



THE SOULARD RENAISSANCE

VOLUME XLIX ISSUE 1

LIVING WITH HISTORY

2024 MARDI GRAS

SUM FUN IN SOULARD

45 Years, 17 Million Beads, Uncountable Beers

By Mardi Gras Inc.

The 45th Soulard Mardi Gras is by the numbers, and they all add up to fun! From the Purina Pet Parade on Feb. 4 to the Bud Light Grand Parade on Feb. 10, led by Rex (King) Jim Resinger and a Grand Marshal to be announced before Grand Parade Weekend, there is something for everyone at Soulard Mardi Gras.

Soulard's signature events generate more than \$20 million annually for the St. Louis regional economy and make St. Louis one of the largest Mardi Gras outposts in the world. The lineup of remaining events is below. More information and tickets are available at stlmardigras.org.

FAMILY, FUN AND FURRY FRIENDS WEEKEND

Saturday, Feb. 3: There is only one race that is as fun-filled, colorful and slightly wacky as Mardi Gras itself: The Supplement Superstores 5K Run for Your Beads. This race embodies the fun and historic scenery of Soulard with mid-race pit stops stocked with beer and hurricanes for runners 21 and up. Runners often dress in their best Mardi Gras garb, because winning best costume is nearly as fun as winning the race in their division. Sign up now at stlmardigras.org or register at the Bud Light Party Centre (at 9th and Lafayette) at 7:30 a.m. on the day of the event. Starting time: 9 a.m. Starting location: 8th and Lafayette. Registration fee: \$40 up to Jan. 24, \$45 from Jan. 15 to Feb. 3.

Saturday Feb. 3 and Sunday, Feb. 4: Choose your own culinary adventure with Taste of Soulard, a self-guided tasting and pub crawl of Cajun flavors. Each ticket booklet purchase includes one drink voucher and six food vouchers that can be redeemed at any participating establishment. Taste passes are available at stlmardigras.org and available at any participating Taste of Soulard establishment on Feb. 11 and 12. Time: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day. Passes: \$35

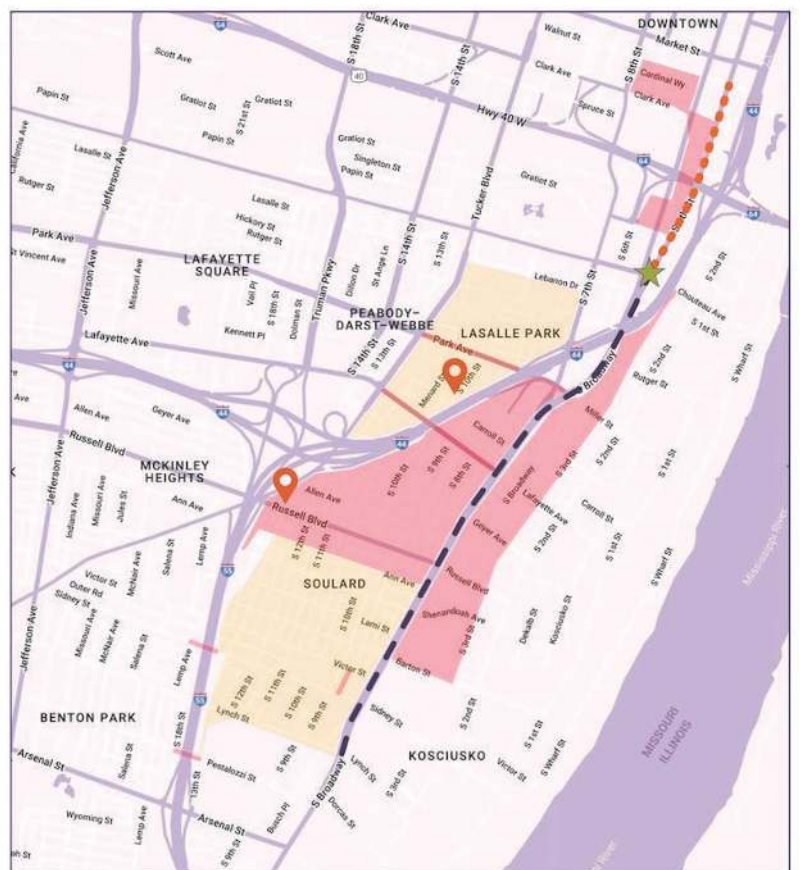
Sunday, Feb. 4: The Purina Pet Parade is a Guinness Book of World Records

holder and the largest collection of costumed dogs in the world: 1,500 pets (that's 6,000 paws). Register your furry friend online or on the day of the event at 12th and Allen so you both can strut your stuff in style. The best-dressed pets will be selected as members of the Court of the Mystical Krewe of Barkus and will be invited to the Coronation Pageant at Soulard Market Park where the King and Queen of Barkus will be crowned. All proceeds from the Purina Pet Parade will go to benefit Open Door Animal Sanctuary, a no-kill shelter. Registration: 10 a.m., Parade: 1 p.m. Starting location: 12th and Allen. Registration Fee: \$10 donation. Free for spectators.

Sunday, Feb. 4: The nation's longest-running wiener dog derby takes center stage at Lumiere Place Stadium at Soulard Market Plaza. Whose pup is the dashingest dachshund in all the realm? Only the running of the Derby will tell. Six dog elimination heats, racing down a 30-foot track, will each determine a winning wiener, who trots on to the next round until a champion is crowned. Size doesn't matter, so race classes are based on age: Cocktail Wieners (up to 4 years old); Hot Dogs (4-8 years old); Ball Park Franks (8 years and older); Wiener Wannabe (dogs small enough to fit in the starting box — okay, so size matters a little). Register online at stlmardigras.org and hit the ground running or register on race day. Registration: Opens at 10 a.m. Opening Ceremonies: 1:45 p.m. First Heat: 2 p.m. Entry Fee: \$10 donation.

