

SPANISH LAKE NEWS

A Publication of the Spanish Lake Community Association
Website: www.spanishlakemo.org

Spring 2009 Vol. 10 No. 2

Update on The Twillman House

The new heating and air conditioning system is now complete, providing four zones in the building to increase energy efficiency. The attic and 1st floor addition have insulation and there are new windows in that addition. All floor coverings have been removed, exposing the flooring in the original building. The historically accurate mahogany front door has been crafted and awaits installation.

The plans for the building's interior are almost ready to be submitted to St. Louis County for their approval. They call for a new porch across the entire east side with three doors into the building (for access from the parking lot), a new handicapped ramp and door on the south side of the addition, the removal of the interior staircase and the installation of a new staircase from the basement to the second floor, new handicapped bathrooms on both floors and an elevator serving the second floor.

Major new funding and support will be needed to complete this work. Please consider a tax deductible contribution to the Spanish Lake Community Association in order for this building to open as a Community Center for all the residents of our unincorporated community.

Do You Remember the WPA?

Fort Belle Fontaine Park, located on the northern end of Bellefontaine Road in Spanish Lake, has been a St. Louis County Park since 1987. It was the site of the first American Fort west of the Mississippi and later the site of both an orphanage for boys and a park. During the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration in the late 1930's, the park was enhanced by building a Grand Staircase, bath houses and picnic areas out of limestone – like the wall around the Habilitation Center on Bellefontaine Road, south of I-270. These projects were built through the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The Friends of Fort Belle Fontaine Park are presently doing research in order to get this property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They are looking for anyone who might be able to help with any personal history or memories of these WPA projects. If you have information, please contact Dora Gianoulakis at (314) 741-8425 or email her at drgmoriver@aol.com.

7th Annual Spring Event Will Benefit The Twillman House Renovation

The Spanish Lake Community Association will hold its Annual Spring Plant Sale, Used Book Sale, Barbeque and Raffle on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of The Twillman House at Bellefontaine and Redman Roads in Spanish Lake. Proceeds from the sale benefit The Twillman House renovation. The community association purchased this historic building in 2005 and is working to make it a Community Center.

The Plant Sale will include plants grown in the community association's prize winning garden at Larimore and Trampe and specimens donated by Spanish Lake gardeners. Also featured will be annuals, hanging baskets, planters and vegetables grown at Windy Hall Farm and Greenhouses in Spanish Lake. Plants will be attractively priced from \$.50. This is a perfect opportunity to stock your garden with varieties proven successful under local conditions for the current planting season.

The Raffle includes three prizes. The 1st prize is \$500 Cash; 2nd prize a Handmade Quilt; and 3rd prize are four Cardinal baseball tickets. Winners do not have to be present at the Spring Sale to win. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. Tickets can be purchased from members of the Spanish Lake Community Association or at the Plant Sale on May 2, before the 1 p.m. drawing. Or purchase them today with the raffle page included in this newsletter. Just send your check and stubs to the Spanish Lake Community Association's address on the mailing side of this newsletter.

The Used Book Sale features a wide variety of hundreds of books including children's titles, how-to books, mysteries, current and classic novels, cookbooks, gardening guides, romance, suspense novels and more. Most books are priced at \$.25/book or 5 books for \$ 1.00. Books for the sale were donated by friends of the community.

Barbeque will feature brats, burgers, hot dogs and an assortment of sides priced from \$.50 to \$ 2.00. You can eat on the grounds or order barbeque for take-out.

Erin's Mom will perform live music on the grounds of The Twillman House. Members of this group play traditional Irish instruments. Plan on spending a few hours on May 2nd at this Spring Event to support our community.

The Wood Shed at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

by Tom Leifeld, Manager, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

The Howard and Joyce Wood Education and Visitor Center at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area (CBCA) will be five years old this year and we are planning a celebration. The "Wood Shed" as it is more affectionately known, was dedicated on May 27, 2004 and we plan to mark the five year anniversary of that dedication with an open house and some other activities.

When the Department of Conservation acquired the Columbia Bottom property in 1997, there was an old wooden barn on one of the few portions of the property that was not flooded during the Great Flood of 1993. This high spot seemed to be the best place to construct an area headquarters and visitor center but the old barn was in the way. We were planning to have the old barn torn down and removed to make way for the new facility until our architect got involved with a much more creative idea. His idea was to use the old barn and turn it back into something new.

