



# ParkNotes

*a semiannual newsletter published by the Lafayette Park Conservancy*

Issue 11

Fall 2012

## Grotto Bridge Restoration Project



*The First Royal Regiment of Foot fired guns and a cannon and then led the crowd across the newly opened bridge.*



*A Thank You banner displayed over the bridge thanked the Whitaker Foundation and Alderperson Young for making this project possible.*

The Arts Council of Lafayette Square partnered with the Lafayette Park Conservancy for the July 21st Movie in the Park. There were many pre-movie events including a visit from the Marquis de Lafayette portrayed by Bill Conklin. Members of the First Royal Regiment of Foot attended. The LPC held a children's coloring contest of the Grotto bridge and displayed posters of all the projects we have going on.

But the main focus of the pre-movie events was honoring the donors of the recently completed bridge restoration and the new ADA-compliant pathways connecting the bridge to the park's existing pathway system. A generous Whitaker Foundation grant funded the structural repair of the 100 year old bridge. Alderperson Phyllis Young arranged to have the new paths installed.



*Mayor Francis Slay cut the ribbon to open bridge. From left: Tim Delahanty of Delahanty Construction, Bob Bischoff, Carolyn Willmore, Mike Pennypacker of Empire Fence, Mayor Francis Slay, Alderperson Phyllis Young and William Richardson of Richardson Masonry.*



*The plaque installed in the rock wall leading to the bridge was dedicated to the Whitaker Foundation.*

## From the President. . .

by Carolyn Willmore

The Lafayette Park Conservancy held its first antique sales booth during Spring House Tour. Kim and Roy Peterson chaired the event. Generous neighbors donated furniture, dishes and other items. The booth was a huge success. Thanks Kim and Roy.

Unusual weather dictated gardening practices this year. The temperature stayed above 100 for days on end and it didn't rain for months. Watering became a daily event. The Grotto area gardeners cobbled together a watering system using sprinklers and timers. A rigid watering schedule was followed because all water comes from one line and there is only enough pressure to operate one or two sprinklers at a time. Amazingly, most plants survived. With a return to more moderate weather, regular workdays resumed.

The Lafayette Square Arts Council chose the LPC as its partner for the August Movie in the Park. This provided a great chance to showcase recently completed projects like the boathouse roof, bridge and new ADA path connecting the bridge to the existing pathway system. The bridge and paths were dedicated that night.

Boathouse Restoration, Phase Two is underway. The old furnace room has been removed. The main space seems so much larger. A new HVAC system, electrical work, lighting and catering kitchen are being planned. Plans have been drawn to add two restrooms to the playground side of the building. We are working to fund these improvements. The LPC has held very positive negotiations with the Near Southside Improvement Corporation, the Lafayette Square TIF, about providing funding for our Boathouse renovations projects. Also in the planning stage is resurfacing the paths in the southeast quadrant of the park. The flowerbeds around the Washington Statue will be edged at that time.

At the 2012 Annual meeting, seven board members were elected for another 2-year term along with new members Sue Heggarty and Tony Krawat. Three LPC awards were presented at the meeting.



*Jennifer Weston (left) receiving the LPC President's Award from Carolyn Willmore.*

Jennifer Weston received the LPC Community Service Award for her work as LSRC President in bringing together all of the Lafayette Square organizations. Alderwoman Kacie Starr Triplett was awarded a President's Award for helping fund the boathouse roof. Alderwoman Phyllis Young also received a President's Award for helping fund the boathouse roof and installing the ADA paths leading to the bridge.

## Gardening in the Park

With lots of help from the Flora Conservancy we accomplished a number of gardening projects this season. Even in the nearly unbearable heat. Well really it actually was unbearable, but we who garden are of sturdy stock. Here's a photographic story of some of our projects.



*Removal of diseased rose bushes around the Washington statue. Red, dwarf crepe myrtle shrubs were planted to replace the roses.*



*Flora Conservancy of Forest Park folks join the LPC gardeners for a workday. From left are Mark, Chuck, Sue, Terry, Pam, Jack and Linda*



*SLU students participated in a park workday as part of their Make A Difference Day community service program.*

## Don't Trivialize the LPC

Oh wait! DO trivialize us. We make it easy. Save the following date to attend the 3rd Annual LPC Trivia night. You can win cash prizes and bid on auctions in our silent auction. Look for more information in the coming months.

