

**MINUTES OF THE
STE. GENEVIEVE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY – JANUARY 14, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Paul Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL. A roll call by City Clerk Pam Meyer showed the following members present:

Mayor Paul Hassler
Alderman Gary Smith
Alderman Mike Jokerst
Alderman Jeff Eydmann
Alderman Mike Raney

Alderman Susie Johnson (Zoom)
Alderman Bob Donovan
Alderman Ashley Donovan (Zoom)

Absent: Alderman Joe Prince

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. A motion by Alderman Jokerst, second by Alderman Smith to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0-1 with Alderman Prince absent.

PRESENTATION/AWARDS. None.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE. At this time Cara Naeger with Ste. Genevieve Properties introduced Mr. David Weiss with Gateway West, LLC whom was available by zoom to answer any questions that the Mayor and/or Board of Aldermen may still have regarding the Special Use Permit request for 205 South Tenth Street, Lot #4 that will allow the replacement of a non-conforming mobile home with a newer one.

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT. (See Attached Report)

STAFF REPORTS.

Dave Bova – Community Development Administrator (See Attached Report)
Kenny Steiger – Fire Chief (See Attached Report)
Gary Roth – Field Operations Supervisor (See Attached Report)
Toby Caring – Tourism Director (See Attached Report)

COVID DISCUSSION. City Administrator Welch announced that the new Health Department Administrator, Jenny Mueller will try to make at least one meeting a month to update the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on COVID and answer any questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS. None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS. None.

CONSENT AGENDA.

- Minutes – Board of Aldermen – Regular Meeting – December 10, 2020
- **RESOLUTION 2021 – 17.** A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF STE. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDED LOW BID OF GEGG LAWN SERVICE FOR THE GRASS & WEEDS VIOLATION PROGRAM FOR 2021.
- **RESOLUTION 2021 – 18.** A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF STE. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR A HISTORIC PRESERVATION WORKSHOP WITH PRESERVATION RESOURCES, INC.
- **RESOLUTION 2021-19.** A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF STE. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FARM LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MICHAEL AND ADRIAN NAEGER FOR AN AGRICULTURAL OPERATION ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED ON PROGRESS PARKWAY.

Alderwoman Armbruster asked that the Board of Aldermen Minutes from December 10, 2020 be amended to show her voting NO on the motion for a second and final reading of Bill No. 4402.

A motion by Alderman Jokerst, second by Alderman Smith to approve the Consent Agenda with the corrections to the Board of Aldermen Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2020. Motion carried 7-0-1 with Alderman Prince absent.

OLD BUSINESS.

BILL NO. 4402. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR STE. GENEVIEVE PROPERTIES, LLC & HUNTER LEE HOLDINGS THAT WILL ALLOW THE REPLACEMENT OF A NON-CONFORMING MOBILE HOME AT 205 SOUTH TENTH STREET, LOT #4, WITH A NEWER MODEL MOBILE HOME. 2nd READING. A motion by Alderman Raney, second by Alderman Eydmann, Bill No. 4402 was placed on its second and final reading, read by title only, considered and passed by a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Alderwoman Susan Johnson, Alderman Gary Smith, Alderman Jeff Eydmann, Alderman Mike Raney and Alderwoman Ashley Armbruster. Nays: Alderman Bob Donovan Abstain: Alderman Mike Jokerst Motion carried 6-1-1-1 with Aldermen Joe Prince absent. Thereupon Bill No. 4402 was declared Ordinance No. 4324 signed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS.

BILL NO. 4404. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STE. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI, REPEALING SECTION 380.190 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES. 1st READING. A motion by Alderman Raney second by Alderman Smith, Bill No. 4404 was placed on its first reading, read by title only, considered and passed by a 7-0-1 vote with Aldermen Prince absent.

BILL NO. 4405. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A BID PROPOSAL FROM TURN-KEY MOBILE, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF NINE (9) MOBILE DATA TERMINAL DOCKING STATIONS WITH ADAPTORS AND SIX (6) KEY BOARDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$12,135.00) AND AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET #10 – POLICE #16. 1st & 2nd READING. A motion by Alderman Smith, second by Alderman Eydmann, Bill No. 4405 was placed on its first reading, read by title only, considered and passed by a 7-0-1 vote with Aldermen Prince absent. A motion was made by Alderman Donovan to proceed with the second and final reading of Bill No. 4405, 2nd by

Alderman Eydmann. Motion carried 7-0-1 with Alderman Prince absent. A motion by Alderman Eydmann, second by Alderman Smith, Bill No. 4405 was placed on its second and final reading, read by title only, considered and passed by a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Alderwoman Susan Johnson, Alderman Mike Jokerst, Alderman Gary Smith, Alderman Jeff Eydmann, Alderman Bob Donovan, Alderman Mike Raney and Alderwoman Ashley Armbruster. Nays: None. Motion carried 7-0-1 with Aldermen Joe Prince absent. Thereupon Bill No. 4405 was declared Ordinance No. 4325 signed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk.

