

**A History
of the
Brentwood
Police
Department**



By Maj. Dan Fitzgerald, Brentwood PD, 2009

Early Years

The Town of Brentwood was incorporated on December 15, 1919. This was in response to the possibility of the City of Maplewood annexing the area. Brentwood was previously known as Maddenville, named after one of the leading businessmen in the area, Thomas Madden.

In the early days of Brentwood, the leaders of the community, the Board of Trustees, were the unofficial Marshall's of the town. In 1922, the Board appointed the first Town Marshall, George J. Moeller. He was paid \$50 per month. Moeller lived in the 2500 block of Annalee. Lee Hammock was appointed Deputy Marshall. Brentwood population was approximately 1400.

Each year, when the new Board of Trustees was elected, a Marshall was appointed or re-appointed by the Board. I found little history between 1923 and 1925, due to the fact that the Board minutes are missing. They were apparently stolen.

In 1925, Charles G. Weinbrenner, 8809 Warren Ave. (Litzinger), was appointed Marshall. Merrill Lewis and William Skow were Deputy Marshalls. During this time, the Board of Trustees appointed men to act as Special Police Officers. These men were paid \$1 a year, and acted in a similar fashion as our present day reserve officers. The SPO's were re-appointed each year by the Board.

Between 1926 and 1928 several men occupied the job of Town Marshall. On April 27, 1926, Charles Weinbrenner resigned as Marshall. Robert G. Dugan was appointed to replace Weinbrenner. In May 1927, Jack Bryant was appointed Marshall, only to resign on August 16, 1927. On December 13, 1927, George Moeller was brought back to serve as Marshall. He resigned Mar 20, 1928.

On May 22, 1928, Lewis E. Lucas, a 25 year old from Wisconsin was appointed as Marshall. He lived in a new home at 8774 Brentwood Place. Lucas led the department for several years as Brentwood grew. In 1931, Lucas was earning \$175 a month. That same year, Brentwood hired their first motorcycle officer, William Skow. He was paid 50 cents an hour and worked 2:00 pm to midnight.

In 1933, with Brentwood population growing to 3,035, Lucas was re-appointed Marshall. The Deputy Marshall's were A.O. Holtz, Ben Moritz, J.W. McConnell, Charles Schmitz and Fred Lain.

On September 12, 1933, a crowd of over 200 people packed the City Hall for the Board of Alderman meeting. The Board was considering impeachment of Chief Lucas for conduct unbecoming an officer. Apparently, Lucas had not been documenting some traffic violations. Lucas told the Board he was "giving the violators" a break. The meeting became unruly at times, with the audience in support of Lucas. The Board's vote was tied 3-3, but Mayor Walter Douglas broke the tie, in favor of Lucas. The next day, supplemental charges were brought against Lucas, and on September 26, 1933, the Board voted to remove Lucas as Marshall.

On November 14, 1933, Fred Lain was appointed as the new Chief. Charles Schall was appointed Asst. Chief and Irwin Leight, Patrolman. In May 1934, Lain was elected Marshall, a position he would retain for many years. Lain, was a 37 year old molder at a steel factory, and lived with his wife Freida at 8714 Eulalie. He was born in Pendleton, MO, in Warren County. He moved to Brentwood in the early 1920's. He made \$140 per month in 1933. Lain was good ole boy from the country. He was known to have a temper, and was rarely photographed without his trademark cigar in hand.

In 1935, at a cost of approximately \$27,000, a new City Hall and Police/Fire Department was built at 2348 North and South Road (later Brentwood Blvd.) The population of Brentwood was approximately 3300.

On May 12, 1936 the Board of Alderman passed an ordinance creating and establishing a police department for the City of Brentwood. Fred Lain was appointed Chief, Charles Schall Asst. Chief, Robert Auer Captain of Police, and Irwin Leight Traffic Officer. Future police officers Robert Kinlough, Pete Halm and Dewey Sessions were Special Police Officers. In August, the police department purchased a new Harley Davidson Model 61 motorcycle for \$197.



