

FALL GENERAL MEETING

7:30 P.M., Thursday, November 8, 2018

Black Jack Fire Protection District – 5675 North Highway 67

PROGRAM

PRESENTATION: AN OZARK HERBOLOGY

KENNETH R PORTER, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY, ST. CHARLES-SPEAKER

SSG CHARLES DAVIDSON, MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD

NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING OFFICER—UPDATES ON AREA ISSUES—Q & A

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED—BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS!



ANNUAL DUES

Single—\$10.00

Family—\$15.00

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ELLEN LUTZOW



When I wrote to you in the Spring, I explained that a key organizing principal of the OJA is to give a voice to area residents of unincorporated Old Jamestown who make this unique area their home.

In support of the above, the OJA has been involved to present the views of the community to the County Council to oppose re-zoning part of the now-closed Rivers' Edge Sports Complex from NU (Non-Urban) to C-8 (Commercial). The re-zoning was requested by the Illinois business owners to put in place a storage facility. In April, I outlined this issue for you in my letter. The Board's opposition to any re-zoning in this area was presented to you at the Spring General Meeting and again in a Special Meeting in June with Councilwoman Walton-Gray.

The issue remains unresolved today. The OJA Board does not support any re-zoning to commercial at this specific location. The St. Louis County Planning & Zoning Commission recommended that the County Council DENY the request presented by the Illinois business owners. The OJA supports the recommendation of

St. Louis County Planning and Zoning to DENY the re-zoning as it is not in the best interest of the area residents to have commercial development at this specific location.

The OJA has presented our position to the County Council in the Public Forum part of the Council meeting on different meeting dates and with different persons speaking on our behalf. The current status of this re-zoning matter is that Bill 191, 2018, drafted at the request of Councilwoman Walton-Gray that would re-zone as requested by the property owners remains in an indefinite "hold on order of business" before the Council. A super majority vote of 5 of 7 is required to move this forward since Planning and Zoning recommended to DENY the zoning change.

(See Council Agenda at the link below and look for BILLS to be perfected section of the agenda: <https://www.stlouisco.com/YourGovernment/CountyCouncil/CurrentCouncilAgenda>)

Our Councilwoman has indicated that the HOLD is in place so that a meeting between the Illinois business owners of the property and the area residents take place before moving forward for a vote. Regardless of any proposed meeting, the position of the OJA Board remains the same. We do not support a zoning change from non-urban (NU) to commercial (C-8) for this specific location. There is no compromise on this point. It is a zoning change that is incompatible with the specific site and its neighbors which are residential or area churches. We do support its use as it had operated – a sport's complex for adults and children.

There is no commercial zoning at the River's Edge site today. It is non-urban. We do not want to see that change. We ask YOU to voice your

opposition to this zoning change.

When I wrote in April, the next steps for Jamestown Mall were less firm but taking shape. The OJA expects that we will have input to the commercial development discussed for the site. We will continue to monitor the progress and where possible will seek the opportunity to give a voice to our community about any plans.

We also hosted a general information meeting with representatives from the St. Louis Zoo and their plans for development in Spanish Lake – our neighbor.

While we will continue our practice of two General Meetings each year – Spring and Fall, we have employed special meetings this year to bring issues or concerns more directly to our OJA members and area residents. We will continue this practice where it makes sense. We have limitations in some of what we can do in that the Board is made up of volunteers. We also communicate through social media on issues and events that have a more direct impact on our area.

We are continuing our efforts to grow our organization and be more effective in giving our area a voice. One step that we have taken is to be a more active participant in civic groups such as the Greater North County Chamber of Commerce and North County Incorporated. We want to make our name known and recognized. We are not a subdivision or a homeowner association but we are a civic-minded, non-profit organization with the goal of giving a voice to those who make our area their home. We are working to strengthen our ties to those organizations that are similar in scope and effort, like the Spanish Lake Community Association. I hope that by the time I write to you again we can show more concrete steps in this

Kenneth R Porter An Ozark Herbology

Up in the "holler", deep in the Ozarks, the old ways of using Yarbs (herbs) persists. This presentation is the story of herbs and their uses, which are often unique to the Ozarks. "Root Diggers" roamed the hills until just after WW2, and the old ways still live in pockets by the springs in the mossy oak forests. This is a journey with the spirits of goldenseal, black walnut, sassafras, plantain, echinacea, St John's Wort, comfrey, skullcap, and the other plants and medicines of the rolling Ozark Plateau.

