

NEXT MEETING | JANUARY 28, 7:00 PM

Speakers on Safety and Security Issues

Officer James Cox and NSO Brian Kolde



# HOLLY HILLS APPENINGS

HOLLY HILLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (HHIA) | Grand to Morganford and Bates to Loughborough

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The Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) was formed on September 10, 1927. Since its inception, HHIA has worked to promote the well being of Holly Hills and its residents. For more information or to become a member, please contact us.

PO Box 22144  
St. Louis, MO 63116

<http://hollyhills.info>  
[hhia@hollyhills.info](mailto:hhia@hollyhills.info)

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## SAFETY AND SECURITY TO BE ADDRESSED AT NEXT HHIA MEETING

If you are a member of HHIA email list, you know that break-ins during the holidays were a hot topic of conversation. (Not on the list? Go to [hhia.info](http://hhia.info) and scroll down to enter your email or send an email to [HollyHillsNeighborhood-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:HollyHillsNeighborhood-subscribe@yahoo.com) from your email account.)

Because of the level of interest, safety and security will be the topic at our Jan. 28 neighborhood meeting (7 p.m. at the RecPlex). Our community

police liaison, Officer James Cox and 11th Ward NSO Brian Kolde will discuss burglary statistics and security strategies such as Neighborhood Watch groups. Please join us for a constructive discussion of this important topic.

In addition, HHIA is in the process of organizing a "Safety Expo" to which we will invite a variety of alarm companies and other security professionals. Stay tuned for more details.

## HHIA DUES ARE DUE

HHIA membership is by calendar year, so it's time to pay your dues! Dues are just \$15 per year for a household membership or \$25 for a business membership that includes a business-card-sized ad in the newsletter for one year (we also have larger ad sizes available).

If you can't remember the last time you paid, it's probably time to renew.

And don't worry, if you send it a payment and we see you have paid recently, we will simply extend your membership. Why not get in the habit of renewing each January?

We rely on dues to pay the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, insurance and other expenses. As the longest continuously operating

*continued on pg 7*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month, I received an email asking from a man letting me know his neighbor’s house had been burglarized and wondering if there wasn’t a way to tell people to be on the lookout. Little did he know, there had already been an extensive conversation on the HHIA email list about the burglary, prompting us to make safety and security the topic of this month’s meeting.

But a show of hands at a recent neighborhood meeting indicated most people in attendance didn’t know about the email list and weren’t members. In addition to spreading awareness about the burglary – the homeowner had sent out a request asking if anyone had seen anything – the conversation turned to security techniques and other solutions.

Because crime is thankfully rare in our neighborhood, the list is most often used to announce lost and found pets or solicit recommendations for a plumber or plasterer or tuck-pointer. People have asked about leaf pick-up schedules, home owners insurance and city ordinances. We also announce HHIA meetings and events. It’s such a valuable communication tool and you can actually accomplish things using the list!

I’m always amazed at the number of people in the area who don’t know about HHIA – if you’re reading this newsletter you apparently do. Did you know about the email list? Now you do!

To join, go to [www.hollyhills.info](http://www.hollyhills.info) and scroll down the page to the Yahoo list sign up box.

~ Stacy Ross

NUMBERS TO KNOW

First District Police .....	444-0100
Police (non-emergency) .....	231-1212
Anonymous Drug, Gang, Homicide Police Line .....	241-COPS
Brian Kolde—Ward 11 NSO .....	657-1364
T. J. Minden—Ward 13 NSO .....	622-3444
Citizens’ Service Bureau .....	622-4800
Humane Society .....	647-8800
Alderman Tom Villa 11th Ward .....	622-3287
Alderman Fred Wessels 13th Ward .....	589-6836
State Rep. Jake Hummel 108th District .....	457-1792
State Senator Jim Lembke 1st District .....	845-8508
State Senator Robin Wright-Jones 5th District .....	533-8800



New! Pay for your HHIA residential or business membership online with a credit card.

Go to [hollyhills.info](http://hollyhills.info) and click on “Membership.” In addition, we’re accepting credit cards for payment at neighborhood meetings. Now it’s easier than ever to support your neighborhood!

