



FRIENDS OF LECLAIRE NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Volume 31 No. 3

WELCOME BACK PARKFEST!



On Sunday, October 17, from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., the long-awaited 29th Annual LeClaire Parkfest will be held at LeClaire Park. The festival was cancelled last year due to COVID-19, but it was deemed safe to return this year.

Vendor applications have already been closed, and there will be many delicious choices for festival goers, including old favorites like Italian beef, chicken and dumplings, and curly fries...and beer. There's always beer and wine at LeClaire Parkfest!
(cont. on page 4)

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM SCHEDULE

If you have little ones, the Children's Museum has a wonderful line-up of events for this fall and early winter, including Santa at the Nickleplate Station! Event registration is coming soon on the Children's Museum website: <https://edwardsvillechildrensmuseum.org/>

Oct. 30, Halloween

Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to a special Halloween story time at 10 a.m.; Craft activities and a take home treat all day long.

Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Eve, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving themed stories and crafts

Dec. 11, Gingerbread Workshop, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Craft a gingerbread masterpiece to display for the holidays. \$15 museum members/\$20 non-members

Dec. 18, Holiday Wreath Workshop, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Create your own holiday wreath with Ms. Jean in the Discovery Garden Greenhouse

Dec. 20-21, Christmas Crafts, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Come on out to the ECM art studio and craft some holiday creations,

Dec 5, Special Holiday Celebration, 12 - 4 p.m.

- Grand opening of "Into the Arctic" exhibit at the Nickel Plate Station.
- Photos with Santa at the Nickel Plate.
- Watch as a chainsaw artists carves a sculpture in the Discovery Garden
- Train rides, hot cocoa, cookies and more!



2021 OCTOBER 17
 Sunday • Noon - 5 PM
 LeClaire Park
 Edwardsville, Illinois
 www.historic-leclaire.org
 PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES,
 COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ARTISANS.



MUSIC

Gaslight Squares • NOON - 2:30 pm
The Lodge Brothers • 2:30 - 5 pm
Cousin Mike & the Hoopies • 1 - 3:30 pm

FOOD & DRINK

A wide selection of Festival Fare including a beer and wine garden hosted by Bin 51.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Browse a variety of craft booths featuring local artisans.

WALKING TOURS

Narrated tours of the LeClaire National Historic District.

EXHIBITS

Historic photos and memorabilia, vintage cars and tractors!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

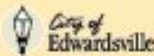
BOOK SALE

Thousands of used books. Lots of bargains!

PET ADOPTION

Cuddly pets ready for adoption.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Cassens - Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Ram
CNB Bank & Trust
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Taqueria Z
222 Artisan Bakery

Parking is available on neighborhood streets or at LeClaire School on Franklin Avenue.

409 FRANKLIN AVENUE

The home at 409 Franklin Ave. is one of several kit homes that can be found in Leclaire. Built in 1920, it is the Hazelton model from Sears, Roebuck & Company, a popular style that was available from 1911 to 1922. Sears had catalog sales of homes from 1908-1942. These houses arrived as a "kit" containing everything needed to build the home (except the foundation), including pre-measured and cut lumber, nails, hinges and shingles. They featured the latest innovations in homebuilding and were very popular in the eastern half of the United States.



The HAZELTON Honor Price \$2,986⁰⁰
No. 2025 "Already Cut" and Fitted.

The Hazelton as featured in the 1920 Sears Catalog.

This house was built for Edward and Anna (Schoon) Burk who lived in Troy prior to moving to Edwardsville. The Burks purchased the property in October 1920, from the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company shortly after Edward was hired as a machinist at the U. S. Radiator Company. Contemporary newspaper accounts indicate the house was already completed by that time, probably through private financing with the N. O. Nelson Company.

Edward Burk (1881-1961) was one of twelve children born to immigrant parents, Elias and Rosa Burk. Edward's father, Elias, was seven years old when he came with his parents from Germany to Ohio. As a boy, he apprenticed as a blacksmith. He later moved to Illinois where he developed a successful blacksmith shop in Troy. Elias was active in the community and served as Troy's mayor from 1895-1898. Edward's mother, Rosa, was a native of Switzerland whose family arrived in Troy when she was only three years old. Despite the fact that Edward's parents arrived as children, it's likely that they spoke German at home.

Annabelle Josephine Schoon Burk (1886-1970), known as Anna, was the daughter of John and Louise (Feldmeyer) Schoon. She grew up on a farm in Pin Oak Township. Her father, John, was a Germany immigrant and her mother, born in St. Louis, was the daughter of German immigrant parents.