GRAND PARADE WEEKEND

Friday, Feb. 9: The Mayor's Ball, which *ALIVE* Magazine and the *Riverfront Times* have called the "social event of the season," is a must-attend gala that combines the elegance of the setting with the striking visuals of Mardi Gras. It features fine cuisine, cocktails, dancing and entertainment ranging from traditional to spectacular, including live music. The 22nd Mayor's Ball will once again grace the Midway at St. Louis Union Station. With its soaring glass roof, brick arches, and spacious atrium,



Soulard/LaSalle Park Yellow Zones

The Yellow Zone is for Soulard resident access and permit parking only from 3am Saturday, February 10 to 2am Sunday, February 11. All Soulard residences have received official Mardi Gras parking/access tags. In order to preserve this area for the use of Soulard residents on Grand Parade Day, any vehicles parked on the street in the Yellow Zone without an official Mardi Gras parking/access pass will be ticketed and towed.

Soulard Red Zone

All streets in the Red Zone will be closed to vehicular traffic and parking from 3am Saturday, February 10 to 2am Sunday, February 11. No unauthorized vehicles allowed in or out of this zone during this time.

Bud Light Grand Parade Route

Parade steps off at 11am from Broadway and Chouteau, and proceeds through Soulard. Parade ends at Lynch St.

the Midway provides a spectacular venue — especially when given the Mayor's Ball design and production treatment. This charitable event is hosted by the Mardi Gras Foundation, and proceeds benefit Community Improvement Grants. The Ball has enabled \$600,000 in grants to

Continued on Page 4

For Pet Parade and Run for Your Beads maps, see Page 4

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THE SOULARD RENAISSANCE

VOLUME XLIX ISSUE 1 - FEBRUARY ISSUE 2024

The Souard Renaissance has a circulation of 4,000. Its aim is to inform, educate and entertain our readers on neighborhood happenings, special events, interesting people and important issues that affect the quality of life in our community. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Souard Restoration Group.

The mission of the Souard Restoration Group is to strive to promote, preserve and enhance the historic character of the Souard neighborhood, as well as improve the quality of life for all members of the community.

The Souard Renaissance is published by STL Programs on behalf of the Souard Restoration Group with the help and guidance of the Editor-in-Chief.

For information on advertising, contact Tammy Brownfield at tammyb@stlprograms.com or 314.359.0316.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 12, 2024

Address editorial correspondence to: editor@souard.org

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From the Editor



Allyson Whipple

It's also my editorial philosophy to get out of the way and let the writers shine. The *Renaissance* is not my publication to edit; it's your publication, and the neighborhood has entrusted me with its care.

I fell in love with Souard from the moment that John and I looked at our

I've always been an editor of few words. While the editor's letter is an important point of communication between the publication and the readership,

first house here. While we didn't buy the building on Russell, I knew the property that did become our home was the right choice before I even set foot inside. We had to struggle to get this house, but as with so many challenges, the effort was worth the reward. I wake up every morning feeling lucky that I get to live here.

This is a packed issue, so I'll leave you with just one more bit of gratitude: thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of the *Renaissance*, for your patience as I've learned the ropes of this publication, and for your willingness to keep reading.

Allyson Whipple
Renaissance Editor

Souard Community Calendar

Feb. 3	Run For Your Beads 5K.....	MGI
Feb. 3-4	Taste of Souard.....	MGI
Feb. 4	Purina Pet Parade.....	MGI
Feb. 4	Tito's Vodka Wiener Dog Derby.....	MGI
Feb. 7	Election Slate, General Membership Meeting.....	SRG
Feb. 10	Mardi Gras Bud Light Grand Parade.....	MGI
April 3	Voting Concludes, General Membership Annual Meeting.....	SRG
April 12	Registration Deadline for Rummage Sale.....	SRG
May 18	Souard Rummage Sale.....	SRG

Monthly Meetings

First Wednesday	General Membership Meeting.....	SRG
Third Wednesday	Board Meeting.....	SRG

Learn more:
Souard Restoration Group (SRG)
www.souard.org

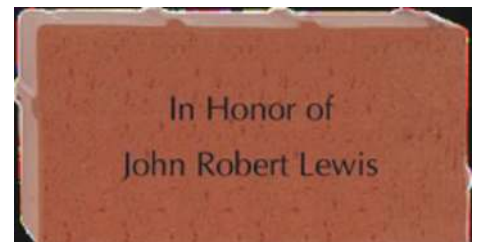
Development committee announces two fundraising programs

By Jim Dallas

The SRG Development Committee announced two new fundraising programs at the January General Membership meeting: the Brick Program and the Plaque Program. These programs are not just a great way to support the SRG; they're also a chance to showcase your neighborhood pride and celebrate your life in Souard.

BRICK PROGRAM

A few years ago, the Souard Station Committee conducted a highly successful brick program, in which for a \$100 donation one could have a brick inscribed and installed on the patio at Souard Station. The Development Committee and Souard Station Committee are bringing this program back. For a \$100 donation, one can have up to three lines inscribed on a brick, with up to 20 characters on each line. Once the



A sample brick from the brick program.

program has been open for a month or two, and enough donations for bricks have accumulated to justify firing the kiln, the two committees will have the new bricks inscribed and installed at Souard Station.

Here is a picture of a sample brick. One can see all the current bricks at the patio on the south side of Souard Station. They include bricks that people have purchased through donations, in addition to a brick for each of the past presidents of SRG.

Continued on Page 8

Join The SOULARD RESTORATION GROUP

- Be a part of THE Neighborhood Association of Historic Souard
- Have a voice in what happens in YOUR community
- Meet your neighbors and make new friends

☐ RESIDENT \$20/YEAR one voting member	☐ HOUSEHOLD \$30/YEAR two voting members
☐ BUSINESS \$30/YEAR non-voting member	☐ SENIOR (65+) \$1/YEAR one voting member
☐ FRIEND OF SOULARD \$20/YEAR one non-voting member	☐ DONOR ANY AMOUNT non-voting, no membership

NOTE: SRG monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month. They are currently being held in the Rose Room, a second-floor space accessible from an outdoor stairway on the east side of the Franklin of Souard building, at 816 Allen Avenue.

