



# FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE NEWSLETTER

December 2019

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## FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE HOLIDAY SOCIAL DEC. 10



Each December, instead of a business meeting, members of Friends of LeClaire gather at a historic LeClaire house to enjoy the camaraderie of friends and neighbors as we celebrate the joy of the season. This year's party is on December 10 beginning at 7 p.m. at the home of Al & Kim Pauli at 1101 Lake Avenue. The annual gathering is a potluck of sorts with everyone bringing a dish of "finger foods" to share. Our hosts will provide non-alcoholic beverages (you may BYOB if you prefer something stronger), plates and flatware. Please RSVP to 618-656-1294.

The beautiful brick Craftsman bungalow (at left) at the corner of Hale and Lake in LeClaire was built in 1925-26 for Henry T. Banister and his wife, Mabel. The couple moved to LeClaire a few years earlier from Sparta, Illinois when he found a job with the Madison Coal Corporation as a mine safety inspector.

The current owners, Al and Kim Pauli, have owned the house for over 20 years and have been meticulous in preservation, making any additions blend perfectly with the original architecture of the house. The home is one of LeClaire's architectural gems.

## Major Construction Ending Soon!

With a strongly-emphasized qualifying phrase of "if the weather cooperates," Eric Owens of Keller Construction tells us that the major work involved with Hale Avenue construction should be completed by Christmas, that is the concrete and asphalt work. The official completion date is in April since landscaping, sod, trees, etc. cannot be done until then.

The plan is to have the asphalt work completed before Christmas because, said Owens, "we have to." Asphalt can't be laid if the temperature is below 42 degrees, so asphalt plants close at the end of December until spring brings the temperatures back up.

Keller Construction and the Edwardsville Public Works Department are to be commended for the great work they have done on Hale Avenue. Residents have had few complaints and Friends of LeClaire was very pleased with their response to having a festival in the middle of their construction timeline!



Hale Avenue construction in mid-November. (Reinhardt)



## December Brings Tons of Fun!

In addition to the usual schedule of events at the Children's Museum, there are a number of special events in December that will help build holiday memories for your family.

### Sunday, December 1 ♦ Noon - 2 p.m. Pictures with Santa

Visit the Children's Museum for one of their favorite events of the year! Bring your little ones out to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and get a free photo download compliments of Erin Dorsey Photography. Help the museum use this event to give Christmas joy to others as they restock the Glen-Ed Pantry with your donations.

**Admission: FREE with one canned good per child**

### Friday, December 6 ♦ 10:30 a.m. Lap Time!

An hour of stories, songs and rhymes beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the first Friday of the month. **Free with Admission.**

### Saturday, December 7 ♦ 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Gingerbread Workshop!

Come on out and make a masterpiece out of gingerbread! Get in the holiday spirit with a festive story time followed by time to create a gingerbread house perfect for your holiday table centerpiece! **Admission: \$20/members/\$25 non-members. Reservations required.**

*Regular Children's Museum Hours*  
Mon.-Tues. 9:30-2:00; Thurs.-Sat. 9:30-5:30

# CURRENT NEWS

## THANK YOU PARKFEST TEAM!!!

The following people started work on Leclaire Parkfest more than six months in advance. And, on the day of the festival, most could be seen working almost all day long to make sure every guest had a good time at the festival. Many thanks to:

Festival Coordinator: Shawn McCue  
Marketing & Publicity: Cindy Reinhardt  
Vendor Coordinator: Theresa Morrison  
Asst. Vendor Coordinator: Andi Smith  
Treasurer: James Milgrim  
Contracts: Janet Foehrkolb

Site Supervisors: Al & Kim Pauli & Mike Reinhardt  
Graphic Design: Sherrie Hickman

Two of the team are retiring this year, but leaving us in good hands. After four years at the helm, Theresa Morrison will turn over vendor responsibilities to Andi Smith. And Janet Foehrkolb, after 28 years of handling insurance, band contracts, etc. for the festival, has decided to retire! Janet was involved with the 1990 Leclaire Centennial and in every Leclaire Parkfest held since then. Thank you, Janet, for service above and beyond!

