

The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

May, 1997

Contents

- [May/June HHIA General Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Contacting HHIA](#)
- [Holly Hills Announces Neighborhood Web Site](#)
- [Committee Reports](#)
- [Bits 'n Pieces](#)

"May" We Meet in June?

The general meeting of the Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA), typically held the fourth Monday of May, has been rescheduled to the following Monday to avoid conflict with Memorial Day. Time and location remain the same:

HHIA General Meeting
Monday, June 2, 7:30 p.m.
Southern Commercial Bank, 5515 S. Grand

In addition to regular updates from our neighborhood representatives, two special guest speakers have accepted our invitation to discuss subjects high on the list of Holly Hills priorities.

The Family Company of America (aka, National groceries), has submitted a proposal to the city to operate a National store at the former Schnucks location at Grand and Iron. Charles Lehnbeuter, Vice Chairman and CFO for company, will update us on the project and suggest how we can support National in its efforts to establish a grocery store within our boundaries. While other business proposals may be forthcoming, and the city will be carefully considering each, HHIA thanks National for being the first to offer us promise that this long-vacant property may soon be a thriving business.

Also scheduled to attend is Kevin Toal, president of the **Southside Landlord Association**. The associations mission is to develop a sense of community through meaningful liaisons with landlords, residents and officials, and through the exchange of ideas and education in real estate investments and ownership.

[\[Return to Contents\]](#)

Easy Access

To more easily reach HHIA with your questions or suggestions, we are pleased to announce three new ways to contact us, including a voice mailbox, post office box and electronic-mail account. Now, there's no need to wonder, who should I call about . . .? A single phone call, e-mail, or letter will ensure that your request reaches the right individual!

The Holly Hills Improvement Association

1. **Call: 569-5708**
2. **Send e-mail to: hollyhil@stlouis.missouri.org**
3. **Mail correspondence to: Holly Hills Improvement Association, P.O. Box 22144, St. Louis, Missouri, 63116**

[\[Return to Contents\]](#)

Holly Hills Hits the Highway!

HHIA is proud to announce our Holly Hills World Wide Web site:

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/hollyhills>

Of course we have many expansion plans, but already you can find resources useful to current as well as prospective neighborhood residents. The effort was completed in conjunction with a citywide Web Fair, designed to encourage all neighborhoods to post resources on the Web.

You Can Help!

We are planning a section on the Holly Hills Web site detailing the rich history of Holly Hills. We're currently seeking any kinds of Holly Hills "memorabilia" you may have, including past and present anecdotes about life in Holly Hills, and historical or current photos. To share your materials with us, [contact us](#).

[\[Return to Contents\]](#)

Reports from HHIA Committees

- [Beautification -- Bates Project](#)
- [Beautification -- Operation Brightside](#)
- [Maintenance/Improvement](#)
- [Welcoming Committee](#)
- [Events/Fundraising](#)

Beautification -- Bates Project

HHIA is kicking off one of our most ambitious projects since we painted the Grand bridge and added a flagpole in Carondelet Park. We're now moving to the north end of the neighborhood, where we plan to make improvements to a metal storage building and its adjacent lot near Bates and Arendes (property owned by Senator John Scott).

Combining funds from several sources, HHIA is working with neighborhood volunteers and a professional artist to apply fresh sealer plus an attractive and colorful mural to the building. The mural will depict neighborhood scenes (similar to the mural near Bevo Mill at Morganford and Gravois). In addition, Senator Scott currently is building a fence around an area of the lot that was used as an unwelcome spot for loitering. The city is working on adding plantings in the area to make it a more attractive entryway to our neighborhood. Special thanks go to HHIA members **Marianne Powers** and **Sherri Cunningham** for planning this major project and coordinating the many players involved!

You Can Help!

Trust us, paint isn't cheap. Your donations can help ensure our project's success. *Any businesses or individuals donating \$25 or more will have their name painted in a commemorative area on the base of the building.* Send your donations to the Holly Hills Improvement Association, Bates Street Project, P.O. Box 22144, St. Louis, MO 63116.

We've already received our first donation for this project from the **Loyal Order of the Alley Dogs (LOAD)**, an organization of approximately 65 gentlemen with a club house near Grand and Bates. LOAD spokesman Frank Russo says, "We're just a bunch of mostly regular guys, who enjoy helping organizations in the area. Excuse the pun, but thanks LOADs!"

[\[Return to Committee Report List\]](#)

Beautification -- Operation Brightside and Other Plant Projects

Thanks to the efforts of many, just about everywhere you look in Holly Hills new trees, bushes, flowers and shrubs are taking root:

Tim Bolt and Mark Richardson, our Beautification Committee chairs, and their merry band of volunteers, have been busy setting up the 14 new shrub areas made possible through a major grant from the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Beth Murphy, Area Captain for Operation Brightside distributed thousands of flowers and trashbags for planting and clean-up during our recent Brightside Blitz. Beth notes that special commendations should go to the **Parent-Teacher Organization at Woerner Public School** on Leona, for their Brightside school clean-up project.