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Newsletter Editor: Stacy Ross  
Layout & Production: Jen Chapman  
Website Administrators: Jim Ross & Neal Jenney

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HOLLY HILLS REAL ESTATE

COURTESY OF PAUL SAGER | LISTINGS AS OF 1/9/13

5729 Dewey.....	\$35,000 (UC)	6139 Ray.....	\$169,000
3844 Bates.....	\$56,900	6717 Alexander.....	\$179,900
5648 Morganford.....	\$60,000	4147 Alma .....	\$195,000
4120 Haven .....	\$71,000 (UC)	3856 Federer .....	\$199,900 (UC)
4210 Bates .....	\$74,900	4074 Holly Hills.....	\$214,900
4114 Fillmore .....	\$79,900	4102 Federer .....	\$249,900
4143 Burgen.....	\$89,900	6240 Arendes.....	\$255,000 (UC)
3829 Burgen.....	\$98,000	6114 Arendes.....	\$255,000 (UC)
4154 Bates .....	\$109,250 (UC)	5620 Arendes.....	\$279,900
4120 Fillmore .....	\$109,500	3999 Holly Hills.....	\$375,000
6007 Leona.....	\$115,000 (UC)		
3966 Burgen.....	\$120,000		
3637 Fillmore .....	\$125,000		
4161 Loughborough .....	\$129,500		
4133 Haven .....	\$129,900		
3680 Wilmington ...	\$139,900 (UC)		
3939 Fillmore .....	\$146,900		
3662 Wilmington .....	\$149,900		
6111 Marwinette ...	\$150,000 (UC)		
4138 Haven .....	\$154,900 (UC)		
4087 Haven .....	\$165,000		

SOLD AS OF JANUARY 9, 2013

3862 Bates .....	\$25,000
4151 Bowen .....	\$43,000
6125 Newport .....	\$65,000
6135 Newport .....	\$68,500
6823 Leona.....	\$85,500
6101 Ray.....	\$125,000
3854 Bowen .....	\$162,500
4129 Holly Hills.....	\$185,000
4061 Holly Hills.....	\$300,000

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HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

In the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season this year, one thing that received short shrift was the holiday decorating contest. The announcement was late and these homes did not get the “decorating contest winner” signs.” We’ll do better next year!

The good news is, HHIA recognized a number of homes this time - Holly Hills was very festive this year!

**6148 Marwinette** had a lovely holly tree motif

**3850 Bowen** had a very classy display of green & red and with white lights

*continued on pg 7*

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HOW TO CASH IN ON STUFF YOU DON'T NEED OR WANT!

If you or someone you know is moving, downsizing, settling an estate, or going into a retirement or assisted living facility, several options are available to make the transition easier. Holding a garage sale, listing items for sale on Craig's List, or hiring an estate sale company are all options that work for many people. Let's look at what is involved in these choices.

**Garage Sales:** This is the most common way to dispose of unwanted items. Most garage sales take place during the warmer months in our area and we have passed the best window of opportunity to hold a successful sale in a garage or on a lawn or patio. If you need to hold a sale in the next several months, consider using your basement. Setting up a sale requires advertising (usually on Craig's List or in the local newspaper), clearing a location for tables to hold the merchandise, and pricing the items. People are looking for a bargain at this type of sale so "rock-bottom pricing" is a key to selling everything. Be willing to negotiate—people love to walk away feeling like they were savvy hagglers!

**Pros:** You reap the financial reward.

**Cons:** You do all the work and must sell your items at a lower price than the other options.

**Craig's List:** You may want to list specific items for sale on Craig's List—especially furniture and

household items. If you have not used Craig's List, set up an account. I suggest creating a new e-mail account on hotmail or g-mail just for Craig's List because you do not want people to be able to send spam or other unwanted email to your regular inbox. Also, do not put an automatic address and phone number for replies on the emails. It is best to remain anonymous while negotiating. I only look at listings with photos so include a good photo of the item. If possible, plan to meet the buyer in a parking lot of a public place. Do not invite prospective buyers into your home ESPECIALLY if you live alone. Accept cash only—no checks—for obvious reasons.

**Pros:** It is free.

**Cons:** It takes time to set up the account, monitor your e-mail for replies, negotiate a price, and meet the purchaser. There is safety to consider.

**Estate Sale:** Hiring a company to hold an estate sale gives you the freedom to put the work in the hands of professionals. Estate sale companies will meet with you at no cost to determine if a sale is a good option. People who run estate sales organize and price the items for sale, advertise the sale, put up signs directing people to the sale, and handle the sales transactions. It is good to know that with many, but not all, estate sale companies you do not have to move out of your house to have an estate sale.

The companies that will hold partial estate sales will work with you to separate items for sale and those that are not being sold.

