



JULY 2019

Vision: The Kirkwood Historical Society will preserve and share the history of the Kirkwood area and be a source of community pride marked by vibrant membership and civic engagement.

Mission: The Kirkwood Historical Society fosters an active appreciation for preserving the history of the Kirkwood area and its relevance to the present and future.



The entire staff of the Kirkwood Historical Society would like to take this time to wish all its members a safe and Happy Fourth of July. As you prepare to celebrate “America’s Birthday” always remember to keep safety up front in everything you do. And since it is Summer in St. Louis be ever mindful of the heat.

DUE TO THE JULY 4TH HOLIDAY MUDD’S GROVE AND THE HARLAN GOULD MEMORIAL LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED.

WE WILL REOPEN SUNDAY, JULY 7TH FROM 1:00 PM TILL 4:00 PM.

Looking Ahead...



Coming Soon

Kirkwood Historical Society
presents

A Tour of the Town

An illumination of our treasures - New and Old

This Inaugural Event will feature tours of the winner
of the Kirkwood Landmark Commission's
New Home of Merit Award

*201 North Taylor
Sunday, September 8*

Watch our newsletter for additional details.

IT'S ALL IN A NAME

Did you know that Delmar Boulevard is named for the states of Delaware and Maryland? Mardel Avenue is the name in reverse.



Your Kirkwood Historical Society currently has a need for Docents/Volunteers to not only provide public tours at Mudd's Grove but to help at our special events that are held throughout the year such as: the Annual Strawberry Festival, Home & Garden tours, the Greentree Festival and helping to decorate Mudd's Grove for the holidays. If you enjoy meeting and interacting with wonderful people then please consider becoming a docent or volunteer. For additional information please contact **John F. Crowley, Docent Coordinator** at kxn896@hotmail.com. Or you can call 314-821-7785 (H) or 314-764-0809 ©.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This is the second installment of "In the Spotlight" highlighting the various members that make up your Board of Directors. This month we feature



Tom Whittaker

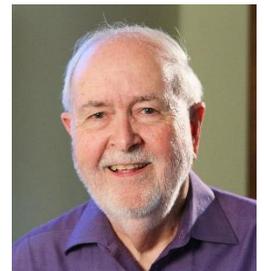
How long have you and your family lived in Kirkwood? - *I think it's safe to say that I have lived in or been associated with Kirkwood my entire life. My maternal grandfather purchased our ancestral home at the corner of Fillmore and E. Jefferson in 1934 for \$7,500 cash, a large sum in those days. The house, built in 1905, is where my mother grew up, as did I years later. I met my future wife Cia, in 9th grade study hall at Nipher Jr. High School and we both graduated from Kirkwood High in 1976. Following college, we were married in 1981 and lived in the apartments (now condos) on Nirk Ave. for two years. We purchased our first two homes in Crestwood and Ballwin, respectively because we simply couldn't afford to live in Kirkwood. In 2005, upon returning from eight years in San Antonio, TX, we purchased our first and only Kirkwood home on Peeke Ave, where we reside today. In 2018, my 80-something mother sadly, but for all the right reasons, sold her home on Jefferson.*

What makes Kirkwood a special place to live? - *Kirkwood is special to me first because of our deep family roots on Jefferson Ave. My neighborhood growing up experience was truly a snapshot of the "Wonder Years." We played Capture the Flag at dusk amidst the glowing dots of fireflies. We were thrilled with the freedom of being able to walk to Velvet Freeze on our own. The day I learned to ride a two-wheel bike, there was a crowd of kids in my yard cheering me on. My bike would be my ticket to exploring more of Kirkwood. I loved riding down the beautiful treelined streets, chugging up steep hills and racing down the other side, usually with my baseball glove dangling from the handle bars. Though I wouldn't admit it then, I fell in love with my future wife at age 15 at a party on Dixon. My Kirkwood High experience was wonderful; my grades were OK, but my friends were awesome. Six of those guys recently celebrated a new decade together on the fly fishing waters of Montana. I could go on to extol the many quality-of-life attributes of living in present-day, historic Kirkwood but I'll leave that for others. As for me, the "specialness" of Kirkwood is born out of the many memorable experiences collected in my formative years that I've carried throughout my life.*

What does the new Vision Statement of the Kirkwood Historical Society mean to you? - *We collect, preserve and share Kirkwood's heritage with our fellow citizens. But as we move forward, I think it's important that we not confine ourselves to a specific historic period; there has been a lot of significant history in our town that goes far beyond post- Civil War. As we expand our scope, my hope is that we will broaden our appeal to prospective members — to citizens and local businesses alike — adding richness to their experience of living, working and participating in the Kirkwood community.*

Ron Krieger - *My Mother and Father moved to what is now Kirkwood in 1925. Since that time, myself as the second generation has resided here for almost 83 years, and my two sons have lived here most of their lives, and finally my 5 Grandchildren, the fourth generation also live here.*

Kirkwood is very special to me because it has been a part of my entire life. I grew up here, I worked here at Mo. State Highway Dept. office, and now have a business here that is 92 years old and has and is shared by 4 generations. I went to school here, have gone to church here for nearly 80 years and was married here. I wouldn't know how to live anywhere else! The unique thing about Kirkwood is that former residents that have moved away at no matter at what age, always seem to gravitate back here either returning to live here again or to visit. I think that relates that Kirkwood is indeed a special place.



The Kirkwood Historical Society, since its inception has been a great source of past and current history through its ample resources with Mudd's Grove History House, its abundant library, and so many donated objects on display. Always ready to share its knowledge and incorporate the people of this community to a sense of belonging. Membership in the Society solidifies your participation as being a part of the past, present and future of the Kirkwood Area community new direction is promising and exciting to ensure the past is taught to the next generations. It also speaks to Kirkwood being inviting to all the people, all are welcome.