



Community Link

Quarter 3-Fall 2023

serving 63125

The Taste of Lemay-Affton Food & Business Exposition Returns

As with so many events and activities that came to a sudden halt as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, celebrations and occurrences held in the Hancock Place School District were no exception. One such event that has been absent for several years now is the “Taste of Lemay Food & Business Exposition.”

In fact, the last time the school district hosted the “Taste of Lemay” was 2019. The location was Hancock Place Elementary, and the large majority of restaurants and businesses were in “Lemay proper” or the general 63125 region. Since that time, significant changes have occurred including the successful merger of the Lemay Chamber of Commerce with the Affton Chamber of Commerce on March 3, 2022. What’s more, a brand new, state of the art, regulation-size gymnasium was built at Hancock Place Elementary School as the result of Hancock Place School District voters’ overwhelming approval (81%) of Proposition R, a \$13.25 million, no-tax increase bond issue in April of 2021. The successful passage of this bond issue funded several significant capital improvement projects across the district including the beautiful new elementary school gymnasium.

With the pandemic behind us, the merger of two outstanding Chambers and a new gymnasium, the Hancock Place School District and Affton-Lemay Chamber of Commerce are excited to announce the return of the newly named “Taste of Lemay-Affton Food & Business Exposition!” The event will take place on **Friday, October 6, 2023, in the Hancock Place Elementary School cafeteria and gymnasium from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** Tickets may be purchased upon arrival, and admission remains at an extremely affordable \$5.00 a person. Specific details and contact information for restaurants and businesses wishing to participate in or sponsor the event can be found by scanning the QR Code at the bottom of this page.

The merging of two Chambers will certainly increase the number and variety of restaurants and businesses available to patrons at the upcoming “Taste of Lemay-Affton.” Restaurants across these communities will be offering delicious samples of their respective cuisine, while businesses will be present to share information about their specific offerings, distribute branded giveaways, conduct raffles, play games, and host other fun activities for children and adults alike.

You are invited to come and enjoy this family-friendly event on **Friday, October 6, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m.** The District is excited to share its new gymnasium with the community, and looks forward to a wonderful evening for all. Scan the QR Code below to register and participate in the Business Expo, or go to www.tinyurl.com/2023TOLAexpo.

Scsn QR code for more details



COMMUNITY

EVENTS

SCHOOLS

GOVERNMENT

MANAGING PARTNER:

Lemay Link, LLC-non-profit status applied

Editor: Courtney Bays

Lemay Link, Inc. would like to thank our Sponsors:

**Gym Stars
Midwest Bank Centre
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River City Casino & Hotel**

Wood-Smith Castle

A Quarterly Series by Dr. Rich Eichhorst ~

This “Great Gatsby” story happened in South County where local High School kids of the 1940s to 1970s have heard of the “Unfinished Castle” located at a point where the Meramec River meets the Mississippi River. Entrance was gained by traveling to end of Fine Road off Telegraph Road just before reaching the Meramec River Bridge.

This Scottish castle is now long gone. Finally the new owner Ameren {formerly Union Electric} tired of cleaning off the graffiti and beer cans and bottles and other trash teenagers left after a weekend “beer bust” held by hundreds of South County high schoolers. The castle’s creator, George Wood-Smith, was a Scott with a brilliant mind and he made and lost millions of dollars. An engineer who purchases 420 acres on which he intended to build a castle, an exact replica of his aunt’s castle near Glasgow, Scotland.

By 1914, plans were drawn and for nearly six years builders labored to finish his dream. In 1920, Wood-Smith ran out of money and the “Great Depression” of the 1930s sealed his fate. Later, he built a nine-hole golf course, known as “Hillcrest.” As a side note, Heine Meine, the Duke of Luxemburg, and a well known Lemay major league pitcher, was club champion of Hillcrest in 1932.

Wood-Smith, an irrepressible guy still had a flair for life, and talked the Goldenrod Showboat owners to make the short trip down the Mississippi River where his unfinished castle stood to entertain passengers. Local high school kids from Melville, Hancock, and Bayless, and I’m sure from south St. Louis City threw many parties leaving the litter for the owner to clean up.

Over the years, the Wood-Smith castle had a number of tall stories circulated about Wood-Smith his daughter says. The castle was to be built on 420 acres as Wood-Smith commissioned St. Louis architect Raymond E. Maritz Sr. to draw the plans for this magnificent castle.

