



FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE

NEWSLETTER

April 2017

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FOL ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Friends of Leclaire will be held Tues., April 11 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 Kathy Krishnan at 656-8375 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.

LECLAIRE WATER STATION RUN FOR BONIFEST 5K

FOL will host a water station Saturday, May 27, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the corner of Lake and Hale for runners in the 18th Annual 5K Run for Bonifest. Members of the EHS Student Council join us at the water station and in creating a cheering squad as the runners pass Leclaire Park. Area residents are invited to join us in cheering on the runners at this annual event that spreads lots of smiles and laughter for runners and fans alike!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to event organizers Bob and Ellen Nickrent and to all the volunteers who made the December Luminaria event such a wonderful experience. Friends of Leclaire provided an increased budget this year to allow for the purchase of safe battery-operated candles that can be re-used every year and that last the entire evening without danger of burning out. We are also grateful to Sacred Grounds Coffee House for providing free hot chocolate for everyone that participated in the event.

We are also grateful to Shawn McCue and Tim Snell of 716 Hale Avenue for hosting the December Holiday Social. This year FOL may have broken the record for distance travelled to attend the event. The house was built for a member of the Rizzoli family, and members of that family came from Wisconsin and Rockford to attend the open house. Thanks for coming!

GOSHEN MARKET RETURNS MAY 13

The 2017 season of the Land of Goshen Community Market in downtown Edwardsville begins May 13 and Friends of Leclaire will be there for the opening. FOL is normally at the market on the third Saturday of each month, but moves that date up a week in May because of the Leclaire Yard Sale on the third Saturday in May.

Two volunteers are needed to work the booth each month where they provide information about Leclaire (brochures available) and sell Friends of Leclaire merchandise. Call Mike Reinhardt at 656-1294 if you are willing to volunteer during this year's Goshen Market season.



There's no need to wait for the Goshen Market! Great Friends of Leclaire merchandise is always available. Just call 618-656-1294 for t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, tote bags or books about historic Leclaire!

EARTH DAY AT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Friends of Leclaire will again donate a tree to be planted at the Children's Museum as part of its Earth Day celebration on April 22. The community is invited to participate in special programs of Earth Day activities at the Children's Museum.

ANNUAL LECLAIRE

YARD SALE
SATURDAY • 8-2

MAY 20, 2017

www.historic-leclaire.org

Annual Leclaire Yard Sale May 20

The Sixth Annual Leclaire Neighborhood Yard Sale will be held Saturday, May 20 from 8 a.m. - 2 p. m. The event will be posted on the Friends of Leclaire Facebook Page (Historic Leclaire) and participants are encouraged to leave their address and the items they have for sale in the comment section. FOL pays for a newspaper advertisement and promotes the sale on social media. There is no need for participating households to contribute financially nor do individuals or households need to be members of FOL. For further information, to request a sign, or if you would like FOL to make your facebook posting, please call 656-1294.

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

www.historic-leclaire.org ♦ friends@historic-leclaire.org ♦ 618-656-1294

2016 FOL President's Annual Report

We held our 25th Annual LeClaire Parkfest in October. To celebrate our first quarter of a century, we gave members Parkfest magnets; LeClaire totebags were given to members who renewed or joined at Parkfest. Thanks go to Cindy Reinhardt for once again doing a great job as Parkfest coordinator despite the fact she had surgery three weeks before the event. Our members stepped forward to assist her. Theresa Morrison did a great job as vendor and site coordinator, with assistance from Andi Smith and Casey Weeks. Thanks to Bob Nickrent and Al & Kim Pauli for being site supervisors. Jim Milgrim worked as cashier at our tent all day. Will Krause once again served as the tour guide on the trolley rides. Planning for Parkfest starts months ahead of time and includes Janet Foehrkolb taking care of the insurance and the band contracts. And thank you to everyone else who volunteered and who attended Parkfest. We gained 13 new members and 22 of you renewed. I think that all our hard work throughout the year with the newsletter, website, park improvements, and other activities, as well as Parkfest being such a popular festival, persuades people to join and renew.

Thank you to our sponsors: TheBank of Edwardsville, Krause Properties, Attorney Keith Short, and his wife, Jennifer Short of Caldwell Banker Brown Realty, Sherrie Hickman of Creative Options and Theresa Morrison. And thanks to the City of Edwardsville, the Parks Department and the Police Department for helping to make this such a successful event.

In November a new sign welcoming visitors to LeClaire Park was erected with funds from the Friends of LeClaire and the City of Edwardsville's new ENERGI grant for neighborhood projects. The back of the sign has a history and photos of the park. Special thanks go to Sherrie Hickman for designing the sign.

