

THE PORTRAIT TIMES

Any time is Portrait Time!

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The Portrait Times

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Collinsville Soccer Association

Winning isn't everything. Nor is it foremost in the Collinsville Soccer Association's philosophy.

"Our primary goal as a recreation program is for players to have fun in a learning environment," said John Borri, CSA president. "It's not about winning.

soccer. From day one, we don't keep score at the young ages. We don't start scoring until the second-grade level.

Established by Willie Seim in 1968 with about 100 players on about 10 teams, CSA has grown to 1,000 players on 80 teams. The league opened on the two soccer

teams in CSA. Girls can play in the program until age 14 and boys until age 13. Also, there are enough players that CSA can place them on same-age teams, which Borri said is a unique feature of the organization.

"We don't need to consolidate age groups," Borri said. "We keep the same ages on the teams. We do a good job of separating the ages."

Borri's father, Adam, coached Borri when he started playing at as a Tot. Borri, 40, played through the entire program and he played four years as a Collinsville Kahok. Borri returned to the association 10 years ago to coach his son Cameron, now 15. His son, Dillon, 11, moved from CSA to the BFC select soccer league.

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Julia Hobbs, a veteran photographer working for John Locus, captures another great soccer team photo.

It's about teaching, so that children have fun and learn to love the game of

fields in Glidden Park and about three years later the association moved to three soccer fields on McDonough Lake Road. The soccer park, later named Van Fossan Fields, has grown to eight fields.

Players start at age 4 in the Tots program that has 90-100 kids playing on co-ed teams, the only such

A Note from the Editor

OOOPSSS! Our July newsletter was mailed out in September. I wasn't slacking off. We really were that



Check us out on the web!

www.johnlocus.com

busy! July and August are always full of high school senior portrait appointments. And boy, did we meet some

(Continued on page 2)

Another Note From the Editor

(Continued from page 1)

interesting young people.

In future issues, I hope to feature some of the talented, intelligent, athletic, and charming individuals I had the pleasure to photograph.

This fall, I was selected to be one of the two official photographers for the new Gateway East Chapter of the Young Achievers. I will be meeting and photographing exceptional young people in grades 5-10 from 8 or 9 surrounding counties. We'll be exhibiting their portraits at St. Clair Square Mall in the Spring.

More info will follow in our January newsletter.

See you then,

John A. Locus

WANTED: Groups That Need Photographs

We're looking to expand the Group Activities Division of John Locus Photography. If you, or someone you know, is on a sports team, sings in a choir, attends a dance school, or is involved in any other group activity, and you need photographs taken, give John Locus a call. We photograph all sorts of church groups, school groups, fraternal organizations, sports teams, you name it!

If you are a pastor, teacher, coach, or choir director, please go to the Contact page on our website at: www.johnlocus.com and tell us about your needs. We'll be glad to discuss our products, services and availability.

Print Those Digital Images

We've heard too many sad stories about people who run around with their baby's whole first year of life captured on a memory card that they never take out of the camera or download to their computer.

Husband picks up the camera, plays with the con-

trols and says, "What does Format mean?" One touch of a button and ZAP! All the pictures are gone. Not so!

Even if you erase or format the whole card the images are still there if you don't try to take any more photos. Contact your local

camera store and tell them what you did. Most stores will be able to recover your lost data or steer you to someone who can.

NEXT TIME. . . print the images, download them to a computer or save them to a CD or DVD. Better still, do all of the above.

Montclaire becomes Waterworks

Competition and camaraderie are the keystones of membership in the Waterworks Marlins Swim Club in Edwardsville.

“Competition is good for everyone,” said Karen Buenger, secretary and past president of the swim team. “Swimming allows you to compete on an individual and team basis. The clock is your biggest competition, but how you perform individually allows you to accumulate points for the team.”

But competitive swimming is more than beating the clock and winning events at swim meets. “I’ve seen camaraderie between the teams. You always want to beat a team, but it’s refreshing to see.”

Originally named the Montclaire Marlins, the team was established in 1968 at the 25-meter Montclaire outdoor swimming pool, now in its 50th year of operation. The pool and the team both were re-named

Waterworks this year.

The team has about 95 members, ages 6 to 18. They compete in five meets during the summer season between the second week of June and the first week of August under Southwestern

Buenger said.

The Marlins compete in events including freestyle, butterfly, breaststroke, backstroke and the 100 individual medley, a combination of three of the events. Each swimmer competes in

three events during a meet. Head coach Bob Rettle and his assistant, Jonathan Mattson, oversee practices and meets. The team participates in a



Illinois Swimming Assn. rules. They swim against the Gators of Gaslight Bath and Tennis Club in Collinsville, the Paddlers from Paddlers pool of Granite City, the Sunset Hills swim team of Edwardsville, Swimmersport swim team of Godfrey, and the Wedgewood swim team of Florissant, Mo.

Swimmers in Rookie Camp, ages 4 through 7, learn the basics of floating, kicking, breathing, freestyle and backstroke. As Rookies they must grasp the concept of swimming, before moving on to the basics,

winter league at the Edwardsville YMCA.

Rettle has coached swimming for 25 years. “We have a great coach who provides the kids with training and great words of encouragement,” Buenger said.

John Locus has photographed the team and individuals since the early 1990’s. “I’ve watched a lot of those swimmers grow up right in front of me. I’ve taken some of their senior portraits and I’ve even photographed some of their weddings in recent years,” Locus said.