Brentwood Police Dept. - 1936

In 1937, Lain was re-elected as Marshall. North and South became Brentwood Blvd. Lay Road became Bremerton Ave. Warren Ave. became Litzsinger Rd. Melvin Dr. became Sonora Ave. Alice Ave. became Salem Road.

On Oct 24, 1939, Robert Auer was dismissed from the Police department by the Board for failing to report to work due to intoxication. He was replaced in January, 1940 by Brentwood resident Robert Kinlough, who was hired at \$115 per month. The Kinlough family lived at 2647 Helen. On July 23, 1940 Charles Schall resigned from the police department and Irwin Leight was appointed Asst. Chief. Clay Scott was hired as a patrolman.

1940's

Police Officers who worked for Brentwood in the 1940's included:

Vernon Schmitz	Russell Wolff
Anthony Holtman	John Helton
Louis Tullman	Marshall Moritz
Chester Swap	John Stone
Carl Schueler	Alois Null
Hugh Bresnahan	

Irwin Lieght resigned from the police department in 1948 after 15 years of service. Fred Lain continued to run the department. The population of Brentwood in 1940 was 4400.

1950's

In 1950, the population of Brentwood had swelled to 7500, due in part to the construction of the Audubon Park Apartment complex in the northwest part of town formerly called "80 acres". In 1951, Brentwood Square opened and in 1952 the new library opened on Eulalie Ave. In 1952, the police department established a pistol range on property donated by General Refractories, 1902 Brentwood Blvd.

In 1951 the police department consisted of these men: Chief Lain, Asst Chief Robert Kinlough, Officers Stewart Ducey, Walter Havey, Lloyd Helton, Alois Null and Lee Reisenleiter.

On April 8, 1954 Alderman Walter Tumlinson accused Chief Lain of taking prisoners from the jail and using them as farmhands at his property in Warren County. Lain admitted using the prisoners, who he paid \$7.00 a day, for the work. He claimed he did not know this practice was not permitted. The issue became a heated one, with Alderman making political accusations and grandstanding at the meetings. No coincidence, all of this went public two days before the election. Lain was later reprimanded for his actions and Tumlinson was suspended from the Public Safety Committee by Mayor Parker.

In 1954, Brentwood Lanes opened. For the first time black students were allowed to go to Brentwood High School, rather than Douglas High School in Webster. In 1955, Brentwood High School played the first game in their new gym, a 58-35 loss to Kirkwood and they played their first football game on their new field, a 14-13 victory

over Coyle HS. In 1956, traffic lights were installed on Brentwood Blvd. at Pine Ave, White Ave, Eulalie Ave and at the Brentwood Theatre.

On February 10, 1959 a tornado hit the Brentwood area, doing extensive damage in the area of Brentwood and Manchester.

The 1950's saw big changes at the police department. Fred Lain continued to run the department. Those who were hired by the city as police officers in the 1950's included:

Walter Havey	Harry Reisenleiter
Stewart Ducey	Frank Kaufmann
William Ledbetter	Lloyd Helton
Warren Kraft	Cecil Dowell
Albert Baranyai	James Hasty
Arthur Hartwell	Edgar Gilliam
Milton Goldberg	William Beck
Marshall Caldwell	Martin Anderson
Emmet Huelskamp	Edwin James
David Bliss	George Tucker
Elwyn Chapman	Charles Mayer
Conrad Jacobi	Arthur Johnson
George Machino	Claude Adams
Wayne Shoults	

1960's

In April 1961, the unthinkable happened. In the election for Marshall, Robert Kinlough defeated Fred Lain. The votes were Kinlough (2908) and Lain (810). Kinlough had been supported by Mayor Parker. Lain's career in law enforcement was over. He had served the City of Brentwood for 29 years. Lain died in May, 1968.

Robert Kinlough was a life-long Brentwood resident. His father, Patrick (Paddy) Kinlough had been a St Louis County Deputy Sheriff who died from injuries on duty when Robert was a child. Robert lived at 2647 Helen. When he became Chief, he lived at 2468 Cecelia Ave.

