



Neighborhood



News

May/June 2004

Holly Hills Improvement Association

Bimonthly Informational

P.O. Box 22 144, St Louis, MO 63116

[http:// stlouis.missouri.org/ hollyhills](http://stlouis.missouri.org/hollyhills)

SPECIAL INTEREST FEATURE

Tracking Midwest Allergies in the Spring and Summer



America's heartland is characterized by extreme climactic changes. The clearly defined seasons of the Midwest limit pollinating plants to specific months – good news for the traveler with allergies. You can vacation with confidence any time from late fall through early spring, when the skies are relatively free from pollens. The following seasonal guidelines can help you plan your travel to avoid the allergens and irritants that trigger symptoms.

Spring

This is the season of rebirth after the harsh Midwestern winters – especially for mold. Early spring belongs to mold spores, thriving on thawing vegetation killed by the winter cold. Fields still moist from snowmelt are being plowed, but airborne agricultural dust won't become a problem until late in the spring when the damp soil dries out. The first round of pollination begins with trees in late March, and crests in April and May when the hickories, elms, and oaks are releasing pollen. By May, the increasing warmth and humidity encourages dust mite growth.

Summer

Summers in the Midwest offer the allergic visitor a variety of airborne triggers. Those big skies are full of pollen, dust, and mold spores nearly all summer long. Between June and August, prairie grass pollens dominate throughout the Midwest. Ragweed takes over from mid-August through September. All over the Great Plains, Russian thistle, hemp, and amaranth are also pollinating in the late summer (August and into September). The Rocky Mountain states and the Dakotas are home to allergenic sage, also pollinating in August and September. As the soil dries out, dust becomes an increasing nuisance. Even though Midwestern summers are dry enough to create a dust problem, they aren't dry enough to prevent molds from lingering in damp places. Air conditioner filters are a favorite mold hideout during the summer months.



Aldermanic Reports

MSD Project Update Alderman Fred Wessels

Phase I of the MSD Project will be completed in June. This work includes the installation of an 11 foot tunnel under Bates Street from Arendes Drive to the Mississippi River.

Part of Phase I includes a pump station which will be built at I-55 and Bates Street. The work at this location will require a partial blocking of Bates. The street will not be closed.

Phase II is the "tie in" of existing sewers into the tunnel. The project is scheduled to begin August 2004 and be completed in 10-12 months.

Citywide Park Plan Alderman Matt Villa

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is preparing a Citywide Park Plan for the city's 105 parks. (This does not include Carondelet Park, since the Masterplan has previously been completed. It would affect, however, the smaller parks in our area: i.e. Bellerive Park and Sister Marie Charles Park) IF you are interested in becoming educated on the existing conditions of the city parks and contributing to possible improvements please plan to attend the Citywide Park Summit (Design Workshop) on May 15th at Compton/Drew Middle at 5130 Oakland Avenue from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 (Noon).

Spring Cleaning? Donate Your Books

Looking for a way to clear out your bookshelves without throwing books away? Two worthy not-for-profit organizations are seeking book donations from Holly Hills residents:

A Thousand Books supports the efforts of American teachers in less-developed countries in their efforts to share the beauty of the English language. This organization seeks new or clean used books to donate to global school libraries. Representatives will pick up your books appropriate for junior and senior high school. Contact Tony Renner at 771-9660 or at: www.AthousandBooks.org

The YMCA Book Festival seeks books of all types for its annual book fair. This year's will be their 26th annual event. For details, contact the Carondelet Y at <http://www.ymcastlouis.org/carondelet/home.html> or by calling 353-4960.

2-for-1 Membership to Y

Speaking of the Y, How About a Two-for-One Fee? Did you know that you can join either the Carondelet or South City branch of the YMCA and enjoy a dual membership valid at both locations for the same membership fee? For details, contact the Carondelet Y at <http://www.ymcastlouis.org/carondelet/home.html> or by calling 353-4960.

Holly Hills Home Values up 33%

Susan Ronshausen of CB Gundaker recently released her annual Holly Hills Neighborhood Real Estate Year in Review and generously shared her report with the HHIA. According to her report, Holly Hills has experienced a 33% increase in home prices during the past five years. Her report also revealed the following statistics regarding 2003 home sales:

Number of homes sold: 97

Sale price: Average \$139,000 (ranging from \$34,000-\$287,000)

Days on the market: Average 57 (ranging from 2-238)

You can contact Susan Dor one of several other realtors who promote Holly Hills homes and live in the neighborhood themselves by referencing our Holly Hills Yellow Pages at: http://stlouis.missouri.org/hollyhills/yellopgs/yellowpage_netscape.html (click on Realty/Housing).

Rabies Immunization Clinic

The Animal Center of the Department of Health and Hospitals will be at Blow School, 516 Loughborough, on May 22nd at 2:00p.m. to offer rabies immunization at a minimal cost. The rabies/vaccination/registration is required for all animals, regardless of where they live. It safeguards pets from rabies that could harm our citizens. They will provide a veterinarian and the support personnel to vaccinate the dogs and cats at the cost of \$16.00 per animal.

Jack-O-Lantern Jog meets Holly Hills Halloween Parade!

HIA is introducing its first annual Jack-O-Lantern Jog to accompany the already existing Halloween Parade. All events will take place on Saturday, October 23, 2004. Following is a short description of each event:

HH5K!