BILL NO. 4406. AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN APPROVING A WAIVER TO THE R-2 GENERAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FRONT YARD SETBACK REGULATIONS FOR A LOT OF RECORD AT 10 N. NINTH STREET. 1st & 2nd READING A motion by Alderman Jokerst, second by Alderman Smith, Bill No. 4406 was placed on its first reading, read by title only, considered and passed by a 7-0-1 vote with Aldermen Prince absent. A motion was made by Alderman Donovan to proceed with the second and final reading of Bill No. 4406, 2nd by Alderman Smith. Motion carried 7-0-1 with Alderman Prince absent. A motion by Alderman Donovan, second by Alderman Eydmann, Bill No. 4406 was placed on its second and final reading, read by title only, considered and passed by a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Alderwoman Susan Johnson, Alderman Mike Jokerst, Alderman Gary Smith, Alderman Jeff Eydmann, Alderman Bob Donovan, Alderman Mike Raney and Alderwoman Ashley Armbruster. Nays: None. Motion carried 7-0-1 with Aldermen Joe Prince absent. Thereupon Bill No. 4406 was declared Ordinance No. 4326 signed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk.

OTHER BUSINESS. None.

MAYOR/BOARD OF ALDERMEN COMMUNICATION. None.

ADJOURNMENT. With no further business Mayor Hassler adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,


Pam Meyer
City Clerk

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

January 14, 2021 UPDATE 1

1. This is Missouri's Bicentennial year and we will be working with various groups that are planning events this year to celebrate that birthday. While we don't have anything in particular that we planned we will help market those events and promote a special year for the state.
2. We will be receiving bids for the survey work along the levee property on January 25 and selecting a surveyor to split the east section of property that can be donated to the Fish and Wildlife Service. And we will have a bid opening Monday, January 25 at 3:00 p.m. for the cemetery maintenance contract. We had a mandatory meeting Monday at the cemeteries and had only one contractor show up.
3. We are working on an engineering agreement with Cochran Engineering to develop construction plans for the North 4th St. water main improvement that needs to be completed before we do our paving program for 2021. We're discussing engineering for the whole water main project from Biltmore to Washington or just to Roberts since that's where the street improvement ends.
4. Bobbi Basler of Ste. Genevieve is our new cleaning person for the city hall and police department and she will start this weekend.
5. There is one more year of the Community Development Fund Grant and I have been encouraged to apply for a small portion to use as a match for trail improvements at Pere Marquette Park.
6. I have received a full set of preliminary plans for the Phase 1 remodel of the city hall/police department and will send those out to the committee for their feedback.
7. The boxwoods have been removed from along Market Street next to the Welcome Center. Some mulch needs to be added to dress it up a little. The boxwoods did not come out gently so there were none that could be saved.
8. The MML yearly Legislative Conference is February 9 & 10 and I have signed up for the virtual option this year. The MML staff updates members as to bills being considered that are of interest to municipalities plus reports from the house and senate leaders and the governor (if available).
9. Sales tax receipts are in for December and again we see an increase year to year from 2019 to 2020. The increase was 15% higher than 2019 for the General Use Tax while the Transportation Tax and Capital Tax were up 13%. The Use Tax was actually down from year to year December by 10% but up overall for 2020 by 29%.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

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Community Development

David Bova
Community Development Administrator
165 S. Fourth Street
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

Phone: 573-883-5400
Fax: 573-883-8105
Email: dbova@stegenevieve.org

January 2021 Staff Report

Activities for 12/9/20 – 1/12/21

Historic Preservation – Heritage Commission

- Meeting – December 21; next tentative meeting – Mon, Jan. 25th
- Approved 1 COA; Administrative approval 1 COA & 1 Attestation
- SHPO Historic Preservation Grant – HC has recommended approval; agreement on tonight's BOA agenda

Building Department / Code Enforcement

- Occupancy Permits / Inspections 25
- Building Permits Issued 6
- Demolition Permits 1
- Sign Permits 1
- Chicken Permits 3 (renewals)
- Special Use Permits 1
- Continued organization of old plans in basement

Rental Housing Advisory Commission

- Nothing new to report – next tentative meeting March/April

Planning & Zoning

- Meeting – January 7; next tentative meeting – Thu, Feb. 4th
- Approved ZA001-21 – recommended approval to BOA; on tonight's BOA agenda
- SUP002-21 had BOA Public Hearing & 1st reading on Dec. 10th; awaiting 2nd reading

Board of Adjustment

- Nothing new to report.

