

Sunset Hills Historical Society

Featuring: The Rott Family

A prominent German author named Durer visited Meramec Valley in the early 1800's and compared the area with the Rhine Valley in Germany. His book was apparently widely read and German immigrants began a mass migration from the homeland due to religious and political tyranny. Many came to the Sunset Hills Area and settled at that time. They mostly spoke German until WWI. Legend has it that German families' barns were burned and they quickly adjusted to the ways of their new country and spoke English.

Martin Rott came to America in 1844 to purchase land and build a home. His cousin Baldazar, his wife Margarethe, their son Jacob and daughter Susanna came in 1847. Their port of entry was New Orleans and on up the river to St. Louis. They purchased land, built a substantial home and raised their family in the area.

The Rott family was very supportive of education and some of the children attended the Log School on Rott Road. The first Rott School replaced the Log School in 1884. That one was replaced by a larger building in 1906 and was again replaced in 1931. Members of the Rott family served on school boards from 1890 into the 1900s. William Rott served on the Lindbergh School Board. The Rott children were educated at a time when education was optional. The Rott children were encouraged to seek higher education and many were professional people.

The Rott families were very civic minded. They were involved in farming, owned businesses and were involved in politics. According to family papers, an Evangelist Kirsch - St. John's United Church of Christ was founded in 1838 - the first church of it's kind in North America. Martin Rott attended the church; his gigantic tombstone is there. The Rotts were founders and generous supporters of St. Lucas Evangelical and Reformed Church (United Church of Christ). A beautiful stained glass window in the church was presented by Dortha Rott as a memorial to her family.

Sixth and seventh generation descendants of the family live in the area today.

SUNSET HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Due to the flooding of the Meramec, the Minnie Ha Ha dedication of the Historic Indian Landing Site will be rescheduled in the Spring of 2009.

The October SHHS will meet on October 27th at City Hall - 7:00 p.m. That will be our annual business meeting. Please feel free to attend and help us set goals for the coming year.

There will be no meetings in November and December due to the Holidays.

We are fortunate to be able to purchase a surplus of THE HISTORY OF SUNSET HILLS from the publisher at cost. Therefore we are able to offer them for sale at a cost of \$5.00 each. These will be great gifts for Christmas. Call 843-5649 or 849-2234 if you are interested.

We also offer a limited number of Sunset Hills Banners and Flags.

In the event you have not shared your family history or the history of your home, please do so. Call the numbers listed above or drop it off at City Hall.

Check out the display case in City Hall. A LHS senior service project is being highlighted. Mr. Daniel Murphy's English classes are reaching out around the world to help others.

Thank you for supporting SSSH.



ALDERMANIC REPORT

Business conducted at the October 14th Board of Aldermen meeting:

The Board passed four ordinances:

Ord. No. 1732 – An ordinance approving the Boundary Adjustment Plat to Convey 9,243 SF from 13339 Maple Drive to 4 Kahlia Way Court and 9,224 SF from 13339 Maple Drive to 8 Kahlia Way Court.

Ord. No. 1733 – An ordinance approving a subdivision plat for the property located at 11726 Eddie and Park to create three lots of record.

Ord. No. 1734 – An ordinance amending Section 2.3-1 of Appendix B (Zoning Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Sunset Hills, Missouri, by rezoning from “R-6” Residential District to “C-1” Commercial District the land described herein.

Ord. No. 1735 – An ordinance amending Section 2.3-1 of Appendix B (Zoning Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Sunset Hills, Missouri, by rezoning from “R-6” Residential District to “C-1” Commercial District the land described herein.

The Mayor and the Board welcome the following new businesses:

The Men’s Warehouse, Inc, 10746 Sunset Hills Plaza

Balance by Nature Massage Therapy, 3808 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

Titlemax of Missouri, Inc., 10214 Watson Road



PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

October 1, 2008 Meeting Results

P-20-08 Petition for a Conditional Use Permit submitted by CEDC to construct a mixed use retail development greater than 7500 sf on the property at 1500 S. Lindbergh Blvd. **Recommended Approval to Board of Aldermen.**

November 5, 2008 Agenda

NEW BUSINESS:

P-24-08 Petition for a Lot Consolidation submitted by Barbara Mungenast to eliminate the property line between 12363 Alswell and 10618 Sunset View Estates for the purpose of establishing one lot, which will consist of 4.08 acres.

P-25-08 Discussion of Section 6 – Off Street Parking and Loading Requirements.