In 1961, Brentwood was still changing. The Brentwood Swim Club was under construction, as was the new St. Mary Magdalen School. Talk of a new Brentwood Community Center began. The proposed site was at Brentwood and Litzsinger, the location of the old Brentwood #1 school.

On January 15, 1962, the new St. Mary Magdalen school opened with 690 students. In June, the Brentwood Swim Club opened. Their first manager was Bill Long.

On June 5, 1962, Chief Kinlough was conveyed to St Louis County Hospital. He had suffered a heart attack. On June 7th, Chief Kinlough died. Lt. Alois Null was named Acting Chief. In December a special election was held and Marshall Moritz won. He would remain the Chief until the April 1963 election, when he was defeated by Pete Giacopelli. Giacopelli lived at 8768 Rankin.

In September 1963, Officer Robert Niemeyer transferred from the police to the fire department. Niemeyer had started as a police dispatcher in 1961.

Chief Giacopelli was re-elected each time in the 1960's. In 1969, he was appointed Police Chief by the Board, after the election of a Marshall was abolished. Officers hired by the police department in the 1960's included:

Rudolph Glad	Edwin McWilliams	Hugo Skaer
Pete Giacopelli	Kenneth Tihen	George McCormac
Eugene Baerman	Norman Gehm	Robert Farwig
George Grace	Paul Walton	Darold Sullins
William McCormick	Arthur Stubenrouch	Gerald Kaiser
Harold Mayberry	Earl Hall	Joseph Stark
Harry Dunman	James Hempe	Ron Hensick
Frank Cross	Robert Niemeyer	Stan Weyrauch
Michael Grabulski	John Gallino	Thomas Buzzanga
Jim Ronkoski	Daniel Aube	J. M. Robinson
Jim Howerton	John Kling	

1970's

In September 1972, Chief Giacopelli became the first Brentwood officer to attend the F.B.I. National Academy. He graduated from Session #90. In August 1973, Elwyn "Chip" Chapman attended the F.B.I. Academy, Session #95. In July 1978, Jim Howerton attended the Academy, Session #114.

Major Chapman resigned from the Brentwood Police Dept. in 1979 to become the Police Chief of St. Peters Police department.

In 1973, an addition was built to the police and fire department. In 1976, the Brentwood Recreation Center opened.

In 1979, the Brentwood Police consisted of 24 officers. Officers hired in the 1970's included:

Robert Baker	Nelson McVey	Dennis Morgan
Melvin B. Staver	Ron Ziegler	Herbert Whitner
Lee Suchanek	Elijah Hill	John Zinn
John Goehler	John Ganahl	John Donnelly
Charles Partain	Thomas Fischer	Francis Young
Rick Knight	Barry Schmidt	Dave House
Tom Oppelt	Dave Hawkins	Ray Ifland
Dave Callaway	Steven Trolinger	Steve Disbennett
Les Card	Ronald Swan	Mark Tackes
Wiley West	Mike Tegeler	Rick Zweifel

1980's

Chief Giacobelli retired on Dec 31, 1980, after 17 years as Chief. In January 1981, Darold Sullins was appointed the new Chief. His salary was \$23,400. Gerald Kaiser was selected as Assistant Chief.

In 1982, the population of Brentwood was 8,209. On April 19, 1982 Robert Niemeyer was appointed Fire Chief. Audubon Apartments soon became a more upscale Brentwood Forest Condominiums.

In the fall of 1985, Chief Sullins left on a disability retirement. Pete Giacobelli returned as an interim Chief. He stayed on through all of 1986. On January 19, 1987 William Karabas was appointed the new Police Chief.

Later in 1987, the Brentwood Police became the first agency in Missouri to start the D.A.R.E. program in the Brentwood schools. Officers Paul Ferber and Dan Fitzgerald were trained at the Illinois State Police Academy, and began teaching the program in September 1987.

In December 1987, John Zinn graduated from the F.B.I. Academy.

