

The Locust Business District

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Commissioners:

Lou Shaw, Chairman
Barry Adelstein
Dennis Barton
Samuel Coleman
Tim Estepp
Jassen Johnson
Harry Michel

Newsletter Editor:

Kathleen Kappel

The LBD Board meets on the
second Wednesday of each month
at its offices at 3150 Locust Street,
Suite 200 at 3:00pm.

www.locustbusinessdistrict.com

Web News:

Click on the LBD website for the latest information on dates and times of events, real estate offerings, development projects, LBD business contact lists, services, and links. The website provides the latest information to serve the entire LBD community.

The LBD community is invited to submit all news and information for inclusion on the website and in future publications. Contact the LBD office at www.locustbusinessdistrict.com or at 314-652-2220 for more information.

www.locustbusinessdistrict.com

Upcoming Events...

April 12th---Venus Envy 2007 Preview Party
venusenvyst.louis@yahoo.com

April 13th and 14th--Venus Envy 2007
www.venusenvy.org

LBD Newsletter

LOCUST BUSINESS DISTRICT

APRIL 2007



Inside This Issue:

Phyllis Wheatley
Heritage Center

New Alderpeople:
Marlene Davis &
Kacie Starr Triplett

20th Anniversary of
Dreyfus and Associates
Photography

Venus Envy 2007

Thanks, Alan Pratzel

Website News &
Upcoming Events

LBD Mission:

To promote and assist in the economic growth, preservation, and revitalization of the Locust Business District community and neighborhood.

The Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center

The Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center is part of the newly restored YWCA Phyllis Wheatley Branch at 2711 Locust Street. What was once an important gathering place for the African-American community during the era of legal segregation is now a beautiful event space available for private or commercial rental. The space is ideal for community programs, business meetings, weddings, or other social occasions.

Rental of the Heritage Center supports the work of YWCA Metro St. Louis to empower women and youth, eliminate racism, and build stronger communities.

Deborah Hopkins, manager of the Heritage Center, states, "This is a place where you can feel good about spending money on your event." The proceeds from the rental of the facility help fund YWCA programs including school-aged child care and camp programs, the St. Louis Regional Sexual Assault Center, the Phyllis Wheatley Transitional Housing Program for homeless women, leadership programs for teenage girls, and racial justice programs. The YWCA also operates Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

The Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center not only provides funding for programs to help the community, it also hosts various community-building programs on site. It hosts YWCA life-skills and leadership development programs for women as well as programs that advance racial and ethnic understanding.

The Heritage Center has much to offer both to the community and to its renters. The ballroom has a 20 foot barrel-vaulted ceiling with skylights, state-of-the-art audiovisual capabilities, and seating for up to 400. There are also two smaller conference rooms adjacent to the main ballroom. Complimentary, well-lit parking is available adjacent to the building.

Generations of St. Louisans grew up knowing the Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the YWCA as "the place to meet." Thanks to its multi-million dollar renovation, the Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center will be "the place to meet" for generations to come.

For more information about the Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center and the YWCA's mission and programs, please visit their website: www.ywcastlouis.org.

The Locust Business District Welcomes Two New Aldermen

Marlene E. Davis--19th Ward

Marlene Davis will be filling the 19th ward seat vacated by Michael McMillan. Marlene has lived in our community for nearly twenty years. During this time, she has held many key positions which have allowed her to provide better education, housing, and health care for the community.

Marlene is the immediate past Chair of the St. Louis Housing Authority. In this role, she encountered people with a wide variety of needs. She understands the need for affordable housing, the specific needs of senior citizens, and the need for access to affordable health care. She constantly strives to make sure these needs are being met.

Marlene has also held other positions that have allowed her to promote the growth, development, and stabilization of our neighborhoods. As Associate Director of Neighborhood Marketing Services, she was part of the team that facilitated the growth and expanse of all facets of city living, neighborhood by neighborhood. As Associate for the federal government's Neighborhood Reinvestment program, she helped with programs designed to stabilize urban communities.

For five years, Marlene has served as Chair of the Vashon JeffVanderLou Initiative. The Initiative is a ten-year, comprehensive community development program focused on the JeffVanderLou neighborhood. It is focused on improving housing and infrastructure, economic development, health and human services, and education. As Chair, she has seen the culture of the neighborhood change.