John Locus Judges at Area Club

The Collinsville Area Camera Club (CACC) recently invited John Locus to judge their monthly photo competition. Entries to be judged were divided into several categories such as black & white prints, small color prints, large color prints, and color slides. The theme was miscellaneous which allowed en-

tries of any subject taken at any time.

The CACC meets twice monthly at the Collinsville Area Recreation District Building in Eastport.

Membership in the club includes photographers of all ages and from all over the Metro-East area and St. Louis.

Locus has been called upon to judge for the photographer's group many times and has been doing so for more than 20 years.

For more information, check out the website at: www.collinsvilleareacameraclub.com or e-mail them at cacc@ezl.com

Fairview Heights Parks & Recreation Soccer

The fall soccer league in Fairview Heights has grown rapidly and plans are afoot to add a league in the spring.

The league began "as a camp atmosphere where they did drills and scrimmaged against each other," said Angie Beaston, recreation supervisor of the Fairview Heights Parks and Recreation Department. "We wanted to organize a structured type of soccer league with uniforms and teams."

Beaston began organizing the league three years ago, when she became supervisor. The 97 players on 11 co-ed teams play in two leagues—kindergarten pupils, first and second graders, and third- and fourth-grade students. Each team has players of mixed ages with equal numbers of boys and girls.

The teams play on the soccer and baseball fields in

Long Acre Park on Saturday mornings. They play five games, one against each team in their

Beaston said.

John Locus photographs the teams. "He's a very personable person. I've always had compliments on him and how the parents want him to take their kids' pictures," Beaston said. "We appreciate that he and his staff are well-prepared and stick to the schedules that we have for them."

The recreation department pays high school and college students to coach the teams. "It gives them experience working with kids," Beaston said. "It keeps the teenage interest in our programs."

And the young players have fun. "The kids enjoy our program. They make new friends and I hope they enjoy learning about soccer," Beaston said. "I like to see the way the kids enjoy themselves and meet other children. And this is an opportunity for parents to build relationships with other parents."



league. The eight-week program, from early September through October, begins with three weeks of practices. Beaston hopes to start an eight-week spring league in March or April.

"It's a starter league for kids and it's convenient for parents, because they have practices and games at the same time on the same day of the week,"

(Continued from page 1)

Borri currently coaches his son, Austin, 5, who started playing last year.

Borri recalls from his CSA playing days that “exercise and friendship are good benefits of being part of this association. You get great experience. You get to meet and become friends with kids your age. You tend to develop strong friendships with your teammates and opponents.”

Players are from nearby cities including Maryville, Edwardsville, and Granite City. Registration is \$80 per player for the season and 55 area sponsors help the not-for-profit group operate. The teams play 10 games in the regular season, after four weekends of practice games.

And with hundreds of kids playing on multiple fields, Borri says anything can happen. “Last year I coached 4-year-old Tots and a boy scored six goals—three for his team and three for the other team—he just went the direction the ball was going. He was so excited.

Collinsville Soccer (cont.)

He was having a blast, so you just encourage him and tell him that he did good.”

John Locus photographed the league in the mid-seventies, when Adam Borri coached his son, John’s team. Locus returned to photograph the league again in the early nineties. In the 17 seasons since, picture day has occasionally fallen on the same weekend as the Italian Fest. “It can be a real struggle to get all of the teams and players photographed early enough so they can get with their church group, scout pack, or other organization to march in the parade,” Locus said.

And the weather is not always cooperative. Locus recalls photographing in the dark, in high winds, in rain and sleet, and under a blazing-hot sun. “And that was before we broke for lunch.”

Locus recalled less-than-ideal picture-taking conditions when his son played. “When my son, Matt, was playing at the Junior

Peewee level, our picture day started in a dense fog. It was so thick that you couldn’t see the trees 15 or 20 feet behind the teams. We decided to photograph everyone with the kickboard as the background so they wouldn’t look like they were floating in the clouds.

“At the beginning, the players couldn’t even see the opposing team or the other goal. Fortunately, the fog dissipated shortly after the first games began.”

And while handling the challenges, Locus never fails to entertain the youngsters. “Every year I accidentally swallow at least one bug. The kids get a real laugh out of that.”

Because learning is the most important goal, the organization reminds coaches not to be discouraged if their teams don’t win. “When the game is finished, they (the players) ask for the score. You say ‘the other team scored 10 goals’ and they ask who won?” Borri said. “You tell them that the other team won, but you won in your coach’s heart.”

EXPECTING SOON?

John Locus Photography is looking for a few expectant mothers. We need current samples for our new website. Photographs will be taken mostly during the final months of pregnancy and may include other children and dad, too. Contact us any time during pregnancy for more details. www.johnlocus.com



Know Someone Who’s Planning a Wedding?

If you know of someone who is planning a wedding in the next year or two, here is a helpful little hint you can share with them.

Before a bride sets her date in stone, she should be aware that certain other services may book much further in advance than she may imagine.

In any given city or town, there may be dozens of churches and outdoor wedding venues. But there

may only be a handful of suitable places for a reception. There may only be a few photographers in the area.

Tell that bride that if she’s planning a wedding in the Spring, Summer, or Fall, she should contact the reception hall and photographer of her choice to see which dates may still be available. She should compare those open dates to the dates she had in mind for her wedding and figure out which

date is available for all services. She should then book all of them and begin the process of securing the rest of the services like flowers, cake, DJ, and limo.

Too often a bride has called our studio assuming that because her date is so far in the future, we must be available. Often she is disappointed because we are already contracted due to the shortage of reception halls in the area, or the popularity of the date.



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