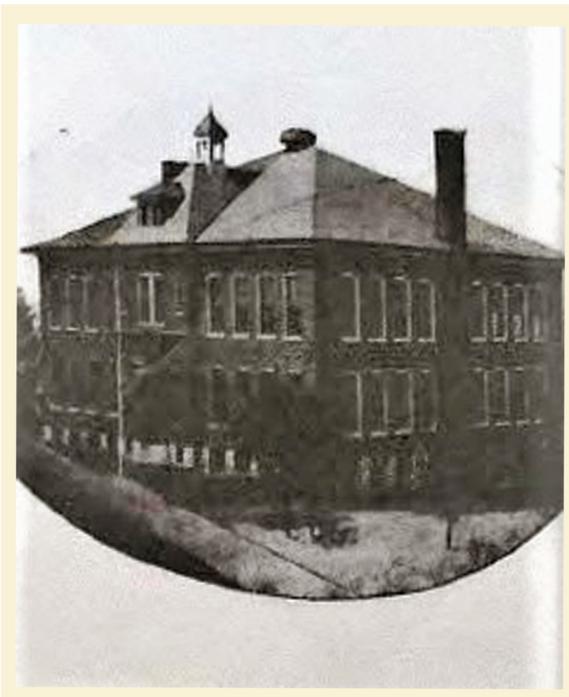




Community Link

Quarter 4-Winter 2022

serving 63125



Ward 1 (circa 1960)



School Parade (circa 1960)

Lemay Community, Hancock Place School District Team Up For History Preservation Project

Do you have a potential treasure trove of Lemay or Hancock Place School history? Did your family save things from the many events of your life growing up in Lemay? The Association and Foundation are planning to document memorabilia related to all things Lemay and the Hancock Place School District. The goal is to digitally preserve the history of the community and share the material with the public. This project, *Celebrating Our History*, launches in January 2023.

Items and photographs may include programs, yearbooks, faculty photos, parades, events, businesses, and so on. We hope to preserve things of interest to the entire community. Contributors should include stories to explain and document the artifacts, as well as their name and contact information to aid with the organization of materials. Contributors can also donate materials and drop them off at the District office, located at 9417 S. Broadway.

Space will be provided in the middle school with equipment donated for scanning and storage to preserve paper artifacts such as brochures and programs, as well as books including school yearbooks, plus maps, photographs, and other documents. Equipment includes a large document/scanner, PC with high resolution monitor, required software, and other equipment necessary to capture and store digital images. Contributors can bring materials in digital format, preferably a PNG or Adobe PDF file to be stored on the equipment. Volunteers from the organizations and the Senior Class of 2023 will be processing the materials. They will be placed in digital files that will be available in the Hancock Place School libraries and shared online to our websites. Websites will curate materials and feature various themes, years, and facets monthly.

Theresa Fitzgerald, with the National Archives in St. Louis, is the adviser for this project. She is a Lemay resident, as were her grandparents and her mother. The Association and Foundation are kicking off the *Celebrating Our History* project to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Hancock graduation classes. The 100th Anniversary Gala will be held May 7, 2023.

For further information about sharing historical information, please call Hancock Alumni-Community Association at 314-544-1300- ext 551 and leave a message.

MANAGING PARTNER:
Lemay Link, LLC-non-profit status applied
Editor: Courtney Bays

For information or to purchase ads:
communitylink@hpsd.school

314-544-1300 ext.193

The First Settlement

An Editorial Quarterly Series by Rich Eichhorst

There is no dispute Lemay was part of the first white European settlement {non-American Indian} in Missouri, it was known as “Carondelet Commons” and included was the south end of Carondelet, who had an advantage early on as they formed an independent village. Lemay today is unincorporated, just as it was when it was first settled. Lemay didn’t possess a political authority. It was not an organized city. It did not have elected officials who could collect and preserve its history. This suggests the temporary indication was not precise, and study has uncovered a controversy concerning the temporary tag determined by early writers.

Lemay’s Founding: The Newberry Collections housed in St. Louis University Library has copies consisting of maps from the “Newberry Library” in Chicago where copies of maps from the national libraries of Madrid (Spain) and Paris (France) contain papers and letters of the “Lemay/Carondelet founding. The Collection revealed a map drawn by Diron D’Artagutte in 1732 which discloses a village originally named Kaskia, what is now Lemay.

