



# Kirkwood Historical Society

At Mudd's Grove. 302 West Argonne Kirkwood MO 63122

May 2018



*It's easy to forget what Memorial Day actually means while you're sitting by the pool and looking ahead at summer vacation—but the day signifies much more than just a three-day weekend.*

Memorial Day is a solemn day of remembrance for everyone who has died serving in the American armed forces. The holiday, originally known as Decoration Day, started after the Civil War to honor the Union and Confederate dead.

It's unclear exactly where the holiday originated—Charleston, S.C., Waterloo, N.Y., Columbus, Ga. and other towns all claim to be the birthplace of the holiday. The event in Charleston that may have precipitated the holiday offers poignant evidence of a country struggling to rebuild itself after a bloody war: 257 Union soldiers died in prison in Charleston during the Civil War and were buried in unmarked graves, and the town's black residents organized a May Day ceremony in which they landscaped a burial ground to properly honor the soldiers.

In the years following the Civil War, Memorial Day celebrations were scattered and, perhaps unsurprisingly, took root differently in the North and South. It wasn't until after World War II that the holiday gained a strong following and national identity, and it wasn't officially named Memorial Day until 1967.

The final event that cemented the modern culture of Memorial Day in America was in 1968 when Congress passed the Uniform Holiday Act, designating Memorial Day as the last Monday in May rather than May 30, as it had previously been observed. This ensured a three-day weekend and gave the day its current status as the unofficial beginning of summer, mixing serious reflection with more lighthearted fun.

Source: *Web*

---

## MAY 2018 – CALENDAR

- May 1<sup>st</sup> – May Day. -
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – National Day of Prayer.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> - Friends Meeting
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day.
- May 19<sup>th</sup> - Armed Forces Day.
- May 28<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day.

### ERRATA:

In the April 2018 issue Mr. Douglas Coombs name was inadvertently misstated. We apologize for the error.



Please welcome Laurie Heitz, the new Treasurer for the Kirkwood Historical Society and Liz Gibbons, Membership Chairperson for the Kirkwood Historical Society. Please support Laurie and Liz as they begin their new duties

# Thank You

The Kirkwood Historical Society wishes to thank Maryellen Dick, outgoing Membership Chairperson and Steve Siegerist, outgoing Treasurer for their efforts and dedication to the Society. Your efforts and work in these positions are appreciated by all.



Of the Kirkwood Historical Society

The Friends of the Kirkwood Historical Society will have their regular meeting on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Mudd's Grove, 302 W. Argonne, Kirkwood, Mo. The featured program will be "The Gilded Table", - Food in the Victorian Era and will be presented by Suzanne Corbett, Author and Food Historian.

## Where's My Newsletter?

From time to time we receive comments from members not receiving their monthly newsletter.



Here are some helpful tips:

- If you receive your copy via email please make sure that we have your **correct** email address and that goes for spelling too on file. One letter or numeral or substituting .net for .com etc. will cause the message to bounce or if you change email addresses and do not notify us of the change. More than one email account? No problem. Just make sure we have the correct one you want your newsletter to go to.
- Check your junk or spam folder.
- Make sure that your email program settings as well as your devices fire wall settings permit you to receive email messages with attachments. Some email programs are set to block messages that contain attachments.

- If you receive your newsletter via the Postal Service please keep in mind that these mailings are made every quarter in January, April, July and October of each year so it is important that we have your correct postal mailing address on file.
- Please send any corrections, additions, deletions to: John F. Crowley, Editor KHS Newsletter at [kxn896@hotmail.com](mailto:kxn896@hotmail.com). Or you can text me at 314-764-0809.

Members who wish to receive the newsletter in a larger type (email or print) format, please send an email to John F. Crowley, Editor, KHS Newsletter at [kxn896@hotmail.com](mailto:kxn896@hotmail.com) or text to 314-764-0809.

Written correspondence concerning the newsletter should be send to the Kirkwood Historical Society, Attention: Newsletter P.O. Box 220602, Kirkwood, MO 63122-0602.



## What is a Docent?

A docent is a person who is a knowledgeable guide, especially one who conducts tours through a museum and gives commentary and answers questions pertaining to the exhibits and artifacts. See next page for more information.



*"Oh...Casey would waltz with the STRAWBERRY blonde and the band played on..."* And while the band was playing on, members and guests were enjoying sumptuous strawberries and ice cream at

the Kirkwood Historical Society's **Annual Strawberry Festival** which will be held on **Tuesday, June 12, 2018 from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm at Mudd's Grove**. Mark the date. More to come.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP PLEASE CONTACT NANCY REEVES AT [reeves2@mindspring.com](mailto:reeves2@mindspring.com).**



In 2018, how many months have 5 Thursdays and 5 Sundays?

**And the answer is:** 5 Thursdays: March, June, August, November.  
5 Sundays: April, July, September, December.

**How does this pertain to the Kirkwood Historical Society?**

Mudd's Grove is open to the public on Thursdays and Sundays from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm and there is a need for Docents to welcome our guests.

Our Docents are thoroughly trained on the types of questions our visitors ask. If you are considering becoming a Docent at Mudd's Grove and if a monthly commitment is not right for you, you may wish to consider this limited opportunity.



Interested?

You can contact the Kirkwood Historical Society through the contact us link on our website or by calling 314-809-0403. Call us today!

---

**50 Trees" Celebrates Earth Day and Arbor Day: Tree Location Nominations Sought**

Celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day during April by helping the population of street trees grow in Kirkwood! To reach their ultimate goal of planting 1000 trees in Kirkwood by 2025, the citizen-volunteers behind the 50 TREES program need your help locating sites for another round of 50 street trees to be planted this fall. 50 TREES was begun in 2010 as a one-off "back to the future" commemoration of Greentree Festival's 50th anniversary. Greentree Festival was started in 1961 by citizens wanting to help replace the countless trees lost in Kirkwood due to



Dutch Elm disease that struck the area in the first half of the 20th century. This new generation of 50 TREES huggers seeks to repeat history in the first half of the 21st century by helping replace the scores of trees stricken by a new pest, the Emerald Ash Borer. The 50 TREES program in 2010 was such a success that it has continued each year thereafter. To date, over 550 new street trees - oaks, ginkoes, bald cypress, redbuds, hornbeams and more - have been planted.

Residents and business owners are asked to help support this mission by nominating sites for new trees to be planted this fall. Sites must be within Kirkwood rights-of-way approximately 4-6 feet from the street pavement, which typically falls between the curb and sidewalk. Also, sites must be clear of overhead power lines and underground utility lines. Nominated sites will be reviewed this Sept-Oct. Qualified sites will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis. Trees will be planted free of charge on Saturday, November 3, 2018. Donations are appreciated. Interested residents may email proposed site locations and contact information to: [keepkirkwoodgreen@gmail.com](mailto:keepkirkwoodgreen@gmail.com), or phone: 314-822-8947.