



FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Volume 28 No. 3

Sunday • Noon - 5 PM
LeClaire Park
Edwardsville, Illinois

2018 OCTOBER 21

PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES,
COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ARTISANS.

www.historic-leclaire.org



Music

Riverside Jam Trio

Dixieland Jazz • NOON - 2:30 pm

The Lodge Brothers

Old Time Folk Music • 2:30 - 5 pm

Greg Silsby & Friends

Americana • 1-3:30 pm

Food & Drink

A wide selection of delicious festival fare including a beer and wine garden hosted by Bin 51

Arts & Crafts

Browse a variety of craft booths featuring local artisans.

Trolley Tours

Narrated trolley rides through the LeClaire National Historic District.

Exhibits

Historic photos and memorabilia, vintage cars and tractors!

Children's Activities

Book Sale

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

Pet Adoption

Cuddly pets ready for adoption.

Parking is available on neighborhood streets or at LeClaire School on Franklin Avenue. Handicap parking on Hale Avenue (next to park)

Thank You to Our Sponsors

- **TheBANK of Edwardsville**
- **Cassens - Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Ram**
- **Creative Options Graphic Design**
- **Krause Properties**
- **Attorney Keith Short**
- **Renewal By Anderson**
- **Taqueria Z**

DIXIELAND JAZZ IN LECLAIRE

This is the 27th year for LeClaire Parkfest, and for the first 26 years of the festival, a regular feature was the Old St. Louis Levee Band Trio and their wonderful Dixieland jazz. This year, you'll notice they have been replaced by the Riverside Jam Trio, but there's no need to mourn the loss of Dixieland jazz at LeClaire Parkfest. Two out of the three members of the original trio retired, but vocalist and banjo player Denny James Scherrer, formed a new band with the same great playlist. It's hard not to have a bounce in your step when their music is in the air at Parkfest!



Denny Scherrer is shown above playing with the Old St. Louis Levee Band Trio at last year's LeClaire Parkfest. (Courtesy of Shawn McCue)

FOL LOVES VOLUNTEERS!

There are several Friends of LeClaire volunteer opportunities in the next few months. Please let us know if you can help!

Oct 20: Clean-Up at the Park—Volunteers wear gloves and bring rakes and other tools to clear trash from the banks of the lake and refresh the gardens in LeClaire before Parkfest. Work begins at 9 a.m.

Oct 21: Set-up and take-down at LeClaire Parkfest. Help is especially needed in the morning for set-up from 10-Noon when vendors need help carrying their goods across the park. (No vehicles are allowed on the grounds.) Assistance is also needed for take-down from 5-6 p.m.

Dec 9: Luminaria Walk set-up at LeClaire Park beginning at 5 p.m.

Call 656-1294 if you are able to assist at any of these events. Your help is greatly appreciated. "Many hands make light work!"

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

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

MORE LECLAIRE NEWS

SAVE THE DATE!

HOLIDAY LUMINARIA WALK LECLAIRE PARK SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.

TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS ANNUAL EVENT, CALL
ROB NICKRENT AT 618-659-2108
(RAIN DATE DECEMBER 16)

INSCRIBED BRICKS AVAILABLE FOR LECLAIRE PARK

If you would like to honor a child, grandchild, friend or parents with an engraved brick at Leclaire Park, there is an application on the FOL website or you can call 618-656-1294. Bricks are \$50 each and proceeds are used to make improvements at Leclaire Park. The bricks are placed in the sidewalk surrounding the Leclaire bandstand. Applications will also be available at Parkfest.

LECLAIRE HOUSE RESEARCH

If you want to research your Leclaire house, local historian Cindy Reinhardt has resources that may save you time. Reinhardt, who has been studying Leclaire since 1994, provided information for the Leclaire housing survey a number of years ago. Call 618-656-1294 before starting your search. She can provide information from her indexes and a "how to" research worksheet that will help you get started.

LECLAIRE PARKFEST VENDORS

Thank you to all the wonderful vendors who are registered to participate in Leclaire Parkfest. Vendor Coordinator Theresa Morrison is on target to have a record number and variety of vendors for the festival! Leclaire Parkfest vendor applications are available on the Friends of Leclaire website at www.historic-leclaire.org.

NEW AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The Children's Museum was closed in September for a complete over-haul of the interior. The walls have all been painted, popular exhibits refreshed and others replaced with entirely new fun activities for children. They are also creating an outdoor play space and exhibit called the Discovery Garden. The museum hopes to reopen in early October.