In 1912, Edward Burk and Anna Schoon were married at Pinckneyville. The former pastor of the Troy German Evangelical Church performed the service. They returned to Troy the same day to their newly purchased and furnished cottage on

North Hickory Street near his parents. The newspaper account described the bride as an "amiable and attractive young lady" and the groom as "a young man of energy and sterling character."

Eight years later, they moved to their new house at 409 Franklin Ave. in Edwardsville. The Burks became active members of Eden Church and often held meetings of the women's guild or other church organizations at their home. In 1939, they purchased a property with acreage roughly a half mile east of the house.

The Burks sold the house at 409 Franklin Ave. to Charles Loyd and Esther Louise (Sturm) McGilvary whose family would own the house for over 60 years. The McGilvays were not new to Leclaire. For a half dozen years prior to purchasing the house on Franklin, they rented a house at 909 Hale Avenue, less than two blocks away.

Charles Loyd McGilvary was the son of Charles J. and Ida McGilvary. He was born in 1901 in Sorento, Illinois, and spent all of his childhood in Bond County where his father was a rural mail carrier. Perhaps because he shared a name with his father, he sometimes went by his middle name, Loyd, but more often was simply called "Mac."



Mac & Esther at their 25th wedding anniversary in 1952. (Julie Worthen)

Esther was a Staunton native, born in 1906 to John and Lydia Sturm, a coal miner and his wife. At the time of her marriage, she was working for Principia School in St. Louis. Meanwhile, her future husband had moved to Carlinville, Illinois, where he had a job as an engineer with the Illinois Traction Railroad Company. They were married by a Lutheran pastor in Belleville, Illinois on Sept. 26, 1927, and soon moved to Edwardsville.

Mac's work with the railroad was steady, which allowed them to purchase a home during the Great Depression. By the time they bought the house on Franklin in 1939, their only child,

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 6 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 12 FOL Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Oct 16 Leclaire Park Clean-Up Day, 9 a.m.
- Oct 17 Leclaire Parkfest, Noon - 5 p.m.
- Nov 9 FOL Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Dec 14 FOL Holiday Social 6 p.m.

Note: FOL does not meet in January

A SEARS HAZELTON

Kathleen, was an active three-year-old.

Extended family was important to the McGilvays, and the local newspaper often printed announcements about visits to and from family members in Staunton and Sorrento. When the McGilvays moved to 409 Franklin, Esther's sister, Clara, lived just two doors down, at 505 Franklin. Clara's husband, Marlin Little, worked for the railroad as did many Leclaire residents in the 1920s-1950s. In 1942, Marlin died suddenly of a heart attack and soon after, Clara moved back to Staunton.



Kathleen McGilvary at the time her parents moved to 409 Franklin. (Pattie Ann Sommerfeldt)

The McGilvary home often hosted ladies from their church (Trinity Lutheran), card clubs, family gatherings, and all manner of parties for Kathleen and her friends to celebrate Halloween, birthdays and other occasions.

Not everyone appreciated all the company in their home. Mac & Esther's daughter, Kathleen, recorded the story of Esther's canary. The canary learned to sing along with a radio station and would sing whenever there were voices in the house. When bridge club met at Esther's, the louder they talked, the louder the bird sang until it had to be removed from the room.



The McGilvary family in their home at 409 Franklin Avenue in 1954: Kathleen (left), Esther and Mac. (Julie Worthen)

formed an informal dart league, consisting primarily of other men from Trinity Lutheran Church, in their basement. Mac also made his own fishing lures and taught Pattie Ann how to clean a fish. Mac and Esther spent a lot of time at Lake of the Ozarks enjoying his favorite hobby.

Granddaughter Julie Worthen remembers her grandmother as a very kind woman who made overnight visits great fun. Esther read her to sleep from books that once belonged to Kathleen and taught her to waltz in her cheery kitchen decorated with red and white gingham. When they played cards with Grandma McGilvary, everyone wore a visor like a professional poker player. In the basement was an old-fashioned crank phonograph that Esther would play for them. Esther was also an excellent seamstress and spent many hours teaching the craft to her

oldest granddaughter, Beth. Fabric was laid out on a large table in the basement for cutting.

It's interesting to note the number of activities that took place in the basement. The second story of the house was unfinished until after the McGilvary/Sommerfeldt family sold the house. This was typical for Leclaire. The second floor of many one-and-a-half story Leclaire homes remained unfinished for decades.

Mac worked for the railroad for 46 years until his retirement in 1968. He died in 1972 at the age of 71, after several years of ill health due to a heart condition. An avid fisherman, he died



A day at the "office" for Charles Loyd "Mac" McGilvary. See close-up of Mac at right. (Julie Worthen)

doing what he loved, fishing.

