

# The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

**March, 1999**

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## A MEETING ON THE BLOCKS

Of course all of our Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) general meetings focus on topics of concern to our neighborhood. At our upcoming March meeting, we're going to focus especially inward as we take a look at the importance of block units within Holly Hills.

Our **Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Brigitte Pidduck** and a representative from an active Holly Hills block unit will speak on the ways a strong block organization help keep not just your block but the entire neighborhood strong. Find out more about the tools available to block units, and how you can start one (or join an existing one) of your own. So don't forget to "block out" this time on your calendar:

**HHIA General Meeting**  
**Monday, March 22, 7:30 pm**  
Southern Commercial Bank, 5515 S. Grand

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## REPORTS FROM HHIA COMMITTEES

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## EVENTS/FUNDRAISING

More details will be appearing in upcoming newsletters, but be sure to mark your calendar today for your entire family to attend our upcoming **Holly Hills Community Fair, Sunday, June 27**. Everyone agreed this family-focused event was a big success the first time we held it in 1997; this year's fair will carry on the tradition. It's a great way to spend some quality time with your own family, visit with neighbors you already know, and make friends with some of those you haven't yet met.

## You Can Help!

We'll be looking for general volunteers to help plan, execute and clean up after the Fair. We're also looking for businesses willing to sponsor parts of the event (such as refreshments and entertainment), in exchange for being listed in our newsletter. To volunteer or for more information, give us a call at 569-5708 or or send us e-mail at [hollyhil@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:hollyhil@stlouis.missouri.org).

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### WELCOMING

As temperatures warm, we're seeing more "for sale" signs sprouting along with spring bulbs in Holly Hills yards. The good news for us all is that many of these signs quickly bloom with "sold fast" or "under contract" banners. However, the Welcoming Committee doesn't always hear when homes exchange hands and new owners move in. Don't forget to the majority of our information about whom to visit comes from your calls to us at 569-5708!

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### MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENTS

Our Maintenance/Improvements committee continues to keep a vigilant eye on preserving the beauty and value of our neighborhood for all who live and work here. Cooperating with city officials, for example, we regularly ensure that businesses seeking zoning variances must adhere to the high standards expected of a Holly Hills business. For example, we request that no exterior pay phones be installed, that trash bins are hidden behind decorative fencing and that loitering on business property be discouraged. Our thanks goes to one of our often unsung heroes who is frequently our ally and spokesperson on these issues **Brigitte Pidduck, our Neighborhood Stabilization Officer.**

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### BEAUTIFICATION

A project in the works for this year's planting season is working with area Boy Scouts to establish a **community garden**, sponsored in part by the Gateway Greening program. The garden is to be raised-bed and planted in a public area of Holly Hills. Anyone interested in participating should give us a call at 569-5708.

Also, mark your calendar for our upcoming neighborhood Operation Brightside Blitz on **Saturday, May 1**. Everyone in the neighborhood is encouraged to participate in cleaning and beautifying their own property as well as surrounding public grounds. For more information about disposing of bulk trash, yard waste and other objects, call the Blitz Hotline at 781-4556.

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## REPORTS FROM OUR REPS.

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- [State Rep. Brian May, 108th District](#)

### **Alderman Fred Wessels, 13th Ward**

Alderman Wessels reports that **Carondelet Park's Boat Lake lighted fountain** is now complete. It will operate year-round as a beautiful and functional addition to the park. (It helps keep the lake water well aerated). As mentioned in previous issues of *Neighborhood News*, the fountain is funded by private benefactor Henry Ohlendorf who purchased fountains for three city parks. An additional, unlighted fountain also is in the works for Horseshoe Lake (at the western end of the park), scheduled for completion by Spring 2000 (and, yes, it should be Y2K-compliant).

Ald. Wessels also has provided us with an update on the **traffic-flow redesign plans for Holly Hills Boulevard** between Grand and Christy. New lane striping now is scheduled to take place in mid-April. In response to neighborhood concerns, the bicycle lane will NOT be set next to the parkway as originally planned. Instead, it will be next to the parking lane. Thus, from right to left (or from sidewalk to parkway) will be a 10-foot parking lane, a five-foot bicycle lane and a 11- or 12-foot driving lane. The planned bicycle lane will be the city's first designed exclusively for bicycle traffic. Holly Hills is proud to lead in this important trend toward safely accommodating diverse types of traffic in our neighborhood. We hope other neighborhoods will follow our example!

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### **Alderman Matt Villa, 11th Ward**

Alderman Villa notes that the St. Louis Tax Assistance Program is again available this year to help provide confidential tax preparation and filing services at no cost for low-income families, especially those who may be eligible for earned-income or child-care credits. To participate in the program, your family's earned annual income must be below \$26,000. For more information, you can call 621-1996.

