

The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

November, 1997

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WE'RE FRONT PAGE NEWS!

Fall definitely was "Holly Hills season" in the media, when we were twice featured in front-page articles in the Southside Journal. The [first article](#) commemorated the completion of phase one of our Bates Street project (in which we spruced up a warehouse near Bates and Arendes). A [second article](#) marked HHIA's 70th anniversary as a neighborhood organization. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of our members, and we thank you all!

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NOVEMBER HHIA GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

**HHIA General Meeting
Suzanne LeLaurin
International Institute
Monday, November 24, 7:30 p.m.
Southern Commercial Bank, 5515 S. Grand**

Most of us face many changes when moving to a new home. New neighbors, new schools and stores, new ways of doing things combine to form a new (hopefully improved) life.

Imagine how much greater the challenge if you have emigrated from another country. Add learning an entirely new culture and possibly a foreign language; missing friends and family left behind in your homeland; and facing the challenges of U.S. laws in areas such as citizenship, healthcare, tax code areas those of us who have lived here all our lives can find difficult.

How can we help make it easier for our Holly Hills neighbors who have emigrated from abroad? Improved understanding of the unique concerns and challenges of these valuable residents can make Holly Hills a better and more interesting home for us all.

We are honored to welcome Suzanne LeLaurin, Director of Social Work at the International Institute, to address this topic at our upcoming Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) November General Meeting (details above). The International Institute is a social service agency, providing adjustment services to refugees and immigrants, and cross-cultural services to new Americans and the general public.

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REPORTS FROM HHIA COMMITTEES

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EVENTS/FUNDRAISING

It seems like it gets earlier every year the Holiday Season is fast arriving, and it will be time once again to hold our annual **HHIA Holiday Lighting Contest**.

Its not too complicated just have your holiday lights on the evenings of Saturday-Sunday, December 20-21, when our judges will be cruising the neighborhood. Prizes will be awarded for best overall lighting, best single family, best multi-family, and best street lighting. The best overall winner will be invited to attend our annual January banquet at no cost; other winners will receive Holly Hills brass plaques to place on their homes. All winners also will be listed in our January *Neighborhood News* newsletter.

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WELCOMING

Our Welcoming Committee continues to make regular visits to new neighbors approximately a dozen each month. A new addition to our welcome packet is the *FrontSteps* newsletter, compliments of the Evergreen State Society of Seattle, Washington. The society produces *FrontSteps* at no charge for neighborhoods and the people who live in them, with the support of SAFECO Corporation. We will likely start distributing copies of the newsletter at our general meetings as well. Our thanks to its producers for providing it.

You Can Help!

If your business would like to include an item in our welcome packet, we would be delighted to discuss options with you. Give us a call at 569-5708.

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MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENTS

Our maintenance/improvements volunteers continue to work quietly behind the scenes to represent Holly Hills in areas such as safeguarding neighborhood quality when new businesses seek to locate in the area, and reporting problem properties to appropriate government representatives. In addition, a couple of projects this committee currently is working on with the city are:

- adding a park bench in the triangular traffic parkway at Bowen and Leona
- repairing and adding a Holly Hills logo sign to the concrete bench at Wilmington and Coronado.

Give us a call if you have a question or concern you would like us to address (569-5708).

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BEAUTIFICATION

Great news! For the second year, HHIA has received grants from Neighbor Naturescaping and Growing St. Louis. These grants are enabling us to add a wide variety of new flowers and trees to the neighborhood, including two new flower beds near Wilmington and the railroad tracks and near Bates and the railroad tracks (to continue beautification begun when we upgraded the metal storage building near Bates and Arendes). Thanks to everyone who has donated their time and/or materials for continuing our plantings.

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REPORTS FROM OUR REPS.

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State Representative Brian May, 108th District

Rep. May reports his successful inclusion of a provision in Senate Bill 56 during this years legislative session with the intent of protecting the children of the State. As a result of Mays provision, Missouri citizens now can obtain a list of names and addresses of convicted sex offenders. The list is easily available upon request at the City of St. Louis Police Headquarters at Tucker and Clark streets.

May also reports that he is helping the neighborhood oppose a request made by the Ku Klux Klan to adopt a portion of Highway 55 near our neighborhood. May stated in his letter to the Department of Transportation (DOT), I still believe that allowing the Klan to maintain a portion of this highway will be detrimental to the City of St. Louis and an insult to my constituents.

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A Message from Congressman Dick Gephardt

Congressman Gephardt announced his support for HR 2676, the IRS Restructuring and Reform Bill. Rep. Gephardt notes, as a bipartisan bill, HR 2676 strikes a proper compromise: it makes the IRS more accountable by creating an outside Oversight Board and it makes Congress and the President more accountable by retaining control over the IRS by elected officials. He notes that the bill also shifts the burden of proof in civil tax cases from the citizen to the IRS. In other words, taxpayers are presumed innocent unless the IRS can prove guilt.

To make our neighborhoods safe for families and children, Rep. Gephardt also is a strong advocate of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which distributes grants to local governments to strengthen their policing efforts. Since the programs inception, says Rep. Gephardt, I have worked with federal, state, and local officials to maximize St. Louis Citys share of COPS money. As a result, the City has gotten over \$8 million in grant monies from the COPS program. This has put more than 170 additional officers on patrol.

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Alderman Fred Wessels, 13th District

Ald. Wessels notes that our neighborhood business J. K. Pully at 3805 Bates is constructing a \$200,000 warehouse at its 3805 Bates location a modern addition that should serve to improve our neighborhood as well as to help this business thrive.

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BITS & PIECES

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Coming in January ... Look in the next edition of *Neighborhood News* for details about our annual non-business dinner meeting (to be held Monday, January 26) and upcoming annual dues payments!

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Welcome, New Members

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

- John P. & Charlotte Gilsinn on Dover
- Lori Jerome on Dover
- John Korst on Bowen
- Dan & Megan Millman on Holly Hills
- Mr. & Mrs. Rick Myers on Federer
- Scott & Suzanne Seawel on Burgen
- Gloria J. Wienke on Leona

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Long May It Wave You may notice we have installed a new flag on the flag pole near the Lyle House in Carondelet Park. Thanks to Joe Rusch, for taking care of obtaining the new flag, and thanks to neighborhood residents who alerted us that the flag needed to be replaced.

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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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