Floodplain Management

- Nothing new to report

Property Maintenance

- 2018 Focus properties remaining 8
 - Nuisance property Issues 6
 - Vegetation Nuisance Issues 0
 - Building Code Violation Issues 0
-

Ste. Genevieve Fire Department

Ken Steiger Fire Chief
165 South 4th. Street
Ste. Genevieve, Mo. 63670

Phone: 573-883-5400 City Hall
Phone: 573-883-5321 Fire House
Fax: 573-883-8081 Fire House
Email: sgfd7101@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 573-883-0615

Monthly Operations Report

Date: **December 2020**

Calls for Assistance:

- SGFD responded to **17** emergency calls in **December**
- **Total Responses for the year 2020** are **220** calls, **down 17** calls from last year.

Staffing:

- SGFD roster is down **8**. Due to the fireman being volunteer, openings will occur
- Volunteers are still needed to form an applicant list, contact any SGFD firefighter if interested

Training: (FYI, all monthly training is done after hours or on weekends)

- **Monthly Training was switched to video based and was on fire fighting foam**
- **The annual Winter Fire School in Columbia has been switched to virtual this year. In stead of sending six we will pay for several virtual connections and open them to any of our personnel that wish to attend.**

Meetings Attended

Ozark Firefighters meetings – **Cancelled**
Bi County Chiefs Meeting - **Cancelled**

Technical Rescue: (FYI, all Tech Rescue training is done after hours or on weekends in addition to regular monthly training)

- Nothing to report

Facility: LED Lighting

Administration side complete. Almost complete, work has slowed due to covid distancing

Apparatus & Equipment Maintenance:

The state has posted their state bids so I plan to go out for bids on the new 1 ton truck in the next few weeks.

Have Specs for the new 1 ton truck for brush truck replacement, waiting on new state bids due out middle of December

Fire Radio

Our base station radio went out at the fire house. Currently exploring options repair or replace.

Grants

- 1) Missouri Department of Conservation Grant. The grant has been submitted.
Received the notice this grant will not be funded this year.

We were informed last week that the Community Foundation Grant will be available again this year. This is a “no matching fund grant”. We have been very successful with this grant program. Due to the short notice, I do not have time to put it all together to bring to the board. We will be applying for the fire department and for the County Tech Rescue Team.

County Firefighters Assn.:
Nothing to report

Local & State Mutual Aid:
• Nothing new to report

Misc.
• **Participated in the annual Christmas Parade**

KnoxBox Program

Approved Box for – THE POINT- Waiting for install
Ultra Flow – Waiting for the install
Ste. Genevieve Do It Center (2 locations) – Waiting for installs
Windcrest Apts – Waiting on Install

The New License Office – Waiting on Install



December/January

- Put up and took down Christmas decorations
- Got snow equipment ready
- Cut down 2 trees in the park
- Cut down trees on a couple buyouts
- Worked on the road at the brush site
- Cleaned the last section of the drainage area in Pointe Basse
- Patched potholes
- Serviced vehicles and dump trucks
- Made light poles for Downtown
- Made a gate to get in the drainage area In Pointe Basse

TOURISM REPORT

January 14, 2021, Board of Aldermen meeting

MEDIA COVERAGE

The establishment of Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park — and some visitors who have come to Ste. Genevieve to visit the park — has resulted in some free media coverage since our last meeting.

Included in this packet is some of that coverage, including a front-page story in the Park Hills (Mo.) Daily Journal, a full page in the Citizens Electric Corporation newsletter included in Rural Missouri magazine, a photo and mention in the magazine of the National Parks Conservation Association, and a two-page spread in the Southeast Missourian's B Magazine (a business supplement) that was written by Senator Roy Blunt.

I am also including copies of the 2021 Missouri Travel Guide that includes some additional advertising that we did this year as well as some additional editorial coverage because of the establishment of the national historical park.

Last Friday, KMOV television (Channel 4) from St. Louis sent a reporter and camera person for a day-long shoot in Ste. Genevieve to launch their series on regional road trips that should air in another week or two.

The National Park Service does work with a public relations firm out of St. Louis to handle its media coordination, and I've been told that firm is making some contacts in efforts to get publicity on a regional and national scale for the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park.

WELCOME CENTER UPDATE

The boxwoods were removed from the Market Street side of the Welcome Center and one other bush was removed that was blocking access to the picnic table and the double doors on the north side of the building.

I have mentioned to city administrator Happy Welch and field operations supervisor Gary Roth that mulch could be used to dress up the area a little bit this winter. One of my staff members more verse in plants than I am said the existing ground cover could move into that area within a couple of years.