To join the SRG, visit souard.org/srg and purchase your appropriate membership type, or mail this form with a check for the amount of your membership type to the address below.

Name(s): _____
Address/City/State/Zip: _____
Email: _____ Home Phone: _____

RETURN TO SOULARD RESTORATION GROUP
Attn: Membership Committee
1911 South 12th Street
St. Louis MO 63104



For more information contact membership@souard.org.

The Soulard Stones: Part 1

Including excerpts from The Shaping of Farmington, Missouri (2023)

By Dr. Ryan Johnston, D.C.

Editor's Note: Last year, Neil Putz brought this excellent article to my attention. It was originally published online, and I am grateful that Dr. Johnston is allowing me to reprint it. Due to the depth and detail, this article will be serialized throughout the year.

On Dec. 14, 1799, the Surveyor General of Upper Louisiana, Antoine Soulard, conducted a survey for the Commandant of New Bourbon, Don Pedro Carlos Dehault DeLassus DeLuzieres. Recently, Dr. Ryan Johnston, a chiropractor from Farmington, Missouri, discovered two stone markers near corners of this land grant. After extensive historical research, these stones were reported to the Department of Natural Resources as new protected archaeological sites in March 2023. One stone is located in a remote section of forest that is now part of St. Joe State Park. The other is located in Farmington's Engler Park.

While working on a survey crew in 2001-02, Dr. Johnston became interested in surveying and cartography. He furthered his knowledge of maps and navigation during his military service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Advances in digital satellite imagery and available GIS map databases have made it possible to overlay current-day maps with the original Soulard survey. The Johnston family translated the French field notes and learned that Soulard placed 20 stone markers at specific locations along the perimeter of this survey. On the first stone marker,



Dr. Ryan Johnston, 2023

Soulard indicated that he carved the land owner's initials, DL. Armed with a compass and a map, Dr. Johnston and his family set off on a sunny February afternoon in 2023 to physically locate the starting point of the survey. The



Stone marker in St. Joe State Park indicating the starting point of the Soulard survey performed in 1799 for DeLassus

hunt was a success! The first stone measures approximately 14 inches long x 14 inches wide x 7 inches above ground level. Located in a dense forest surrounded by a garden of wild yellow Lent Lily daffodils, a garden plant native to old-world France. It is located near the current northwest corner, which was adjusted by United States government surveyors in 1835 after they were unable to identify Soulard's original survey starting point. [1], [2] As Dr. Johnston and his family con-



Stone marker in St. Joe State Park (top view).

tinued following the lines of the survey, they found another stone marker at the southeast corner in what is now



Replacement stone marker in Farmington's Engler Park placed in 1998.

Farmington's Engler Park. This stone measures 12 inches long x 4 inches wide x 4 inches above ground level and is set securely in the ground. The carving on the top surface depicts two distinct lines intersecting at right angles creating a cross or "+" symbol. Additional investigation on this marker has revealed that it was set as a replacement in 1998 for the lost stone marker originally placed in this location by Antoine Soulard during the DeLassus survey conducted in 1799. [1], [3]

Now that you have some context for this story, stay tuned for the Summer issue, in which Dr. Johnston will delve more into the historical figures behind this stone.

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LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY, INC. SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS MODIFIED CASH BASIS FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022					
	General Fund	Special Revenue Teacher's Fund	Capital Projects Fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
REVENUES					
Government	\$ 10,673,407	\$ 5,035,706	\$ 1,308,301	\$ 17,017,414	\$ 13,143,063
Development	547,699	-	2,340,203	2,887,902	1,459,191
Student activities	205,544	-	-	205,544	158,772
Interest	52,894	-	-	52,894	2,095
Other	102,604	-	15,452	118,056	103,250
Total support and revenue	11,582,148	5,035,706	3,663,956	20,281,810	14,866,371
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
Salaries	4,249,809	3,730,656	-	7,980,465	6,788,122
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	1,599,041	1,305,050	-	2,904,091	2,376,910
Purchased services	2,764,172	-	-	2,764,172	2,154,041
Supplies and materials	1,341,288	-	-	1,341,288	1,117,424
Capital outlay	-	-	5,256,810	5,256,810	2,513,188
Debt Service:					
Principal	-	-	347,482	347,482	390,970
Interest	-	-	216,879	216,879	193,226
Total expenses	9,954,310	5,035,706	5,821,171	20,811,187	15,533,881
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	1,627,838	-	(2,157,215)	(529,377)	(667,510)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
Transfers in	-	-	629,010	629,010	598,426
Transfers out	(629,010)	-	-	(629,010)	(598,426)
Proceeds from issuance of debt	-	-	1,528,005	1,528,005	472,603
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	-	-	200	200	2,000
Proceeds from insurance recovery	-	-	-	-	48,637
Total other financing sources	(629,010)	-	2,157,215	1,528,205	523,240
Changes in fund balances	998,828	-	-	998,828	(144,270)
Fund balance - beginning of year	2,502,498	-	-	2,502,498	2,646,768
Fund balance - end of year	\$ 3,501,326	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,501,326	\$ 2,502,498
An audit of the Lift for Life Academy, Inc (a St. Louis City charter school) for the year ended June 30, 2023, was performed by Fick, Eggemeyer & Williamson, CPAs P.C. in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. The Academy received an unmodified opinion of the financial statements. The complete audit report is available for inspection at the Academy's website: liftforlifeacademy.org					

Mardi Gras From Page 1

Soulard and Downtown. Tickets available at stlmardigras.org. Time: 7 p.m. to Midnight. Admission: \$125 and up.

Friday, Feb. 9: After you party at the Mayor’s Ball, continue the fun at the Mayor’s Ball Mardi Gras After Party. Proceeds from After Party ticket sales benefit STL College Kids, a nonprofit helping St. Louis students pay for college. Time: 10 p.m. — 2 a.m. Location: City Hall Rotunda. Admission: \$100 and up.