Friends of Leclaire is sponsoring an exhibit in the loft that is based on the building's history. At "the School House" children will participate in activities based on what students in Leclaire Kindergarten did a century ago. Graphic designer Sherrie Hickman is assisting with the project that will be attractive, educational and interactive. Since educating the public about Leclaire's history is part of the FOL mission statement, the work on this new exhibit was a perfect partnership.

LECLAIRE PARKFEST SPONSORS

Thank you to local businesses that have agreed to sponsor the 2018 Leclaire Parkfest! If you are in need of their services, please think of them first and start by saying "Thank you for supporting our community." This year's sponsors include:

**TheBank of Edwardsville
Cassens – Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram
Creative Options Graphic Design
Krause Properties
Renewal by Andersen
Attorney Keith Short
Taqueria Z**

We are especially grateful to Renewal by Andersen who is the first on-site sponsor we have had in many years. Despite being told that as a landmarked historic district, replacement windows are not permitted in Leclaire (unless the original windows have already been replaced), they still opted to donate \$1,000 to the festival and will be on-site with a giant Connect-Four game for children to enjoy.

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 ~

Oct 9	FOL Meeting, 7 p.m.
Oct 13	Goshen Market, 8 a.m. - Noon
Oct 20	Leclaire Park Clean-Up Day, 9 a.m.
Oct 21	Leclaire Parkfest, Noon - 5 p.m.
Nov 13	FOL Meeting, 7 p.m.
Dec 9	Luminaria Walk 5 - 9 p.m.
Dec 11	FOL Holiday Social
Dec 16	<i>Rain Date</i> for Luminaria Walk

Note: FOL does not meet in January

HOUSE ON FRANKLIN AVENUE IS WELL-PRESERVED

207 Franklin Avenue The Mason/Snajdr Home

The home at 207 Franklin Ave. is a small bungalow that has never undergone major change. The families that have been its caretakers over the years have, for the most part, taken very good care of the house, and it shows. A neighbor recommended that the history of the house be told because they so admired the way the owners had worked to preserve the house.

In 1908, the property where the house at 207 Franklin Ave. is now located was purchased as an investment by the Mason family. Walter and Emma Mason were British and Scot immigrants, respectively, who lived at 730 Hale Ave. with their five children. Walter was a coal miner, and his oldest son, Josiah, was at that time employed by the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company.

In May 1913, Walter and Emma sold the Franklin Avenue lot to Josiah and his wife, also named Emma, who were the first to build a house on the property. By 1914, they had moved into the house with their two daughters, but the Masons did not live there for long.

For reasons lost to history, the Masons moved from their new house on Franklin to a small house at 232 S. Main St. where Josiah and Emma would live for the rest of their lives. They sold the Franklin Avenue house to long-time Hale Avenue residents Edward and Louise Choate in 1915. Unfortunately, Edward passed away in 1917 and his funeral was held at the house which was the custom at that time. His widow, Louise, moved to St. Louis to be near a daughter and in 1919, sold the house to Lewis and Eliza Fields.

Born in 1846, Eliza Newman Sloan Fields was a descendant of some of Madison County's early pioneer families. In 1864 she married a Scottish immigrant and farmer, John Sloan. He died in 1876, leaving her a widow with four young children. Three years later, in 1879, Eliza married Lewis Fields.

Lewis was a Hamel Township farmer who at the age of 21 married Eliza, a widow ten years his senior. In addition to Eliza's four children, Lewis and Eliza's marriage produced one son, Clarence. Lewis was an active member of his community, participating in the activities of the Madison County Horse Thief Detective Society and often entertaining friends and neighbors. In 1919 he retired from active farming and with his wife, moved to Leclaire.

Choosing a house on Franklin Avenue was the perfect choice for Lewis and Eliza Fields. In Leclaire, they were not

only among friends, they were surrounded by family. Their son Clarence lived on the same block at 208 Franklin and two of Eliza's sons, William and Samuel Sloan, also lived in Leclaire. Many reading this article will remember Elsie Sloan, Eliza's granddaughter, who was a teacher and counselor for many years at Edwardsville High School. Elsie lived just around the corner on McKinley Avenue.

Eliza was a semi-invalid for several years prior to her death in 1926, but reportedly enjoyed visits from family as well as reading books and magazines. Lewis died seven years later in 1933 and both he and Eliza had funeral services from the home.

The house was rented to August and Anna Bettman for a few years while probate was concluded, then sold at auction in May 1939 to Charles Snajdr. Six months later, Charles married Anne Machac and they set up housekeeping in their "new" house. Family accounts say that the house had been neglected, but Charles was a professional carpenter and soon had it in shape. The Snajdr family would own the house for over 50 years.

