

Francis Park events kick off August 11



by Chip Kastner and Rick Palank

It may be hard to believe with the brutal St. Louis summer bearing down on us, but the end is in sight. July is, on average, our hottest month; although August only tends to be a degree or two cooler, things start cooling off a bit in September and October. Except, of course, when they don't.

Regardless of the famously unpredictable weather patterns, the three months from August through October bring a number of exciting events to Francis Park. If you're new to the neighborhood, or just haven't had the chance to check out any of these events in the past, you should definitely try to attend at least one.

The events kick off in the afternoon of August 11, with Grub & Groove, a concert featuring live music from various St. Louis musicians as well as food and drinks from various local restaurants. The event has been held since 2011; proceeds from the event are used to improve Francis Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Food vendors this year include Adam's Smokehouse, Aya Sofia, Byrd & Barrel, Edibles & Essentials, Ices Plain & Fancy, LeGrand's Market, Mama's on the Hill, Mission Taco Joint, Narwhal's Crafted, STL Pretzel Boys, Pi

■ Cont'd on page 2

Left: The statue of David R. Francis will be installed in Francis Park on October 7. Below: On August 11, Grub & Groove will kick off a summer and fall full of unique events in Francis Park.



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To the rescue! ...but which one?

by Jody Freeman

St. Louis and the surrounding areas have rescues for nearly every critter there is, but it can be confusing to find the right one. Knowing the right place to call at the moment of rescue is important; time can be of the essence. Many people want to help, but don't have accurate information.

There are two main bird rescues in St. Louis, which are often confused. Wild Bird Rehabilitation in Overland is a songbird hospital, covering hummingbirds all the way up to crows and some smaller swamp birds, such as rails, snipe, and green herons. This is a rehabilitation/hospital and cannot keep birds that will not be able to return to the wild. There is an avian veterinarian on staff and every effort is made to make sure the bird becomes strong, healthy, and ready for release. From newly hatched baby birds to adult birds, all species of songbirds are welcome.

Wild Bird Rehabilitation runs on donations only (tax deductible), so anytime you can help, it's greatly appreciated. The volunteers are trained in advance of baby bird season, ready to feed incubator babies (hatchlings and nestlings) at 20 minute intervals, and fledglings every 40 minutes to an hour depending on age, from sunup to sundown. Different species require different diets, too, so it's best to know exactly what species the bird is, and know their diet. Please call in advance of delivering a bird to the clinic, no matter what age, so WBR can determine, with you, what needs to be done.



Fledglings, like these two house sparrows, sometimes look like they need help -- but they are still closely guarded by their parents. Photo by Jody Freeman.

When birds "fledge" (leave the nest), they cannot fly yet, and will remain on the ground for up to two weeks while they learn. During that time they are still closely guarded by their parents, who drop down to feed them when needed, and call to them from above to stay still, stay silent, and reassure them that they are not alone. Baby birds have no scent, which protects them from predators most of the time. Often times at this stage, well-meaning people think the baby has been abandoned, or the dog/cat will get it, but birds are very family oriented and the parents know what they're doing.

Sometimes birds build their nests in spaces that are inconvenient to us humans. If this is the case, and you see it before it's a finished nest, it can be removed. This may have to be done several times (and in very quick succession) to convince them that it's not a safe place to have a family. Please remember, they are only doing what nature intends, and are not trying to encroach on humans in any way. If there are eggs in the nest, you must leave it alone. Native birds are protected, they are not pets, and it is illegal to have them in your possession. It only takes a few short weeks to go from eggs to fledglings, and once they leave the nest, the same babies will not return. That's the time to remove an inconvenient nest. After the holidays, or other times you might leave decorations on your front door or porch, please remove them in early spring before mating season begins, as they are often mistaken for good nesting places.

A common myth, and we've all heard it, is that if you touch a baby bird, the parents will abandon it. This is NOT true. Again, parent birds are very family ■ Cont'd on page 9



Nestlings, like these two grackles, sometimes fall out of the nest. If you put them back, the parents will take care of the rest. Photo by Jody Freeman.

Historical tidbits shared

by Nan Vordtriede

Through the years, St. Louis Hills has been known for its rich history, writings, research and contributions by our SLH Neighborhood Historians. A small few include Ginny Nester, Joseph J. Hanses, Pat Messmer, Ann Zanaboni, Ron Elz, (a.k.a. Johnny Rabbitt), and Paul Ritter.


For purposes of this writing, I would like to credit two past historians, Ginny Nester and Joseph Hanses, since I would like to re-share tidbits from some of their past newsletter writings through the years. Current updates I have provided.

Frederick Pittman, prominent surveyor, laid out the lots, streets, and alleys in the St. Louis Hills Subdivision. Many of the earlier lots were designated to be 35 feet wide, however this later was increased, as they were thought to

be too small. In 1929 the lots were purchased for \$2,000 with only a 35 foot frontage.

In December 1938, Hoffmeister Mortuary (now known as Dignity), completes its new Georgian Colonial structure at 6464 Chippewa, Highway 66 at that time was referred to as "The Main Street of America."

In October of 1937, the first food market was built and called Binder's Market. Now called LeGrand's.

White Castle Number 24, this once porcelain enamel landmark (originally on the corner of Hampton and Chippewa) opened 11/13/1937. Its architectural design was copied from the historic Chicago Water Tower, whose embattlements and turrets were  Cont'd on page 15

To the rescue! ...but which one? (Cont'd from Page 8)

oriented, and they don't have a good sense of smell anyway, so they'll never know you've picked up the baby and put it back in the nest. This isn't required for fledglings (fully feathered young birds), but can often be the case if the nestling fell, or even got blown out of their nest by a storm or strong wind. If the nest can be reached, carefully pick the babies back up and put them back, then stay away from the area so the parents can resume their job. For more information, please go to www.wildbirdrehab.org or call (314) 426-6400. Remember, during baby bird season, the phones are very busy, so checking the website for information first is best. If you're ever interested in volunteering, please fill out the application on the website and you will be contacted.

Often confused with Wild Bird Rehab when it comes to bird rescues is World Bird Sanctuary in Valley Park. This is a sanctuary, for injured raptors only, (i.e. owls, hawks, eagles, and other birds of prey). The licenses for raptors and for songbirds are not the same, and neither place is allowed to have birds that aren't under their specific license. If the wrong species is dropped off at the wrong rescue, they must be transported to the correct one within a short time frame. Unlike a rehab facility, a sanctuary can house birds that are no longer able to be on their own, in the wild. These birds are used for educational purposes, mostly. Because raptors are large and strong, and have the ability to tear meat for food, it's not recommended that anyone other than a trained handler attempt to pick one up without instruction. World Bird Sanctuary volunteers are trained and are happy to assist in your rescue. For more information, please go to www.worldbirdsantuary.org or call (636) 861-3225.

Other rescues include:

- Bi-State Wildlife Hotline: (636) 492-1610. For questions on which rescue facility to contact.
- Treehouse Wildlife Center (Illinois): (618) 466-2990. Raptors, water fowl, small mammals.
- Geese Peace: (314) 567-2081. Canadian Geese and native ducks.
- Wildlife Rescue Center of MO (Ballwin, MO): (636) 394-1880. Mammals, bats, ducks, geese, coots, reptiles, turtles, other water fowl, and turkeys.

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