Saturday, Feb. 10: What started as a two-block march up Russell Blvd. in 1980 is now the event of the season and one of the biggest Mardi Gras parades in the nation. The Bud Light Grand Parade is a dazzling show of scores of floats, marching and riding Krewe’s, throwing 15 million beads along a route from Busch Stadium to the Anheuser-Busch brewery. Parade Starts: 11 a.m.

Information for Residents

The St. Louis Mardi Gras website contains a special portal for Soulard residents. Information includes a map of Soulard highlighting the Yellow Zone and the Red Zone; the Yellow Zone Access and Parking pass program overview;

the Red Zone information and regulations; examples of Yellow Zone and Red Zone signage; additional information about events that impact parking and street access; and crucial dates, contacts and Mardi Gras Inc. office information. Find all this and more at stlmardigras.org/soulard-residents

Important Reminders:

Two Yellow Zone Access and Parking passes were mailed to ALL residents the third week of January.

Feb. 5-7: Additional or replacement Yellow Zone Access and Parking passes available to be picked up from Mardi Gras Inc. (2200 Dolman) between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Feb. 10: Grand Parade day, please pay close attention to the signs and where you park, as well as place the hang tag on your rearview mirror.

The Post-Mardi Gras Neighborhood Forum at the Mardi Gras Inc. headquarters (2200 Dolman) is TBD. Check the website for updates.



Route Directions
8:00 am assembly, 1:00 pm
To assemble on 12th Street south of Geyer/Gravois and proceed south to Russell, east to 9th St, north to Lafayette, east to 8th St, to disband south

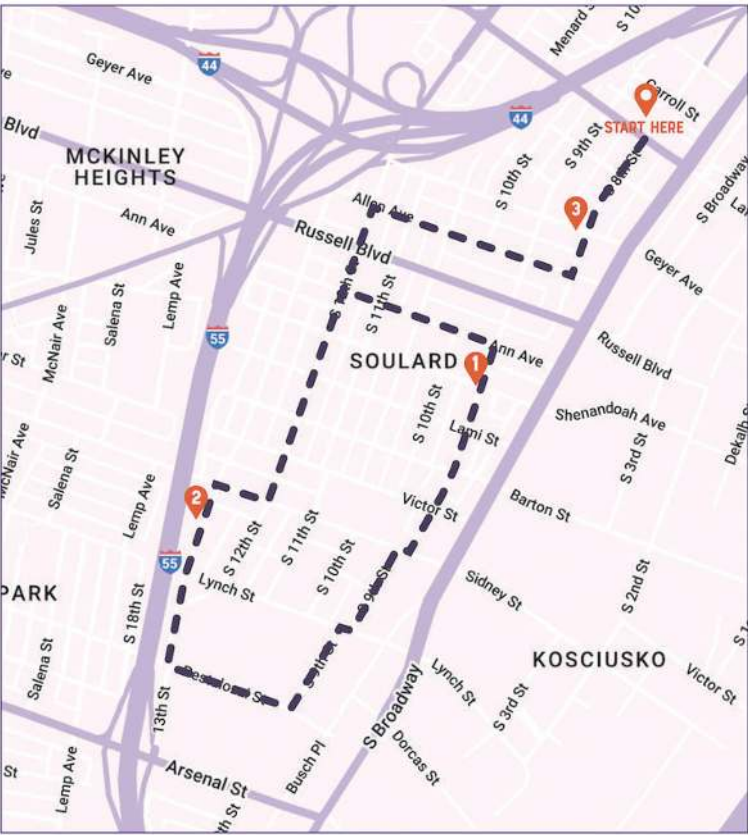
Street Closing
To close and No Park the following streets on Sunday from 8 am to post parade (approximately 5pm or after the streets are cleared and it is safe to re-open) for the Annual Purina Strips Pet Parade: Lafayette between 7th & Menard; Russell between 8th & 13th; Allen between 13th and 11th; Allen Market Lane between 13th and 12th; Menard between Allen and Ann; Allen between 10th and 8th; Geyer between 10th and 8th; Emmet between 10th and 9th; 12th between Geyer and Ann; and 9th St between Carroll and Ann; 8th street between Lafayette and Russell and Soulard St between 8th and 10th.

To close and make No Park Sunday from 4am-8pm 9th street between Carroll and Soulard; 12th Street between Geyer/Gravois and Russell.

ALL IMAGES COURTESY MARDI GRAS INC.