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### **Congressman Dick Gephardt, Third Cong. District**

On a national level, Rep. Gephardt has introduced the Violence Against Women Act of 1999 legislation. Citing domestic violence as "one of the most important public safety issues facing women today," Rep. Gephardt notes that battery is the single major cause of injury to women. A similar bill was passed in 1994, enacting tougher laws and establishing programs for the arrest and prosecution of abusers as well as the protection of victims. However, the law expired in 1998 after an unsuccessful attempt to reenact the bill that year. To keep domestic violence prevention programs continuing, Rep. Gephardt hopes Congress will pass the current proposed legislation. He also notes that help is currently available for abuse victims via the Women's Abuse Hotline, 314-531-2003.

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### **State Rep. Brian May, 108th District**

Representative May's legislative work on our behalf was featured in two articles in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, February 19. Rep. A front-page article outlined May's sponsorship for a bill that authorizes placement on the Internet of names, addresses and possibly photographs of convicted (registered) sex offenders. A 1996 federal law requires all states to register sex offenders and make their information public. Emulating programs already in place in Kansas and Illinois, May and co-sponsor Rep. Bill Luetkenhuase, D-Josephville, feel making such information public via the Web would make it more convenient for individuals to access this public information.

In another article in the same issue, Rep. May's received first-round approval for a bill that would change the state's medical malpractice law. May called the bill "a women's health care issue." He sponsored the bill in response to a case where a woman discovered she had cervical cancer four years after a doctor's exam first detected the problem but he failed to report it to her. Because she was not aware of the cancer until after the statute of limitations had expired, she was unable to sue the physician for not reporting the information to her. The *Post* reports, "May's bill would allow patients to file suit two years from the date they discovered that they had not been informed of a medical test result, instead of two years from the date of the act of neglect."

If you have questions about either bill or other state legislative concerns, you can contact Rep. May at his Jefferson City office, 573-751-0438

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## **BITS & PIECES**

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### **Do Something Noteworthy**

In May, the position of Secretary on the HHIA board will be vacant, and we will have nobody to take minutes at our general meetings, as is dictated by our Bylaws. To date, we have no volunteer to fill this critical position on our board. Being Secretary does not require a great deal of volunteer time, but you should be prepared to regularly attend our HHIA general meetings (approximately 2 hours every-other month). Please give us a call if you are interested at 569-5708.

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### **Tennis, Anyone?**

The Carondelet Historical Society (CHS) is seeking information and/or memorabilia about the tennis clubs operating in Carondelet Park around the turn of the century. The tennis courts in Carondelet Park are among the city's oldest, and CHS is seeking information to assist with a "history of tennis" exhibit to

be on display in Forest Park. If you have information, records, photographs or any other related memorabilia on the topic, please call CHS at 481-6303. In fact, the CHS welcomes historical information on any topic related to the area, so if you have anything interesting squirreled away in your attic or your memory, be sure to give them a call!

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### **Pay Less for Paint**

Porter Paint (at 5400 S. Hampton) is offering a discount program to St. Louis neighborhoods such as Holly Hills, including 15% off paint, and additional discounts for wallcoverings and window treatments. At upcoming Holly Hills general meetings, we will have discount cards available so you can take advantage of this offer. We also will distribute the cards as part of our Welcoming Committee visits. If you are unable to attend our meetings but would like to request a discount card, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to HHIA, PO Box 22144, St. Louis, MO 63116.

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### **Right Writing**

Local Historian Nini Harris writes often about Holly Hills and the Carondelet neighborhood in which she lives. For example, a recent cover story she wrote in *Senior Circuit* focused on the career of Stan Kann, who recently moved to the 3900 block of Federer. (We welcome Mr. Kann to our neighborhood, by the way, and hope he enjoys his new home.) Another article Nini wrote for *Senior Circuit* on urban sprawl recently won a first-place "best feature story" award from the National Association of Mature Publishers Association (NAMPA). We congratulate Nini on her accomplishments!

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### **Carting in Offenders**

Schnucks is clamping down on individuals taking shopping carts off its properties. Not only is the theft costly for the store, but stolen carts abandoned in public and private areas are unsightly and hazardous. The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department has informed Schnucks that it will enforce existing laws, including issuing fines of up to \$500. To report abandoned carts, call the Schnucks Cart Hot Line Numbers: 994-4146, or toll-free from any pay phone 888-678-0421. To help walking customers carry groceries home, Schnucks has two-wheeled carts available to purchase for \$15.

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### **Welcome, New Members**

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

#### **Family Memberships:**

- Sean and Bess Fitzmaurice on Bowen
- Henry and Loretta Hampel on Blow Street
- Pat and Charlie Schumer 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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