The Des Peres Settlement: Through a chain of events, Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette established a settlement at the confluence of the Mississippi River and River Des Peres in 1699-1700. It extended west to Gravois Creek {named for Jesuit priest Father Grav’e} where a mission was established by a group of settlers located at the far end of Mount Olive Road where it meets Gravois Creek. Another mission, just a short distance from the original site located on very high ground (where Hancock Place Elementary School is now located), is another clue the settlers had a place to go and escape flooding. There is solid evidence settlers had relocated to where the School Sisters of Notre Dame Motherhouse and Jefferson Barracks is now situated. Both of these missions has to be considered within the Lemay expanse. Excavations proved settlements were located there. There are written letters from Des Peres settlement dated in 1702 and 1703.

The contour where the River City Casino is located is also part of the original settlement and it slopes toward River Des Peres and was prone

to flooding, and was abandoned. Studying the land adjacent to the original founding site reveals a rise almost immediately creating high bluffs on both the north and south banks of River Des Peres. These high bluffs suggest every last person did not leave the settlement.

Why was the original Lemay/Carondelet founding tagged as a temporary settlement, a claim that has never been challenged, and has not been proven it was temporary? This non-permanent tag definitely whitewashes Lemay’s History and diminished the significance of Lemay’s founding. Who or when the temporary and non-permanent designation was advanced is not known.

What was meant by temporary? Or by non-permanent? Did all settlers leave? Where did they go? Relocation was not easy. There were no roads, the landscape was wilderness. The main travel routes were the rivers.

History can create wrong conclusions. Writers sometimes report research to suit their own purposes, or missed evidence they did not realize existed. For the most part historians are scholarly and fear reporting errors, and they want to be accurate, but there are plenty of historical assumptions not based on hard evidence.

There were not eye witnesses to interview. American Indians could have accurately related what took place. However, they did not have a written language, and tribes spoke different dialects making collaboration difficult. American Indians also moved as the seasons shifted for hunting and planting and seasonal changes. They would depart their villages only to return months later. Settlers didn’t move around. To do so was difficult.

The settlement ground contained limestone {for building material.} The near-by bluffs offered a position of elevation and had acres of oak trees for putting up buildings on the spot. The Mississippi River banks had a good shore line for easy access. All these advantages would suggest --- Why would they all leave?

It’s ironic: Dr. Earl Collins and Felix Snider, two history professors at Southeast Missouri State University, co-authored a text book on Missouri’s history titled: “Missouri-The Midland State.” This text book was used at Hancock Place High School and the students had opportunity to learn about the Lemay founding, but it went strangely unnoticed. It demonstrates the Lemay founding is mostly by-passed and the significance of the founding is not known.

Marking the historic site was an iron plaque, attached to the old “Great Lakes Carbon Coke” building located on the banks of the Mississippi River that read:

On this site
Between 1700-1703
Stood a Jesuit Mission
A French and Indian Village
The earliest white settlement on Missouri soil



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Fire Safety During the Holiday Season

Holiday season is here and it is a time to gather with family and friends to enjoy all the festivities. Unfortunately this also brings with it a heightened level of risk for fire hazards. Residential fires happen more often during colder months than any other time of year due to cooking, malfunctions of electrical items, food preparation, and heating homes.

Here are a few tips for fire safety to keep you and yours safe this holiday season:

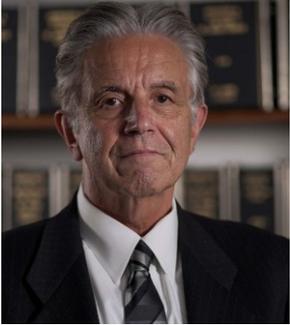
- **Keep decorations and anything flammable away from lit candles and do not leave candles unattended. Be sure to extinguish candles when going to bed. Keep pets and children away from candles and matches/lighters**
- **Do not overload electrical outlets. Do not use anything electrical with damaged wiring. Do not run extension cords under rugs or carpeting**
- **Test fire alarms/smoke detectors and make sure family/guests know an escape plan in case of a fire. Have a working carbon monoxide detector near sleeping areas**
- **When cooking do not leave anything cooking on the stove unattended. This is a frequent cause of residential fires. Unattended food can burn and then spread to the cabinets and the rest of the home**
- **Christmas trees, while beautiful, are a potential fire hazard and can burn quickly and very hot, spreading to the rest of the home quickly. Trees need to be adequately watered (daily) to keep them from drying out. A well-watered tree is much more resistant to fire. Keep heat sources away from Christmas trees. Once Christmas is over, recycle your tree. Do not leave a dried out tree in your home**



Use these tips to help prevent an emergency. Have a happy and safe holiday season from the Lemay Fire Protection District.