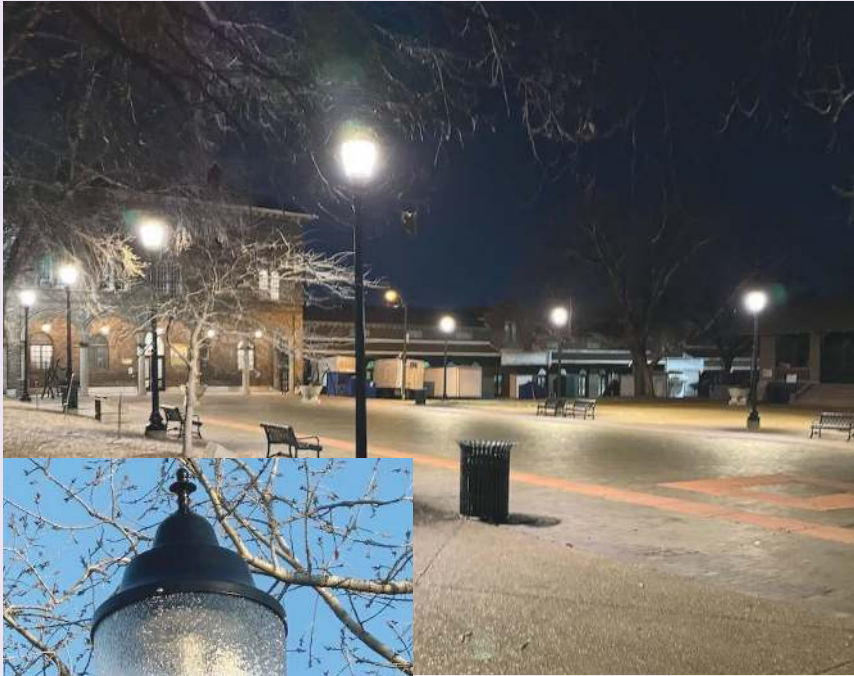


5K RUN FOR YOUR BEADS



Route Directions

- Start on 8th south of Lafayette
- South on 8th to Allen
- West on Allen to 12th
- South on 12th to Ann
- East on Ann to 9th
- South of 9th to Lynch to enter A/B InBev
- South on 9th to Pestalozzi
- West on Pestalozzi to 13th (exit A/B InBev)
- North on 13th to Sidney
- East on Sidney to 12th
- North on 12th to Allen
- East on Allen to 8th
- North on 8th to Finish south of Lafayette



Above: Market Park with the new lighting.
Left: One of the new light heads.

NEW LIGHTS FOR BRIGHTER PARKS

New light heads have been installed on freshly painted poles at Soulard Market Park, and Pontiac Park lighting is next. These lighting upgrades are part of a working relationship between the Soulard Community Improvement District and the Soulard Special Business District. Learn more about programs and additional planned District improvements at www.soulardcid.org and www.soulard-sbd.org.



SOULARD RENAISSANCE

Advertise in the Next issue of the Renaissance!

Ad Deadline: April 12, 2024
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Mardi Gras Foundation and Mardi Gras, Inc.

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MGF GRANTS

- ★ Seed money for Soulard Station
- ★ Wrapping Soulard Market Park in ornamental iron fencing
- ★ Wrapping Pontiac Park in ornamental iron fencing
- ★ New park benches in Soulard Market Plaza
- ★ Installation of permanent electric at Soulard Market Park for concerts, festivals, and other community celebrations
- ★ Landscaping at Soulard School
- ★ Replacement of crumbling retaining wall at Gene Slay's Boys and Girls Club
- ★ Funding of year-round Sts. Peter & Paul Neighborhood Clean-up program
- ★ Seed money for Frenchtown Dog Park
- ★ Funding for security cameras
- ★ Funding for CVC Soulard wayfinding signage
- ★ Funding for Soulard marketing brochure
- ★ Reforestation of Soulard with over 160 trees

MGI ANNUAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT & SPONSORSHIP

- ★ SRG Holiday Parlour Tour
- ★ SBA Concerts in Soulard Market Park
- ★ Metropolitan Community Congregation of Greater St. Louis Golf Tournament
- ★ Barlog Kuzaj Zero American Legion BBQ
- ★ SRG Beautification Committee
- ★ Vices & Virtues Ball
- ★ Soulard School Auction
- ★ SRG Smarty Gras Trivia Night

Art lovers travel out of this world without leaving home

By Claudia Ruth Burris

Soulardians don't have to leave the island to go out of this world. All they have to do is go to the Soulard Art Gallery, 2028 S 12th St., between Feb. 23 and March 22 to see the Other Worlds exhibit.

The show consists of "artistic visions of inhabitants, places and things from other worlds, whether it's another planet, another galaxy or the fourth dimension," said curator Dave Rudis. Artists were encouraged to submit work in all mediums, from painting and photography, to sculpture, pottery, mixed media and more.

Rudis came up with the idea for the show based on his own artwork, which

is made from junk and other discarded pieces that he finds in his daily life. "I enjoy making different, other-world types of pieces," said the 58-year-old artist.

Originally from the Chicago area, Rudis moved to St. Louis for work. Once he learned how to weld, all the world was at his disposal. "I used to find stuff in alleys and refurbish them and sell them at garage sales," said the imaginative Rudis.

Inspired by visiting art shows with his wife, Rudis soon started making his own creations and selling them at antique malls. "Then I met local artist Rich Brooks, director of the Soulard Art Gallery, and he encouraged me to enter some of the shows."

Since then, Rudis has created hundreds of whimsical pieces from all sorts of abandoned and discarded junk. A resident artist at the Soulard Art Gallery for more than three years, he has fun creating something out of nothing. "I like to say I am liberating what is within these objects," he said. "When I come across an interesting piece of junk I can't wait to figure out what it wants to be!"

Appropriately enough, Rudis now works as an assembly worker at True-Refrigeration. A visit to his gallery space in Soulard reveals the humorous side of his imagination. Adorning the walls and shelves of his space are pieces ranging from Big Bug and Swamp Bird to Robot Pilot, Hungry Alien and a vast array of out-of-this-world creations.

So, if you feel like taking a trip without

ever leaving home, stop by the Soulard Art Gallery and check out the Other Worlds exhibit. With all the money you save on airline tickets, you can buy a piece of art.



"Bear," by David Rudis.



"Dalii," by David Rudis.

ALL PHOTOS BY DAVID RUDIS



David Rudis, a resident artist at Soulard Art Gallery.

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6 - THE SOULARD RENAISSANCE - MARDI GRAS 2024

Living With History: Understanding Historic Soulard

By Veronica Putz, SRG Historical Committee Chair

175th Anniversary Year

As we ring in the New Year, we recognize a special anniversary here in the neighborhood. Saints Peter and Paul Church will formally begin its 175th Anniversary Year on Jan. 28. On that day, Bishop Mark Rivotuso will visit the church and officiate a special opening celebration mass at the church, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join. Immediately following the mass, the Franklin of Soulard will provide a brunch in celebration of the beginning of the 175th Anniversary Year.

In 1849, Thomas Allen sold a portion of his "Allen Addition" to the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The unimproved land was at the northeast corner of Allen Avenue and Fulton Street (South 8th Street). The archdiocese established a new Catholic church to support the dramatic influx of German immigrants settling in the portion of St. Louis that would become Soulard. In this article, the Historical Committee will relate the early history of the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, as revealed by 19th-century records like the United States census and St. Louis City directories.

