



NOJOSHING

Indian word for "straight tongue"

Land protrudes out into Lake Michigan like a straight tongue

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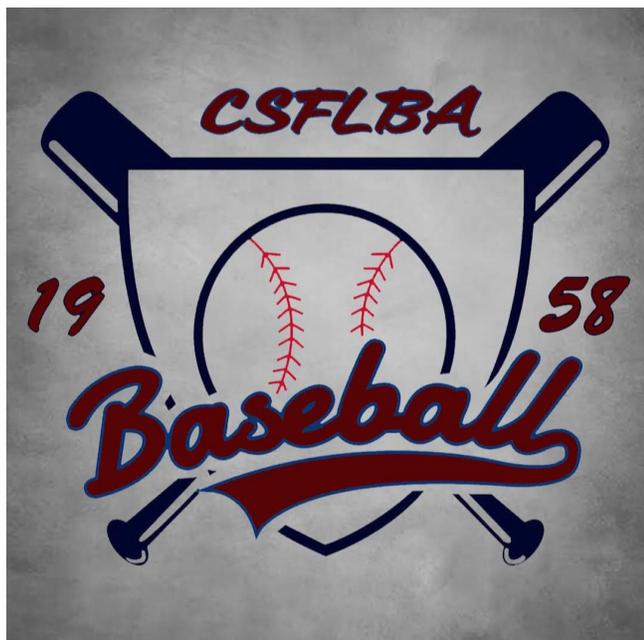
A Lasting Tradition on Local Ballfields

The Cudahy–St. Francis Little Baseball Association Founded in 1958

Since its founding in 1958, the Cudahy–St. Francis Little Baseball Association (CSFLBA) has played an important role in the lives of local families and in the shared history of the Cudahy and St. Francis communities. Established during a period when neighborhood organizations formed the backbone of civic life, the league offered young people a structured, wholesome environment in which to learn the game of baseball and the values that accompany it.

In the postwar years, as communities grew and families put down deeper roots, organized youth sports became an essential gathering point. CSFLBA reflected this spirit. Local volunteers—many of them parents and community members—worked together to organize teams, maintain fields, and ensure that each season brought opportunities for children to participate, regardless of background or experience. Spring and summer evenings at neighborhood ballfields became a familiar and cherished sight.

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Participation in CSFLBA has always emphasized more than athletic competition. Through organized team play, young athletes learned responsibility, cooperation, and perseverance. They learned the importance of fair play, respect for opponents and officials, and commitment to a team. These lessons, taught through practices, games, and shared experiences, helped shape character and instill values that extended well beyond childhood.

The strength and longevity of the association have always depended on dedicated volunteers. Among them is St. Francis resident Donna Freichels, who retired after 35 years of service to the Cudahy–St. Francis Little League Baseball Association. Dedication like this reflects the quiet, consistent volunteerism that has sustained CSFLBA since its earliest days.

The association’s impact has reached far beyond individual players. CSFLBA strengthened community ties by bringing families together—siblings on the sidelines, neighbors in the stands, and generations sharing common experiences. Many former players later returned as coaches, volunteers, and supporters, reinforcing a cycle of service that continues to this day.

More than six decades after its founding, the Cudahy–St. Francis Little Baseball Association stands as a reminder of the enduring role youth organizations play in community life. Since 1958, it has contributed not only to the development of young athletes, but to the social and historical fabric of the area—one season, one team, and one generation at a time.

Submitted by Michelle Jaskulski
CSFLBA Marketing Director



Hately Avenue Was Named For John Craig Hately 1845-1923

by Anna Passante

Hately Avenue is a continuation of Hately Avenue in Cudahy. Patrick Cudahy had named a number of streets in Cudahy for his fellow meatpackers. Later, when streets were being developed in St. Francis, those meatpacker street names were extended into St. Francis.

Recently, I came upon an interesting article in the book, *Lake Geneva, Newport of the West*. This book about the affluent homes on Lake Geneva included John Craig Hately and his summer home on the lake.

As for some background on Hately, he was born in Durham, England, in 1845. He spent his early adulthood learning the trade of merchandizing or provisioning as it was called back then.

Hately immigrated to America in 1873 and was said to have worked in the stockyards. He moved up the ladder and established himself in the provision trade in Chicago. From 1881 to 1895, he and his brother Walter established Hately Bros. Packers at the Union Stock Yards. They were exporters of grain and provisions. Both were longtime members of the Chicago Board of Trade.

John retired from the packing business in 1895, having had great success and making a lot of money. He had other investment enterprises such as a luxury resort hotel, the Chicago Beach Hotel, located on Hyde Park Boulevard in Chicago. The Hately family lived at the hotel, but their summers were spent at their mansion on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. A not so flattering article was published about his mansion in the *Lake Geneva Herald* on May 12, 1893:

“J. C. Hately’s large mansion which C. O. LaSalle is just about finishing up, is a large, square building, and to our mind, too squatty to be handsome.”