The Trakas Take

Ernie Trakas - County Council District 6



On Tuesday, October 25 St. Louis County Council passed my South County Strong Plan appropriating \$18.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds earmarked exclusively for District 6 by a vote of 5-2. The South County Strong legislation includes \$15 million for infrastructure and property maintenance needs in District 6. The bill also includes \$3.5 million for programs to address economic assistance to small businesses, assistance to unemployed and underemployed persons, workforce shortages, and to provide aid to impacted tourism, travel, and hospitality enterprises in District 6.

Since the St. Louis County Council began debating the expenditure of ARPA funds, I have been adamant that unincorporated District 6 receive its fair share. Final passage of the SoCo Strong Bill accomplished that goal. In fact, the \$18.5 million is the largest amount of ARPA funds awarded to a council district in unincorporated St. Louis County!

I want to thank the District 6 residents who spoke at County Council meetings to advocate for this funding and completed the ARPA Community Surveys. This is a big win for the people of Lemay and District 6. A public town hall will be held to receive additional feedback from District 6 residents before the end of the year.



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Hancock Place Elementary School--by Mrs. Kristen Gardner-Building Assistant Principal

Each month at Hancock Place Elementary, we focus on one Tiger Code. Our Tiger Code is made up of thirty-six different “rules” related to character for our students to follow and practice. Each morning during announcements, our students are reminded of the Tiger Code of the month and the message is often centered around the Code in focus. The Tiger Code is posted in our hallways and in every classroom. November’s Tiger Code is #20: Always be kind, do not save seats or spots, and include everyone.

At Hancock Place Elementary, we are always trying to find different ways to show and spread kindness around the building. This often embraces the idea of including and being a friend to everyone. This month, while we are practicing being kind at school, we encourage our families to also model and show kindness with their kids. Some ideas to try with your family are to make cookies for a neighbor, pay for the person behind you, read a book together as a family, donate old clothes, make a gratitude list, or call a family member just to say hi! Ask your students if they have other ideas for how to spread kindness as a family. Acts of kindness have the potential to make the world a happier place, so let’s all add some joy to our community this November. Together we ROAR!

**Random Acts of Kindness: Elementary staff pass out donuts during parent drop-off to thank our wonderful parents for their support this school year*



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



Parent Engagement is on the Rise at Hancock Place Middle School!

After years of parents and guardians not being able to participate in school functions, Hancock Place Middle School is bringing parent and community engagement to the forefront of their goals. “We are at a point in society where a strong relationship between home and school is critical to the success of our students,” said HPMS principal, Mr. Joe Veldhuizen. “We want to offer a variety of ways for our parents and guardians to engage with our school.”

Recently, HPMS hosted a Fall Festival where families were invited to spend the afternoon playing a variety of yard games, such as bean bags or ladder golf, make fall crafts, and eat dinner as a family. The event was very well attended by families and staff members. Parents volunteered in a variety of ways to help the event’s success. “There is a strong desire for our community to come together to continue the development of our students,” Veldhuizen said. Most recently, HPMS hosted Parent/Guardian Conferences where over 50% of the families attended. “We are thrilled with the participation at our recent events and we want to continue with this momentum.” In addition to the recent events, HPMS created a Parent Advisory Committee, which meets every other month to continue their efforts to improve the school culture.

**Middle School students Bryce and Blake enjoying the photo booth at the Fall Festival with their mother, Terra.*

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. 501 tdittrich@hpsd.school

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

This year Hancock Place High School introduced an Unmanned Aviation Systems course. The course provides students with an introduction to Aviation Science and covers the history of aviation and the role students can play in its future. On October 27, students enrolled in the course spent the day expanding their knowledge and skill with the Civil Air Patrol at Chesterfield Airport.

The field trip provided students with a hands-on experience in the day-to-day world of aviation. Students started their day at the Civil Air Patrols (CAP) hangar, where they participated in a demonstration of some outdoor drones that the CAP use in search and rescue. Students were then invited to explore the cockpit of the Cessna 172 that the CAP had open for them. Students were able to learn first hand from veterans of the Air Force, and ask questions one-on-one while waiting for their turns in the cockpit. After the students were done thoroughly exploring the cessna, they were taken to the St. Louis Police department's hangar to learn about the helicopters that police use. While in the hangar, two Black Hawk helicopters from the Indiana Air National Guard stopped in for refueling. Students were thrilled to get a seat in the cockpit of these amazing medi-evac helicopters.