Kenneth Porter is retired after 33 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has conducted conservation and Lewis & Clark programs for the Missouri Department of Conservation. He performs reenactments and manages his small farm for native and introduced herbs to use in his presentations.

OJA SPECIAL MEETING ON ZOO PROP Z

On October 24, 2018 the Old Jamestown Association hosted an educational meeting on Proposition Z for a group of interested members and local residents. A similar informational meeting was held recently in Spanish Lake with almost 200 people in attendance at that meeting. Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D. Dana Brown President & CEO of the Zoo and Billy Brennan and Corinne Geekie from Friends of the St. Louis Zoo presented information on Proposition Z along with additional information on the present status and funding of the Zoo followed by a question and answer session after the presentation. Proposition Z is a proposal on the November 6 ballot to assess an (1/8)% sales tax in St. Louis county to support the St. Louis Zoo. The new tax would cost an addition 12.5 cents on \$100 spent.

The zoo is a major visitor attraction for the area and is first or second in the region only to the Arch. It is a world class Zoo - voted #1 in the nation for the last two years. It was also voted the #1 free attraction in the nation by USA Today® last year. The Zoo is the biggest attraction for visitors of the Zoo Museum District and brings about \$200 million annually in economic impact to the

region. It employs about 2000, although many jobs are seasonal. Presently funding for the zoo comes from 3 sources, each of which provides roughly 1/3 of the funding:

- Property taxes in St. Louis County and St. Louis City that support the Zoo Museum District (ZMD)
- Private and corporate donations from supporters of the Zoo
- On site sales at the Zoo (concessions, parking, etc.)

Unfortunately, the funding provided by property taxes has been growing slower than the other sources and expenses meaning that the portion of funding provided by tax dollars has been shrinking for years. Residents of St. Charles, Franklin and Jefferson Counties DO NOT support the Zoo through the ZMD. Residents of St. Charles, Franklin and Jefferson benefit from the revenues brought to the region by the Zoo Museum District but today they do not contribute tax dollars to the ZMD. The Zoo is engaged here and will continue to press this issue regionally and seek a wider base of support.

The Friends of the St. Louis Zoo have recently purchased the Emerald Greens golf course in North County from the Pipefitters union for \$7.1million using private donations from supporters of the zoo. Conservation is an important function of the Zoo and this large tract of land is needed to support these efforts. Emerald Green is an approximately 420 acre tract. Initial plans call for about 250 acres to be devoted to conservation efforts for large ungulates (hooved animals) and would not be open to the public. 170 acres would be devoted to public access. The plans for this site are in the early stages but a safari type experience is planned for those parts of the new development that are to be open to the public. It would take roughly 5 years to develop and open this facility if funding is secured through Prop. Z. Projected employment is about 350 full time plus 650 summer employees.

There is also a need to bolster the current, aging infrastructure at the Zoo flagship venue in Forest Park. Many buildings still in use are over a hundred years old. Prop Z is NOT limited to funding needs in North County development alone. The Zoo flagship venue will benefit from Prop Z. And the Zoo flagship venue remains FREE to all to enter.

The Missouri State Legislature established the Zoo Subdistrict Commission as the Zoo's governing authority. An admission charge at the Zoo flagship location is NOT an option to provide additional funding without a change in state law. Any NEW development in North County DOES allow the Zoo to charge under state law and the plan is to do so EXCEPT for St. Louis County residents if Prop Z passes. Paying admission at San Diego Zoo today is \$54 for an adult or \$44 for a child under three. Even the Columbus Zoo which is similar in class to our Zoo charges about \$15.00 to county adult residents and about \$10.00 for children.

After the presentation, Dr. Bonner answered a number of questions on the zoo and its present efforts. He stressed how educational outreach to local schools is an important function of the zoo. Mark Belhmann, President of the Hazelwood School Board stated that the purchase of Emerald Green by the zoo actually reduced the tax funding for the school district since property taxes will no longer be collected on the land. However, Mark felt that the zoo could form beneficial partnerships with Hazelwood schools and feels that this is an important activity for the north county site. Additional questions were fielded on the impact of the new tax and available funding options for the zoo.