And of course also thank the dozens of volunteers who show up on the day of the festival to work the FOL booth, assist with vendor set-ups, serve as tour guides on the trolley tours, and so much more! We also appreciate the help of volunteers who came out for the Leclaire Park Clean-Up Day on October 19th.



## INSCRIBED BRICKS AVAILABLE

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.



## 2019 LUMINARIA EVENT CANCELLED

Please note that there will be no luminaria event this year.

## 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.

## MAKE IT A LECLAIRE CHRISTMAS! !



The beautiful artwork of artist John DenHouter featuring scenes of Leclaire is available in sets of notecards (\$10) as well as in matted prints in two sizes (\$15/\$20). Choices for prints include the lake, schoolhouse (Children's Museum), Leclaire water tower, N. O. Nelson factory buildings (LCCC campus), Nickel Plate Depot, Leclaire Field, and more.

Friends of Leclaire also have several varieties of shirts, books about Leclaire and reusable totes featuring "turkey-boy," otherwise known as the N. O. Nelson Memorial Fountain. Gift certificates for Friends of Leclaire memberships are also available. For more information, call 618-656-1294.



## SAVE US A BUCK!

If you didn't renew your FOL membership at Leclaire Parkfest, please do so as soon as possible. Renewal notices will be sent out in January, but they cost the organization about \$1 each for postage, printing, envelopes, etc. A membership form to join or renew is included in this newsletter. Come on, save us a buck!!



## Coming Soon

Dec 10	FOL Holiday Social 7 p.m.
Feb 11	FOL Meeting 7 p.m.
Mar 10	FOL Meeting 7 p.m.
Apr 14	FOL Meeting 7 p.m.

**Note: FOL does not meet in January**



# THE REID FAMILIES OF LECLAIRE

At one time, the name John Reid resonated throughout Leclaire. That's in part because there were five John Reids who resided in Leclaire over a period of 60 years. Four of the five were related and one was not. In addition, the John Reids had other relatives living in Leclaire.

Two men, Samuel Reid and John Reid, lived in the Edwardsville area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Samuel, a Civil War veteran who became a farmer, was born in Madison County in 1842. John was a coal miner who was born in England in 1846. Both men married, and both had sons named John, George and William. A number of the descendants of these two unrelated families became residents of Leclaire.

The first John Reid, mentioned above, died young. He was only 53 when he was found dead at the bottom of a coal shaft in October 1898. His death was the result of an accident at the Madison Coal Company Mine No. 3 which was located just south of where Market Basket is now. Despite this tragedy, his sons, John M., George A. and William M. Reid, all became coal miners. Two of them, would build houses in Leclaire.

The first Reid house in Leclaire was built for William M. Reid and his wife. William was born in Murphysboro in 1873 and his wife, Mary Margaret "Maggie" McDonnell, was born in 1877 in Bunker Hill. As one might guess from her name, Maggie was descended from Irish immigrants, so the family attended Edwardsville's Irish Catholic church, St. Mary's. William and Maggie were married in 1896 and had their only child, a daughter, Mary, in 1897. In 1900 they purchased a lot in Leclaire and in 1902 took out a mortgage to build the house at 847 Hale Avenue. In the early 1920s Maggie became ill and was bedridden for several years before her death in 1925. Since it was unseemly to hold a celebration when a family member was ill or near death, their daughter Mary was secretly married to St. Louisan Louis P. Wagner in November 1923. The marriage was not announced for nearly a year. Two years after Maggie's 1925 death, William sold the house on Hale Avenue for \$2,000. William, a life-long miner, died in 1940 at the age of 67.

William's brother, John M. Reid, was born in Kentucky in 1877 and moved to Edwardsville with his family when young. In May 1898, he joined the Illinois 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment Infantry, serving during the Spanish American War in Cuba. He was honorably discharged Jan. 17, 1899, a few months after his father's untimely death. Later that year, in October 1899, he married a German immigrant, Anna Retzlaff. Perhaps inspired by having family already in Leclaire, they bought a lot in in 1902 and the following year built the house at 828 Troy Road. It was a modest cottage that John and Anna would enjoy for the rest of their long lives. When they built their house, John's brother, William, was already on Hale Avenue, and Anna's parents, John and Joanna Retzlaff purchased their house at 839 Holyoake the same year. The two houses stand back to back, one on Troy Road and the other on Holyoake.