As usual the Friends of LeClaire had a very busy year. We donated and planted a tree at the Children's Museum for Earth Day. We had a monthly booth at the Goshen Market. We planted

flowers at LeClaire Park, where we also had three clean-up days. The large garden and trees and bushes at the south end of the park were mulched. We painted as much of the pavilion at Hale and Lake Drive that we could reach. The wall at the "beach" was repaired. We had a water station for the Bonifest 5k. Ice cream was given away at the Municipal Band Concert in LeClaire Park. We held our fifth annual LeClaire Neighborhood Yard Sale in May. And in December we had our second luminaria walk with 1,200 candles lighting the way this year.

We had four great newsletters thanks to Cindy's efforts. The newsletter is popular not just in LeClaire. People from throughout the country who have seen our website or had a newsletter sent to them, contacted Cindy about articles, especially the house histories. Special thanks go to Will for maintaining and updating our website. His work on the latter saved the Friends a lot of money.

Finally, to celebrate our 25th year and all our hard work throughout the year, we had two parties. Bob and Ellen Nickrent hosted a party in honor of our 25th year in June. It was amazing how many of our founders were there. At the end of the year Shawn McCue and Tim Snell hosted our holiday social at their home.

My annual report seems to get a little longer each year, but that is because we do so much and there are so many people to thank. While writing it I am reminded of what a great organization the Friends of LeClaire is. That is because of our membership. Some of you donate more than the \$15 membership and others send a thank you note along with your dues. And when there is an event we always have a great turnout of volunteers. That means a lot to us. By "us" I mean the Friends of LeClaire Board: Will Krause, Jim Milgrim, Theresa Morrison, Bob Nickrent, Al Pauli and Cindy Reinhardt. What a devoted, enthusiastic and hard-working group! All the above activities couldn't be accomplished without them.

President Mike Reinhardt



Friends of LeClaire volunteers pull trash out of the lake in one of several park "Clean-up" days. Photo by Theresa Morrison.

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 PM 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 ~

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Apr 11 | 7 pm Annual Meeting |
| Apr 22 | Children's Museum Earth Day |
| May 9 | 7 pm FOL Meeting |
| May 13 | 8 am-Noon FOL at Market |
| May 20 | 8 am-2 pm LeClaire Yard Sales |
| May 27 | 8 am Bonifest 5K Water Station |
| Jun 13 | 7 pm FOL meeting |
| Jun 17 | 8 am-Noon FOL at Market |

The Van Hyning Houses in Leclaire

The family of Anthony Oather Van Hyning was one of the first to move to the new Village of Leclaire in 1890.

Anthony and his wife, Rosanna, were originally from Lee County, Iowa, where they were married in 1873. They had two children in Iowa before moving to Montgomery County, Illinois, in the late 1870s. In 1883, Rosanna died, leaving Anthony a widower with four young children. As would have been expected in those days, he remarried within the year. His second wife was Rosanna's sister, Sarah Morrison.

When Anthony and Sarah moved to Madison County in 1890, they were not the first in their family to reside here. In 1810, two years before Madison County was established, Sarah and Rosanna's mother, Miriam Baugh Morrison was born near Edwardsville. The family stayed only a short time, saying later that the Indian situation was too dangerous for the family. They returned to Kentucky for a few years before again venturing north, this time to Iowa.

Having settled in Montgomery County, the Van Hynings would have heard about the job opportunities in the new Village of Leclaire. Anthony found a position as a carpenter in September 1890, but within months was promoted to foreman of the bath tub shop of the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company. Soon after, his 17-year-old son, Rolland Wellington Van Hyning, was also hired as a carpenter. The family rented lodgings from the company until 1891 when Anthony purchased the house at 754 Hale Avenue.

On January 2, 1892, Anthony died of typhoid pneumonia. The entire working force of the company accompanied his body to the train station where it was shipped to their former home in Montgomery County for burial. His wife and the younger children continued to live in Leclaire until March 1893 when she sold her home to the Rizzoli family and moved back to Montgomery County.

The eldest son, Rolland, remained in Leclaire and excelled at the factories where over the years he worked his way up to a position of management.

He was a popular young man, but from a young age he was plagued with bouts of ill health which were documented in local newspapers. Nevertheless he was a full participant in the social life of Leclaire and Edwardsville. As a young man he became a charter member of the Will Thomas Orchestra where he continued as a member for over 30 years. He was one of the first local participants to follow the national bicycle craze, the newspapers reporting when he bought a "new machine" in 1892. A few years later, N. O. Nelson Manufacturing went into production of bicycles (1896-1897).

In 1897, Rolland married Effie Nash, a young woman from a well-respected Edwardsville family. She was the

daughter of Charles and Sarah Nash whose home was near the intersection of South Buchanan and Park Streets. Her father was an insurance agent, and two of her brothers became the proprietors of Nash Brothers, a tailor shop in Edwardsville. (Her brother Frank was later elected mayor of Edwardsville in the 1920s.)