One of the differences between an estate sale and a garage sale is that you can command a higher price for items in an estate sale than in a garage sale. As a person who goes to a lot of estate sales and runs estate sales, I look for sales that are put on by family members. Why? Because either the merchandise is priced at garage-sale prices (which I love) or the prices are too high (and I quickly move on to the next sale).

Your goal with an estate sale is to get a wide variety of customers: the person looking to furnish an apartment or house; the dealers who sell on e-bay, thrift store or antique mall; and people just looking for something interesting. An established estate sale company knows how to bring the buyers to your sale. Look for a company that provides free advertising.

**Pros:** You do not have to do any work. If you plan to hire a company, do not throw anything away except junk mail. Take personal items such as income tax forms, bank statements, etc. out of the house and then let the company determine what will sell. Many homeowners dispose of things that we know will sell such as metal Band-Aid boxes, half-empty cans of cleaning products, or a rusted garden urn.

*continued on pg 7*

HHIA MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 26, 2012

Roll Call: Present - Stacy Ross, Jan Hill, Beth Murphy, Tara Ohler-Jenney, Anna Baldwin

**Guest Speaker - Comptroller Darlene Green** Seventeen years on the job. Comptroller works with mayor and the president of the Board of Aldermen to put together city budget.

This year \$465 million operating budget approved. Last year \$450 million. Slight increase - Some came from citizens because of new fee for trash collection and from Cards winning in 2011. With revenue from Airport and water dept. added

budget is over \$900 million.

Nationwide financial crisis started in 2008—City got A+ credit rating—first time in 35 years. Maintained that over last four years. She is a conservative comptroller—responsibility as city officials to deliver city services to citizens. USA lost it's a+ credit rating, but St. Louis kept theirs.

Questions: Parks Bond issue—where does it stand, when going into effect?

Answer: First part is Forest Park bond issue - \$30million—deal is

in motion but not completed yet. Forest Park Forever must buy all the bonds but still needs the money to buy the bonds. City is not going to stick its neck out without knowing Forest Park Forever has their part in place. The other piece is a question mark—Why? Because what is the city collateral going to be for bonds for St. Louis parks? From experience people generally love St. Louis bonds—across the country and on Wall Street—especially St. Louis airport bonds.

Does not support the second part of the bonds issue—parks *continued on pg 8*



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# A FIFTH GRADER’S VIEW OF WOERNER SCHOOL

There is always something great going on at Woerner Elementary School. Most recently, we were asked to complete a big Winter Break Learning Packet. Those of us who completed our packet, will receive a Dance Party. Here we get to listen to loud, fun music and dance.

Woerner is a No Bully Zone. Woerner School does not like bullying so we do not bully people. Another thing we do is instead of playing outside in the morning, we go to the gym and read, read, read. We hope this helps our grades in reading.



A really cool thing kids do at Woerner is try out to be a Project Wisdom Speaker. If you are a good speaker and get chosen, you get to go to the office each morning and speak on the intercom about our word of the month. For December, our word was courage.

I am looking forward to the big Spelling Bee we have every year. It is for students in Grades 1-5 and is pretty great, especially if you’re a great speller.

Did you know that Woerner School has single gender classes? It is pretty fun because if you are a girl, you get to hang around with your girl friends. If you are a boy, you can hang out with your boy friends.

Woerner is a great school. Come by and check us out!

~ Avionna Cotton  
5th Grade  
Woerner Elementary



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**Are you thinking of a move? Know someone who is?**

*Dues continued from pg 1*  
neighborhood association in the city, HHIA is a hub for information

and activities that help make Holly Hills a great place to live.  
To join or renew your membership,

send a check to HHIA, P.O. Box 22144, St. Louis, MO 63116. Or join online and pay with a credit card through PayPal at [www.hhia.info](http://www.hhia.info)

*Decorations continued from pg 3*

**5939 Coronado** had a very colorful display

**4146 Haven** also had a festive red & green display and train

**4102 Haven** was my personal favorite – lots and lots of very colorful lights!

**4086 Haven** – If you’ve never been by this home, be sure to check it out from time to time. The homeowners change the display in their front window for every season. In the past they’ve had a really fun Fourth of July display. For the winter season they had a very nice snowflake and reindeer display.

**4000 block (even side) of Alma** was really nice – I think every house

in the block on that side of the street had some kind of holiday lights – well done!

As always thank you to everyone who made our holidays just a little bit prettier by going to the trouble to put up a display. We try to recognize a wide range of decorations – there are several homes that go above and beyond every year and we especially thank you.