As we wrote in a previous article, Father Simon Sigrist was the first priest assigned to Saints Peter and Paul. The parish was small in those days, and Father Sigrist was not listed in the St. Louis City directories until 1852 (Fig. 1). Since the parish rectory had not yet been built, Sigrist lived on the north side of Lafayette (present-day Soulard Street) between 7th Street and Carondelet Avenue (Broadway).

In 1857, the Archdiocese of St. Louis selected a new priest for Saints Peter and

ton house Exchange, nw cor Third and Olive. Signer: George W. A., riverman, res es Twelfth, to Franklin av and Wash.

Figure 1. Simeon Sigrist, as listed in Morrison's 1852 Saint Louis Directory.

Paul. His name was Franz Goller. According to the 1857 city directory, pastor Goller established his residence on the west side of 7th Street, between Geyer and Allen (Fig. 2).

The young parish was growing rapidly. On June 11, 1860, the U.S. Census recorded the full staff of the young church (Figure 3). At age 29, Francis Goller was the head clergyman. The census tells us that he had two additional priests assigned to him: Ernst Schindler (24) and John Dornseiffer (63). All three of these clergymen were German-born (the census recorded them all as immigrants from the German state of Prussia).

An interesting new group of the church staff is listed: the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Koller Franz, pastor of German St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, west side 7th, between Geyer and Allen avenue

Figure 2. Franz Goller, as listed in Kennedy's 1857 Saint Louis Directory.

In 1860 this was a small team of six nuns. Three of them were American-born, and the other three were immigrants from Germany, Holland and France. They ranged in age from 18 to 28. This order of nuns would become the teachers of the Saints Peter and Paul Parish school system.

In 1870, the parish was still expanding. According to the census taken on June 15, 1870, Father Goller (now 38 years old) had three additional priests to assist him. Francis Russe (43), August Schil-

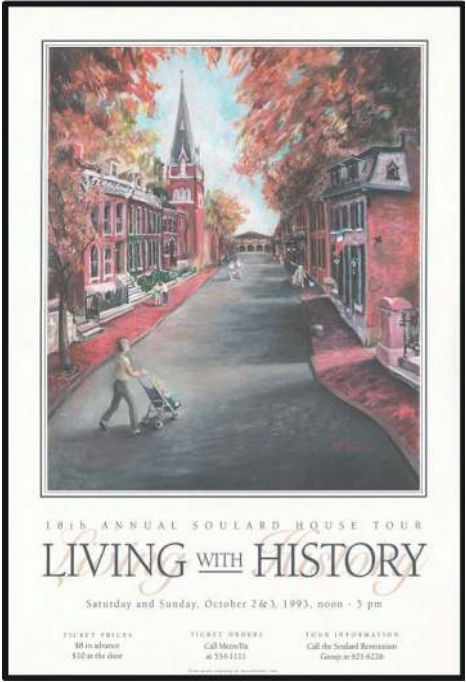
ling (26), and Joseph Schulte (26) were all immigrants from the German state of Prussia (Figure 4). The growing team of nuns from the Sisters of Notre Dame was listed on a separate sheet of the US Census, because they lived in separate quarters on Fulton (South 8th) Street.

In the decades that followed, the congregation of Saints Peter and Paul Church would continue to grow until it exceeded 5,000 members. The parish schools would educate thousands of young boys and girls. In summary, this church would minister to and have a profound impact on a sizable portion of Soulard's expanding population.

In addition to the celebration, Saints Peter and Paul church is planning a series of events to commemorate this 175th Anniversary Year (Figure 5). Please watch for details on commemorative events throughout 2024, as we move through the Mardi Gras season, followed by Lent and Easter. You do not need to wait for a

10	Francis Goller	29	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63
11	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63		
12	John Dornseiffer	63				
13	Francis Goller	29	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63
14	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63		
15	John Dornseiffer	63				
16	Francis Goller	29	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63
17	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63		
18	John Dornseiffer	63				
19	Francis Goller	29	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63
20	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63		
21	John Dornseiffer	63				
22	Francis Goller	29	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63
23	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63		
24	John Dornseiffer	63				
25	Francis Goller	29	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63
26	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63		
27	John Dornseiffer	63				
28	Francis Goller	29	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63
29	Ernst Schindler	24	John Dornseiffer	63		
30	John Dornseiffer	63				

Figure 3. The Saints Peter & Paul Ministry Team (1860 U.S. Census).



The poster from the 1993 Soulard House Tour.

special event — everyone in Soulard has an opportunity to personally enjoy the interior of this incredible architectural masterpiece firsthand. Those opportunities are every Saturday at 5 p.m. and every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

11	Goller Francis	29	Schindler Ernst	24	Dornseiffer John	63
12	Russe Francis	43	Schilling August	26	Schulte Joseph	26
13	Schilling August	26	Schulte Joseph	26		
14	Schulte Joseph	26				

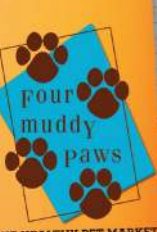
Figure 4. The Saints Peter & Paul Ministry Team (1870 U.S. Census).



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Stark Raving Rehabber: Soulard on Screens

By Jay Gibbs

No, I don't mean window screens, I mean silver screens! Historic Soulard has appeared a few times in nationally released movies during the decades that I've lived here. Hardly anyone seems to remember any of these, so grab some popcorn, have a seat, and let me tell ya ...

In the early 1990s, ABC filmed a TV movie called She Stood Alone, starring Mare Winningham, using a number of St. Louis locations. The plot followed a white school teacher who decided to instruct Black students, flouting the law. She was caught, charged and tried for the crime. Soulard stood in as the pre-Civil War urban South, with exterior scenes using the 1800 block of South 8th Street, and interiors of 1833 S. 8th St. If you are wondering about the teacher's fate, She Stood Alone can be found on YouTube.