After amassing his fortune, Wood-Smith moved to St. Louis in 1914 and started to build his castle on the top of a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. Thirty foot walls, a sunken stone pool, sunken gardens, and wide steps of the grand stone staircase remained for years. Slowly, the remains began to crumble and be taken by the years of nature, and vandals.

Other features, such as gargoyles that once stone atop the 30 foot walls have long been gone. The plans were grand, but never completed, for what was going to be a structure rivaling the mansion built by August A. Busch Sr. at Grant’s Farm.

George F. Wood-Smith was born the son of a doctor in Glasgow, Scotland in 1880. After earning a degree in marine engineering from the University of Edinburgh, he came to the United States in 1900 at the age of 20, and worked building ships on

the east coast. In addition, he was an engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad and invented a design for tank cars and railroad switches. He got into the oil business just as the automobile industry began to boom. After amassing a fortune he moved to St. Louis and began building his magnificent castle.

According to blueprints on file with Missouri Historical Society, the castle was to have 20 rooms, 11 bathrooms, two swimming pools, one outdoor, and one indoor. The plans included a billiard room, numerous guest rooms, servant quarters, a tower, a waterfall, tennis courts, and a stable.

He employed many local people, built a sewer and water system, and opened a quarry on site. At the time the average worker earned 13 dollars a week. Wood-Smith was spending 1,000 dollars a week, and was spending 50,000 a year, between 1914 and 1920 when he ran out of money, and stopped building the castle for good. He had a twelve room house on the grounds, a nine hole private golf course at the end of Fine Road, of what was Hillcrest golf course, and is now Sherwood Country Club. My interest in the Wood-Smith story stems from being a former member of Sherwood for 35 years. Thanks to his daughter, Bonnie Ferbert, and an interview before he died from his son Julian Wood-Smith for the particulars on this unusual story all taking place in South County.





a message from the
CHAMBER

9815 Mackenzie Road
Affton, MO 63123
314.631.3100
www.afftonlemaychamber.com

AFFTON-LEMAY COMMUNITY PARADE

Saturday, September 16 @ 10 am

Parade Route

Begins at Affton High School, south on Mackenzie Road, east on Gravois Road, southeast on Weber Road to Bayless Elementary School



presented by

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province



NEW in 2023...T-Shirts!

What better way to show your love of the Affton-Lemay community than a t-shirt featuring this year's community parade theme logo? We've partnered with chamber member The Lakeside Workshop to make these fun tees for the parade this year. All proceeds from shirt sales are going into the Affton-Lemay Scholarship fund. Shirt orders are due by 08/16/2023 and will be available for pick up at the chamber office on or before 09/11/2023.

Order yours at tinyurl.com/ALCCstore

Be a Spectator

Join us for a fun morning watching the floats, bands, cheerleaders, and more! Bring chairs and a bag for candy and goodies.

Everyone loves a parade!

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7:00PM - 11:00PM

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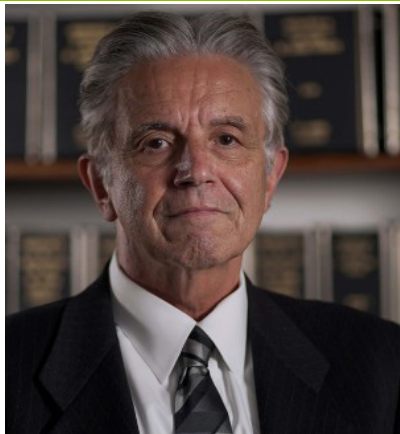
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COMMUNITY LINK 4



The Trakas Take

Ernie Trakas - County Council District 6



As the start of school ushers in a new season, I hope your summer was productive and playful. As you can see, the St. Louis County Department of Transportation has been busy and completed the long-awaited Bayless resurfacing project. I expect the replacement of the Gravois Creek bridge is scheduled to go out for bid this fall. Locally, the Missouri Department of Transportation held open houses this summer for the Lemay Ferry and the Telegraph/Kingston Rd. (Route 231) projects. You can access proposed options via MoDot.org. Also, as a reminder for St. Louis County roads, you can report road service concerns to 314-615-8538 / h2@stlouiscountymo.gov for potholes, street sweeping, overgrowth in a right-of-way, and other roadway concerns.