NOTE: Please check the website www.sunset-hills.com or call Trish Moore at 314-849-3400 prior to any meeting to make sure items have not been postponed or withdrawn from the agenda.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

September 25, 2008 Meeting Results

NEW BUSINESS:

A-7-08 Notice of appeal submitted by HR Sheevam to vary Section 5.11-2 “Principal Building Setback Exceptions” and Section 4.9-4 (b) 2 (b) – “Setbacks from Abutting Residentially Zoned Property” from the required 75’ to 43.19’ on the eastern portion of the property and from 75’ to 14.79’ on the southern portion of the property for the purpose of increasing the vertical height of the existing building located on the property at 3660 S. Lindbergh Blvd. – Denied

October 23, 2008 Agenda

No meeting will be held since no items were submitted.

IESI Stops Service in Sunset Hills

After receiving numerous phone calls from residents regarding trash service, it appears that trash hauler IESI dropped all customers in Sunset Hills. Notice was not given to the City or apparently to our residents according to the phone calls received. We spoke with the Operations Manager and IESI and he has no explanation. The City is aware that St. Louis County recently sent out a bid for seven of their districts for trash service in unincorporated areas of the County. St. Louis County awarded IESI one of those contracts resulting in their customer base increasing from 6,000 to 28,000 accounts. This situation will require residents who use IESI to choose another company on the licensed hauler list for Sunset Hills. The City spoke with a couple of the other licensed haulers and they report that they are aware of this situation and are working diligently to pick up former IESI customers. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Trish Moore at 849-3400 or pmoore@sunset-hills.com.



POLICE DEPT.



Magazine Sales Scams

From time to time the police department receives complaints from residents who have ordered magazine subscriptions from door-to-door sales people but never receive the product. Typically the sales person will tell the prospective customer they are trying to sell the magazines for a variety of causes such as: kids trying to win a prize, earn tuition, go to camp, charity etc. Whatever the reason, they will try to convince you that it's all for a good cause. The kids who sign up for this work often get scammed as much as the customers who buy the subscriptions, getting promises of reasonable incomes but finding out later that this is not the easy work it was represented to be. Rarely does any of the money from this scam go to a charity.

We urge citizens to be wary of these sales. These salespeople do need a City solicitor's license. You may contact the Police Department to check on this if they should come to your door.

Secure Your Vehicle, Remove Your Valuables

Often times when responding to calls for thefts from parked autos, particularly in residential areas, we find that the owners had not secured the vehicle and/or left valuables very obvious. Please take just a moment and lock your vehicle when you park it, even if it's on your property and in your driveway. A lot of times these incidents are "crimes of opportunity" and the thief will simply move on if your car is secure and there are no valuables (cell phones, purses, laptop computers and GPS devices are very popular with the thieves) are left visible.

"Move Over Law"

For the safety of all emergency personnel, and civilian drivers alike, we would like to remind all vehicle operators that both State Law and City Ordinance require that: Upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying lighted red or red and blue lights, the driver of every motor vehicle shall:

- (1) Proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way, if possible with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the stationary vehicle, if on a roadway having at least four (4) lanes with not less than two (2) lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; or
- (2) Proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be unsafe or impossible.

2009 Summer Jobs

The City of Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Day Camp Counselors/Director
- Pool Front Desk • Pool Snack Bar • Lifeguards

Applicants must be 16 years old. Applications are available in the Park Office located in the Activity Center in Watson Trail Park.

Holiday Lighting Contest

Light up our city this Holiday Season by entering the Sunset Hills Holiday Lighting contest. Over the past years the following categories have been awarded:

- Business Award
- Spirit of Christmas Award
- Winter Wonderland Award
- Christmas for Kids Award
- Traffic Stopper Award
- Classic Christmas Award

You may enter your own home or business by calling the Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Office at 842-7265.

Registration deadline: Monday, December 8, 2008 by noon. Homes and Businesses will be judged that evening. Be sure your lights are on that evening by 6:00 p.m.

Bridge Club

The Drop-in Bridge Club meets every Monday and Thursday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. in the Activity Center in Watson Trail Park, 12450 W. Watson. New members are welcome.

Chess Club

The Chess Club meets in the Watson Trail Park Activity Center on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – Noon. Beginner or advanced, players are invited to join the fun.

Hayrides

The Parks and Recreation Department conducts hayrides for groups at Watson Trail Park now through November 15, 2008. The hay wagon holds 25 people and ride lasts approximately 30 minutes. Reservations are being accepted now.



Fees: (per wagon)

Residents: \$55 Non-residents: \$75.