Esther continued to live at the house on Franklin where she was often visited by her daughter's family. In 1983, after suffering a stroke, Esther moved to Eden Village where she died in 1990. While she was at Eden and for many years afterward, her daughter retained ownership of the house and leased it to other families. For the last 20 years it has been again owner occupied.

The handsome bungalow at 409 Franklin Ave. has been well preserved, including a rare original garage. This Sears "Honor-Bilt" home is now more than a century old.

To read more about the history of Sears homes and this house in particular, go to the blog post shown below. Judith Chabot, a St. Louis area expert on Sears homes wrote about this house for her blog in 2018. She includes a wonderful description of Leclaire, as well as interior photographs of the house at:

<https://www.searshouseseeker.com/2018/04/the-sears-hazelton-in-edwardsville.html>



The garage and workshop can be seen in this 1956 photograph of Mac with his boat preparing for a fishing trip. (Julie Worthen)

LECLAIRE PARKFEST VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS

FOL is pleased that Leclaire Parkfest is able to return this year, but the festival can't happen without lots of volunteers. If you are willing to work a few hours at the festival or assist with the Park Clean-Up Day on October 16 at 9 a.m., please call 618-656-1294. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

We are also grateful for our 2021 Leclaire Parkfest Sponsors and urge you to consider using their services and, if you are in a

position to do so, tell them "thanks" for supporting our community! 2019 Leclaire Parkfest sponsors include:

222 Artisan Bakery; CNB Bank & Trust; Cassens: Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Ram; Creative Options Graphic Design; Krause Properties; Attorney Keith Short; Taqueria Z; City of Edwardsville.

NEWS & REMINDERS

FOL FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Do you appreciate the work of Friends of Leclaire? If so, then please consider supporting FOL with an annual membership. Many members join in the fall so Leclaire Parkfest is their reminder that it's time to renew.

FOL are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the public areas in Leclaire and educating the public about the unique history of the former Village of Leclaire. FOL has spent thousands of dollars over the years for trees, landscaping, picnic benches, and other improvements to Leclaire Park. Members also plant and maintain flower beds in the park (except those maintained by the Edwardsville Garden Club). Their educational mission is conducted through community outreach, publications (like this newsletter), a website, facebook pages, an annual festival, and continued research on the Leclaire National Historic District.

To join Friends of Leclaire or to renew your annual membership, please send your name, street address, email and phone # along with a check for \$20 made payable to Friends of Leclaire to P. O. Box 644, Edwardsville, IL, 62025. For further information, call 618-656-1294. Please note that Friends of Leclaire does not share membership information.



TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Reminder: The City of Edwardsville offers a 50/50 tree planting program each year to encourage residents to plant trees. Visit <https://www.cityofedwardsville.com/432/Tree-Planting-Program> to see how you could save 50% on the price of a new tree for your residential property.

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. Applications will also be available at Leclaire Parkfest.



SAVE THE DATE: HOLIDAY SOCIAL!

The Friends of Leclaire Annual Holiday Potluck & Social is set for Dec 14! More information will be available in the December Newsletter.



PARK CLEAN-UP DAY OCTOBER 16

Please help us prepare for Parkfest visitors by volunteering to help spruce up the gardens of Leclaire Park. Work begins at 9 a.m.! Gardening tools and gloves are suggested.



THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the Sommerfeldt family for their help in researching their grandparent's home at 409 Franklin Ave. With their help, we are able to imagine life more than a half century ago in Leclaire!

LECLAIRE PARKFEST - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

New this year are the Gaslight Squares who play toe-tapping Dixieland/Ragtime Jazz. Always a crowd-pleaser, the Lodge Brothers will play a blend of Bluegrass/Folk music. Across the lake on Madison Ave. will be Cousin Mike and Hoopies.

The guided walking tours of the historic neighborhood have replaced the narrated trolley tours this year. Hopefully, the trolley will return next year when it is deemed safe to crowd so many people into an interior space!

Almost all of the booths at Leclaire Parkfest are run by not-for-profits or individual artisans. It's a great place to kick-off the

Christmas shopping season while also helping deserving organizations and individuals. The book sale, for example, is run by the St. Andrew's Relay for Life Team with all proceeds benefitting the American Cancer Society.

So, save the date! Then, feel free to bring a lawn chair or a blanket and settle in at a spot in the shade overlooking the lake to enjoy some delicious festival food while listening to the sounds of music from the bandstand. Parkfest is always a great day in Leclaire.

Questions? Call 656-1294.