Jeff Ackerman
Secretary, Old Jamestown Association
Board of Directors

DARRELL DITTO NEW BOARDMEMBER

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on your board. I grew up in Florissant and we have lived off Carrico Road for the past 10 years. My wife Kayse and I have been married for 30 years. We have 5 children with 3 teen agers still at home. I went to college in Nebraska, worked for McDonnell Douglas for over 6 years and for the last 28 years, I've owned an insurance agency in Florissant. When we are not working or running the kids around we love to trout fish. Kayse enjoys gardening, feeding the humming birds and tending to our chickens and I am a beekeeper. Thank you, and I look forward to meeting everyone.

Family of Isaac Francis

Isaac Francis and his family were among the slaves of Reuben Musick (Musick's Ferry). After slaves were freed in Missouri, Francis was given a parcel of land by Reuben's wife, Lydia Carrico Musick, which was part of land she inherited from her father, Vincent Carrico, near Cold Water Creek and Old Halls Ferry. Isaac and his wife remained servants/friends of Reuben Musick until his death in 1871. (Old Jamestown Across the Ages, Revision 1)

A descendant of Isaac and Mike Francis said the family had always heard that the Lydia Musick had given the family land after the slaves were set free but the family no longer owns the land and has not known the name of the slave owner.

The best evidence for the connection comes from the Reuben Musick Estate documents, which contained Emma Broughton's testimony in support of Isaac Francis' claim for reimbursement from the estate: I live on the premises of Mr. Musick, have known him nearly five years. I also know Isaac Francis about the same length of time. I heard Mr. Musick say that Isaac Francis was to carry on the farm and he said Isaac's wife was to do all the house work and the proceeds of the farm to be equally divided. Isaac to gather and store away Mr. Musick's part of the proceeds. To the best of my knowledge Ike carried out his part of the contract. I have seen Isaac wait on Mr. Musick in various ways, such as going for the doctor, bringing coals and emptying the chamber. And Isaac was the one called upon for all the summing. There was a great deal of company during Mr. Musick's last days. Isaac Francis furnished most all the provisions for the company, and his wife helped to prepare it...But there is more to this story.

Near the property left to Isaac Francis was a small parcel of land—purchased in 1868 for \$1.00 by Irvin Rhodes and Louis Gasaway, trustees—where a church and a school were built for African-Americans.

The 1/2-acre New Coldwater Burying Ground Cemetery, 13711 Old Halls Ferry Road, was used as a cemetery from 1886 until it became mostly inactive in 1949. It was one of the few graveyards in Missouri both owned by African Americans and reserved for African Americans during that time.

The church and school no longer exist, but the cemetery and some of the people buried there have historical significance dating back to the Civil War Era. It was one of the few graveyards in Missouri both owned by African Americans and reserved for African Americans during that time.

According to the deed executed September 27, 1886, Henry Vincent, Louis Gasaway, William Cooper, Mike Francis and William Brooks, as trustees, purchased a half acre of land to be used as a cemetery. Henry Vincent collected \$50.00 from the local residents, their contributions ranging from \$.25 to \$3.00. Mr. Vincent kept a written record of the monies he collected.

Mr. Frazier Vincent said the site for the cemetery was chosen near land already occupied by the African American Church and school. "We had a preacher, mostly every Sunday," told Mr. Vincent. And then with his eyes dancing, he began to tell about the good old days when, right after church, good ol' basket dinners would be spread out under the shade of some big trees which once were nearby the church.

Mr. Vincent figured that a couple hundred persons must have been interred in the small cemetery over the years without charge. "Some are strangers.," related Mr. Vincent.

As reported in a 1959 Florissant Valley Reporter Article on New Coldwater Burying Ground, Frazier Vincent said he went to school in the little combination school and church which he estimated burned about 30 years ago [1929]. "He estimated that he went to school off and on, quitting to help on the farm with what was a fourth-grade education. He also told of going to another school in the area called 'Sink' which was held in a two-room home, in one room was a basket weaving trades class, and the room was the school.