A group of architects and engineers gathered one day to check out the old barn and it turned out to be sturdy and true and just about the right size. One thing lead to another and we ended up stripping the old barn down to its post and beam skeleton and then rebuilding our new visitor center around those old bones. A lean-to was added to the back of the old structure to add some space but otherwise, the new barn is a lot like the old one on the outside. It has wood siding that will weather and grey like the original barn and the metal roof resembles the roof that was originally put on the old barn.

The inside of the "Wood Shed" is very open to reveal the old post and beam skeleton and quite a bit of the wood from the old barn was re-used inside to retain that old barn feeling. Many new features were added to the inside of the barn to equip it for its new purpose as an education and visitor center. Exhibits are provided to introduce visitors to Columbia Bottom Conservation Area and the habitats in the bottomland. Classroom space is provided for the many programs that are conducted to educate folks about conservation and our natural resources. A reception desk provides opportunity for visitors to meet area staff, learn more about the area or to purchase permits or gift shop items. And lastly, office space is provided to enable staff to conduct the other business needed to manage this beautiful piece of property.

Please join us at the "Wood Shed" on May 27 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to enjoy some refreshments and visit with staff about the past and the future of Columbia Bottom.

Upcoming Events in Spanish Lake

Youth Instructional Basketball Camp for 6-12 year olds at Larimore Park. Saturdays, May 9 & June 13. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Free. Camp will focus on shooting, dribbling and ball handling skills. Call (314) 4667.

Late Night Fishing at Spanish Lake Park. Every second Saturday of the month, April-October. All ages. Free. Spanish Lake Park stays open until 11 p.m. for late night fishing. Call (314) 615-4386.

Senior's Discovery Adventure. Monday, May 11. 9:30-11 a.m. Ages 60 and up. Free. This is a great time to investigate the natural wonders at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, 801 Strodtman. Call for reservations (314) 877-6014.

Sights and Sounds of Spring. Tuesday, May 12. 10:00 a.m.-Noon. Adults. Explore different habitats as we venture from the paved levee trail to the wooded river's edge trail. Meet at the boat ramp at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Call for reservations at (314) 877-6014.

History Hayrides at Fort Belle Fontaine Park. Saturday, May 16 at 10 a.m.; 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and Sunday, May 17 at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. \$5 per person. The entire family will enjoy a long hayride with a guide providing information on this historic area. For more information or to make reservations, call (314) 544-6224 or e-mail mkollbaum@stlouisco.com.

Amphibian Night Hike. Friday, May 22 from 7-8:30 p.m. Families. Be prepared to look and listen for these amazing creatures as we go on a short hike. Meet at the Columbia Bottom Conservation Center, 801 Strodtman. Bring a flashlight. Reservations at (314) 877-6014.

Belle Bottom Hike It or Bike It. Sunday, June 7 at 8:30 a.m. Free. Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, 801 Strodtman Road. Hike It: 3-mile River's Edge Trail or Bike It: 10-mile route out and back on the paved Confluence Trail. On your own or join the naturalist-led hike at 9 a.m. at the parking lot or the group-led bike ride at 9:30 a.m. at the trailhead near the Visitor Center. 70's attire optional; cyclists are required to wear helmets. Call (314) 877-6014 for reservations for the group-led tours.

Habitat Days, June 16, 17 and 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Ages 8-12. This will be a 3- day exploration of the Columbia Bottom habitat. Participants must sign up for all three days and bring a sack lunch. Please call for reservations at (314) 877-6014.

North County Inc. 32nd Annual Breakfast. Friday, May 15th, at 7:30 a.m. at the St. Louis Airport Marriott. Cost: 37.00 per person. R.S.V.P. at (314) 895-6241 or www.NorthStLouisCounty.com.

Spanish Lake Youth & Family Council

by Lottie Wade, Chair, Spanish Lake Youth & Family Council

The Spanish Lake Youth and Family Council leads a community response to create more activities and services for youth and their families. Now under the umbrella of the Spanish Lake Community Association, the Council is partnering with St. Louis County government, Hazelwood School District and other valued public, private and faith-based organizations to make our community a better place.

Work is being carried out in three categories:

Youth Activities

The Youth Activities committee is providing input to County Parks on its summer programs while developing a plan for community based activities. The first step is an inventory of existing programs which will be completed in time to share the results at the Resource Fair on May 16th.

Support Services

The Support Services Committee met recently with representatives of twenty two agencies to enlist their participation and support to bring social services to Spanish Lake. In order to make services available to youth and their families, the agencies are going to collaborate to have social workers and essential information and resources at community locations like churches, schools and apartments.

Community Engagement

This group is currently focusing on holding a successful Resource Fair on Saturday, May 16th, at Twillman School, 11831 Bellefontaine Road. See the announcement on this page for more details. Future efforts will include developing ways to engage parents and other residents in activities to support children and youth.