There are varying opinions about whether the area looks better or worse or will look better or worse in the time to come.

Alderman Gary Smith correctly observed during a recent meeting that the boxwoods situation was a lack of maintenance and control. However, this was something that took place over a period of several years.

The boxwoods that were removed were located along the sidewalk that would be used by disabled people who parked in the designated parking spot or in our back lot and attempted to enter the Welcome Center via the ramp. In at least one area of this stretch, the boxwoods infringed on the sidewalk by more than 12 inches. In another area, it created a tight fit with a lamp post in the sidewalk.

Ideally, aggressive maintenance in the past would have created a better look and not infringed on the sidewalk. In talking with landscapers this summer about cutting the boxwoods back and those who bid on removing the boxwoods, none recommended performing the aggressive maintenance that would be required to get the boxwoods back under control and all preferred removal.

This gives the National Park Service a clean slate to landscape the area as it wishes while in the meantime resolving the access issues that disabled people may have had using that sidewalk.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Chocolate Walk is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, in downtown Ste. Genevieve with 18 participating businesses or organizations — including the Welcome Center — handing out chocolate samples. Tickets are limited to 300 people and are available through the website for Downtown Sainte Genevieve. More than 500 people had expressed interest on Facebook before we sent out a news release and Facebook post this week with updated information.

The Welcome Center will host the Missouri Bicentennial photo display from Thursday, February 11, through March 2. The exhibit showcases dozens of photos selected to represent the four seasons in various parts of the state. We will have the exhibit from 9 to 5 each day and we will stay open 7 p.m. on Friday, February 26, although there is no formal Fourth Friday Art Walk planned.

Among the first of the annual events set to take place this year is Ecole du Soldat, scheduled for the weekend of Friday, April 23, through Sunday, April 25. They are moving forward with their plans for this year, although the lectures they had at the Welcome Center will have to relocate since our space is tighter.

ITEMS FOR 2021

Among my primary goals:

- Print material with a unified theme for a rack card, promotional brochure, and downtown guide.
- Reworking the website either inexpensively as possible through our current web host or looking at larger scale changes in the 2022 fiscal year, or both.
- More social media work, including video.

We have been approved for \$8,663 in grant funding from the Missouri Division of Tourism in a 90-10 matching program, so we will utilize those funds for more social media programming strategically from late January through early June to promote events and also aim for some geographic targets such as Memphis, Paducah, Carbondale, Springfield (both states), Chicago and Kansas City.

We are working on the preparations for the Big BAM cycling event that will be concluding on Friday, June 18, in Ste. Genevieve. Cyclists will roll into town that day at the end of a five-day ride that begins in Poplar Bluff and winds through Sikeston, Cape Girardeau, Perryville and Farmington.

I am hoping to coordinate with multiple entities some packages which can be promoted through our website as one-stop vacation deals, such as discounted tickets to River Rapids Waterpark and/or the Museum Learning Center with a hotel stay.

Since Tuesday, August 10, 2021, will mark the bicentennial for the state of Missouri, we are looking at events on and around that date as well as throughout the year.

WELCOME CENTER VISITORS AND OTHER DATA

The following includes year-end data for our visitstegen.com website and the Welcome Center.

The final visitation totals were less than 50 percent, largely due to the pandemic that saw the center closed for more than two months and resulted in the cancellation of signature events such as the French Heritage Festival, Jour de Fete and Rural Heritage Day, among others.

In addition, the Welcome Center did not host concerts on the Saturday of the Holiday Christmas Festival with those performances instead taking place on the porch of the Jean-Baptiste Valle House.

For the final four months of 2020, the Welcome Center saw 4,831 visitors, compared to 5,491 in the same span in 2019.

Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center Visitors

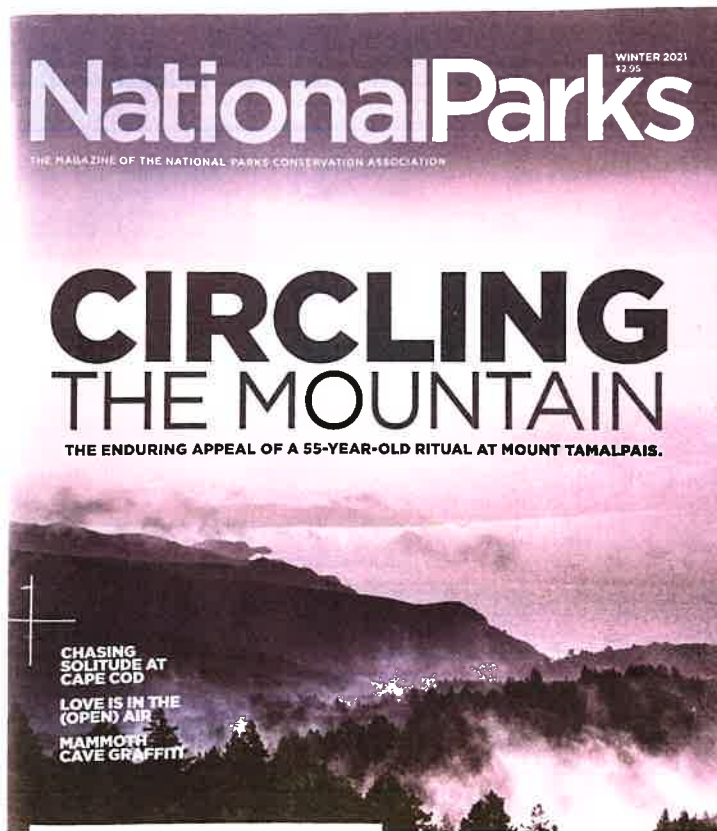
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	343	547	485	416	543	343	365
February	682	833	1,053	1,034	1,237	775	518
March	992	1,166	899	1,210	1,507	1,423	313
April	1,407	1,646	1,906	1,725	2,029	2,048	0
May	2,604	2,391	2,825	2,542	3,579	3,684	0
June	1,970	1,828	2,002	2,299	2,765	1,950	1,119
July	2,225	1,784	2,044	2,291	1,912	1,724	1,101
August	3,303	3,342	2,535	3,746	2,531	3,253	1,367
September	1,973	2,091	2,608	2,703	2,557	1,647	1,360
October	3,087	3,168	3,343	3,004	2,850	1,871	1,569
November	977	1,321	1,572	1,302	1,633	1,040	1,042
December	943	1,021	781	1,905	1,314	933	860
TOTAL	20,506	21,138	22,053	24,177	24,457	20,691	9,614

VISITSTEGEN.COM WEBSITE DATA

	2010 through 2020		2019		2020	
Users	466,886		65,264		86,894	
Sessions	611,435		89,201		107,245	
Number of sessions per user	1.31		1.37		1.23	
Pageviews	1,582,405		195,363		213,479	
Pages per session	2.59		2.19		1.99	
Average session duration	2:59		2:13		2:05	
Bounce rate	52.18		57.36		57.38	
Countries	United States	96.19	United States	95.98	United States	97.28
	Canada	0.67	Canada	1.00	Canada	0.41
	France	0.30	France	0.45	China	0.34
	United Kingdom	0.26	China	0.43	France	0.15
	India	0.24	India	0.22		
	Brazil	0.18	United Kingdom	0.21		
	China	0.16	South Korea	0.17		
	Germany	0.16				
Cities	St. Louis	9.93	Chicago	14.17	Chicago	9.86
	Chicago	7.74	St. Louis	10.45	St. Louis	5.39
	Kansas City	1.89	Kansas City	2.65	Springfield MO	4.01
	Farmington	1.53	Perryville	1.90	Kansas City	1.88
	Springfield MO	1.47	Ashburn VA	1.69	St. Peters	1.77
	Festus	1.43	Festus	1.61	Memphis	1.69
	Cape Girardeau	1.40	Cape Girardeau	1.23	Perryville	1.58
	Ste. Genevieve	1.36	Chesterfield	1.18	Farmington	1.30
	St. Peters	1.36			Festus	1.29
Female users	62.8		64.3		64.1	
Ages						
18-24	6.21		3.71		4.98	
25-34	16.47		16.69		13.20	
35-44	15.63		17.03		12.33	
45-54	17.87		19.48		16.51	
55-64	24.51		24.85		26.46	
65-plus	19.31		18.24		26.42	

**Ste. Genevieve Tourism Website Visitors
www.visitsstegen.com monthly unique users**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	24	1,219	1,204	2,715	3,185	2,782	2,907	8	3,758	4,420	4,222
February	18	1,220	1,150	2,596	2,945	2,766	3,081	7	4,628	4,464	4,619
March	29	1,836	1,529	3,190	3,864	3,456	3,973	4,006	4,737	5,415	3,515
April	45	1,389	1,916	3,587	3,875	3,411	5,255	4,670	5,219	5,588	2,706
May	55	1,651	2,800	4,042	4,778	4,298	4,191	5,725	6,365	5,593	5,168
June	74	2,110	3,056	3,978	5,201	4,572	4,020	1,105	6,595	6,528	7,564
July	1,283	1,471	3,404	4,941	3,901	4,179	3,537	49	8,496	8,120	6,504
August	1,427	1,522	3,595	4,186	3,335	4,998	5,236	28	7,816	7,673	6,970
September	1,363	1,159	4,315	3,781	3,578	4,364	5,369	16	7,056	6,557	7,502
October	1,601	1,348	4,232	5,143	3,702	4,718	8,597	0	7,541	5,761	20,923
November	1,452	912	2,519	3,189	2,290	3,191	3,751	387	5,352	4,413	14,921
December	906	879	1,956	2,391	2,154	2,867	93	3,225	5,804	4,269	4,508
TOTAL	8,277	16,716	31,676	43,739	42,808	45,602	50,010	19,226	73,367	68,801	89,122