When they married in 1897, Rolland and Effie left Madison County for Iowa where Rolland went into the mer-



The above image is labeled "R. W. Van Hyning at 802 Hale Avenue." The picture was probably taken circa 1900. The home is no longer there, having been replaced with a bungalow a century ago. Below is the house at 850 Holyoake Road, the first home purchased by Rolland W. Van Hyning. The photo was probably taken when the Van Hynings were living in the home (1908-1916). Both of these photos are from the Madison County Historical Society Collection.



cantile business with an uncle. It's unknown whether he didn't like the business or they simply missed Edwardsville, but within a year, they returned and Rolland went back to work at N. O. Nelson Manufacturing. Now though, perhaps because of his poor health, he had an office position. Initially they lived just outside Leclaire, but in 1908 rented a factory-owned house at 850 Holyoake Road where in 1914 they became the first individuals to own the house. Two years later, they sold that house and moved to 743 Hale Avenue.

Documentation indicates that in 1916 this was a new house on the lot previously occupied by the Leclaire Club



This picture of the Leclaire Club House was printed in the 1895 Industrial Edition of the Edwardsville Intelligencer. The photo would have been taken shortly after the building was moved. A description of Leclaire's "hotel" is in the news article below. Courtesy of Madison County Historical Society.

House. The Club House was built in 1890 on the site now occupied by the old Leclaire School House (now the Edwardsville Children's Museum). It was a kind of hotel/boarding house that also offered meals for workers and guests in the days before there was enough housing for N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company employees (see article below). During those early workers stayed at the Club House during the week, and went home to St. Louis on the weekend.

The Club House was moved to Hale Avenue in 1895 to make room for the school building. It is not known what happened to the Club House, whether it was destroyed by fire or torn down to make room for the bungalow that is there today. It would have only been 25 years old in 1916, but a hotel

was no longer needed, and many of the social functions that began in the old Club House were moved to the Billiards and Bowling Hall or took place at the school.

The Van Hynings lived at 743 Hale Avenue until they sold the house in 1924 to Charles and Mary Shashek. Due to Rolland's poor health, the couple moved to Los Angeles, California, where, according to news from Edwardsvillians who visited them there, his health was greatly improved. Rolland died in 1942 at the age of 67 and Effie in 1949 at the age of 74. The couple, who never had children, was married almost 45 years.

The Shasheks owned the house until Mary's death in 1976. It was then occupied by Mary's sister, Anna Spacek until it was sold to Don and Sandra Marohl in 1977. The current owners purchased the house from the Marohl family.



This recent photo of the bungalow at 743 Hale Avenue shows the appearance of the Van Hyning home today. The home had only 4 owners in over a hundred years.

Excerpts from - St. Louis Post-Dispatch **28 Dec 1890** **A Co-Operative City**

There has been an important addition made to Edwardsville, Ill., in the last half year. This addition has been to the volume of business, the number of inhabitants and the number of houses. It has been made because of the creation of the Village of Leclaire upon its southern border—out of its corporate limits and yet in some sense a part of the town. Edwardsville promoted this village and donated a large sum for the purchase of the land upon which it is built.

Yesterday a special train took 175 citizens of St. Louis from the Union Depot in St. Louis, across the Eads Bridge and over the Clover Leaf Railway to Leclaire. It was the first visit of many of the stockholders to the property, and it was the first annual inspection. The train left the Union Depot at 12:30 o'clock p.m., and arrived at Leclaire less than an hour later.

The dozen dwellings now up and occupied are very tastefully built and decorated. All are of frame. The largest is the Club House. It is the hotel of Leclaire, the workingmen's boarding house. It is a co-operative boarding house. It was built by the company and is rented - with another dwelling used as an annex - to workingmen under peculiar conditions. The club house will accommodate 16 men. Presuming that it will be full all the time the company charges one-sixteenth of a sum made up of a fair interest on the money invested and a fair per cent for wear and tear for each boarder in the house. If the house is full the club pays the

full rent. If there are but 15 boarders it pays but fifteen-sixteenths of the full rent, and so according to its patronage. The annex is rented under the same conditions.

HOW THE CLUB IS MANAGED

The club is managed by a house committee, which is changed periodically. An experienced woman does the buying, supervises the preparation of food, the service and care of the houses. Each boarder pays \$4 per week into the treasury. Some pay a sum in addition to this. When the house was first occupied there was so much rivalry over choice of rooms, and this device was set upon. The rooms were put up at auction, and the man bidding the highest weekly premium had the first choice. Two rooms brought premiums of 35 cents per week and two others 25 cents per week.

There is a large porch on the front of the house and from this you enter the smoking room, which has a wide fireplace, with andirons and logs. Here is a well-filled bookcase and a great rack of newspapers. To the left is the stairway to the sleeping rooms and to the right a double dining room. Behind the fireplace is the kitchen. All the sleeping rooms are on the second floor. They are light and airy and very prettily furnished. The front dining room is convertible into a parlor.

The first month of the club's life was a financial failure. There was an alarming deficit instead of a hoped for surplus. That was due to too liberal living. The pruning knife of economy was used with such excellent effect that though the boarders are still proud of their table, the income and outgo balance comfortably.