

# Ladue Newsletter



## LETTER FROM MAYOR SPEWAK

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

The summer months are always busy for me, and for most everyone I know. It seems that there are so many committee meetings and events that it can be hard to keep up with schedules. But it's also one of my favorite times of the year and these past few months have been no exception.

Thank you to the Ladue Garden Club for hosting me at their annual luncheon. For me, it is a highlight of the spring to be able to interact with such a dedicated volunteer group. The Ladue Garden Club donates much of their time and energy to the City of Ladue and our beautification efforts. For example, they maintain the Public Works Garden, secure funds for our park project, provide much needed support and advice and of course, decorate our stately City Hall for the holiday season.

We have many active volunteer committees which operate under the auspices of the City of Ladue. Our Insurance Committee, Pension Board and Public Works Committees always have a busy May. Working with our Finance Director, Scott Kroenung, and committee chair, Wally Klein, our insurance brokers made great efforts to keep our costs in line and offer competitive benefits to our employees. The Pension Board met and learned that our pension funds have reached 95% funding levels. Under the direction of Joe Rechter and Wes Jones, the Pension Committee continues to monitor and safeguard our employee pension monies. The Public Works Committee continues to contribute and offer sound support to our Public Works Department.

Mark Ratterman, committee chair, has led the efforts to develop the Deer Creek Preserve which will be a lovely trail and connector path for our residents. As always, City of Ladue staff is integrally involved in our committee work and add valuable insight and support at every level.

Our Stormwater Initiative is funding several important City stormwater relief projects. Some of the current projects are designed to stabilize creek banks and others will be alleviating flooding of homes and property. I know that these types of projects are disruptive and often experience delays related to weather and unanticipated conditions. Many thanks to our Stormwater Committee chair, Lloyd Palans and his dedicated committee. Our City of Ladue staff including our Stormwater Project Managers, Amanda Griffin and Mark Koester deserve our thanks and gratitude for their leadership on these projects.

On behalf of the City Council and myself, thank you for your support and the passage of Prop L. While our City of Ladue taxes will increase, they will do so to fund our Police, Fire/EMS and Public Works departments. As we look to the future, it is important to evaluate expenditures and vet revenue streams available to us as residents so that we may continue to provide the highest levels of service to you.

Please remember to be kind to our City of Ladue staff who along with myself and your City Council work every day to make your city a wonderful place to live and work.

Hope to see you at one of our many Ladue restaurants and shops!

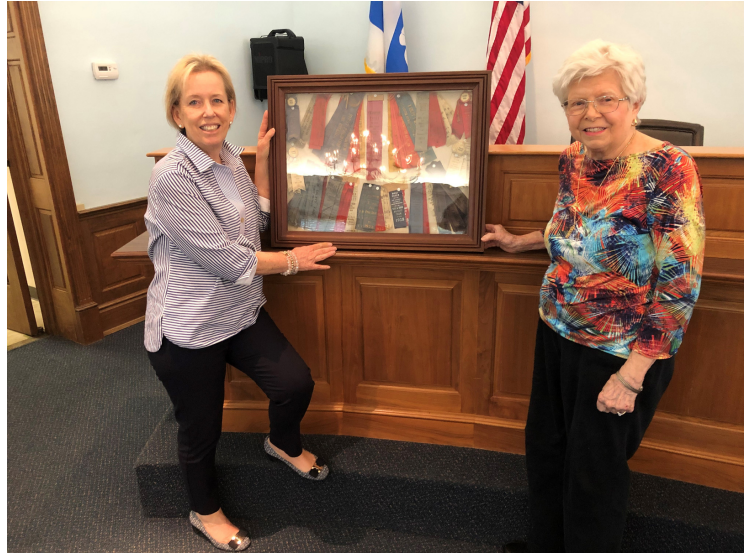
My best,

*Nancy*

# FROM THE ARCHIVES...

On April 19, 2022 long time City of Ladue resident Mrs. Naomi Hoch Runtz donated to the City of Ladue the Hoch family collection of award winning agricultural ribbons from the old Hoch family farm (see photo). These ribbons, dating between 1912 and 1928, were awarded to Mrs. Runtz' grandfather Otto G. Hoch. Otto Hoch lived on 51 acres of farmland on what are now the High Hampton Road and Haverford Road subdivisions off North Woodlawn Avenue. Their farmhouse (see photo) was located on the western edge of the property.