Lastly, in June, St. Louis County held townhall meetings requesting feedback for their upcoming budget. You can visit the St. Louis County website and search Budget Simulator. The Budget Simulator allows you to give your thoughts on how to increase revenue or decrease spending – or both. By using the online tool, the power is yours to virtually balance the County’s budget and submit your thoughts to the County Executive’s office. I encourage you to do so.

I know this has been a challenging summer related to damage caused by multiple summer storms, but my hope is as you are reading this edition of the Lemay Link things are beginning to stabilize. However, if you are struggling or have a need, I am here to help assist you in connecting with resources you may need. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 314-615-5442 or etrakas@stlouiscountymo.gov.

HANCOCK PLACE FREE HEALTH CLINIC

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**9417 S. Broadway
Lemay, MO 63125**

**Appointment required
314-657-9189**



Local New Board Member Completes Training



Cody Watt, a Hancock graduate and a member of Hancock Place Board of Education, completed 18.5 hours of training, sponsored by the Missouri School Boards' Association, combined online independent study with onsite interactive sessions, this summer. The new board member training places strong emphasis on improving student achievement by providing guidance to board members on effective school board leadership. Some topics addressed include fundamentals of school finance, establishing school district policies, and the important role a school board member has.

Once a tiger, always a tiger!

Hancock Place Elementary School--by Dr. Kristen Gardner-Building Interim Principal



Mrs. Greenwood-Leveling with her husband and son

The Hancock Place Elementary family is very excited to welcome **Mrs. Wendy Greenwood-Leveling** to our building this school year as our new Administrative Intern. Mrs. Greenwood-Leveling is coming to us from Parkway South Middle School where she taught in the Theater and Arts Department for 13 years. While at Parkway, she was named the Teacher of the Year in 2018. In addition to teaching and leading a theater program for Parkway, Mrs. Greenwood-Leveling also served as an adjunct teaching artist at SIU Edwardsville and The Webster University Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts, directing professional productions for both programs. Throughout her educational career she has received a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in Theater Performance and a Master's Degree from Northwest Missouri State University in Educational Leadership. Additionally, Mrs. Greenwood-Leveling has training in trauma informed teaching, restorative practices, Social Justice (Educational Equity), and Kagan instructional strategies. As Hancock Place Elementary's Administrative Intern, Mrs. Greenwood-Leveling will be responsible for supporting our school's climate and culture, academic growth, and vision for excellence.

On a personal note, Mrs. Greenwood-Leveling lives locally with her husband and their 14 month old son, Parker. Together they are taking their time to renovate their home on the weekends, and are making the rounds to visit all the local parks. Both Wendy and her husband have worked professionally with many theater companies around the St. Louis Metro area, and seeing live plays/musicals remains a shared passion.

Hancock Place Middle School--by Mr. Joe Veldhuizen-Building Principal

Hancock Middle School is pleased to welcome its new Administrative Intern, **Mr. Eli Phillips**. He is joining our team from Parkway South Middle, where he served as a seventh grade history teacher and activities director. During his nine years in Parkway, he participated in the district's curriculum revamp for social studies, facilitated South Middle School's student government, successfully designed and implemented behavioral management programs for use during and after school, and launched Parkway's first middle school eSports program in response to COVID-19. He served in a wide variety of leadership roles which include experiences as an administrative intern for summer school, team leader, curriculum leader, head of his school's service learning committee, and an integral part of the team which led his school to certification as a National School of Character in 2023. His work in Parkway brought him district recognition as recipient of the 2019 Albert Award for middle school, given to one middle school level teacher in the Parkway School District in their first five years of service. He received his Bachelor's from Saint Louis University, his Master's from Northwest Missouri State University, and currently lives in South City with his newly minted bride—who also works in education!



