

The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

July, 1998

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TO YOUR HEALTH

Perhaps the last time you had a head cold or flu, you were keenly aware of how important your health is to making it through the day. Its easy for many of us, though, to take for granted our mental health, despite its critical role in our lives. Fortunately, for those facing the challenge of mental disabilities, St. Louis has two organizations to offer support the **Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability Resources (MR/DD)** and the **Mental Health Board**. Joining us at our July HHIA general meeting are representatives from each organization to discuss the successful programs they have established with prudent investment of your tax dollars:

HHIA General Meeting
Monday, July 27, 7:30 pm
Southern Commercial Bank, 5515 S. Grand

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LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Any safety expert will tell you: a well-lit house makes a safer neighborhood for us all. The Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) has teamed up with Ameren Electric to provide **free lightbulbs** for your porch lights.

The bulbs will be distributed as part of our Welcoming Committees visits with new residents. They also will be available to any Holly Hills resident at upcoming neighborhood meetings (7:30 pm, Southern Commercial Bank, 5515 S. Grand, Mondays, July 27, September 28 and subsequent meetings, while supplies last).

Special thanks to HHIA member **Addy Deguire** and HHIA board member **Mark Smith** for making this project a go. On a related note, refer to Matt Villas "[Reports from our Reps](#)" about his efforts toward increasing the wattage of the street lights in our area.

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REPORTS FROM HHIA COMMITTEES

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EVENTS/FUNDRAISING

Good food, good friends and good fun set the tone for Holly Hills first **Volunteer Appreciation Event**, held at the end of May in the neighborhoods historic Lyle House at the southeast corner of Carondelet Park.

The HHIA board began by compiling a list of more than 150 residents, government representatives and business owners who have participated in past and on-going Holly Hills improvement projects. Invitations were sent to the entire list. Next, the Lyle House received a good spring cleaning, some decorative touches and a spread of refreshments to serve attending guests. As an added bonus, the event garnered a front-page cover story in the May 31 *South Side Journal*, promoting Holly Hills volunteer spirit.

HHIA is especially grateful to **Joe Koppeis, of the Market Place of Holly Hills** (scheduled to open before the end of the year), who generously donated the refreshments for the event. Thanks also to **Ald. Fred Wessels**, who arranged for our use of the Lyle House.

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WELCOMING

You Can Help!

As always, we look forward to receiving your calls when new neighbors move in. In addition, we are in need of a new batch of volunteers to keep pace with our Welcoming visits. A minimal time commitment (two-three hours, scheduled at your convenience, approximately every three months), visiting new neighbors helps make everyone feel like a welcome part of the neighborhood. Besides, it's fun!

Or, if you'd like to participate, but aren't into going out, we could use an individual willing to schedule our volunteers' visits (via phone). For more information on either of these volunteer opportunities, give us a call today at 569-5708.

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MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENTS

Commendations go to two business owners at Morganford and Loughborough who have been doing great work in sprucing up their corner of the neighborhood a wonderful reflection on the entire area:

Geoffrey Seitz has purchased the building on the northeastern corner of the intersection the building in which he has operated his violin shop for the past decade; he is expanding his shop as well as sprucing up the interior and exterior of the building. Seitz is making a big investment with the upgrade, but feels its

worth it. His business repairing and selling violins has grown from a small, local shop to one that attracts customers from all over the country. Seitz feels the location he chose in Holly Hills has contributed to the growth. We believe in the city, he says. I and my co-worker both live in the city. Seitz notes he is planning a grand opening celebration for his expanded quarters, probably this fall. Look in future newsletters for an update, or drop by his shop for a visit.

You may also have noticed the shopping center at Morganford and Loughborough also recently changed hands, purchased by **Walpert Properties**. Like Seitz, Walpert is making efforts to improve its new property. A much-needed parking lot repavement already has taken place, plans are under way for improvements to the building facade, and a new tenant is in the works for the location formerly occupied by Walgreens.

Join us in congratulating Seitz and Walpert for investing in our neighborhood. We also commend **Alderman Fred Heitert** for facilitating both projects.

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BEAUTIFICATION

As the summer unfolds, our Beautification Committee has been hard at work watering, pruning and weeding our many flower beds and pots around the neighborhood. Of course we're always looking for volunteers to join us in these efforts, but if your green thumb is more of the gardening variety, we wanted to let you know that the city's Gateway Greening program also sponsors raised-bed neighborhood gardens in public areas. If you are interested in leading efforts to establish such a garden in Holly Hills, contact us at 569-5708 for more details.

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REPORTS FROM OUR REPS.

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Alderman Fred Wessels, 13th Ward

With funding from the Department of Health, Alderman Wessels and HHIA co-sponsored a **pet vaccination clinic** June 20. Held at St. Stephen's church, two dozen pets received vaccinations at the event. On June 13, Alderman Matt Villa sponsored a similar clinic in the 11th ward, distributing approximately 40 more vaccinations.

Alderman Wessels also reports working with the city's **Forestry Division** to plant several trees along the railroad tracks at Bates and Arendes. The effort further beautifies this area of the neighborhood, following last year's HHIA Bates Street improvement project. The city will do its best to keep the trees watered this summer, but would appreciate your assistance. Especially if you live near where the new trees are planted, feel free to give them a drink if they're looking thirsty!