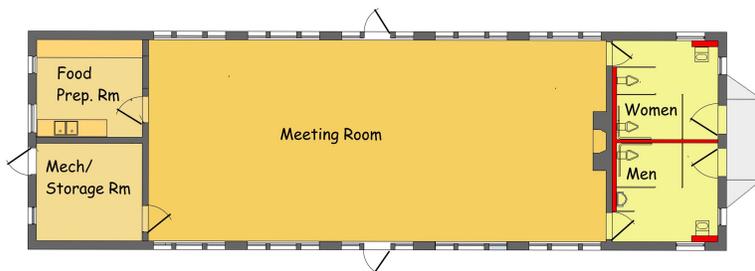
Save The Date  
3rd Annual LPC Trivia Night  
Saturday March 9, 2013  
at St. Vincent DePaul Hall in Soulard

For more information, to donate silent auction items or to volunteer to work on the event contact Susan Sauer at:

314-865-2566 OR [susan\\_sauer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susan_sauer@sbcglobal.net)

## Boathouse Restoration Update

The plan for Boathouse improvements include a catering kitchen (labeled Food Prep Rm. below) and new handicapped accessible bathrooms for men and women. Bathrooms, located on the east side of the building, can serve general park visitors or guests for Boathouse events, depending on whether we have the interior or exterior doors unlocked.



*A drawing of the improvements to the boathouse. Drawing by Steve Coffey.*

## House Tour Antique Booth

During the spring Lafayette Square house tour, the LPC decided to try something new. Instead of our plant sale booth, which has been successful in the past, we had an antique booth. We were able to raise a surprising amount of money from sales of donated objects. Many people in the neighborhood donated items, helped set things up and volunteered to staff the booth.



## Our Digital Presence

You now have three ways to interact with the Lafayette Park digital world. Even after more than a century of existence, the park isn't too old to exist in the digital universe. And those of us who work with the LPC aren't too old to understand how to get hooked up. Here's how you can do it:

We have an internet, web-based site at [www.lafayettepark.org](http://www.lafayettepark.org). You can view things there or you can connect to our Facebook page by clicking the link at the top of the home page.

If you have a Facebook account you can link to and "like" our Facebook page. From your home page just search for Lafayette Park Conservancy.

And we recently added one of those QR code things you see in many museums and stores. It looks like this:



*QR code for use with smartphones.*

You can scan this QR code with any smartphone's camera (assuming you have the right "app" to make it work). This will then take you to a walking tour of Lafayette Park. This code is also located on a stand in front of the Park House in the Park.

## Awards to the LPC

The St. Louis Master Gardener group has given the LPC a community service recognition award of \$500 for the work we have done in the Grotto area.

The Flora Conservancy donated \$500 to the LPC for irrigation supplies which were sorely needed this summer. They also have given us thousands of dollars in plant material throughout the park. And don't forget all the volunteer help we get from them. In exchange a few of us work in Forest Park and at the greenhouses to help out the Flora Conservancy.

## Take the Mystery out of History

Your group can request two different PowerPoint slideshows from the LPC. They are "The Fascinating History of Lafayette Park" and "The Man Who Made St. Louis Beautiful". The fee is \$50 for not-for-profit groups. Contact Carolyn Willmore (314-664-0106) to arrange a presentation.

Also take advantage of our park tours by calling Kathy Marks-Petetit (314-588-9004).

**\*\*\*KEEP THESE DATES\*\*\***

**March 9, 2013: LPC Trivia Night**

**February 18, 2013: D.A.R. Wreath Laying ceremony**

**Check [www.lafayettepark.org](http://www.lafayettepark.org) for details**

Friends are saying,  
 "Join the Conservancy!"

Memberships are valid for one year. The Lafayette Park Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. If your contribution is eligible for a matching gift, please include your company's matching form. Return with your check or money order to:

I/we want to join/renew at the following membership level.

- \$35 - Friend
- \$50 - Family
- \$75 - Botanist
- \$150 - Historian
- \$300 - Preservationist
- \$500 - Benton Society
- \$1000 - Lafayette Society

Lafayette Park Conservancy

2023 Lafayette Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63104

Name(s):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Or make your contribution on our website:

[www.lafayettepark.org](http://www.lafayettepark.org)

I'm also interested in Lafayette Park Conservancy volunteer opportunities.

Does your employer have a matching grant program? Please provide us with the details.

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