This fall, the HHIA is planning to add a fun and exciting event to Halloween! On Saturday October 23, the Holly Hills Jack-O-Lantern Jog will be a 5K run and 1 mile fun walk through Carondelet Park and the surrounding streets! The event will be held the same day as the Halloween parade and will provide a fun way for all first-time or seasoned runners, kids and families, and people of the neighborhood to gather in the park and celebrate being part of our neighborhood. We also hope it will bring people from other parts of the region to see Carondelet Park and enjoy the stunning architecture of our homes. We plan to have costume prizes, a DJ, T-Shirts, plus food and drink for all participants. And the best part of it — all proceeds from the event will go to improvements in Carondelet Park. Keep an eye out in the coming months for entry forms and mark your calendars, you won't want to miss it!

The HHIA is seeking sponsors for this event. We need sponsors to not only donate money, but also provide food and drink for the participants after the race. For a set amount, all donating sponsors will receive advertising on the official T-Shirt. This is an ideal way to advertise a local business and associate it with the neighborhood. If you own a business, know somebody who owns a business, or work for someone who might be interested in sponsoring this event, please contact the HHIA by phone at (314) 569-5708 or email at hollyhil@stlouis.missouri.org.

Volunteers are also needed to help prepare for the event and/or help with race day activities. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and help improve our beautiful park. If you would like to help in any way, you can contact the HHIA at (314) 569-5708 or email at hollyhil@stlouis.missouri.org.

A "Boo-tiful" Halloween Parade!

For years Holly Hills has served as a safe, fun "Halloween central" for trick-or-treaters throughout the region. To celebrate our community role (and to give you one more excuse to don those costumes), the spirits have moved us to inaugurate what has become an annual event:

The Holly Hills
Halloween Parade
Saturday, October 23rd
Begins at 3:00 pm
Intersection of Holly Hills Blvd. and Arendes Drive

We hope all of your family members will dress in their spookiest finest and join us for a short parade along Holly Hills Blvd., followed by a few treats... and, who knows, maybe even a trick or two. Feel free to also decorate a wagon, tricycle, family-friendly dog, etc. to be part of the procession.

* Note: In the event of highly inclement weather, the event will be canceled. n

Trees are Tops, but not for Topping!

The process known as topping is the indiscriminate removal of a tree's crown, cutting off large branches and the main stem of the tree, leaving large branch stubs. These stubs often die back, are vulnerable to decay and result in a profusion of unsightly and weakly attached adventitious branches.

The reason for this improper method of pruning is often based on the mistaken fear that tall trees will fall on homes and other buildings during storms. In some areas of the country 'topping' is such a common procedure that it appears the correct method of pruning. In fruit growing areas, where orchard trees are topped on a yearly basis to keep them at a height for the easy harvest of fruit, area residents often mistakenly believe this same technique should be used on ornamental trees as well.

Large, sound limbs are not dangerous in unseasonable snowstorms or windstorms. Large limbs become unsafe when decay enters as a result of past pruning neglect or improper pruning as results with topping.

The branches that develop around the stubs left from improper pruning develop from latent buds that are buried deep beneath the bark. These new branches give the tree the appearance of a porcupine. This new succulent growth is not properly attached to the tree and very susceptible to wind breakage.

—Curtis E. Swift, Ph.D., Area
Extension Agent (Horticulture)
Colorado State University



2004 HHIA Annual Banquet Monday, May 24 at BEVO MILL

All inclusive buffet style dinner plus two drinks (\$20)
with your Holly Hills Friends and Neighbors

The 2004 HHIA Banquet has been rescheduled for May 24. This will take the place of the originally scheduled General Meeting. If you couldn't attend in January but can in May, please fill out the form below and send it in with your payment. This is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and City Officials along with the chance to win great prizes!

Cocktails begin at 6 pm, with dinner at 7 pm in the Main Dining Room. Each person attending will receive two drink tickets. Once redeemed, a cash bar will be available. There will be parking available in the lot adjacent to the facility, with a security guard in the parking lot from 6 to 10 pm. Come enjoy a delicious dinner and great company with your neighbors and friends from Holly Hills.

Annual Banquet

Reservations

and/or

HHIA Membership

Renewal Form

Yes, we will attend the Holly Hills Annual Banquet on Monday, May 24. I am including \$20.00 per person.

Number attending: _____

Yes, we would like to be 2004 members of the Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA). Enclosed is \$10 for my annual family membership (\$25 for business membership).

I am a new member

I am renewing my membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please enclose a check for banquet and/or HHIA membership, and return with this form to: Betty Murphy, PO BOX 22144, St Louis, MO 63116. If you need more information call Victoria Chechik at 832-0610 and leave message.

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Looking for the perfect Holiday Gift? Look no further than the Holly Hills House Flag. These beautiful and durable flags that you see flying in the neighborhood can be bought for a

mere \$25. Proceeds go to Holly Hills Improvement Association. Call 569-5708 or send a check and instructions on where to send it and we will deliver one to your door! Our contact information is:
HHIA PO Box 22144, St. Louis, MO 63116

The Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) was formed on September 10, 1927. Since its inception, we have held various activities and events to promote the well-being of Holly Hills. Our website is <http://stlouis.missouri.org/hollyhills/>

To become a member of HHIA or for more information Contact US at 569.5708; P.O. Box 22144, St. Louis, MO 63116 or email us at hollyhil@stlouis.missouri.org