*Cash In continued from pg 4*

**Cons:** You pay a percentage of the money from the sale to the people who set up and work the sale, but again, you are not the one having to do the work.

I hope this comparison of garage sales, Craig’s List, and estate sales will be helpful in determining what is best for you when you move, downsize, or need to dispose of an estate.

For more tips on cashing in on unwanted items, send an e-mail to me at [debfisher324@hotmail.com](mailto:debfisher324@hotmail.com) or call me at 314.753.5805.

~ Deborah Fisher




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Minutes continued from pg 7

maintenance is her high priority and she wants that but not capital bonds because they subordinate maintenance needs for 30 years. The new stuff will be paid for by capital bonds, but the capital bonds would not pay for a pothole in that street.

Will move forward with capital bonds only if they look like they make sense and right now they don't. City is flush with money for maintaining parks - way better than the County. Half-cent cent sales tax increase (since 1993 she thinks) and another increase. This money also lets the City balance the operating budget. Right now 100% of maintenance money goes to maintenance. If we do the bond issue, 75% will go for bonds and 25% will be left to pay for maintenance of parks citywide. People on her staff, who usually disagree, are in agreement on NOT wanting these bonds. They've been in her office for decades.

**Guest speaker Mayor Slay**

Responding to Green's comments: Lot of people with lots of private money want to do good things for Forest Park. Raised well over \$50million. They want to have a maintenance fund to make it last long into the future. Private people concerned that they're putting so much private money into park and city keeps taking park money to balance city budget. Park issue--\$30 million on Forest Park (first part) of park bond issue and \$34 million on second part (all other

city parks) of bond issue.

Wants to make sure that money raised for parks stays in the parks. Stop taking park money to balance budget. To make sure parks maintain their funding, private people came up with the bond issue. Mayor disagrees with Green about what you can do with capital money—says you could fill a pothole. If we only complete Forest Park bond issue, then neighborhood parks would suffer. Forest Park bond (\$30million) issue is moving forward and second part (\$34million) of two tier idea is the neighborhood parks bond issue. Keep in mind this money is staying in the parks. Revenues we have for the parks will be used to back the bonds for the parks. Mayor says he and Green respectfully disagree on this one, but agree on more things.

Mayor's No. 1 budgetary priority is to keep neighborhoods safe. City spends more than \$300 million on public safety—police and fire, law enforcement, courts, prosecutors (out of the \$465Million) Starting July 1, 2013, City will have local control of police because Prop A passed. Now five-person board and Mayor is on it. More direct accountability to people is important and save several million dollars by now having local control of police—merge resources over time to share IT, lawyers, accountants, etc. Any reductions in staff will be by attrition only—NO layoffs. Crime going down, but still more work to do to make neighborhoods safer.

Problem properties team—seven

lawyers and a prosecutor and a court that deals specifically with it. Over 9,000 properties have been brought up to code due to the team. Dozens of private attorneys now volunteering their time to crack down on problem properties with the City's team. Partnered with Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and downtown firms and yes, they are volunteering.

Mayor supporting school district's improvements. Provisional accreditation, but thinks that's a minimum and educational excellence is what you really need. Supports good quality charter schools along with regular public schools.

Unemployment rate in St. Louis has dropped about 30% from 13.3% to 9.3% from high in July 2010. Still way too high he says, but making improvements. St. Louis is recognized as one of top 10 cities in US to start a business and he says we have lots of things in city to support such startups. St. Louis recognized as THE TOP city in America for college educated young people moving into the city—highest number of them in city.

Prop. R passed and board of aldermen will reduce by half in 10 years. Aldermen will represent about the same number of people they did in the 1970s. In '50s and '60s aldermen represented even more people than they will in 10 years, so it is totally doable and citizens will still get attention from aldermen. Will be more efficient.

continued on pg 9

Minutes continued from pg 8

Won't take place until 2023 with an election because it's easier to do after the 2020 census, numbers released in 2021 and then election will be 2023. First aldermen will be for two years and next election for four and then the elections of wards will be staggered—won't elect all aldermen all in same election.

Question: Charter schools—Woman (a psychotherapist) asks about level of challenge—one of her child patients was being used as teacher's assistant because she was so much smarter.