Around that same time, a theatrical release was filmed all around St. Louis. King of the Hill, based on the A.E. Hotchner novel of the same name, focused on a boy left behind by his father, who desperately sought employment during the Great Depression. St. Louis starred as itself, well, as its gritty 1930s version, anyway. Most of the film was set in the Midtown and Central West End areas, but Soulard scored one scene. Our own Soulard Market was cast as a bus station exterior — it's brief, watch for it.

In 1995, United Artists came to St. Louis. The studio was filming a yet-to-be-named road-trip movie starring Bill Murray, wherein his character inherits

an actual elephant from his deceased circus-employee father. The action shows the son reluctantly transporting the elephant cross-country, from east to west coast, in comedic fashion. Many scenes were filmed here in our city and region. They chose Soulard to represent urban Baltimore, Maryland; the crew chose the front of our very house (!) to represent the estate lawyer's office exterior — Bill Murray touched our doorknob! Before you ask, no, we were specifically prohibited from interacting with the star, but along with about 100 onlookers, we did get to see him and observe the filming behind yellow tape.

Many months later, Carla and I were invited to attend the gala St. Louis premiere of Larger Than Life. As the movie unspooled, we waited anxiously in the dark, only (gasp!) to see that our home's national debut was instead left on the cutting room floor. So, false alarm, no Soulard in that movie. Carla did appear as an unnamed extra in a crowd scene filmed on Cherokee Street in Benton Park, so that was minor consolation.

Fast-forwarding these many years ... one evening during the 2020 COVID lockdown, I was languidly streaming an obscure independent movie at home. (Weren't we all doing that?) Suddenly I bolted upright, almost spilling my second glass of wine, shouting "Holy s***, that's Soulard!" and it was. There was 9th Street and 1860 Saloon. There was Molly's and Geyer Avenue. And there was 8th Street and, wow, our house DID appear (for an eternal three whole sec-

onds) in this movie!

Titled Her Name Was Jo, the film follows two 10-year-old girls as they cross the country east to west, seeking one's father. No further spoilers. While there are some heart-warming scenes, it is a mostly gritty and harrowing story, not suitable for children. But it is well-written and well-acted, so I do recommend you see this one — it can still be streamed. Check it out.

There may be some other films that I am wiggling out about. Carla remembers driving home from shopping years ago to find Soulard Market's facade standing in as a 1940s baseball stadium, complete with antique cars and folks dressed in that era's style. Anyone recognize this description?

In addition to the above, we've seen Soulard used over the years in numerous locally produced movies, commercial ads and college student projects, most of whom did their thing probably on the sly without getting any City permits. Wish I could relate some titles, but I haven't a clue.

Hey, in closing, I wonder if the SRG, the SBA and/or the CID could invent some way to raise Soulard's profile and get back on the film industry's radar? And perhaps put a link or reference to these existing films on the appropriate websites? Hmmm, wouldn't it be fun to see our fair nabe on the silver screen again?

Bricks From Page 2

PLAQUE PROGRAM

In addition to reinstating the brick program, the Development Committee is also reviving the Plaque Program.

Driving around Soulard and looking closely, one can see these plaques on various buildings. With this new program, the home or building owner will indicate the year the building was built, and the plaque will state that year. If a property owner does not know the year, one should be able to find it on St. Louis City's Property Database website

(https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/data/address-search/) or one can contact the SRG's Historical Committee (history@soulard.org) to help with the research.

The cost is \$100 (payable to SRG), plus the cost to apply for and receive a permit from the City of St. Louis. The estimated cost for the permit is \$44, and the site to seek the permit is listed on the order form. Purchase will apply and pay for the city permit separately from the \$100 donation to SRG.

Anyone interested in a donation for either or both of the brick program or the plaque program should email Jim Dallas at development@soulard.org to obtain an order form.

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Adopt a Soulard street pot for winter

By Susan Wiegand, Deputy Chair Beautification Committee

At the December SRG General Membership Meeting, Jeff Weitzel, newly minted chair of the Beautification Committee, announced a contest for “Best Winter Street Pot.”

Yes! You can decorate one (or two, or more) of those barren dirt bins with glitz and glam, or wit and whimsy, or all the beads and tulle, or whatever your eye desires. Just keep it clean and safe for pedestrians to get by. With little notice, over a dozen pots were decorated in time for the December holidays, brightening the streets of Soulard with sparkle, light and color. The Beautification Committee is hoping another couple dozen pots — or all 42 pots — get adopted by creative, competitive residents before the Ides of March (you know, when we murder winter).

Winter Pots are featured on the Wel-



Soulard Gyro Pot at 9th and Shenandoah streets.

Email beautification@soulard.org with any questions or to adopt a pot, or if you have suggestions for the continuing beautification of Soulard.

Local artists turn their broken hearts into art

By Claudia Ruth Burris

How can you mend a broken heart? The Bee Gees may not know, but lots of folks found out at the Soulard Art Gallery’s recent juried art show, Broken Hearts, running Jan. 12 to Feb. 17.

On display are more than 80 heart-breaking pieces from 62 local artists, ranging from paintings and photographs to fiber work, metal sculpture, installation art and more. “Artists were invited to explore the complexity of the broken heart in this Valentines exhibition,” said curator Beth Robinson of Strange Dolls, nationally acclaimed creepy dolls. “Heartbreak is a singular human experience. While most of us consider it a low point, the pain that results is a direct result of our capacity to love.”

The show was judged by Sherelle



Artist Love, Honorable Mention for “Harmony and Balance II.”

Continued on Page 11



Phyllis Young’s Pot at 9th and Lami streets.

come page of soulard.org, where anyone can vote for their favorite Soulard Winter Pot. A \$100 prize for Best Winter Pot will be awarded at the Beautification Vernal Equinox Celebration where Beautification will be welcoming springtime, sharing plans for Summer Street Pots, and announcing the schedule for Soulard Garden Tours 2024, as well as other beautification projects. Plus bonfire, weather permitting. Time and location details will be announced at the March SRG General Meeting, and will be on the soulard.org calendar. All are welcome.