Henry Hoch, Sr., a German immigrant, moved with his wife Eva and family to the Ladue farm, purchasing the property in 1859. There he built a one room 1-1/2 story log cabin house using logs that he cut from trees along the Meramec River, hauling them to his building site (the trees on the property were too skinny for building purposes at that time). Henry's son, Otto, lived on the farm with his wife Amelia, whom he had married on April 21, 1895, where they raised 5 children. Otto planted an extensive orchard of apple trees including Yellow and Red Delicious, Jonathan, and Winesap apples. During the early years of the 20th century Otto was known as "The Apple King of St. Louis County". His sweet apples won many First Prizes and Champion Prizes (the award ribbons are in the collection donated to the City of Ladue by Mrs. Runtz) at the St. Louis County Farm Bureau, the St. Louis County Fair, the St. Louis Agricultural Fair and the St. Louis Fruit Show.



Naomi Hoch Runtz presenting award ribbons to Mayor Nancy Spewak as a donation to the City of Ladue on April 19, 2022

The property remained in the Hoch family until it was sold in 1965 and subdivided as the Fairview Lane subdivision and sold as 23 lots. Ahlemeier Construction Company built display homes on lot 2 (515 High Hampton) and lot 17 (500 High Hampton). The then still standing farmhouse on lot 1 was bought by Joseph and Margaret Cinnater with the intention of keeping the farmhouse; but the developer razed it before the sale was completed. Lot 1 is currently 501 High Hampton.



Hoch Family Farmhouse circa 1885



# BOSTA...THE FIRST THREE YEARS

The five volunteer members of the Beautification, Open Space and Tree Advisory Committee have met numerous times over the past three years (far exceeding the required quarterly meetings set forth by the Tree City USA program of the National Arbor Day Foundation. The committee consists of : Nancy Ylvisaker, Pat Steiner, Tom McCarthy, Clint Williams and Laure Hullverson. We have had a good working relationship from the get-go and have enjoyed the enthusiastic support of Mayor Nancy Spewak and the professional knowledge and energy of Public Works Director, Anne Lamitola and her wonderful staff.

Our focus the past three years has truly been on Trees and Open Space:

- Completing the requirements for Tree City USA certification
- Organizing an Arbor Day celebration each Spring
- Organizing annual Honeysuckle Hacks
- Implementing a city wide tree management program through the Mary Stacey Memorial Tree Fund
- Developing plans for walking paths along Deer Creek at Edie's Mulch Site with Ladue Public Works and SWT Design that will be called Deer Creek Preserve
- Developing plans to stabilize the stream bank and improve accessibility at Rodes Park with Ladue Public Works and Christener Partnership

- Creating a Living Legacy Program to encourage tree plantings in Ladue by private residents to make sure that we are planning for the next generation of trees in our community

Our efforts in Education and Public Relations:

- We have written numerous articles for the City of Ladue Newsletter about timely green space topics
- We have responded to resident's interest in various issues in a variety of ways: in person, over the phone and via email and encourage anyone interested to join a BOSTA meeting
- We have connected with the private clubs in Ladue to foster a cooperative approach to the removal of invasive species and use of native plants
- and...the committee contributed the funds to purchase a new bench for Rodes Park.



# Arbor Day 2022

# All About Honeysuckle



## WHY SHOULD I REMOVE INVASIVE BUSH HONEYSUCKLE FROM MY YARD?

- It forms a thick understory which limits how much sunlight reaches seedlings of native plants and thus inhibits growth of new and more desirable plants such as dogwood trees.
- It destroys the soil for native plants, prevents regrowth of forest cover, and can cause soil erosion.
- It can provide dangerous cover for deer and their ticks.
- Songbirds can starve from eating nutrient-poor honeysuckle berries.