The afternoon was spent touring the air-traffic control tower and the Wings Of Hope, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing aviation assistance to people in Third World countries to provide medical help when needed. Students had an amazing experience and teacher Erika Nelson has done a fantastic job teaching the course and inspiring students to pursue a career in aviation. Students who complete a three year aviation program at Hancock Place High School will have the opportunity to earn their FAA 107 Remote Pilot Certification.



Hancock Place Early Childhood--by Dr. Thomas Dittrich Jr.-Executive Director



Early Childhood PAC meeting

Providing parents with opportunities to be engaged is essential in building strong relationships that benefit students, staff, and the district in whole. Each of the four district's building leadership teams created **Parent Advisory Committees (PAC)** last school year. Dr. Dittrich created and facilitates a PAC for the Early Childhood Center and Parents As Teachers (PAT) in his roles as the preschool director and PAT coordinator.

The purpose of the PACs is to provide parents with opportunities to have voice in their children's educational experiences, school processes, and more. PAC meetings include, but are not limited to: presentations to inform parents of school programs, student opportunities, staff professional development, growth opportunities, and more; time for parents to share ideas, concerns, questions, and other feedback; and updates about events and other opportunities for parents and students. Parents are able to transition from one building PAC to the next as their child also transitions. Parents from our PACs have participated on interview committees to hire district staff members, serve on the District Safety Committee, serve on the District Comprehensive School Improvement Plan Committee, volunteer at school events, and so much more. One of our goals for each PAC this year is to transition from being led by building administrators to parents creating and leading the agendas. We are very appreciative of each parent who commits to being members in our PACs!

The Housing Partnership in Lemay

In 2022 The Housing Partnership was able to develop three new homes in the Lemay footprint, making homeownership and the opportunity to begin building generational wealth a reality for deserving members of this wonderful community. While new construction is vital to community development, further impact in 63125 is achieved through our **Home Repair Program**, which addresses crucial repairs needed to live comfortably and safely in a resident's current home. The clients this has served have included elderly and disabled residents, as well as single parents, immigrant families, and simply folks whose finances have fallen victim to COVID, the economy... or life in general.

Through this program, THP has now completed thirteen major home repair projects in 2022, investing approximately \$205,000 into the community, at approximately \$15,770 in repair costs per home. We are proud to say that NONE of that financial burden was passed along to the homeowner.

Home repair, new development, down payment assistance, and certified housing counseling: these are the areas in which the staff at THP invests their daily time and passion in service to you – the Lemay community.



Kevin Poe, Executive Director

Home Repair Program

For more than 20 years, The Housing Partnership has worked with low-and moderate-income homeowners to make repairs to their home. Our goal is to assist owners to make needed repairs to improve the health and safety of their home so homeowners can safely age in place. To apply, you must be an owner occupant of your home and owned your home for more than two years. Please note, these funds are for households who have not participated in the home repair program previously. If you have participated in the Home Repair Program within the past 10 years, you are not eligible to participate in this round of funding.

For more information, please see the ad below.



Making Home Happen
www.TheHousingPartnershipSTL.org

Home Repair Grants Available to Lemay, Affton and Mehlville Homeowners

You must be a low-to moderate-income homeowner and you must be an owner-occupant of your home.

To learn more, please call The Housing Partnership office at
314-631-9905

Total household annual income must be less than guideline listed below:

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6
Maximum Household Income	\$39,900	\$45,600	\$51,300	\$56,940	\$61,500	\$66,060

This program is for major needed repairs such as HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and roof.

If you have participated in the Home Repair Program within the past 10 years, you are not eligible to participate in this round of funding

Housing Counseling For Homeowners

The Housing Stability Counseling Program is a counseling program designed in part to help homeowners explore options available to get current on their mortgage. While this program doesn't provide funds to homeowners, it has a variety of other benefits:

- One-on-one counseling to help you explore short-term and long-term solutions, such as options you may have with your loan servicer
- Finalization of a monthly budget plan for your household income and expenses, evaluation of your credit report, and suggestions for how to improve it
- Action plan where you and the counselor agree on steps each of you will take to accomplish your goals

To learn more, please call The Housing Partnership office at **314-631-9905**

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It's Small Business Season!

From November 1 - December 31, we're celebrating Small Business Season™. The chamber is encouraging every person of our community to support friends and neighbors by shopping, dining, and exploring our small businesses.