Officers hired by the Police department in the 1980's included:

Elmer Stoffel	Sue Westbrook	Don Park
Ray Schmaltz	Daryl Relerford	Paul Ferber
Barney Shultz	Larry Clark	Dan Fitzgerald
Walter Koehler	Jeffrey Placke	Michael Fogarty
Donald Thomas	Ken Tillman	

1990's

The biggest change in Brentwood in the 1990's occurred with the demise of the Howard Place neighborhood and the construction of the Brentwood Promenade.

Police officers hired in the 1990's included:

Elmer Phelps	James Dixon	James McIntyre
Jeff Manestar	Craig Eisenbeis	Dan Freeman
Tom Zurheide	Matthew Federhoffer	Hattie Carman
Jerry Bappert	Paul Clayton	Michael McQuillen
David Pouk	Dan Retzlaff	Chris Gibson
Winfred Stevens	Michael Johnson	Chris Vassalli
Joseph Giacobelli		

2000's

In the early 2000's, the old Brentwood Sqaure, along with Kenilworth Ave. were demolished, and a new Brentwood Square was built. Major retail establishments were also built along Eager Road, east of the Brentwood Promenade.

In September 2002, the department moved to a new and modern police station at 272 Hanley Industrial Court. In October 2002, Chief Karabas left to take the job as Chief of his hometown, Florissant. In December 2002, Rick Knight was appointed the new Chief. In 2004, Steve Disbennett was appointed Asst. Chief. In 2005, Capt. Disbennett attended the FBI National Academy Class #222.

On November 1, 2008, Chief Knight retired. In April 2009, Steve Disbennett was appointed the new Chief. Dan Fitzgerald was appointed Asst. Chief.

Police officers hired in the 2000's included:

Jason Simpson
Todd Lambert
Jake Schmidt
Nick Lang

Nick Stanze
Tim Bone
Josh Bowersox
Nick Nilson

Scott Wurth
Rick Litschgi
Matt Morgan

Brentwood Marshalls and Police Chiefs

1. George J. Moeller (1922-1925)
2. Charles G. Weinbrenner (1925-1926)
3. Robert G. Dugan (1926-1927)
 4. Jack Bryant (1927)
5. George J. Moeller (1927-1928)
6. Louis E. Lucas (1928-1933)
7. Fred O. Lain (1933-1961)
8. Robert Kinlough (1961-1962)
9. Marshall Moritz (1962-1963)
10. Pete Giacobelli (1963-1980)
11. Darold Sullins (1981-1985)
 12. Pete Giacobelli (1986)
13. William Karabas (1987-2001)
14. Rick Knight (2001-2008)
15. Steve Disbennett (2009-present)

BRENTWOOD CRIME BLOTTER

1. At 10:30 am, on January 26, 1950, Officer Lloyd Helton and Hugh Bresnahan responded to Concrete Products, 3025 Brentwood Blvd. for a fight call. Herman Lardge, a 30 year old laborer had been struck in the head with a steel reinforcing rod. Co-worker Rayfield Woodfolk admitted to striking Lardge, who had threatened him. Lardge was dead on the scene.
2. At 3:23 pm, on October 20, 1955, Officer Cecil Dowell and Officer Marshall Moritz responded to Brentwood Blvd and Rose Ave. to investigate a shooting. The victim was identified as Grace Taylor, 21 years old, living at 8770 Rose Ave. Numerous witnesses stated Taylor had been shot by her husband, Madison Taylor. He later turned himself in at the Richmond Heights police station. Taylor admitted to shooting his wife because she had threatened to leave him.
3. At 10:52 am, on January 21, 1961, Patn. Elwyn Chapman responded to 1688 E. Swan Circle for a report of a man lying in the seat of a Laclede cab. It was determined that the victim, Melvin Boonshaft, 52 years old, had been shot inside the cab. It was later discovered that Boonshaft had picked up an unknown rider in the early morning hours of January 21st. Cab drivers often did not report rides for various reasons. Bonnshaft's killer was never found.
4. At 6:15 pm, on July 23, 1962, Officer Wayne Shoults responded to a call of a boy shot near the pond at 1701 Hanley Road. The victim was later identified as Robert Ebberson, 23 years old, living at 1620 Hanley Road. Investigators discovered that Ebberson and Otis Marshall, who lived with Ebberson, had been test firing a new gun belonging to Ebberson. At some point, the gun jammed and when Mitchell tried to force it, the gun discharged, striking and killing Ebberson.
5. At 2:15 am, on May 18, 1963, Cpl. Norman Gehm observed a white male in the vicinity of the Tiny Tot Diaper Service, 2727 Brentwood Blvd. Gehm got out of his patrol car and ordered the man to stop. When the man ran, Gehm fired a warning shot in the air. When he did not stop, Gehm fired a shot at the suspect. The subject vanished from Gehm's sight. A search of the area, which was wooded and flooded from recent rain, proved unsuccessful. A pair of wire cutters and a screwdriver were found near where Gehm had originally seen the man. On May 20th, Officer Earl Hall and Auxillary Officer Rabbitt checked the area where the burglary suspect had been seen. Hall discovered a body, lying in 18 inches of water, to the rear of 2721 Brentwood Blvd. The subject had a bullet wound to the back of the head.
6. At 9:07 pm, on July 17, 1963, Patrolman Ken Tihen responded to 9161 Wrenwood Lane for a report of a stabbing. He found Anne Doughman, 28 years old, lying on the ground, to the rear of that address. She was stabbed multiple times. Lying near the victim, in an apparent dazed state of mind, was Gordon Doughman, the husband of the victim. Anne Doughman was DOA at St. Louis County Hospital.

