



Crystal Lake Park

News • Notes • Neighbors

September 2008

A September full of fun...

Art Fair & Concert September 13 1:00 at the park

Over 15 fine artists, most from right here in CLP, showing and selling everything from paintings, pastels, pottery, ceramics, and fiber art to hand made/alterd clothing, mixed media, jewelry, photography, handmade soaps and more!

Includes a chance to preorder the first ever CLP 2009 calendar - complete with wonderful photos of CLP by CLP residents!

Proceeds from art and calendar sales will benefit our park development fund.

Art sale and children's arts and crafts activities throughout the day, from 1:00-6:00. A musical concert by Lydia Ruffin and friends will follow. With guitar and upright bass, they will perform an eclectic mix of roots, blues, folk, jazz, and spirituals.

There will be brats & dogs for sale with chips and cold drinks. So come out, buy some food or bring a picnic and chairs/blankets. Get an early start on your holiday shopping, mingle with your community, and enjoy the lovely sounds of Lydia and friends! The Art Fair promises to be a fun day that will make you proud to be a resident of this very unique, full-of-talent community that is Crystal Lake Park!

So much thanks goes out to Susie Cooper, Kelly Larson, Bonnie Taylor, Ann Wagner, our grillers, and all the others who have helped to make this event come together!

Community Picnic September 27

4:00 - ?

Meet in the park for fun
& games for all ages!

- Face painting
- Dog show @ 4:15
- Dinner @ 5:00
- Cake walk @ 5:45
(please volunteer to bring a dessert - call Lisa @ 395-4444)
- Square dance @ 6:15
- Games & activities throughout the picnic

Crystal Lake Park will provide Bandana's meat and baked beans, plates/utensils, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Please bring a dish to share, coolers, lawn chairs and lawn games

From the Mayor

Dear CLP Residents:

First, I want to thank you for electing me last spring. I am honored to serve you and look forward to my two-year term working with alderpersons Phillip Bryant, Jim Gehringer, Kelly Larson, and Dennis Nahnsen.

My Commitment

I am committed to the Board of Alderpersons being fiscally responsible, maintaining city services, fostering open governance and increased opportunity for public discourse about shared concerns, and developing a street maintenance program with annual projects.

My Vision

My particular vision for Crystal Lake Park is shaped by the Comprehensive Plan, which was developed from a survey in 2007 and facilitated by residents Amy Cislo and Martin Long. I am inspired especially by the following passage:

Residents enjoy strolling through our narrow streets... Despite what may seem an odd mixing of architectural styles, a unifying theme of this community is respect and commitment to nature. Residents work hard to maintain the health of older trees, while continually planting new ones. Current residents hope that new developers recognize our appreciation of nature and build homes that complement, rather than overpower the beauty of our trees and wildlife (www.crystallakepark.org).

Guided by this stated communal value, I am motivated to help create and maintain a healthy and extraordinary environment hoping to realize this goal in two strategies: park development and community building.

Park Development

I would like to establish a commission to develop a long-range plan for our public park, much as Jim Cooper is doing for us with CLP streets. I would like to see a plan,

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From the Mayor

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which includes more plantings as well as the maintenance of the shrubs and trees currently there and a structure to house several picnic tables. Some residents also have suggested designating an area for dogs and a friendship garden into which we plant cuttings from our personal gardens. When walking my dogs, I see the care with which CLP residents tend their yards and gardens, all of which adds to the distinct charm of our city. The aim of park development would be to create a place of peace and beauty, which would reflect communal values, and a place to gather as we did on that glorious evening in July to watch our first movie in the park. What was truly gratifying about that event was gathering, seeing kids and parents, young and old, trundle down Putter with lawn chairs, blankets, and coolers, to lie under the stars just enjoying each other and the summer night full of the sounds of crickets and tree frogs. The Larsons and Crocketts prepared and purchased all concessions with proceeds going to a park beautification fund. Those proceeds together with a generous contribution by new neighbors, the Terrells, created a line item in our budget for "Park Development."

Community Building

I would like our public park to be a focused effort for community building, begun when Susie and Jim Cooper sought to purchase new mulch for the playground. Tim Hennessey pitched in by re-grading the park basin. Then, on a Saturday morning, volunteers, including the Holland, Acree, Long, Bryant, Cislo, Richmond, Muntzing, and Bauer families, helped to spread fresh wood chips. The Bryants donated water for the grass seed, and Vince Hunter agreed to move and monitor the sprinkler. This activity represents community building at its best. It is my belief that the health, and prosperity, of a community is based not only on environment but also on involvement. The more residents are involved and have a stake, the more we improve the quality of our lives together.