## I LIKE THE SCREENING HONEYSUCKLE PROVIDES, WHAT SHOULD I PLANT TO REPLACE IT?

The native shrubs listed here are just some of that provide beautiful screening while giving food and cover for butterflies, birds, and wildlife.

- American beauty berry
- American hazelnut
- American holly
- Buttonbush
- Carolina buckthorn
- Deciduous holly
- Flowering Dogwood
- Pagoda Dogwood
- Elderberry
- Red Buckeye
- Serviceberry
- Fragrant Sumac
- Golden currant
- Hawthorn
- New Jersey tea
- Ninebark
- Sassafras
- Spice bush
- Wild plum
- Vernal witch hazel
- Viburnum arrowwood
- Viburnum blackhaw or rusty blackhaw
- Virbunum nannyberry
- Winterberry

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HONEYSUCKLE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT PLANTS?

Here are some sites to help you learn more about replacement plants and removal techniques.

Missouri Department of Conservation:

[www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)

(search bush honeysuckle control)

Missouri Botanical Garden

[www.mobot.org/invasders](http://www.mobot.org/invasders)

Grow Native!

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

(click on "plant search")

### FOR SALE

In conjunction with the 85th anniversary events, the City of Ladue commissioned Ladue resident, Georgia Purcell, a local artist and member of the St. Louis watercolor society, to create 25 limited edition 11x14 watercolor prints of the Ladue city hall, and 25 sets of note cards.

These items may be purchased, while supplies last, at a cost of \$75.00/per print, and \$20.00/ set of 10 note cards.

Please contact Shelly Benson at 314-993-3439 if you would like to purchase one or more of these wonderful pieces of Ladue history...great as gifts or framed for an office or home study.

**SALE**





Everybody lives in a watershed, and everybody has neighboring properties that accept storm water runoff from your property. Would you like to make a difference and help your neighbor as well as install improvements on your property? If so, you may want to consider installing rainscaping in your yard to promote infiltration of storm water.

Rainscaping is any combination of plantings, water features, catch basins, permeable pavement, and other activities that manage storm water as close as possible to where it falls, rather than moving it someplace else. Rainscaping practices can include features such as rain gardens, bioswales, and lawn alternatives to slow down, soak up and reuse rainwater before it carries pollutants to a local stream.

There are two programs available to help you get started, and they also provide some reimbursement. The Deer Creek Watershed Alliance has been facilitating a community-wide effort for over 10 years to protect and improve water quality in Deer Creek, with a focus on plant-based solutions. The Alliance has a Rainscaping Cost-share Program, and each landowner with property in one of the Program Focus Areas is eligible to receive a rebate of 75% of documented and approved costs up to a maximum of \$4,500. More information can be found at the Alliance's website:

<https://www.deercreekalliance.org/register>

## RAINSCAPING FOR YOUR YARD



The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) has a Rainscaping Small Grants Program that will provide reimbursement in focused areas of Ladue. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with no specific deadline. MSD typically awards up to 45 grants per year. The maximum residential reimbursement is \$3,000, and the minimum residential square footage for a project is 100 square feet. More information can be found at MSD's Project Clear website:

<https://msdprojectclear.org/what-we-do/rainscaping/small-grants/>

There is some overlap in the Deer Creek and MSD program areas, and you may qualify for both programs. Landowners may only receive one award from one of these rainscaping programs. Landowners may not receive multiple awards from one program or an award from both programs.

## *Photos from Public Works Week 2022*



# MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ANDRESKI

Dear Residents of Ladue:

As we approach the summer months, we want to take a few minutes to remind you to stay vigilant in protecting your home and family from crime. Fun events such as barbeques, pool gatherings, baseball games, and of course family vacations will occupy much of our time over the next couple months, but unfortunately, while most of us like to use summer to take a break of some sort, criminals do not.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, household property crimes tend to occur at higher rates in the summer months than during other seasons. A primary reason for this is the common knowledge that more people are away from their homes or are simply spending more time outside of their homes during the summer months. While it's difficult to prevent all crimes from occurring, we can all take preventative measures to help safeguard our homes and property.