Trail Mix



Welcome to the Family!

This fall, the National Park System formally welcomed the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial in Washington, D.C., the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument in Nancy, Kentucky, and the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, bringing the grand total of National Park Service sites to 422. The memorial, a 4-acre park adjacent to the National Mall, recognizes the contributions of Eisenhower, the commanding general of the Allied forces in Europe during World War II who went on to become the nation's 34th president. Designed by architect Frank Gehry, the memorial features sculptures of Eisenhower at different stages of life and is anchored along its southern border by a 450-foot metal tapestry depicting the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, the site of a critical battle during the Allied invasion of Europe in June 1944. While Congress authorized the memorial's creation in 1999, progress was delayed by design disputes and a lengthy approval process, and the



AMOUREUX HOUSE at Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park in Missouri.

official dedication didn't take place until Sept. 17. Days later and several hundred miles to the west, Mill Springs Battlefield was officially established. Situated in rolling farmland, the battlefield commemorates one of the first Union victories of the Civil War. Finally, in late October, Ste. Genevieve became the most recent addition to the park system. The site preserves the stories of a pre-Revolutionary War French Canadian settlement along the western banks of the Mississippi River.

—KATHERINE DEGROFF

Hear A Better Day.
Miracle Ear
(573) 756-6916
www.miracle-ear.com

Tree tapping

MDC offers virtual programs, 43



Healthy Living

Alzheimer's Association hosts virtual education class, 43

'We will object'

Reps weigh in on vote, 43

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Dr. Paul Kowalski, left, joins with Mester visiting on the porch of the Suburban Valley Historic Inn, a portion of the 1804 home, one of the historic, six-story homes for touring in St. Genevieve.

Ste. Genevieve: Visit Number 422

Park enthusiast from New Jersey has been to every national park

A National Park Service enthusiast visited the newest national park in St. Genevieve. Just years ago, Dr. Paul Kowalski completed a 30-year journey to visit all the national parks. The doctor from Marlboro, New Jersey saved for last a park in his home state — Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. It was his 413th different national park.

The National Park Service keeps adding parks, however, and Kowalski keeps traveling. On Dec. 17, he visited St. Genevieve National Historical Park, the newest unit in the National Park Service system — No. 422.

Kowalski, who also volunteers many hours per year at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, brought to St. Genevieve some items from that park as well as other national parks he has visited.

While he rates Glacier National Park as top on his list, he thought the story of St. Croix Island, founded in 1604 as one of the first settlements of New France, would be of interest to St. Genevieve history buffs.

While in St. Genevieve, Kowalski toured the On-



Dr. Paul Kowalski presents to St. Genevieve Tourism Director Tolly Carrig some items from Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, where Kowalski serves as a volunteer. Kowalski recently toured the newly established St. Genevieve National Historical Park as he keeps up on his goal to visit all of the parks in the National Park Service system.

board-Ville House operated by the Foundation for Restoration. He also visited the St. Genevieve Welcome Center, the National Park Service headquarters at the Jean-Baptiste Valle House, and the Green Tree Tavern, which is owned by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources but has been legislatively approved for transfer to the National Park Service.

St. Genevieve National Historical Park was established on Oct. 30. It includes the Jean-Baptiste Valle House on South Main Street and the Beau-

Mester charged with assault

Richwoods man in trouble after alleged Christmas shooting

BOBBY BARNARD
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A man faces battery in Washington County after alleged shooting, another man he thought had been trespassing on his property.

Michael Mester, 57, of Richwoods, has been charged with first-degree assault, third-degree criminal trespass, and possession of a weapon.



Mester

According to a probable cause statement from the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Mester saw a man traveling westbound on Highway 47 during a 2008 Paterson Christmas day. The report states that Mester pursued the man in his pickup truck. Mester reportedly caught up to the man and pointed his truck at him on the main 477 Highway.

When stopped, the report indicates that Mester allegedly threatened a firearm, pointing it at the man stating, "I should kill you for trespassing on my property." The man reportedly displayed his firearm, striking the man on the left leg.