Annabelle Hately was fuming about this review of her beloved summer home built in 1892 and dubbed *Galewood*. Supposedly, she expressed her frustration to her husband, who seemed to take the criticism in stride. His reply was, “Seems to me that if you like *Galewood*, and the girls, then that’s all that’s important. Besides, I like it!”

The Hately family enjoyed their escape in summer from the hot city, spending much of the summer at *Galewood*. John Hately would take the Chicago “Millionaire” special train on Friday afternoons, and 70 miles and two hours later, arrive at the end of the line in Williams Bay. He would then cross the street to his 60-foot steam yacht called *Thelma*, and from there he would be taken across the lake to be with his family for the weekend.

In a paragraph from the previously mentioned book, it appears that Hately’s “girls” were very kind girls.

“The young Hately daughters, although busy with the usual round of summer activities, decided they would like to share their considerable sewing talents with children. Mr. Hickey, their foreman, was asked if his child and some of her friends might be interested. Indeed they were, and Margaret soon had a group of 9 to 14-year-olds busy with needles in the Hately’s elegantly furnished main parlor, diligently taking instructions in the art of find stitching. Ethel and Louise busied themselves serving pink lemonade and an especially delicious chocolate concoction known as Brownstone Front cake. The youngsters were treated like little princesses, one of the participants recalled. Most of the girls developed very fine stitching techniques that would last their lifetimes.”



Left: John Craig Hately
Top: Chicago Beach Hotel
Bottom: *Galewood* on Lake Geneva built in 1892 and burned to the ground 1928.

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Hately was one of the first landowners on the lake to have an automobile that was stored in a garage/barn, which unfortunately burned to the ground with the car in it in 1912. Hately didn't have the most expensive car, worth about \$5,000 (???). Roads were terrible at the time. The millionaires on the lake formed the Good Roads Association in 1902, purchasing road-building equipment and hiring a crew. In 1904, one-third of the 22 miles of the lakeshore had been completed.

Hately died in 1923. His wife sold the home to Mrs. Jessie Bartlett Hooper. In March 1928, the house burned down. A new 16-room Spanish-style villa replaced it.

After her husband's death, Annabelle continued to live in Chicago. But in 1928 at age 80, she decided to build a home in Pasadena, California, at 1620 Lombardy Road. The two-story 10-room residence had a chauffeur's quarters over the garage. The cost was about \$28,000, equal to almost \$650,000 in today's prices. Annabelle died in California in 1935 at age 87. Both she and her husband are buried in the Oakwoods Cemetery in Chicago.

Ethel and Louise, the two unmarried daughters, continued to live in the Pasadena house until it was sold in 1937. The sisters were well known for their award-winning flowers.



Annabelle's Pasadena home.

Thank you to all who included a donation with your membership.

Chris & Lloyd Buttke
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What's New?

St. John's School for the Deaf Historical Information Signs

- The signs will be installed and dedicated this spring. Watch for email updates for the date of dedication and time.
- Tentative date is May 9.

Dedication of Jared Thompson's Headstone

- Jared Thompson, St. Francis pioneer and founder of the Lake Protestant Cemetery, has a new headstone. The June newsletter will have the date of the fall dedication.

Jessica Michna as Dolly Madison

- Jessica Michna is scheduled to present her portrayal for Dolly Madison in June, which is our Society's contribution to the celebration of America's 250th anniversary. Watch for email updates and your postal mail for our personal invitation.

Wisconsin Lighthouse Program

- Ken and Barb Wardius will be presenting a program on Wisconsin lighthouses tentatively set for August.. They have written a number of books about the subject. The June newsletter will have the date and time of the program. Also watch your postal mail for your personal invitation.



As Father Christmas, Paul Akert presented "Story-telling Santa" at the historical society's Christmas dinner at Joe's K Ranch last December 11. All enjoyed the evening.

Yes, We Played in the Street

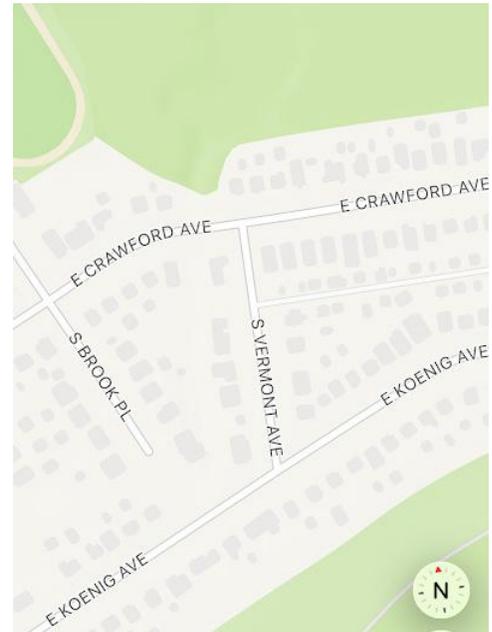
by Karen Gersonde

Springtime was always a great time growing up on East Crawford Avenue in St. Francis in the 1960s and 1970s. The snow had thawed and the streets were finally dry and clean. Oh sure, we had fun playing in the winter snow and all that winter had to offer, but springtime meant the neighborhood friends got together after school to play ball. First and foremost, we liked to play football in the street.