The following are examples of safety tips that will help keep our summer full of enjoyable experiences:

- Stay informed of what's happening in the neighborhood. Talk with your neighbors and share information about suspicious activity, vacations, or anything else that may be safety related. Additionally, you can sign up for Crime Alerts via our website at [www.cityofladue-mo.gov](http://www.cityofladue-mo.gov) which will notify you of major crimes that have occurred in the area. The Crime Alert link is located under the Police Department tab on the website.
- Contact your local post office to halt your mail while you are away from your home or have a close friend, neighbor, or relative retrieve it for you, so it does not pile up. Do the same with any subscription deliveries and hold off on Amazon deliveries until you return.
- Lock the doors to your home, your vehicles, and keep your garage door closed. Unlocked doors and open windows contribute to most of the thefts that are reported. Even if you are simply spending time in the backyard, close and lock your front doors so that criminals do not have easy access to your home. Additionally, home alarms can be a tremendous deterrent to crime.
- Leave your lights on or place your lights on a timer to give the impression that someone is always home. Leaving porch lights or flood lights on at night also help illuminate the area and can prevent people from approaching your home and vehicles.
- Do not announce on social media that you are leaving town or how long you will be away from your home. Wait until after you return to share your vacation photos and stories.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Immediately contact the Police Department if you hear or observe any suspicious activity – Ladue Police Dispatch (314) 737-4600 or 911 for emergencies.
- Whether you will be away from home for a weekend getaway, or an extended period, PLEASE notify the Police Department on our administrative line, 314-993-1214, or via our website to sign up for our Vacation Watch list. The Vacation Watch link is located under the Police Department tab on our website. By signing up for the Vacation Watch list, officers will physically check your home while you are gone.

Stay safe and we hope everyone has an amazing summer.

*Ken Andreski, Jr.*  
Chief of Police



# IT'S A BOY... A PARAMEDIC'S DUTY

I wanted to share this story in hopes of bringing light to the outstanding crew on duty, but also to show the diverse skill set required to be a paramedic. So, let's start with the exciting news of B-shift's premature delivery. In the dark early morning hours of a cold March Day, Ambulance (3917) and engine (3924) were dispatched for "imminent delivery" on interstate 170. Arriving on scene to find no vehicle on the shoulder of the road. The crew immediately notified dispatch who informed the crew that the vehicle had relocated to the Galleria parking lot. Crew continued their response to the parking lot to find a female that was in obvious labor. The patient was quickly examined determining that delivery was imminent. Due to a language barrier, crews were not able to gather medical history but knew that delivery was happening. As the first push occurred, the paramedic realized this was a breach delivery. A breach delivery is when the child is not in the head down delivery position. Before the paramedic could instruct the patient not to push, she bared down, and the child was delivered.

Once the child was born, it was clear this child was premature weighing approximately one and a half pounds. The paramedic immediately went to work as the child showed no signs of activity or detectable pulse. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was performed and after several minutes, the child began showing signs of activity and a pulse was detected. The crew provided supportive care during transport to the hospital where crews were directed straight to labor and delivery. As the crew was completing their report, the attending physician sought them out to offer his praise on a job well done.



This crew, as all our crews do, demonstrated the skill set and level of professionalism that is required to be successful at this job! It is with great pride that I congratulate B-Crew on a job well done!

As a tradition in the Fire/EMS world, when a crew delivers a baby in the field a decal is placed on the ambulance. Please join me in congratulating the crew on an outstanding job!