According to the statement, the bullet went into the man's

left leg, on his left side, and exited through the back of his thigh. The driver, a 24-year-old male, was taken to a local hospital and the report states that the driver was treated for a bullet wound and the report states that the driver was taken to a local hospital and the report states that the driver was taken to a local hospital.

The sheriff's office was provided an audio recording from the sheriff's office, which reportedly called Mester after the incident. A deputy listened to the recording and reported that the man called Mester to be shot his brother in the leg during the phone conversation, to which Mester stated, "andy. The man threatened Mester if his brother was trespassing, and he said, 'yes.'"

The deputy reports that later in the afternoon, Mester admitted to shooting a man on a blue four-wheeler in the middle of the road.

Mester was booked at the Washington County Jail on Wednesday, and a \$100,000 bond was set by the case. The man has since posted the bond amount in full and was released.

While released on bond, the county website that Mester has no contact with the sheriff's office and is prohibited from using firearms. Court records indicate that Mester has no prior criminal history.

Bobby Barnard is a reporter for the Daily Journal. He can be reached at barnard@dailyjournalonline.com.

School board honors retirees

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During its meeting last month, the West County Board of Education recognized a couple of retiring staff members and several annual winning students.

Retirees Kim Herzog and Mike Brenneke were honored for their service to West County Middle School.

Herzog has been taking care of students and staff as a nurse at the school for more than 20 years. Middle School Principal Adam Hefner said there's a missing piece now in the West County family with her departure.

of this staff for many years and has made many contributions with our students and staff and families as the director." He said "Mike was very helpful in making my first year as principal and with complications of COVID."

"She was always quick to help and offer solutions, she was a calming voice and useful helper to lighten the mood. She was a true team player."

Brenneke also dedicated herself to the Season of Hope and Step With A Cop programs each year.



Retirees Kim Herzog and Mike Brenneke are honored for their service to West County Middle School during the December board meeting.

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ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

New to Ste. Gen:
Brix Urban Winery and Market opens

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Opening Oct. 24 in downtown Ste. Genevieve, Brix Urban Winery and Market is the newest of its kind in the area. Located at 245 Merchant Street, Bridgette Bennett and Nabalou Soukier make their own wines and meads in the cellar of the building. "We bottle and label everything here," Bennett said. "We make a variety of fruit wines and fruit meads. We try to model ourselves after a craft brewery more than a traditional winery." One of the oldest alcoholic beverages known to history and generally known as a drink from medieval times, according to Bennett, mead is rapidly becoming popular. "It is pretty popular in many places around the U.S. and it's really starting to come into Missouri. Mead is a honey wine. In the most traditional sense, it's honey, water and yeast fermented. You can also add fruit to the honey, that's classified as a mead." Bennett says that Brix keeps some of the wines on tap, carbonated down to about 6% alcohol. "Those drink more like a beer. We also try to keep a slighter available." They also stock cookies from two St. Louis companies: Traxx Cookie Company and The Tippy Goat, along with Bettle Farms Cheese products. Although business would normally be slow

with current conditions, Bennett says that sales have been good. "We have a lot of outdoor seating, and on the nice weather days we've had so far, people take advantage of it," she said. "Last weekend, all of our outdoor seating was completely full." Bennett mentioned that they have a market room with gifts for the holidays. Bennett said that they try to get handcrafted items. "We try to get things that aren't on Amazon," she said. "We have some handmade clay jewelry from a lady in Saskatchewan." Of course, being in Ste. Genevieve, the building itself has some unusual historical aspects. "It's what's considered by the town as a supporting historical building," Bennett said. "It was built in 1908. It's in really good condition. It has the original metal stamped roof. The interior load bearing walls are double brick."

"It has a lot of history. A lot of the neighbors have told us it is haunted. We have had a couple of things happen that we couldn't explain." Bennett explained how they arrive at the name of their establishment. "Brix is a measurement of sugar that is used in wine and mead making to determine how much sugar is available for the yeast convert into alcohol. We also thought it was a great play on the brick building we are in." Brix Urban Winery and Market is open Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 636-735-1192 or Facebook @brixurbanwinery.



WINE & BEER	MEADS	EVENTS
<p>WINE & BEER</p> <p>WINE TASTING</p> <p>WINE & CHEESE</p> <p>WINE & COCKTAILS</p>	<p>MEADS</p> <p>MEAD TASTING</p> <p>MEAD & COCKTAILS</p>	<p>EVENTS</p> <p>WINE TASTING</p> <p>MEAD TASTING</p>

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Ste. Genevieve HISTORICAL PARK

The Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park was established on October 30, 2020, becoming the 422nd unit of the National Park Service and the first national historical park in Missouri.