If you've been spending any time in Carondelet Park, you probably noticed some hustle and bustle taking place at the boat house right around the Fourth of July. The event was more than just extra holiday fireworks. Alderman Wessels notes a local production company was **filming a WWI-era documentary** entitled, "A Will of Their Own" June 29-July 7. The boat house was used for the film's villa hospital scenes. An airtime for the program has yet to be announced. We'll try to list it in our newsletter when available, so you can look for the scenes with your favorite park in disguise.

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Alderman Matt Villa, 11th Ward

Making good on one of his campaign promises, Alderman Villa recently held an **Advisory Committee meeting** to seek our input regarding the wards annual funding allocation. The committee, composed of grassroot-level neighborhood residents and representatives, recommended a significant portion of the budget be used to upgrade street lighting throughout the entire ward from 70-watt to 150-watt high-pressure sodium street lights.

Additional ward funding will be allocated to continued tree plantings, improvements to Bellerive Park, and supporting the 50/50 sidewalk program (where homeowners and the city divide the cost of sidewalk repairs). Carondelet Park, which receives its own separate funding allocation, also will be seeing repairs in the coming year, including maintenance work on Pavilion #1 as well as painting the lightpoles in the ball park area.

Alderman Villa also noted that the city has allocated funds for **repaving Loughborough** in 1998, including at least the length from Broadway past Morganford in the 11th, 12th and 13th wards. This is a very welcome improvement for the entire area!

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Congressman Dick Gephardt, Third Cong. District

In 1994, Congressman Gephardt helped pass the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, whose centerpiece COPS program focused on hiring additional police, and increasing crime prevention programs and prison funding. A recent FBI crime report indicates that the COPS program and other efforts have been working. The report indicates a reduction in serious crime, particularly in St. Louis, where, since 1994, murder and manslaughter are down 38%, rape is down 26%, assault is down 30% and burglary is down 19%.

While these figures are a welcome trend, Congressman Gephardt encourages us to continue doing all we can to make our neighborhood safer. For example, keep in touch with your Police Community Relations Officer Mark Reichert (444-0176) and neighborhood liaison Officer Christy Long (444-0180), regularly attend police department public meetings, and remain actively involved in HHIA's and your own blocks projects. Most important, if you see a crime or suspected crime in action, call Emergency 911 and report it! Communities become safer and stronger as more good people become committed to making things better, says Gephardt.

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State Rep. Brian May, 108th District

As reported in our May issue of Neighborhood News, a key piece of legislation co-sponsored by Rep. May was a House bill to implement tougher laws against persistent sex offenders. This month, May reported successful implementation of the major clauses of his bill, when it was merged into a larger package of legislation (HBs 1405, 1109 and 1335).

During the past three years, May has worked hard on this issue. Two years ago, he participated in creating longer sentences for sex offenders; last year he adopted legislation making names and addresses of felony sex offenders available to the public. This year, Rep. Mays efforts helped ensure that sex offender registration information be kept up to date so that innocent citizens are not labeled as sex offenders simply because they move into a residence formerly occupied by someone who was a sex offender (while the records are not updated to reflect the move).

Being a parent myself, says Rep. May, I do not welcome the thought of a sex offender moving onto my block without my knowledge. But I also worry about inaccurate information being provided and an innocent person being labeled a criminal. With this legislation, weve taken one more step to see that neither of these things happen.

Mark your calendar:

Rep. May will be attending our September 28 HHIA General Meeting to address any questions you might have on his legislative efforts in these and other areas.

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A Grand (Re)Opening

Not exactly within the boundaries of Holly Hills, but a welcome expanded service for the entire area is the new **Buder Branch St. Louis Public Library**, scheduled to host a Grand Opening celebration on Sunday, July 12, 2 - 5 pm. The branch has moved up the street from its former location, and is now located at 4401 Hampton Avenue (just south of Chippewa). A state-of-the-art renovation of its new facilities includes ample parking, plenty of space for printed materials as well as accommodations for the latest technology that will help you quickly access whatever resources you are seeking. A little too far to walk? Dont forget we also have the nearby Carondelet Branch at 6800 Michigan as an additional well-stocked library resource still housed in its original Carnegie-funded Romanesque architecture.

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Resources for Rental Property Owners

A new organization, the **St. Louis City Rental Property Owners Association**, was formed recently as an additional resource for area landlords. The new organization is a pro-active owner association dedicated to stabilizing and improving rental market throughout the city. To accomplish its mission, members plan to

work with other housing professionals, tenants organizations and government entities. For more information, contact the associations president Kevin Toal, 645-3032.

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Welcome, New Members

Please join us in a warm welcome to our newest HHIA members:

Business Membership:

- Jim and Jeff Metz
Okinawan Karate School
6166 Morganford

Family Memberships

- Eric K. White & Deborah Prosser-White on South Grand
- Joe & Kelli Graf on Toenges
- Raymond Sleeth & Bradley Kolkhorst on Marwinette

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Please address questions or comments about this Web site, the Holly Hills neighborhood, or the Holly Hills Improvement Association to [our Webmaster](#).

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