Your help is needed. You are invited to join one of these committees or to attend council meetings to learn more about what is being done and to share your ideas.

Council meetings are open to the public and are held the second Thursday of every other month from 7:00 -8:30 p.m. at North County Recreation Complex, 2577 Redman Road. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14th. For more information contact Lottie Wade at (314) 741-4972 or lottiestlouis@earthlink.net. Messages may also be left on the association's voice mail at 741-4100.

Call our Voice Mail (314) 741-4100



Press 1 to report a property violation.

Press 2 to express your opinion.

Press 3 for membership information.

Press 4 to volunteer.

Wait for the beep to leave a message.

Kip's Korner

by Kip Williams, SLCA Board of Directors

Often times those who make the difference and do the hard work do not receive the accolades they truly deserve. Therefore, I would like to use this platform to applaud the many committed volunteer coaches of youth sports. These men and women not only teach our youth sport drills and plays but also respect for themselves and others, along with the value of education and discipline. Youth coaches are the after school teachers that often sacrifice their own resources to keep their teams afloat.

Here in Spanish Lake, we are blessed with two football sports programs that serve Hazelwood Southeast Middle and Hazelwood East Middle with Coach Thompson and Coach Merimether respectively. You know a coach has received widespread admiration when even the adults don't know their first names. These gentlemen have done superb jobs with their players and have groomed their young men to focus on school and behavior first.

I personally have observed front and center the coaches' programs with my son Kori playing since 6th grade. Kori benefited from a second opinion that sounded too many times for his liking like the words of his old man on issues from school to household chores. Our kids will never forget their coaches and the time spent with their teammates. It is this experience that will help form their attitudes towards authority and structure.

Let's celebrate all the positive influences that cross our children's path for we all need all the help we can get!

Remember to take advantage of the new flag football season offered in Larimore Park this April through the St. Louis County Parks Department. I'm excited for Spanish Lake youth and the opportunities forthcoming.

Third Annual Spanish Lake Youth and Family Resource Fair Set for May 16

Mark your calendars now and bring your family to the third annual Spanish Lake Youth and Family Resource Fair which will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Twillman School on the southwest corner of Bellefontaine and Redman in Spanish Lake.

- Prizes!
- Information about summer camps, job opportunities and other helpful resources!
- Fun activities for children!
- Free books!

This event is sponsored by the Spanish Lake Youth and Family Council, Spanish Lake Community Association and Hazelwood School District. Contact Lottie Wade at (314) 741-4972 or lottiestlouis@earthlink.net.

Support Our Spanish Lake Community Association Business Members

Aloha Salons, Sami Bloemer

12522 Lusher, Spanish Lake (741-2100)

Applied Scholastics International, Bonnie Paul, Dean, 11755 Riverview, Spanish Lake (355-6355)

AT&T Missouri, Craig Felzien, External Affairs

402 North 3rd Street, St. Charles

DiCarlo Enterprises, Joe DiCarlo

Belle Park Plaza, Spanish Lake (966-6962)

Buchholz Mortuaries, Inc., Jim Buchholz

1645 Redman Road, Spanish Lake (741-7400)

Caribbean Sun Tanning Center,

Gail Lombardo & Vicki Schanuel

12520 Lusher Road, Spanish Lake (741-7225)

Central Stone Company, Brian Dockery & Randy

Barke, 3224 N. Highway 67, Spanish Lake (355-2382)

Christ Light of the Nations, Sr. Mary Lawrence, Prin-

icipal, 1650 Redman, Spanish Lake (741-4100)

Christian Hospital, Ronald B. McMullen, President

11133 Dunn Road, North County (653-5729)

Commerce Bank, Tonya M. Lloyd

1626 Pattern Drive, Spanish Lake (746-8886)

Cigno Dental Care, Sam E. Cigno, D.D.S.

12000 Bellefontaine Road, Spanish Lake (741-5133)

Curves for Women, Bonnie Barczykowski

12514 Lusher, Spanish Lake (741-2400)

D.R.E.A.M.S., EnStacia White

1528 Claudine, Spanish Lake (323-3290)

Fusion Travel Group, Charlotte Lang

12853 Partridge Run (635-6302)

Greater North County Chamber of Commerce

Diana Weidinger, President

420 West Washington, Florissant (831-3500)

I-Search Grant & Scholarship Consultants, LLC

Barbara Primm, 12649 Countrybrook Drive, Spanish Lake (355-0435)

