct 20** **Leclaire Parkfest**
- * **Nov 12** **FOL Meeting**
- * **Dec 10** **FOL Holiday Social**

CHARLES COTTER HOUSE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

On Troy Road, the new owner of the house, Burt Waggoner, was born and raised on a farm near Godfrey and had trouble leaving the farm behind. He was born in 1867, studied law at Washington University after which he practiced law for 30 years from an office in Edwardsville. Burt and his wife, Lela, moved into the house in 1914, but were often reported to be “visiting at his farm.” He advertised apples and honey for sale from his house on Troy Road, which probably included some produce from the farm. The Waggoners had one adopted daughter, Sadie, who shared the house with them. He retired from the law in 1929 and put the house up for sale that summer, but it evidently didn't sell immediately, and just

a few months later came the stock market crash that heralded the Great Depression.

Despite not having a buyer for the Troy Road house, the Waggoners moved back to Godfrey in 1931 and leased the house until 1936 when it was purchased by Dennis and Via Aylward. After many years with primarily adults in the house, the four Aylward children, Virginia, Marjory, Dennis and Paul, filled the house with the sounds of children's voices. The house had at last found long-term occupants. Dennis Aylward passed away in 1964, but his wife, Via, continued to reside in the home until her death in 1981.