The last known person to be buried in the cemetery was Frazier Vincent (1882-1963), son of Henry Vincent. Frazier Vincent and his

family had once lived in Old Jamestown and worked as farmers and for the Desloge family.

In 1993, the City of Black Jack took over responsibility for maintenance of the cemetery and held a rededication ceremony in 1995.

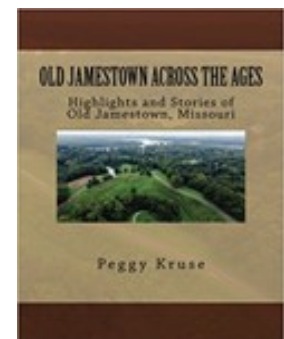
A 1959 Florissant Valley Reporter article provides Frazier Vincent's stories about his family and the cemetery: (See Appendix 5 from *Old Jamestown Across the Ages* for the full article.)

The sole trustee today of the New Coldwater Burial Ground is Frazier Vincent, Sr.

Later the Vincent family lived for 14 years on New Halls Ferry Road near Shackelford on property they rented to farm. Delia and Henry Vincent had five children, some of whom are buried in the little cemetery.

"I've done something of everything" said Mr. Vincent of his former jobs. Primarily he was a farmer, now retired. He spoke with pride of his son James who was in the Navy during WW II and of his son Frazier who was in the Army and stationed in Germany in WW II.

Peggy Kruse





Old Jamestown Association Newsletter
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.oldjamestownasn.org

Christian Hospital had a ribbon cutting event for their newly renovated lobby. Our board member Wayne Chambers' photo is prominently displayed in the lobby. Wayne is a frequent volunteer at Christian Hospital. It was great to see Wayne's photo hanging in the new lobby.

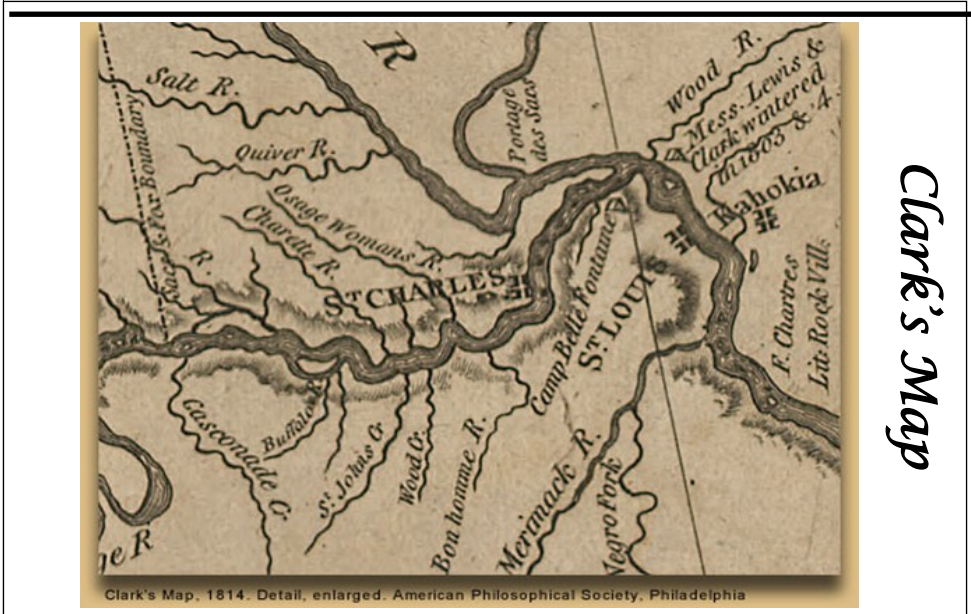
Christian Hospital NE has new Community Room (s) that are available to public groups at no charge.... just need to register. These are beautifully furnished new rooms with great audio/visual equipment.

ELECTION day is approaching. The Missouri ballot is LENGTHY. I advise all voters to read before you go to your polling place as that will speed up the process.

Chan Mahanta

Rotary Foundation Charity Auction
November 17, 2018
The Atrium
Detrick Building at Christian Hospital
Come Relive the Fabulous 70's

For More Information call Beverly Girardier at 314.973.3670 or e-mail at bgirardier@msn.com



Clark's Map

Clark's Map, 1814. Detail, enlarged. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia

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