Yes, we played in the street! Our homes were on East Crawford Avenue at the intersection of South Vermont Avenue, so it was a “T” intersection. This gave us more room to play in the street. We gathered up as many friends as we could, so we would have four or five kids on each team. We played two-handed touch football, as we were not about to tackle in the street. Usually, the telephone poles served as our goal lines. We always chose captains for each team, and they picked their players. One captain chose, then the other one, and so on. Sometimes we played right when we got home from school. Other times we ate supper, did our homework, then went outside to play, depending when it got dark outside. We had to watch out for traffic coming from three directions. If a car was coming down the street, we would yell, “CAR”!!! Then we would all step to the curb. Once all clear, we continued to play. Our football was beat up pretty much from landing on the hard pavement, but it didn’t matter. We still played with it.

As we got a little older, and we entered high school, playing football in the street became less and less. We had more homework, clubs, and sports that we joined. Often times, we just didn’t come home right after school, or we came home much later. As our horizons expanded, a lot of us made new friends in high school, and our lives started venturing away from just neighborhood kids. Our football sat silent in our garage, as we got older. Eventually after sitting in the garage so long, it just rotted away. Not that there was much left to it anyway.

My friends and I still talk about playing football in the street, choosing captains, and all the good times that we had. So, for those generations that ask, “Did you really play in the street?” I have to answer, “Yes!” Yes, we did! And when the streetlights came on, it was time to call it a day and go home. It was a real thing, and something that we will always remember!



Touch football at the intersection of East Crawford and East Vermont avenues



Citie Service Station

by Anna Passante

In the St. Francis Historical Society archives are two photos of the former Citie Service Station. The photos were submitted by St. Francis resident John Madunich, and John was gracious to include some information about Citie Service.

This photo was taken April 1952 at the corner of East St. Francis Avenue and Arctic Avenue. The train station was nearby.

John pointed out that to the left of the building was an exterior service rack where cars were raised up to change the oil.

There were three pumps:

- Regular gas at 16 cents a gallon
- Rthyl (premium) at 20 cents a gallon.
- The third could be for kerosene that would have been 5 cents a gallon

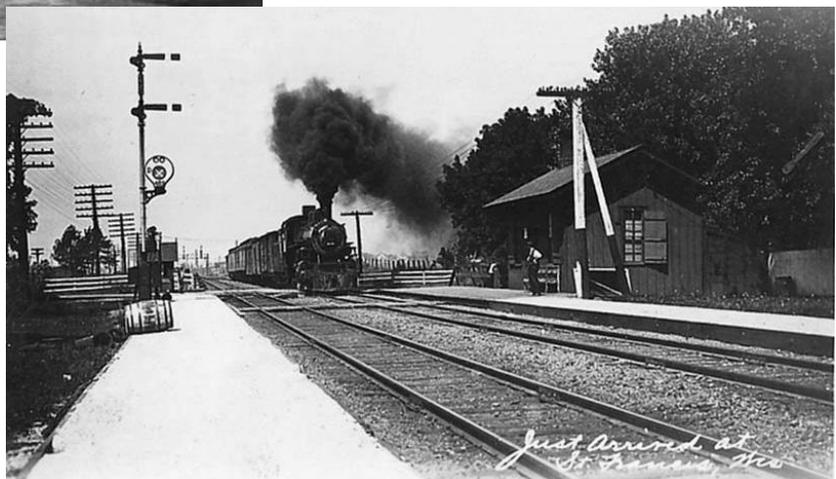
Citie Service Station was razed in 1952.

Editor's note: Was the station named after the Twin Cities 400 train that ran through St. Francis?



Top and left: photos of Citie Service Station donated by John Madunich.

Below: A photo from the St. Francis Historical Society archives shows the nearby train station. A train called the Twin Cities 400, operated by the Chicago & Northwestern Railway (C&NW), would fly past the train station.





St. Francis Historical Society
3400 E. Howard Ave.
St. Francis, WI 53235

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Newsletter

Anna Passante

Mark Your Calendar

Meetings at the St. Francis Civic Center at 3400 E. Howard Ave.:

The monthly board meetings are the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome.

March 21, 2026
April 18, 2026
May 16, 2026

Upcoming events (see “What’s New” column for details)

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