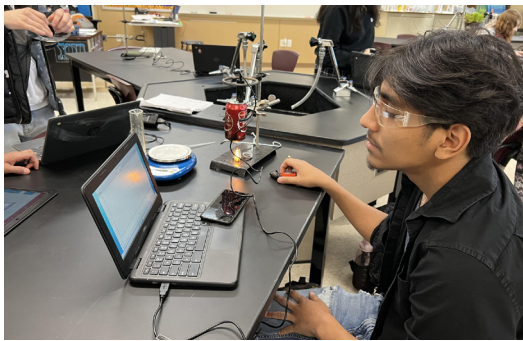
The Hancock Place School District Board of Education is committed to maintaining an educational environment that is free from discrimination and harassment in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs, services, activities, and facilities. In accordance with law, the district strictly prohibits discrimination and harassment against students or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Dr. Thomas Dittrich Jr., HPSD Title IX and 504 Coordinator

9417 S. Broadway St. Louis, MO 63125

314-544-1300, ext. 11090 tdittrich@hpsd.school

Hancock Place High School--by Mr. David Williams-Building Principal



E. Moftin

Things are changing at Hancock Place High School this year. Although the brick and mortar is the same, students have returned to a radically different school model. This exciting new paradigm is designed to empower students, promote a growth mindset, and establish a foundation of excellence through sound, evidence-based teaching and learning practices.

The start of school marks the second year of a three-year transition to a comprehensive evidence-based teaching and learning model. The new model clearly defines learning standards and accurately measures student performance on each of those standards rather than assigning traditional letter grades or percent scores. By shifting the focus from grades to learning, teachers are able to provide targeted feedback so that students gain a better understanding of their strengths and areas for growth, empowering them to develop personalized learning strategies and make informed decisions about their education.

At the heart of this philosophy lies the principles of growth mindset, perseverance, and resiliency. We believe that these qualities are critical not only for academic success but also for thriving in life beyond high school. Through a nurturing and supportive learning environment, students are encouraged to persevere in the face of challenges, bounce back from setbacks, and embrace the learning process with determination. By instilling these values, students are empowered to develop the strength of character needed to overcome obstacles, reach their goals, and become resilient individuals capable of conquering any adversity that comes their way. The dedicated faculty and staff at Hancock Place High School are proud to be a part of such a dynamic transition that promises to prepare students not only for academic success but also for a future where resiliency, critical thinking, and lifelong learning are paramount.



A. O'Brochta, C. McDowall, M. Rosenberg, D. Dixon



HS Science Teacher Mickayla Jackson and L. Sluka

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The Housing Partnership in Lemay by Mr. Kevin Poe, Executive Director

The Housing Partnership will continue its focus on community development in Lemay by starting construction on five new, affordable homes this year, where vacant lots previously sat. Once completed, this will bring our total to 63-homes that have been built for sale or rent since 2015.

In an effort to continue to provide home repair grants for existing residents, THP applied for and received grant awards from the St. Louis County Port Authority and St. Louis County Office of Human Services. These TWO grants are new pilot programs that we have added to our Home Repair toolbox:

Our "Property Maintenance Program" (PMP) will help income-qualified residents with the removal of external junk, overgrowth, shrub(s), tree(s), and limb(s), and even power washing and gutter cleaning. We will also be offering the installation of gutter protections systems, reducing the risk of climbing ladders to keep gutters flowing properly, while improving the life of roofs, gutters, and fascia.

An "Aging in Place" (AIP) Program will make home modifications to the homes of income-qualified seniors, making them safer to live in longer. These modifications include replacing bathtubs with walk-in showers, standard toilets with more comfortable and safe ADA models, swapping doorknobs for "levered" handles, installing handrails where necessary, and even relocating laundry service to the main floor of the home (when possible), eliminating the dangers of stairs that become more common with age.

Please contact our office and apply for these new grant opportunities now, as they are only available for a limited time. To apply, you must be an owner-occupant of your home. *For more information, please see the ad below.*



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Down payment assistance may be available to those who qualify. Income restrictions apply.

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\$7,500	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

To learn more and apply, call 314-631-9905

*This project is totally or partly funded through CDA and HUD

Aging In Place Program Grant

Grant assistance may be available for homeowners to make accessibility improvements to your home such as a walk-in shower, hand grips, moving laundry hook-ups to the main floor, ADA toilet and levered door handles.

Senior & disabled homeowners are encouraged to apply!

- You must be an owner-occupant of your home
- Available to Lemay, Affton and Mehlville homeowners
- Program restrictions and income restrictions apply

APPLY TODAY!

Grant expires on September 30, 2023

Please call 314-631-9905 for more information

The Housing Partnership, Inc. | 729 Lemay Ferry Road | St. Louis, Missouri 63125 | 314-631-9905



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MS/HS- Art



Tara Hill
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Eva Rasey
HS-FACS



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Email: communitylink@hpsd.school or

314-544-1300 ext. 11080 - Courtney Bays

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