Hazelwood School District, Dr. Chris Wright, Superintendent

15955 New Halls Ferry, Florissant (953-5000)

Jaguar Complete Lawncare, Mike Monica

700 Valencia, Spanish Lake ((653-2175)

Jamestown Mall, Rick Murphy, General Manager

Highway 67 & Old Jamestown (355-8878)

Larimore House Plantation, Allen & Dena Bovey

11475 Lilac Avenue, Spanish Lake (868-8009)

Lutheran Senior Services

11728 Hidden Lake, Spanish Lake (355-8833)

Midland Auto and Tire, Bob & Kathi Roush

1660 Pattern Drive, Spanish Lake (741-9888)

Miller's Auto Repair Service, Mike & Michelle Miller

12300 Bellefontaine, Spanish Lake (741-2534)

Marvin J. Nodiff, P.C., Attorney

500 North Skinker, University City (727-8989)

No Limit HairCare, Dwann Dillon & Adria Williams

995 Trampe, Spanish Lake (741-5030)

North County Inc., Rebecca Zoll, Executive Director

350B Village Square, Hazelwood (837-6365)

Oak Park Village, Lavonne Takatz, Property Manager

11185 Sierra Vista, Spanish Lake (741-6838)

P.J. Columns, Robert Schellenger

11806 Riverview, Spanish Lake (426-3668)

Precious Thoughts Custom Printing, Sherri Wynne

214 Mayfair Plaza, Highway 367 & Parker (741-6555)

Rinderer's Pharmacy, Al Chiolero, Manager

12141 Bellefontaine Road, Spanish Lake (741-8700)

Schnuck's, Sierra Vista, Lou Clines, Co-Manager

1589 Sierra Vista, Spanish Lake (741-0282)

Slammy's, Tammy Smith

12111 Bellefontaine Road, Spanish Lake (653-1743)

Spanish Lake Animal Hospital, John Adams, D.V.M.

1331 Dunn Road, Spanish Lake (869-5151)

Local 2665 Firefighters, Spanish Lake Fire Protection District, 12220 Bellefontaine, Spanish Lake (741-7302)

Spanish Lake Self Storage, Ted Meeker

1740 Parker, Spanish Lake (355-7733)

SSM DePaul Health Center, Kim Bakker, Community & Business, 12303 DePaul Drive, Bridgeton (344-6254)

Star Performers Realtors, Judy Bond, Realtor

Spanish Lake (770-1800)

State Farm Insurance, Eric Thomas, Agent

12450 Lusher, Spanish Lake (741-1100)

State Farm Insurance, Elveeta Macon, Agent

12018 Bellefontaine Road, Spanish Lake (741-1711)

Strongheart Financial/Art by Strongheart, Alexah

Strongheart, 1732 Muriel, Spanish Lake (741-0225)

Trinity Catholic High School

Sr. Karl Mary Winkelmann, President

1720 Redman Road, Spanish Lake (741-1333)

Tupperware, Danielle Brison

11834 Bellefontaine, Spanish Lake (723-4113)

Windy Hill Farm and Greenhouses

Roger & Ann Albrecht, Elva & Gene Siefert

12260 Larimore, Spanish Lake (741-2294)

Zykan Properties, Grace A. Zykan

525 rue St. Francois, Suite 9, Florissant (837-3320)

Tribute and Memorial Fund

Donations were made in memory of Spanish Lake Community Association member Rose Lee Becherer

from the Thiemet, Johnson and Howerton Families, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Remiger, Dave & Mary Grelle & Family, Julie G. Gritts, Melba S. Wolff, Kurt & Audrey Braune, Marion Elementary and Christopher and Christine Klaus.

Members and friends may honor a friend or loved one with a donation to the Association's Tribute and Memorial Fund, Spanish Lake Community Association, P.O. Box 372082, St. Louis, MO 63138.

Living Green in Watkins Creek

by Barbara Maynard, AmeriCorps Volunteer with RegionWise

The Living Green in Watkins Creek project was formed to promote wise stewardship in the watershed of Watkins Creek, the 6-mile stream that flows through Spanish Lake before emptying into the Mississippi River just north of the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge.

Do you know how Watkins Creek got its name? The land around the downstream reaches of Watkins Creek, as it flows under Coal Bank Road toward Riverview Drive, is located in the Benjamin F. Watkins subdivision. A search of U.S. Census records showed that in 1870 a 62-year-old farmer named Benjamin Watkins, who was born in Kentucky, and his 14-year-old son Luther were residents of St. Ferdinand Township, in which Spanish Lake was located. Their property was valued at \$30,000. In the 1860 census, Benjamin was living with his 8 children in St. Louis. Based on this information, we believe that the creek is named for Benjamin F. Watkins. If you know anything about Benjamin F. Watkins or the history of Watkins Creek, please contact us to share your insights.