While William had led a quiet life, his brother John was much more active in the community. John was president of Progressive Mine Workers No. 71 for many years as well as a commander of the Spanish American War Veterans of Granite City, Encampment 121. He was often chair of committees planning recognition and celebrations for Armistice Day (now Veteran's Day), Memorial

Day or Labor Day.

John M. and Anna Retzlaff had one son, John W. Reid, born in 1900, shortly before they moved to Leclaire. He was referred to as John Jr., even though his grandfather had also been John Reid. In his younger days, John W. worked in the coal mines like his father and, in fact, father and son both passed the test for mine examiner in 1924. The following year John W. took a job at Shell Oil where he work until his retirement in 1971. John W. married Bess Sido in 1922 and two years later bought a home just two doors down from his parents at 822 Troy Road. Although the Reid family did not build the house at 822 Troy Road, they certainly lived there longer than any other family.

John and Bess also had just one son, John W. Reid III, who married and had three sons, including John Reid IV. John died in 1968 and Bess in 1990. After that a grandson and his family occupied the home for many years until it was sold out of the family. Although there were five generations of John Reids in this family, only four lived in Leclaire, and only three of those at the same time.

The fifth John Reid who lived in Leclaire was the son of Samuel Reid. His full name was John Fruit Reid (his mother's maiden name was Fruit), but fortunately he used a nickname, Jack. Like his neighbor, John M. Reid, Jack was also a coal miner. After his retirement from mining he worked as a custodian at the public library and as an elevator operator at the Madison County Courthouse in the days when elevators were not self-service operations. Jack and his wife, Nettie, moved to an existing house at 848 Holyoake Road circa 1911.

After renting for many years, in 1929, they purchased the house from the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company. They too would become longtime residents of Leclaire. Jack and Nettie had six children, four girls and a set of twin boys born in 1906 and named Nelson and Lawnin after the founder of Leclaire and his son-in-law. After his parents deaths, Nelson continued to live at the home on Holyoake until his death in 1984. Many long-time residents of Leclaire today remember Nelson with fondness.



*The two houses above were built for the Reid brothers. The house above, at 847 Hale Avenue was built for William Reid and the house below for John M. Reid at 828 Troy Road. Both houses likely had Victorian porches and gingerbread trim that has been lost over the years.*



*Pictured above are John F. and Nettie Reid on the porch of their home at 848 Holyoake Road shortly after moving to the house. The Reids were not listed at 848 Holyoake in the 1911 city directory, but do appear in 1914. The photo is one of a series taken in Leclaire circa 1911. (Courtesy of Madison County Historical Society)*



# LECLAIRE PARKFEST 2019 - GOOD TIMES!

Sunday, October 20 turned out to be a beautiful day for Le-claire Parkfest and one of the best attended in the 28 years the festi-val has been held. Friends of Leclair would like to thank all of the volun-teers who make the festival possible, too many to list. Some are scheduled and others just show up and offer to help where ever needed. It's the Leclair way!

We are especially grateful for the work of retiring Vendor Co-ordinator Theresa Morrison who with her able assistant Andi Smith was responsible for laying out the festival grounds. This year, due to construction in and around the park, they were unable to do this until a week before the festival.

We are grateful to the City and Keller Construction for coming through on the promised Hale Avenue construction schedule, to the Edwardsville Parks and Recreation Department who had the park in tip-top shape and to the Edwardsville Police Department for their assistance.

And, last but not least, we appreciate our sponsors and urge everyone to consider using their services. Tell them Friends of Le-claire sent you! Here are the good guys who support our communi-ty: **Busey Bank, Cassens, Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Ram, Creative Options Graphic Design, Krause Properties, Attorney Keith Short, and Taqueria Z.**



THANK YOU



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