How to join the Winter Pot Contest: Pick a forsaken pot, take note of the street corner, and send a sweet note to beautification@soulard.org requesting to adopt it as your own wintry project. Have at it! And then check on it from time to time. A little primp and fluff never hurts. Be sure to have the pot decorated by March 15, when votes will begin to be tallied.

We thank Phyllis Young and erstwhile Soulardian Gail Van Dyke for inspiring the glow-up of the Soulard Street Pots. The past few years have seen delicate and shimmering decorations in the pot at 9th and Lami emerge around Thanksgiving, and we have loved it. Now everyone is encouraged to claim a pot as their own. bring on the Beautification. Thanks as well to Brenton Henry and all of ComComm SRG for creating the voting page for the contest on Soulard.org.

Gratitude to all the souls who jumped in and did up a pot boppity boop. You brighten our lives.

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The Architecture of Soulard Market

By Neil & Veronica Putz

The historic Soulard Market (Figure 1) is part of the very foundation of our neighborhood. The well-known story of its architecture is that the market was destroyed by the Great Cyclone of 1886. It was rebuilt in 1929 in a Renaissance style. Our neighborhood history tells us that

Soulard Market was modeled after the Foundling Hospital in Florence, Italy. Most of us have trusted this history, believing that there is such a hospital in Florence, and wondering whether it still stands today. However, the details of the Foundling Hospital have been a mystery to most of us here in Soulard. To fully



Figure 1. The Soulard Market, built in 1929.



Figure 2. Ospedale degli Innocenti (Hospital of the Innocents), Florence (built 1419–1445).

explore this Soulard History Mystery, someone would have to travel to Florence to verify this heritage — and so we did.

The Romans founded a colony on the site of Florence 59 years before the birth of Christ. The Catholic Diocese of Florence was established in the 1st century. As the Barbarian Invasion of the Roman Empire proceeded, Florence was sacked in 541 AD. In the 11th century, the city constructed stone walls and built the famous Ponte Vecchio (Old Bridge). In the 15th century, Florence would achieve the ideal conditions to ignite the Renaissance itself, enabling human civilization to transition from the darkness of the Middle Ages to an age of enlightenment that brought culture, art, and architecture.

The Italian name for the Foundling

Hospital is *Ospedale degli Innocenti* — in English, the “Hospital of the Innocents.” (Figure 2). This incredible structure was designed in 1419 by Filippo Brunelleschi (1377–1446), one of the founding fathers of Renaissance architecture.

The Foundling Hospital was commissioned in 1419, and it was specifically designed to accommodate the orphans and abandoned children of Florence. Since the structure was finally completed and received its first orphan in 1445, it has been in continuous operation. By the end of the 15th century, the hospital was receiving hundreds of children each year. The children were often the illegitimate offspring of wealthy families or born to poor families unable to care for an additional child.

Continued on Next Page



THE SOULARD RENAISSANCE

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STL PROGRAMS

Mystery From Page 10

From the beginning, the hospital protected the identities of the children. Infants were left in a basin near the main entrance. In 1660, the hospital installed a rotating chamber (*rota*) in one of its exterior walls. Abandoned infants could be deposited in the chamber, which rotated to enable the hospital staff to begin the care and raising of the infant.

The hospital cared for babies on site, and as children matured, they were placed in foster care until age 7, when they were returned to the hospital for their education.

During the centuries of the hospital's operation, the children's population has occasionally exceeded 3,000. Today the hospital is also the home to a UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Relief Fund) Child Development Center. Although thousands of young lives have been spared and nurtured over the six hundred years since Florence constructed this visionary facility, the Foundling Hospital has maintained records of every child it has cared for since its opening.

Of course, no trip "Off the Island" is complete without displaying our signature Soulard trademark. Although the morning weather in Florence was a bit cool, at least one of us removed outerwear to reveal a world-famous Soulard shirt (figure 4). How do you say in Italian, "Mommy, what is that man doing without his coat?"

Conclusions: Impressed by the Renaissance culture in Florence, we also were impressed that in 1929, our predeces-



Figure 3. The authors pause for an "Off the Island" photo in Florence (2023).

sors in Soulard planted a symbol of the Renaissance right here in our own backyard. Selecting the Foundling Hospital as the model for Soulard Market, which would stand watch for 50 years as Soulard went into decline. Perhaps this spark encouraged the Soulard renaissance that brought this neighborhood back to become the vibrant neighborhood we know today.

Until the next issue, keep sending your Soulard History Mysteries to: history@soulard.org. We always love to explore answers to your questions.

Broken Hearts From Page 9



Metal Priestess, Honorable Mention winner for "Broken Hearted."

Speed, also known as "The Art Doll," an entrepreneur and artist in the Delmar Loop in University City. Winners of the show are:

Award of Excellence: Jackie Rabbit, Falling. Awards of Merit: Nathan Ginn, Rumination; Mike Troutt, Shattered Serenity. Honorable Mentions: TeMajai

Perry, deus ex machina; Metal Priestess, Broken Hearted; Artist Love, Harmony & Balance II. The Curator's Choice Award went to AJ Fyfe for The Queen of Sorrow.

Entertainment was provided by Audrey Simes, local musician and performance artist.

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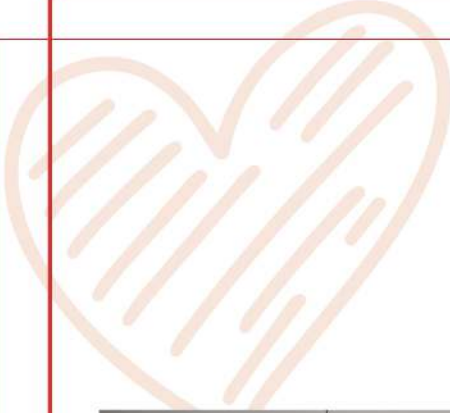
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