Events create relationships. Lisa Mason, who has taken over the duties from Caeli Balcer as chair of the Neighborhood Action Committee, is striving to plan seasonal events that will begin with an Art Fair and Concert in the Park on September 13. The artists, gathered by Kelly Larson and Susie Cooper, have agreed to donate a percentage of their sales to the new park fund. Laurel

Bryant and Cecilia Rowland are creating a 2009 CLP calendar to help in the park effort. These projects and more frequent interactions will help us care about each other right down to Peg Crockett picking up Dorothy Corcoran's newspaper every morning with a little conversation to boot.

The Ladue School District, of course, has a bearing on the desirability and marketability of our community, especially when housing comes at a fraction of Ladue prices. A potential CLP buyer can choose from a variety of homes appropriate for a diversity of people and lifestyles—singles, younger families, and older residents. The configuration of our streets not only adds to our safety but also to our ability to stay in contact with one another. Our strength as a community is in valuing our environment and each other. It is also in valuing the public good and justice issues. As difficult as it is at times, I think it is critical to pay attention to how our individual desires and living impact others and make necessary adjustments and accommodations.

My Role as Mayor

I see my role as a facilitator of projects. Since spring, Jonathan Carey-Voris stepped forward to provide leadership in producing a new telephone directory assembling a committee consisting of Mary Elbert, Jim and Barb Gehringer, Cathy and Kitty Strubert, Jack Kunkel, Nancy Brooks, Amy Cislo, and Treasurer Dianne Chand to assist in the various tasks.

Using the plan created for us by Horner-Shifrin, Jim Cooper has been conscientiously overseeing street repairs and developing this year's maintenance project. Dave Evans and Barry Larson continue as chairs of Planning and Zoning/Architectural Review Board and Board of Adjustment with the participation of Rita Brinkmann, Sue Glarner, Martin Long, Marianne Stuart, Jim Gehringer, and Dennis Bauer. Thanks to Matt and Caeli Balcer, Judy Hennessey, Chris and Jessica Kerckhoff, Mary Jane Cusumano, Amy Goellner, and Lee Crockett as they rotate off those committees. All have been instrumental in the revision of the building codes for District D, which both allows for new building standards and protection of what we perceive as the character of the neighborhood. We have been greatly helped by the professional expertise of our attorney Howard Paperner, who specializes in small municipalities, and

John Littlefield, our new Building Commissioner.

My role is also to thank and honor the residents who contribute to the quality of life in Crystal Lake Park. Inevitably, I will fail to mention the names of individuals or families and so apologize. On behalf of the City, I want to thank Matt Balcer for his term as Mayor, Jim Leonard as Alderperson for Ward I, and Ann Bradley as Treasurer. Over the years, residents such as Kathleen Richmond, Kathy Cox, Gail Freeman, Sue Glarner, Kelly Larson, Susan Kusama, Peg Crockett, the Balcers, and Martin and Kelly Long have quietly organized neighborhood activities to enrich our everyday lives and bring families and neighbors closer together. Greg Heck continues to participate in Flower Day, always planting flowers at our entrance, and manage the community tree program. Robb Lappe, our former mayor and building commissioner, purchased the new lights, which help illuminate our entrance sign. Don Boland reminded us at a recent Board of Alderpersons meeting that he is the oldest living man in the neighborhood. Don also served the community for many years as Street Commissioner followed by Stefan Cooke, who oversaw our most recent road repaving as well as the installation of new signage. We honor our longtime residents, who are the bearers of our history, including Don, Marjorie Aussieker, Horacio and Georgina Altamirano, Dotty and Vince Hunter, Sally and Scott King, Peggy Moser, Leona Johnson, Mary Elbert, Dorothy Corcoran, Jim and Bunny Walker, Maurice and Marty Griffin, and Ken and Beverly Dillner. We thank Joe and Baye Brent for sharing their film footage of Crystal Lake Park in the 20s.

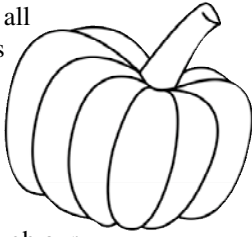
Our treasure is us. We build our community by dreaming, helping each other, and having fun. Lydia Sanders manages our website, and Kelly Larson manages the Community Bulletin Board. If you have questions, contact city clerk Lois La Driere, 993-1160. If you are interested in participating in city government or a specific project, email me at bbtaylor50@mac.com or call 348-8407.

With many best wishes,

Bonnie Taylor, Mayor
Crystal Lake Park

Ghosts and goblins and dogs, oh my!