Marianne Powers reports that residents on Bellerive completed a significant Brightside project, working faithfully during several weekends to remove and transplant bushes, reseed the parkway and build three new flower beds. Contributors to the project also included **Alderman Fred Wessels**, **Barry Kassing** of the Parks Department and **Colors of Spring** at Fyler and Watson. All our aldermen have been arranging for continued replacement and new trees throughout the area.

[\[Return to Committee Report List\]](#)

Maintenance/Improvements

Chair Beth Murphy is pleased to report a victory against deterioration of our neighborhood. In April, a resident in the 4100 block of Holly Hills applied for a variance that would enable him to operate his construction business from his home. We opposed his request, because we were concerned it would only exasperate an existing problem. Neighbors already had complained of business materials laying in the

yard and overflowing the garage, and the resident already had been cited by the city for these activities.

Combining forces with **Alderman Fred Heitert**, who also opposed the variance, we carried out a letter-writing campaign, circulated a petition and attended the variance meeting. Faced with our opposition, the resident withdrew his proposal.

The HHIA welcomes business activities and partnerships within our neighborhoods boundaries; we understand that any successful community is a mixture of businesses, homes and public areas. However, we also believe that, for a neighborhood to thrive, clear boundaries must exist between what constitutes a business and what constitutes a residence.

The Maintenance/Improvement Committee also is working with business owners and city officials to upgrade the facades on the strip of businesses along Grand near Wilmington. Look in future newsletters for an update!

[\[Return to Committee Report List\]](#)

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming committee has begun making monthly visits to residents moving into the neighborhood. During our first two visits, we welcomed nine new neighbors, and provided them with a packet of helpful informational materials. Future plans include soliciting area businesses to provide small gifts or redeemable gift certificates to help make our welcome even a little warmer.

You Can Help!

If you know of someone moving to your block, please let us know! Or, if you are a business that would like to include a welcome gift and information about your business in our packet, contact us at 569-5708, or send us [e-mail at hollyhil@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:hollyhil@stlouis.missouri.org)

[\[Return to Committee Report List\]](#)

Events/Fundraising

Join us at the upcoming HHIA Community Fair for a relaxing afternoon with friends and family. Activities include family-oriented events, food, demonstrations by the St. Louis City Fire and Police Departments, and old-fashioned carriage rides through the park.

HHIA Community Fair Sunday, June 22 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Carondelet Park Boathouse

Attendance is free, with a nominal fee for the carriage ride and refreshments (proceeds going to benefit the neighborhood). Following the fair, **the Waterloo Band**, co-sponsored by the HHIA, will be performing at the nearby music bandstand in the park. Attendance to the concert also is free.

Donations toward our event have been numerous and generous. Sponsors for the fair include:

- AMC Theatre
- Accent With Flowers
- Alderman Fred Wessels
- Cardinal Vending Company

- Feasting Fox
- Goedekers
- Kuna Meat Company
- Lemay Bank & Trust Company
- Schnucks Markets
- Shell Company
- Southern Commercial Bank
- Sterling Signs

We appreciate the strong show of support from our business community!

[\[Return to Committee Report List\]](#)

[\[Return to Contents\]](#)

Bits 'n Pieces

Reports from our Reps.

Credit goes to **State Representative Brian May** for two new ceramic-bordered flower beds at the Virginia Street (northbound) I-55 highway ramp, along with other improvements to the area, such as curb painting and more frequent mowing. May gives special thanks to **Greg Horn** of the Highway Department for his assistance with this project, as well as his help with plantings in conjunction with our Beautification Committee at the I-55 Loughborough ramps.

Alderman Matt Villa reports that he and Alderman Wessels are working jointly on improvements within Carondelet Park, including bridge repairs at the northeast corner of the park and extra plantings.

Alderman Fred Wessels reported that property owner **Robert Priester** has been rehabbing a fire-damaged, vacant property that he purchased on the 5600 block of Leona, and seems to be doing a careful and well-planned job that will benefit himself and the entire neighborhood. We appreciate your efforts, Robert!

Welcome Mat(t)

HHIA extends a warm welcome to Matt Villa as our new 11th Ward Alderman. Matt already has taken an active interest in HHIA, joining our Events and Fundraising committee and attending many of our general meetings. Matt emphasizes that attending neighborhood meetings and making himself highly accessible to constituents is a primary objective. Call him with your questions or comments at 622-3287 or 351-9896.

Music in the Air

Concerts at Carondelet Park are back for the summer! Each Sunday, 6 - 8 p.m., June 8 through August 17, a different band will be performing at the parks bandstand (near the boat house at the southeast corner of the park). The concerts are sponsored by the Carondelet Community Betterment Foundation, the Regional Arts Commission, the Parks Department and additional sponsors. (HHIA is co-sponsoring the Waterloo Band on Sunday, June 22 the day of our Neighborhood Fair.) So bring a blanket, a picnic basket and a friend each Sunday, and join us in the park.

[\[Return to Contents\]](#)

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

[Main](#) [Map](#) [Photos](#) [Newsletter](#) [Calendar](#) [Email HHIA](#)