Answer: Mayor has been involved with 18 charter schools, he has a team of people who work on this and there are some schools, such as some closed down, that he has not been involved with. When charter schools are bad they should close. "If these schools aren't better than the St. Louis Public School

District then they should close." He called for the closure of Imagine Schools—they were performing worse than St. Louis Public Schools. Mayor attended Epiphany Catholic school, closed and now has Charter –Gateway—and there's a waiting list. The thing about charter schools is that the sponsor has to be involved (like Lindenwood U, etc.). St. Louis schools have been losing kids and money since long before charter schools. People have been moving out of St. Louis for decades because of schools. We lost 29,000 people in last census and says we lost 22,000 children in city and so every person moved because of lack of quality free public education options.

**Officer James Cox** New community liaison - has 12 years on force, first was in north city Fifth District for five or six years, then Second District for a year, then First District for four years.

District 1: Rape is up 30%, for Holly

Hills it's up, too—3 rapes this year—none last year. Vehicle thefts are up, especially in Holly Hills. Do not warm up cars and leave them running! Aggravated assaults—initiative in July 2012—chief's initiative in hot spots throughout city—force trying to address that issue. No hot spots in Holly Hills.

**11th Ward Alderman Tom Villa** Ald. Wessels and Villa did not vote the same on the proposed second part of bond issue—Villa agrees with Darlene Green and does NOT agree with Mayor. He does not think a city should go into debt for a city park system that is perfectly fine. Carondelet Park does not get any more money if we sell the \$34 million bond, but we get it quicker and once you spend that money, it's gone. Thinks Green is using good fiscal prudence. Thinks it's a great city park system. If you spend the money that we get judiciously, it's a wonderful park system and it works without getting more money faster. In process of redoing a bunch of parks (Bellerive Park three-phase project—phase one is dug up now) (Fanetti Park).

David Newberger, atty working with disabled in city office, working on hooking up Bellerive and Sister Marie Charles park—ramp—connect all with handicap approvable path—if too steep then need a switchback—takes a long time to decide in meetings and to do the work.

St. Louis board of Aldermen—passed an ordinance about used cell phones.

continued on pg 10

**David J. Borgmeyer, D.D.S.**  
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*Minutes continued from pg 9*

War on street lights in Holly Hills—knocked one down on Holly Hills and one on Federer in last 4 or 5 days—people driving too fast. Bushes on Holly Hills that were terribly overgrown at Arendes and Holly Hills—street machine scorched them so they were removed in the last week and will be replaced with something nice.

Police substation at Southwest Crossing apartments has been set up—I-55 and Germania. New Planet Fitness—opening fairly soon. Family Dollar on South Broadway—they broke ground and Grand and Iron Family Dollar they’re working on inside still.

He got a couple calls about Halloween on Holly Hills—it has

evolved into a phenomenon. Someone said that someone’s going to get hit by a car because so very many people. Stacy Ross brought up the possibility of having a neighborhood event similar to St. Louis Hills Candy Cane lane.

**11th Ward NSO Brian Kolde** Works in Dept of Public Safety and with the police, dealing with lots of problem properties. Code problems but also behavioral nuisance activities—occupied buildings and the problem is the people in the bldgs. Former 13th Ward NSO TJ Minden is now working with city’s Dept of Emergency Management. NSO for Ward 13 temporarily is Maria Cuciureanu - phone 657.1374. New one will be in Jan. or Feb.

Car thefts i an issue for Brian at

every neighborhood meeting he attends. Get a club if you don’t have one—keep an extra for when you have visitors. \$13 from NSO and collector of revenue. Larceny— theft out of cars—happens at Rec. Plex and wherever—do NOT leave stuff in your car!

**Announcements** Please pay dues!! Pay in person or on website—Paypal on website or pay with credit card here tonight by using Square.

Question about out of state plates on a car living in a rental place for a year and more. Tom Villa doesn’t have a clue about what to do about it but says if we’re missing out on their city earnings tax, that’s a problem.

Meeting adjourned.



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**Tara A. Ohler**  
Attorney and Counselor at Law  
Licensed in Missouri and Colorado

Tara A. Ohler, LLC  
P.O. Box 22114  
St. Louis, MO 63116

Tel. 314.583.6784  
Fax 314.735.4171  
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3955 Bowen Street  
St. Louis, MO 63116-3125

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e-mail: [EditorialSolutions@sbcglobal.net](mailto:EditorialSolutions@sbcglobal.net)





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**Jacob W. Hummel**  
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**Ted D. Disabato**  
Attorney at Law

727 North First Street, Suite 310  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63102  
T 314.667.4800  
C 314.276.1318  
F 888.288.9341

[ted.disabato@TdD-law.com](mailto:ted.disabato@TdD-law.com)  
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