Water Aerobics Classes

The Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Department is offering water aerobics classes at the Days Inn (Indoor) Pool on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. through December 12.

This shallow water total body guided exercise class is designed to increase cardiovascular endurance, muscle tone and flexibility in a refreshing and fun atmosphere. Hand held weights, noodles and kickboards will be provided.

Cost: Residents \$6.00 per class or you can purchase a punch card which entitles you to 9 classes for \$50.00.

Non-Residents \$7.00 per class or you can purchase a punch card which entitles you to 9 classes for \$60.00.

Registration by calling the Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Office at 314-842-7265.

Free Junior Golf Clubs

The City of Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Department has ten sets of junior golf clubs. For a \$50.00 cash deposit, area youth can use these clubs for ten days. This is a great way to introduce your child to the game of Golf. Clubs are available at the Park Office.



Indoor Tennis Lessons



Lessons Taught by
Beginners World Tennis
(at the Days Inn Motel)

Session 2: November 4 - November 20 Tuesday & Thursday

Session 3: December 1 – December 18 Tuesday & Thursday

6 lessons for \$72.00

Juniors Age 7-11 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Juniors Age 12-16 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Register by calling the Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Office at (314) 842-7265

Cahokia Mounds, Collinsville and the Catsup Bottle

We'll head across the Mighty Mississippi to Collinsville, IL, for a wonderful fall day of activities. First, we'll visit the Cahokia Mounds, which is the largest prehistoric Indian site north of Mexico. After the Mounds, we'll stop at the Collinsville Historical Museum, where we will learn all about the history of Collinsville. Next, it's lunch on your own at the Oatman Tea House (lunch combo is \$10 or less.) We'll then head to see the Brooks Catsup Bottle, a 170 foot water tower built in 1949, designed to look exactly like a catsup bottle. Fee includes transportation by van and admission fees.



Wednesday, November 12, 2008

8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: MCM Res \$20.00; Non Res \$25.00

Register with Webster Groves (314) 963-5600



CRESTWOOD SUNSET-HILLS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber of Commerce asks you to support the businesses that support this community.

Please visit the Chamber website at www.ourchamber.com to see a list of member businesses. Thank you!

Christmas Lights Tour

Kids ages seven to 70 will love this trip! Get your holidays off to a delightful start with a trip to Our Lady of the Snows. Enjoy a delicious buffet dinner at the Shrine Restaurant, and then ride through one of the most beautiful and uniquely designed light displays in the two-state area. The tour will then continue past Kiener Plaza, Anheuser Busch Brewery and will culminate with a drive through Tilles Park. Spaces fill quickly, so register early. Fee includes admission, meal, tip and transportation by motor coach.

December 10, 2008

Wednesday, 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

The bus will leave the Crestwood Community Center at 5:30 pm sharp.

Fee: MCM Res. \$55.00; Non-Res \$60.00

Register with Crestwood (314) 729-4860 by November 26.

Lunch and Bingo

Mid-County Muni Lunch and Bingo is held the first Thursday of the month. We meet for two hours of bingo, socializing and lunch.



Advance phone registration is required. All lunch and bingos are held at Webster Groves Recreation Complex, 33 E. Glendale unless otherwise noted.

First Thursday of the Month

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Fee: MCM Res/Non-Res \$5.00

Register with Webster Groves (314) 963-5600

Registration Deadline: One week in advance

Disc Golf Tournament

Turkey Bowl November 22, 2008
10:00 am

Pre-registration is required. There will be several categories and divisions to accommodate all typed of skill levels. The tournament will begin with a shotgun start format. The cost is \$15.00 per player. All players will receive refreshments and a complimentary disc. Any inquires can be made at the Sunset Hills Park office in Watson Trail Park, or by e-mail to: vvigil@sunset-hills.com.

Holiday Inn Six Flags Lunch and Bingo

Ready for a change of pace? Join us for Lunch and Bingo at the Holiday Inn Six Flags in Eureka, MO in addition to the regular January MCM Lunch and Bingo held at Webster Groves. When we arrive, you'll be served lunch, which is a choice of a sandwich, soup and beverage. After lunch, get ready for some bingo with real prizes and a unique bingo caller! On our way home, we'll stop by Culver's of Fenton for some dessert (on your own). Fee includes transportation by van and lunch. Sign up early this trip will fill up fast!