Save the date for the annual Halloween parade! At 10:00 Saturday, October 25, costumed kids of all ages, dog walkers and friends will gather at Crystal Lake Park for treats before heading out for a short parade through our community.



Parades are much more fun with an audience, so please gather along Putter, Lakeview, South or Oak to watch if you aren't walking! We're also hoping to add more activities in the park following the parade. Watch the CLP website for details. And keep a look out for the Halloween Phantom...

Festivities for everyone

The Neighborhood Action Committee is excited to plan a variety of events for the residents of Crystal Lake Park. Many of these events have become traditions, but new ideas are welcomed! We hope to offer fun activities to bring together residents of all ages.

Events tentatively planned include:

October	Halloween parade & activities
December	Caroling
	Visits from Santa
February	Valentine making
April	Egg hunt
May	Flower day
June	House & garden tour

To become involved in planning or helping with community activities, please contact Lisa Mason via phone: 395-4444 or e-mail: lmason624@sbcglobal.net.

Check the Crystal Lake Park website for details on upcoming event dates and times!

Keep in touch with your neighbors

New Crystal Lake Park phone directories are coming soon! There have been many changes since the 2005 edition of the directory and this updated version will help residents connect with each other, as well as listing those available for babysitting, lawn mowing, pet sitting and other services.

A special thanks to those who have helped with this big project (listed alphabetically):

Nancy Brooks
Phillip Bryant
Jonathan Carey-Voris
Dianne Chand
Amy Cislo
Mary Elbert

Barbara and Jim Gehringer
Jack Kunkel
Susan Kusama
Lois La Driere
Sandy Spitzer
Cathy & Kitty Strubert
Bonnie Taylor

This is a great example of effective team work. Each person took one or two streets and collected the data in a very short time. The team's sense of humor and persistence were captured by a paraphrase of the Borg's motto in Star Trek: "Resistance is futile in the CLP Collective."

Hopefully, the new directories will be ready for distribution at the picnic on September 27!

Ward "D" Ordinances finally revised and put to rest

After a marathon lasting for years, the building ordinances governing Ward "D" were completed. See the city's website at www.crystallakepark.org for the full ordinance.

While this might be boring stuff for most folks, it is important and symbolic of a revolution in our cul-de-sac town. The peaceful reconciliation of widely disparate opinions required countless hours of research, discussion, disagreement and compromise; an example for our children and a triumph of the town's spirit.

The process truly took years of wrangling that spanned at least two generations of city officials. Almost

miraculously, years of struggle, frustration and suspicion were brought to a satisfactory close with the seasoned guidance of our new City Attorney and Building Commissioner.

Howard Paperner, our city attorney knows his material and tells it like it is with experience counseling many municipalities. John Littlefield, Building Commissioner is a veteran of city councils, ordinance development, an architect and all around nice guy. Everyone who participated in the process in any way should take pride in the fact that this chapter is finished.

Next???

Review of CLP's first *Free Movie Night* in the park

On July 26th, 2008, at 9 pm, in attendance for this big night in our own little town were huge stars Steve Carrell, William Shatner, Bruce Willis, Nick Nolte, and Garry Shandling (on the silver screen). The premier was FREE to all Crystal Lake Parkers. The evening kicked off with vintage footage of Crystal Lake Park provided by Joe and Baye Brent. Then, the family film "Over the Hedge" created by the producers of the hit movie "Shrek" was shown. It was a very special night and a successful well- organized debut.

Sponsors Bonnie Taylor and Lydia Ruffin deserve special thanks. Volunteers Peg Crockett, Barry and Kelly Larson and

Andrew Bryant helped make this a very peaceful, pleasant night as well. Popcorn, candy, and soda were sold as a City Park Fundraiser. Over 127 happy kids, moms, dads, grandparents and friends brought blankets and lawn chairs. and enjoyed the big screen, great sound, and the very entertaining movie.

Under the moon and the stars, a new event was born, let's make it a regular one. All that was missing were valet parking and the red carpet!

This reviewer gives CLP's first movie night FIVE ***** STARS.

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is for you!

All residents of Crystal Lake Park are encouraged to submit news, stories, memories, and more for this newsletter. Our goal is to publish twice per year.

To submit ideas or feedback, please contact an editor:

Barry Larson
e-mail: bearithewoods@mac.com
phone: 692-0824

Lisa Mason
e-mail: lmason624@sbcglobal.net
phone: 395-4444

Remember to check www.crystallakepark.org for calendar updates, municipal codes & ordinances, and *much* more!