An autopsy stated she had been stabbed 85 times. Gordon Doughman was later found guilty by reason of insanity, and he was committed to the State Hospital in Fulton, MO.

7. At 10:13 pm, on Saturday January 29, 1977, Officer Jim Ronkoski and Officer Mike Garbulski were sent to 2466 Louis Ave. for a report of a shooting. The resident, John Swallow, 21 years old, had shot his friend with a shotgun. The victim was Kim McDonald, 22 years old. Swallow had been fooling around with the shotgun, when it accidentally discharged, killing McDonald. Swallow was charged with Manslaughter.
8. At 11:44 pm, on Thursday August 10, 1978, Officer Barry Schmidt was in pursuit of a Chevrolet Monte Carlo, eastbound on Manchester Road, approaching Hanley Road. The vehicle made a sliding u-turn at Hanley, and proceeded westbound on Manchester Road at speeds over 100 mph. Officer Ron Ziegler was now in pursuit. Ziegler stated he was driving 118 mph in the 8600 block of Manchester Rd. The vehicle ran the red light at Brentwood Blvd. and struck a 1973 Mazda driven by Sharon Lee Coons, a 20 year old resident of Webster Groves. Coons was killed instantly. The driver of the Monte Carlo was James Manning, 17 years old, from Ladue.
9. At 12:11 am, on Monday March 22, 1982, Officers Elmer Stoffel and Barry Schmidt received a call to #9 Southcote, for a possible homicide. On arrival, the officers found the body of Susan Crow, 29 years old, lying in the driveway, just outside the garage. Crow had been killed by the resident, John Nangle Jr., 27 years old. Nangle had killed Crow with an axe.
10. At 5:56 pm, on August 21, 1992, Officer Barney Shultz responded to the area of Manchester Road and Collier Ave. for a report of an accident. Charles Campbell, 32 yoa, had been traveling at a high rate of speed on eastbound Manchester. Campbell lost control of the Chevrolet Corvette and ran on to the sidewalk in front of 8900 Manchester Road. Campbell struck Devry Mack, who was waiting at the bus stop. Mack later died from her injuries. Campbell was charged with DWI and Assalut 2nd.
11. At 6:12 am, on April 13, 1994, Officers Don Park, Jim Dixon, and Sgt Robert Baker responded to the YMCA, 1900 Urban Drive, for a report of a shooting. The victim, John Koprowski, 51 years old, had been shot during an attempt to steal his vehicle. Andre Morrow and Mario Page were later charged with the murder.



The information for the above history was taken from the minutes of the Brentwood Board of Alderman (1919-1985), police reports, newspaper articles and the files and records of the Brentwood Historical Society.