I tell this story not only to bring recognition to the crew that performed this skill and saved this premature child's life, but also to bring to light the diversity of medical skills paramedics are required to have and be proficient. One of the many certifications required is Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS). This education provides paramedics with the skills necessary to recognize many different pediatric emergencies; cardiac arrest, sepsis, upper respiratory disorders, lower respiratory disorders, poisoning etc. Another certification is Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) which provides advance cardiology for adults. This education prepares us to recognize lethal and non-lethal cardiac rhythms, electrical therapy to resolve lethal arrhythmias and many other cardiac emergencies.

Although this is only a few of our medical skills, I hope this brings light to the broad scope of knowledge and skill required by paramedics. Again, I would like to congratulate B-Crew on their outstanding job saving this child's life!

*Chief Steven E Lynn, MPA, EFO*



## FOOD TRUCKS? OK!

Is your neighborhood looking for some fun ideas this summer to bring neighbors together? Bringing a food truck to your street on a summer evening might be just the ticket. Changes were made to the Ladue Code of Ordinances and Zoning Code last December to allow the operation of food trucks in Ladue as part of an approved Special Event. The Special Event approval process is pretty simple. If you would like to have a Special Event with a food truck (known as “mobile food vendor” in the Code), the City will need some basic information about your event and to make sure your food vendor is properly licensed. If you are planning to have more than one food truck, the Fire Department will need to make sure everything is properly spaced for safety and that the roadway is still accessible for emergencies. Of course, you should also run this by your Subdivision Trustees to make sure this type of event is allowed on your street. Enjoy!



## ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

On Wednesday, May 18th, Mayor Spewak and members of our Ladue Police Department attended the 30th Annual Police Officer Memorial Prayer Breakfast hosted by the St. Louis Area Police Chiefs Association. This program not only honors the fallen officers from the St. Louis metropolitan area, but also provides a platform for people of all faiths to show their respect for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their law enforcement duties.

## LADUE VISION 2040

In December of 2021, the Ladue Zoning and Planning Commission approved a new Comprehensive Plan for the City, known as “Ladue Vision 2040.” The Plan is available for viewing in its entirety on the City’s website. This Plan was the result of extensive public input from the community during 2019 through 2021. Input was gathered via a community survey, two public workshops (one in-person, one remote), stakeholder interviews, and an Advisory Committee made up of residents. Much of the Plan focuses on maintaining and preserving the character of the community and generally continuing the same practices and policies that have made Ladue a desirable place to live. Public input affirmed that residents are generally interested in better connectivity via sidewalks, trails, and paths, as well as increased parks and recreation opportunities. The Plan generally indicates that the vast majority of Ladue residents are very satisfied with their quality of life, and the goal will be to preserve the attributes that people enjoy while also addressing the future needs and aspirations of the community.



City of Ladue  
9345 Clayton Road  
Ladue, MO 63124

## Elected Officials

Mayor Nancy Spewak  
[nspewak@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:nspewak@cityofladue-mo.gov)

Stacey Kamps  
Councilmember - Ward I  
[skamps@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:skamps@cityofladue-mo.gov)

John Howell  
Councilmember - Ward I  
[jhowell@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:jhowell@cityofladue-mo.gov)

John Fox  
Councilmember - Ward II  
[jfox@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:jfox@cityofladue-mo.gov)

Patrick Hensley  
Councilmember - Ward II  
[phensley@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:phensley@cityofladue-mo.gov)

Hal Burroughs  
Councilmember - Ward III  
[hburroughs@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:hburroughs@cityofladue-mo.gov)

Bill Brennan  
Councilmember - Ward III  
[bbrennan@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:bbrennan@cityofladue-mo.gov)

## City Directory

Mayor  
314-993-3439 ext. 1101

Administration  
314-993-3439 / 314-993-5652 (f)

Building  
314-997-6308

Municipal Court  
314-993-3919

Public Works  
314-993-5665 / 314-994-3195 (f)

Police (Non Emergency)  
314-737-4600

Police (Administration)  
314-993-1214

Fire (Non Emergency)  
314-993-0181 / 314-993-0412 (f)

City Clerk  
[smann@cityofladue-mo.gov](mailto:smann@cityofladue-mo.gov)