Charles Snajdr was a life-long resident of Edwardsville whose brother, William Snajdr, moved to 914 Ruskin Avenue in 1926. A few years earlier, William's brother-in-law, August Lenglet also purchased a home in Leclaire at 837 Ruskin, so, like Lewis and Eliza Fields, Charles was joining other relatives in Leclaire. Charles's father, known as Vaclav Snajdr, was a leader in the Czech community here and was often called on to "preach" at Czech funerals, although he was not a minister. The men in the family, Charles and his brothers, were active in the Czech gymnastic organization that often held exhibitions to raise money for worthwhile causes. The Czech "National Hall" at 209-

211 East Vandalia had meeting and gymnastic space on the second floor with a tavern below run by the Snajdr family until Prohibition closed the tavern.

Anne Machac Snajdr, from East St. Louis before her marriage, also had Eastern European roots. The couple was active in the social activities of the Moose, the Czechoslovakian Society of America and local Czech lodges. Anne was also a Girl Scout leader at the old YMCA on Fourth Street. In 1960, she was on an errand to the YMCA when she had an accident that took her life at the age of 42.

Charles continued to live at the house on Franklin Avenue until the last years of his life when he moved to St. Louis to be near his daughter, Patricia. The house was sold in 1991 to the current owners who have been excellent caretakers.



Above: Anne Snajdr on the porch of 207 Franklin Avenue in the 1940s. (Courtesy of Patricia Begley)

Below: The home at 207 Franklin Avenue today. (Reinhardt)



914 RUSKIN AVENUE - ANOTHER SNAJDR HOME

The house at 914 Ruskin Avenue was built for William Snajdr, the brother of Charles Snajdr, circa 1926. (see story on page 3) Looking at the two photographs shown here, it's hard to imagine that they are of the same house.

The people that purchased the house from the Snajdr family, with the best of intentions, "modernized" their new house to fit the times, circa 1980. There are many examples of this throughout Edwardsville, where folks simply wanted a modern home and didn't appreciate the architecture of the past.

This kind of drastic change is no longer permitted in historic districts. Approved Certificates of Appropriateness from the city's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) are required to make changes to the exterior of landmarked buildings or buildings in historic districts with the goal of returning them to their original appearance when possible.

It should be noted that Friends of Leclaire has no connection to the city's HPC, although we often get calls asking about the process and are happy to provide information.



The house at 914 Ruskin Avenue circa 1950 and today. To modernize the house the porch was pulled out to square-off the front of the building and add additional living space, windows were reduced in size and the entire building was bricked. After this renovation, more than 30 years ago, there was no longer any resemblance to William Snajdr's 1926 bungalow, which accomplished what the owners at that time were trying to achieve. The house was renovated long before it was purchased by the current owners. (Photo at left courtesy of Suzanne Snajdr Grillion; at right by Cindy Reinhardt)

UPDATE: THE UNVEILING ON EMERSON



Summer Renovation Project: Over the summer the Krause family removed the aluminum siding from this house at 1211 Emerson Ave. uncovering wonderful architectural details. (Reinhardt)

Edwardsville's Historic Preservation Commission held an event on June 2 at 1211 Emerson Avenue where they invited the public to come see what happens when aluminum siding is removed during the restoration process.

In this case the "reveal" showed original wood siding in remarkably good condition and original shake shingles on the front face above the porch. Also revealed when the house was uncovered was the wide window trim which makes a tremendous difference in the appearance of the home. The only bad "surprise" was a boarded up window that had been covered with the aluminum siding. Since the window is now in a shower stall, the owners, Krause Properties, purchased wood siding matching the original to fill in the space.

The Krause family spent the summer removing the old

paint from the house and the renovation is nearly complete. Although always well cared for, this house, with the exception of color, is now restored to its appearance on the day Edward and Emilie Klausing moved into their new house in 1924.

A history of this house was part of HPC's National Historic Preservation Month series, published in the *Intelligencer* on May 30, 2018. The article has been posted to the Friends of Leclaire website under historic homes.

After the story was published, Matt Rutherford, a current resident of Leclaire, learned that the house was built by a member of his mother's family! His mother, Charlene Kuhlman Rutherford, shared the photograph of her great-aunt and great-uncle shown below.



Above is a portrait of Edward and Emilie Kuhlman Klausing, the original owners of the house at 1211 Emerson Avenue. (Courtesy of Charlene Kuhlman Rutherford)