A ceremony took place on November 2 celebrating the park's establishment with U.S. Senator Roy Blunt, State Representative Dale Wright, Missouri Department of Natural Resources director Carol Corcoran, National Park Service Midwest Region director Bert Frost, and Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park superintendent Chris Collins taking part.

The National Park Service currently has ownership of two properties in Ste. Genevieve that date back to the late 18th century — the Beauvais-Armstrong House and the Jean-Baptiste Valle House. NPS and the city of Ste. Genevieve currently are operating the Welcome Center through a cooperative agreement.

"This was an effort years in the making, and is another example of how we can leverage a successful public-private partnership model to make sure our nation's most important places are preserved for generations to come. Every historic building in Ste. Genevieve has a story to tell and I'm incredibly grateful to all of the people in the community who have dedicated their time and energy to telling those stories. I'm thrilled that more Americans will now have the opportunity to come and experience this unique part of our history."



The Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park is a unique opportunity to experience the rich history of the city of Ste. Genevieve and the National Park Service. The Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park is a unique opportunity to experience the rich history of the city of Ste. Genevieve and the National Park Service.



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B

BRINGING IT HOME TO SOUTHEAST MISSOURI.

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PHOTO: JEFFREY BROWN

STE. GENEVIEVE: THE RICH HISTORY OF AMERICA'S NEWEST NATIONAL PARK

BY ROY BLUNT

The story of Ste. Genevieve is an important part of who we are as a nation. Established in the 1700s by French settlers in search of new opportunities and fertile soil, Ste. Genevieve tells the story of our nation's westward expansion and settlement of the frontier. Some of the unique homes and structures they built still stand, thanks to the generations of local residents who worked to preserve and share this important part of our state's and our nation's history.

In October, Ste. Genevieve officially became the latest addition to our National Park System and the first National Historical Park in our state. The investigation will give residents, nonprofits, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) additional support to maintain the sites and share the stories more. This collaboration could be a great example of how the community can work with the state and federal government to realize our nation's most important places are preserved for generations to come.

Ste. Genevieve is among the oldest National Historic Landmark districts in the country. It was initially designated in 1960 to recognize the unique concentration of French vertical log architecture. The town also contains significant examples of early French American and German American architecture. The distinctive combination of these features helps paint a picture of French exploration prior to the Louisiana Purchase, as well as the settlement of the American territory in the early 19th century.

As a former high school and college history teacher, I've always believed that visiting historical sites is one of the best ways to inspire people to learn more about the story of our nation. Ste. Genevieve is a living piece of history; the historic buildings are where they have always been, and each has its own story to tell. Unlike Ste. Genevieve can become one of the great historic visiting parks in America, attracting tourists from all over the nation and world.

We would not have been able to reach this moment without the support of organizations like French Colonial America and the Colonial Dames, as well as the Missouri DNR. Their efforts paved the way so

Congress and the federal government to make Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park the 422nd site to join the National Park System.

In 2008, Congress passed legislation authorizing the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a Special Resource Study of the site, which found that "Ste. Genevieve stands alone in terms of the character, quality, quantity and rarity of its resources and there are no comparably protected or managed areas." The NPS is extremely hesitant to add more to the system, for them to describe a site as so unique and so important that it needs to be part of the national commitment may say everything that we could say about the historic place.

Another significant step in the process occurred in March 2014, when Congress passed legislation I introduced with U.S. Representative Jason Smith (Mo.) to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park and designate it as a unit of the National Park System.

On Oct. 30, the Trump administration announced it had taken the final step to officially add Ste. Genevieve to our National Park System. A few days later, I joined Missouri state Rep. Dale Wright, Missouri DNR Director Carol Conner, NPS Midwest Region Director Ben Frost, Gateway Arch Superintendent Mike Ward, and Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Superintendent Chris Collins in unveiling the official sign for the park.

Throughout the process, the NPS and the Missouri DNR developed a strong, working relationship. The partnership between state and federal entities, along with the day-to-day interactions, has given this new addition to the National Park System a solid foundation to build upon.

By working together with the local community, the NPS and the Missouri DNR will continue to provide an exceptional experience for all visitors to the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park for many years to come.

Roy Blunt, a Republican, represents Missouri in the United States Senate. ■



The recently restored Benjamin Hildner House built in 1808 is one of just five vertical log "shotgun-style" homes — or both in-ground — buildings left in the country.



From left, Missouri State Representative Dale Wright (R), Senator Roy Blunt, Missouri Department of Natural Resources Director Carol Conner, National Park Service Midwest Region Director Ben Frost, and the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Superintendent Chris Collins unveil the official sign for the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park on Oct. 30.