Education has always been a focus of Marlene's efforts. In 1998, Marlene was elected President of the St. Louis Board of Education. During her presidency, the historic Desegregation case was settled. She was able to secure \$40 million in funding for the new Vashon High School. Her unique blend of experience and expertise allowed her to bring together the Board and various civil and business groups to plan, fund, and build the new Vashon. She also was able to direct \$30 million for the Clyde C. Miller career and vocational high school at Grand Avenue and Bell.

Marlene has experience in countless civic-minded pursuits. She has been successful in her pursuits on the local, state, and federal level. Her experience will serve her well as she continues to advocate for the 19th Ward as the new alderman.

Kacie Starr Triplett--6th Ward

Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderman Elect to the 6th Ward, has devoted her entire career to public service. She has worked tirelessly to advance St. Louis and the 6th Ward.

Her legislative experience has allowed her to positively impact the 6th ward and has prepared her for her role as alderman. Kacie recently served as the District Affairs Coordinator for Congressman Russ Carnahan. Prior to that, she served as the Community Outreach Coordinator for former Minority Leader, Dick Gephardt. In 2005, Mayor Slay appointed Kacie to the Affordable Housing Commission. She is the youngest Commissioner in the history of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, responsible for overseeing a \$5.5 million dollar budget for the advancement of affordable housing throughout the city.

While working as a staffer for Congressman Carnahan, Kacie played an important role in developing H.R. 5420, the Preserve Historic America Act. This piece of legislation is dedicated to fostering the redevelopment and restoration of urban areas. This experience in the U. S. House of Representatives has truly allowed her to impact legislation affecting all St. Louisans.

As demonstrated by her legislative efforts, Kacie is a visionary, committed to improving our neighborhoods. She is focused on education, community programs, economic development, celebrating diversity, and combating crime. She encourages all people to work together to reach community goals. She envisions community leaders and developers working together to create economic viability in our neighborhoods; she encourages development, but also encourages the preservation and restoration of historic buildings.

Kacie is a life-long resident of the 6th Ward. She is a graduate of the 6th Ward's own St. Elizabeth's Academy. She now lives in her childhood home in the Tower Grove East neighborhood.

Congratulations to Dreyfus and Associates Photography on 20 Years of Success in the LBD

This year marks 20 years of excellence in commercial photography for Dreyfus and Associates. Founder and president, Dan Dreyfus, has made the Locust Business District the base of his business for all twenty years of his success.

Dreyfus and Associates is located in a 110 year old building at 21st and Locust. The building is recognized in the National Registry of Historic Landmarks. The 16 foot beamed ceilings, exposed brick walls, large arched windows, and hardwood floors frame the two shooting spaces in their studio.

While their location and commitment to quality has never changed, the company has evolved much over the past two decades. In the past few years, Dreyfus and Associates has completely transitioned into digital photography. To make this transition, three digital workstations were installed and several new camera systems were purchased.

Dan Dreyfus and his staff constantly work to improve the studio to better meet the needs of their expanding and diverse clientele. Their clients include the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Baisch & Skinner, Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club, Federal Reserve Bank, Mary Engelbreit Co., Monsanto, Saint Louis Cardinals, and Unigroup.



Venus Envy 2007 to be Held in the LBD

From April 13th through April 14th, Venus Envy 2007 will be held at 3001 and 3016 Locust Street. The festivities start at 7pm and continue until midnight both Friday and Saturday. Last year over 5,000 people attended the Venus Envy St. Louis arts festival. This year's show is expected to draw an even larger crowd.

Venus Envy is the largest female arts event in St. Louis. For nine years they have supported local women's talents, creativity, and accomplishments. This year's show will feature outstanding artwork by over 35 St. Louis area women artists, female-led musical and theatrical acts, food and beverages from local restaurants, and exciting interactive art projects.

Venus Envy 2007 will also be hosting a Private Preview Party on Thursday, April 12, 2007 from 6-9pm. Tickets for the preview party are still available. Contact Venus Envy at 314-865-0181 or venusenvystlouis@yahoo.com for more information.

Thank You, Alan Pratzel

The Locust Business District Board of Commissioners wishes to express its gratitude to Alan Pratzel for his exemplary service to the District. Alan has been legal counsel to the Locust Business District for the past six years. Recently, he accepted a position with the Missouri Supreme Court. The Board wanted to take this opportunity to thank Alan for all the work he has done to support the growth and development of the Locust Business District and to wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

Will Zorn will be replacing Alan as legal counsel to the Locust Business District. He is currently employed by the City of St. Louis Law Department as Associate City Counselor. Will specializes in real estate law, municipal law, and corporate law. The Board looks forward to working with Will and wishes him welcome.