Are you interested in learning more about water issues and sharing that information with others? The Watkins Creek project is looking for up to 15 people to form a Speaker's Bureau. Volunteers will receive training from experts in local water issues, a notebook of additional resources and presentation materials. They will then be expected to carry the message to others. Topics covered will include the watershed approach, the Clean Water Act, causes of and potential solutions to erosion and flooding, rain gardens, landscaping with native plants and more. The only requirement is an interest in learning about water issues and a willingness to share what you learn with others. Training will be held in May.

Do you love bugs, chemistry sets or just keeping an eye on your neighborhood creek? If so, the Missouri Stream Team program might be for you. Our Watkins Creek Stream Team makes regular visits to several sites along the creek to monitor water quality. We check several chemical measures, as well as inventory the critters living in the stream. Contact us if you'd like to join the team or just join us for a sampling trip to see what it's all about.

For more information on any of these activities, phone us at (314) 977-3203 or email us at watkins.creek@yahoo.com. Learn more about the Watkins Creek project at www.regionwise.org/watkins.

Spanish Lake Community Garden

Every Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. garden helpers are welcome to join the garden crew at our prize-winning garden at Larimore and Trampe. Bring gloves and clippers and lots of laughter. Call Helen Bylinowski at 355-3358 for further information. Many hands make little work.

News from the State Senate

Senator Timothy P. Green (D-Spanish Lake) has advanced legislation in the Missouri Senate during the 2009 session. Numerous residents in North St. Louis County have been charged for storm water run-off services even though they do not have access to any services provided by the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD). Many are of the opinion that it is wrong for MSD to charge these consumers without providing any service. Senate Bill 172 has progressed in the Senate which seeks to prohibit MSD from charging these residents unfairly and has received numerous letters of support from area residents.

Sen. Green has also had success with his drunk driving awareness legislation, Senate Bill 93. Our community is reminded time and again with tragedies inflicted by drunk driving. With the passage of the bill, an educational program will be developed with the intention of reducing drunk driving and making Missouri roads safer.

More recently, Senate Bill 117 has advanced. It provides \$14 million in additional money to the Riverview Gardens School District to correct a state funding formula error. "Funding for our schools is important to securing the future for our children," said Rep. Gina Walsh (D-Bellefontaine Neighbors), further adding that "This funding formula error is unacceptable and should be fixed." Rep. Walsh has offered similar legislation, House Bill 542, recently passed out of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee.

Annual Water Festival

On May 2, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. the 2nd Annual Water Festival will be held at Hazelwood East High School. After visiting the Spanish Lake Plant Sale, come hear local musicians, check out the art exhibit and learn how we all use and can protect water resources in our community. Fun for the whole family, and it's free! For more information, call Brenda Bobo-Fisher, (314) 977-3203.

Subdivision Trustee Workshop for Spanish Lake

Are you a subdivision trustee? A special workshop just for Spanish Lake trustees is being planned by the County Planning Department. It will be held on April 29th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Southeast Middle School, 918 Prigge Road. Call (314) 615-2529 by April 21st to R.S.V.P. Topics will be relevant to those faced by subdivision trustees.

Not a trustee? URGE YOUR TRUSTEES TO ATTEND!

Spanish Lake Community Association

P.O. Box 372082

Spanish Lake MO 63138

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Not sure if you are a Spanish Lake Community Association member?

Just check your mailing label. It shows the date your membership is up for renewal.

No date in that label? That means you are not a member. Please join today. Your membership support is very important.

Plant Sale, Book Sale & Barbeque

Saturday, May 2nd, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the grounds of The Twillman House, 11840 Bellefontaine Roads in Spanish Lake.

Spanish Lake Community Association Membership Form

Contributing Individual/Family Membership — \$25/year

In addition to the benefits at the basic level, dues received from contributing members will be used to support special projects and activities of the Association

Basic Individual/Family Membership — \$10/year

Each household will receive notification of upcoming meetings and special events as well as the Association's newsletter, the *Spanish Lake News*

Individual/Family Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Address/Zip _____

Occupation/Employer _____

Home Telephone _____ E-mail Address _____

Type of Membership _____ Contributing _____ Basic

I/we wish to contribute to The Twillman House Renovation. Enclosed is my/our check for _____.

Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to the Spanish Lake Community Association and mail it to the SLCA, P.O. Box 372082, Spanish Lake, MO 63138.

Business, church, school, subdivision and organization memberships are also available. Please call the Spanish Lake Community Association Voice Mail at 741-4100 and press line 3 to request additional membership information.