January 15

Thursday, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Fee: MCM Res \$22.00; Non-Res \$25.00

Register with Webster Groves (314) 963-5600 by January 5

Let Us Entertain You Camp

The ultimate variety performing arts experience! Your child will learn magic, juggling, comedy, puppets, & animal balloons. She/he'll make a person appear, spin plates, and twist an animal balloon who then finds your chosen card! Each night you'll be treated to new tricks your child learned that day! The camp culminates with the students putting on a show for their families. The goals of the camp are to build confidence, improve presentation skills in front of a group, and to have fun!

Location: Watson Trail Park Activity Center

When: December 29, 30 & 31, 2008

Age: 6-12

Cost: \$60.00 Resident and Non Resident

Time: 9:00 am till noon

Pet Photo Contest



We are having a Holiday Pet Photo contest for pets of all shapes and sizes. Take a picture of your pet during the Holiday season November 27, 2008 thru

January 1, 2009. Mail to: Watson Trail Park, 12450 W. Watson Rd. Sunset Hills, MO 63127 Attn: Pet Photo or e-mail to: Hpyne@sunset-hills.com a color print to the park office along with your name, address,

and phone number by January 9, 2009.

Photos will be displayed in the Activity Center and judged. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded by January 16, 2009.

Holiday Cookie Decorating



Enjoy one of the most enjoyable holiday traditions without messing up your own kitchen. Learn how to make frosting, color it

and fill a pastry bag. Students will practice a variety of beginner and intermediate cake decorating techniques. Then you can get creative and decorate holiday cookies to take home.

Location: Watson Trail Park Activity Center

When: December 22, 2008

Age: 8 and above

Time: 10:00 am to noon OR 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Fee: \$25.00 Resident \$30.00 Non-resident

Lunch With Santa

The City of Sunset Hills Parks Department and Smugala's Restaurant will be hosting a lunch with Santa at Smugala's Restaurant on Saturday December 13, 2008 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. There will be Pizza, Soda and Santa will give all the children a gift. After lunch Santa will be available so that parents can take a picture of their children with Santa.

Space is limited to 50 children

Cost is \$7.50 per child.

Call 314-842-7265 for reservations.

Reservations must be in by December 10, 2008.

Thank you to the following company and resident for their donations to the Sunset Hills Parks and Recreation Department:

- Crestwood McDonald's (cups)
- Dawn Musich (arts & crafts)

Employees of Sunset Hills



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This month we would like to introduce you to our Street Superintendent Robert H. Riggs, Jr. Bob has been with the Sunset Hills Street Department since June of 1981. He works



closely with our Director of Public Works to plan out and implement several street repair and maintenance projects throughout the year, as well as snow removal in the winter season.

In Bob's own words:

“The residents are who we are here for. I have a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction when we have taken care of the concerns of someone. I have a good rapport when meeting with our residents to solve any issues that may be going on, and also feel they know I will do my best to resolve those issues.”

Outside of work Bob enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, and RVing. Bob is skilled at tying his own popping bugs for fly fishing, and enjoys catching blue gill and bass.

If you have any questions for the Sunset Hills Street Department please call 314-842-6080 Monday through Friday 7:00am - 3:30 pm.

CALENDAR November

- 4 Nov.** – Public Works Committee – 7:00 p.m. – Public Works Conference Room
- 5 Nov.** – Planning & Zoning Commission – 7:30 p.m. – Assembly Room
- 11 Nov.** – Board of Aldermen – 7:00 p.m. – Assembly Room
- 17 Nov.** – Pool Advisory Board – 7:00 p.m. – Park Activity Center
- 11 Nov.** – Advisory Tree Board – 7:00 p.m. – Public Works Conference Room
- 22 Nov.** – Park Commission – 7:00 p.m. – Park Activity Center
- 20 Nov.** – Board of Adjustment – 7:00 p.m. – Assembly Room
- 25 Nov.** – Board of Aldermen – 7:00 p.m. – Assembly Room (if required)

*NOTE: City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, in observation of Thanksgiving.

Aldermen Directory

Mayor

Mike Svoboda 842-2021

Ward I

Frank Hardy 965-3762
Douglas McGuire 965-6425

Ward II

John W. Littlefield 965-6022
Tom Hrastich 849-5497

Ward III

Jan Hoffmann 842-5866
Stephen Webb 843-9263

Ward IV

Frank Gregory 842-7549
Patricia Fribis 849-2022

Important Numbers

City Hall 849-3400
Watson Trail Park 842-7265
Pool 842-SWIM
Emergency
Police 911
Fire 911
Ambulance 911
Police Information 849-4400
Vacation Watch 849-7867