They need our help, and we need theirs. On average, \$68 of every \$100 spent locally stays in our community. Most of us turn to small businesses first when we're seeking help for our nonprofits, youth activities, and sponsorships. When they thrive, we thrive!

Where you spend your money this holiday season matters.

Support small businesses by patronizing them and/or:

- Writing reviews
- Referring friends
- Checking-in and taking pictures or videos and sharing them on social media when you're visiting small businesses
- Sharing small business posts on social media
- Talking about your favorite businesses on social media

Join us and pledge to support local this holiday season. Shopping small can make a big difference.

UNDER THE SEA ANNUAL AWARDS & DINNER AUCTION GALA
Saturday, February 4, 2023
Andre's South Banquet Center

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October 6, 2023
Hancock Place Elementary School

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HANCOCK PLACE

Board Filing Policy
April 4, 2023 Election

For the April 4, 2023 annual school election, a candidate may file on and after Tuesday, December 6, 2022 beginning at 8:00 a.m., but not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 27, 2022.

FILING HOURS WILL BE:

Tuesday, December 6 - Thursday, December 22, 2022 - 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday, December 23, 2022 - December 26, 2022 - CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK, NO FILING WILL OCCUR
Tuesday, December 27, 2022- FILING HOURS FROM 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. only

***Please note that the central office will be closed on days the district is closed for inclement weather, so FILING WILL NOT OCCUR on these days.**

The names of the candidates will be placed on the ballot in the order the completed filing packet is received.

Qualifications for School Board Director are as follows:

- (1) A citizen of the United States
- (2) A resident taxpayer of the Hancock Place School District
- (3) A resident of Missouri for one year next preceding election or appt
- (4) At least twenty-four (24) years of age
- (5) Not delinquent in payment of any state income taxes, personal property taxes, municipal taxes, or real property taxes at place of residence.
- (6) Have not been found guilty of nor pled guilty to a felony under Missouri or federal law, or to an offense in another state that would be considered a felony in Missouri.

**Hancock Place School District:
Director - three to be elected for three-year terms each**

Grand View Purchased by SSNDs

Sister Carol Marie Wildt, Local Archive Contact, St. Louis

128 years ago, on December 3, 1894, the 21-acre estate known as Grand View was purchased by the School Sisters of Notre Dame from William and Mary Meierhoff for \$21,000. Prior to SSND ownership, the property was an Indian burial ground during the 1400-1600 A.D. era of the Plains Indians.

Title claims for the property date to 1823 when the US government granted the land to Julien Chouquette, a captain of the militia. During the next 71 years, the property had a series of owners, including several influential St. Louisans: Augustin Kennerly, Henry Taylor Blow, and Nicholas DeMenil.

In 1858, the year that SSNDs established the first mission in St. Louis, the property was purchased by Henry Taylor Blow. He was the son of Peter Blow, the first owner of Dred Scott, and the father of Susan Blow, the founder of the first public kindergarten in the United States on Michigan Avenue in Carondelet. In addition to his political activities, Blow was known for his generosity to the poor and needy and a contributor to numerous causes. In 1869, he sold the property to James Knight who subdivided it into 27 lots and named it Grand View.

In 1878, ownership was granted to Nicholas DeMenil who had made a fortune in the chemical industry. At his death in 1882, his son Alexander inherited the land. In 1891, DeMenil sold the land to William Meierhoff.

Rev. Peter Abbelen noted at the beginning of the 1895 Ripa Chronicle that he investigated 50 sites in the St. Louis area before a real estate agent acquainted him with Grand View. With Rev. Francis Goller, he inspected the property and stated, "Despite the rainy weather...they could not deny that the location and the view were very beautiful. Toward the end of their visit, this favorable impression was enhanced as the sun pierced the clouds and flooded the entire landscape with a golden hue, revealing its enchanting beauty to their astonished eyes." After further consultation with neighboring pastors and doctors from Jefferson Barracks, he informed Mother Ernesta Funke. Although the purchase price was significant, Rev. Abbelen stated, "The consideration that it was better to pay too much for a suitable place than to receive an unsuitable place as a gift was the deciding factor for the sisters." With the signing of the deed 128 years ago, the School Sisters of Notre Dame began the process of establishing their third motherhouse in North America overlooking the Mississippi River. The name was changed from Grand View to Sancta Maria in Ripa.

[Sources: Certificate of title for property; 1895 Ripa Chronicle; Eley Hamilton communication, Preservation Historian for Department of Parks and Recreation, 1996; internet searches]



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