

The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

September, 2002

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Featured Speaker

HHIA General Meeting
Monday, September 23, 7:30 pm
Southern Commercial Bank
5515 South Grand

September traditionally is back-to-school time, so the HHIA welcomes Laura Schulte, Program Administrator from St. Stephen's Preschool and Early Childhood Development Program. The story behind this new program is interesting even if you don't have young children because it illustrates interfaith cooperation, volunteer commitment, and building renewal. Here's what's happening.

During a St. Stephen's parish council meeting last winter, Laura Schulte learned that the property at 4025 Wilmington (formerly Mary Margaret's Daycare) had become vacant. This property is owned by Grace United Church of Christ (UCC) on Leona. After meeting with Rev. Pat Vollersten and the Grace UCC board, a deal was struck to renovate the building and rent it to St. Stephen's for a preschool and early childhood development program. The renovation began this summer and has continued on a daily basis by volunteers from St. Stephen's, Grace UCC, and even Fontbonne University. A parking lot renovation, including new sidewalks, a handicap walkway and landscaping, is also scheduled.

The preschool program is taught by Linda O'Connell and Amy Cain, two well-known and respected leaders in early childhood education. The early childhood development program is modeled on a parent's-day-out concept, except that it emphasizes educationally based themes and has a low student/teacher ratio. This program is staffed by volunteers. Laura will provide details regarding both these programs at our September meeting. An interesting note about both programs is that the educational building is "allergy free." No nuts, fish, dairy, soy or eggs will be in the school. No one is allowed to bring outside food into the building. Birthdays will be celebrated with small gifts and games, rather than with cake. This policy assures parents that their children will not come into contact with an allergic food or a cross-contaminated person or object. All children will start their day by washing their hands.

The new program hopes to offer young children and their families safe, healthy, and first-rate educational and spiritual opportunities close to home. It is an exciting example of cooperation among residents, congregations, and city organizations. If you would like to volunteer to help (reading to

children, filling in for a sick staff member) or if you can make a financial contribution to this program, please contact Laura at 352-1509 or visit with her after our September meeting.

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Carondelet Park Update

The Carondelet Park Master Plan Committee met on August 15th to review the feedback of the public meeting held on July 13th and to further discussions concerning Carondelet Park. One of the agenda items was a proposed Community Recreation Center. Recently, the city hired an engineering firm to handle the feasibility study, which includes gathering information about different site locations. It is important to note that Carondelet Park is only one of many sites being considered! If Carondelet Park does become the preferred location, our Master Plan process will offer a valuable opportunity to provide our input in determining the best location of the center within the park's boundaries. As such, our Master Plan process will incorporate two separate designs to accommodate both possible scenarios one with the recreation center, and one without.

Since April, H3 Studio (the design firm) has been gathering information through public meetings, committee meetings and research. Their next step is to focus on schematics.

Be sure to attend the public meeting on Saturday, October 5th from 10:00 to 12:00 at Blow School (Rear Building) to be a part of this next step in the Carondelet Park planning process. The school is located at 516 Loughborough Ave.

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Safe Neighborhoods

The Midwest and Missouri in particular have a problem with methamphetamine production. While our neighborhood has never been a center for this sort of activity, it's a fact that crime prevention depends on educated and committed citizens getting involved in their communities. With that in mind, here are some warning signs put together by the St. Louis City Rental Property Owners Association to help spot possible meth labs. This list has been verified by the St. Louis police department.

- Unusual, strong odors (like cat urine, ether, ammonia)
- Residences with windows blacked out
- Occupants who go outside to smoke cigarettes and then return inside
- Lots of traffic-people coming and going at unusual times, particularly late at night
- Excessive amounts of trash (antifreeze containers, lantern fuel cans, red chemically stained coffee filters, drain cleaner and duct tape)
- Unusual amounts of clear glass containers being brought into the home
-

Numerous propane tanks in the backyard with or without a bbq pit. Note any blue corrosion around the valve areas.

If you suspect a meth lab, notify the police. You can call 9-1-1 or leave an anonymous tip at 241-COPS.

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By-Law Change

The HHIA board is proposing a modest dues increase, to take effect in January 2003. The proposed increase would be as follows:

Individual membership:

\$10.00 annually (presently \$7.00)

Business:

\$25 annually (presently \$20.00).

Why the update? As you know many costs, particularly related to postage, mailings, meeting materials and other essentials have increased dramatically during the last several years, while our dues have remained static. It is important for us to be able to adequately cover such costs, so our current projects and communications with you can continue.

In addition, we are considering hiring a part-time gardening assistant beginning next summer to ensure that all of the amazing landscaping efforts developed to date all around the neighborhood continue to flourish. Based on your feedback, neighborhood beautification remains high on the priority list of ways you would like to see HHIA contribute to the neighborhood's well-being, so we feel strongly that such a position would be a welcome addition to the projects we coordinate. We are borrowing the idea from other St. Louis neighbor- hood groups, who have unanimously found it to be a very cost-effective way to keep planted areas green without risking "volunteer burnout" from the frequent demand required by routine watering and maintenance work. (The spring and fall clean-up and planting days will not be affected by this change.)

To implement the dues increase, we will be proposing a by-law change to Article I, Section 5 at our September 23 general meeting and voting on the change at our November 25 meeting. In the meantime, please contact our 569-5708 hotline if you have any questions we can address.

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Boulevard Heights Neighborhood

Did you know that for the past 17 years, a group of five or so volunteers from the Boulevard Heights neighborhood have been staffing a contract post office? It's true. You can drive a few blocks to the Windsor Community Center located at 4092 Robert Avenue and mail letters and packages, buy some stamps, and get some old-fashioned service with no parking hassles. The only services you won't find at this post office branch are express or international mail or payment with a credit card. But if you've got cash or a check, you're in business. The hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 to 4:00. Saturday mailboxes are available from 9:00 to noon. Rosalie Noll is the director and you can call 352-5949 if you

need any more information about this unique neighborhood endeavor. And if you're looking for a volunteer opportunity, give Rosalie a call. She says they'd love to have one other person to add to their all-volunteer staff.

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"Where Did You Get That Flag?"

Display your neighborhood pride and purchase a "Welcome to Holly Hills" flag for your home or garden! As pictured on our Web site, our dark-green flags with white lettering are made of durable and attractive "Sunbrella" canvas. They include two grommets and a slip pocket for easy hanging, and are available for only \$25 each (pole not included). To purchase, simply send us your name, address, phone number and desired quantity, along with your check payable to Holly Hills Improvement Association, to:

Holly Hills Improvement Association
Attn: Flag Order
PO Box 22144
St. Louis, MO 63116

Order one or several. At \$25 each, they make great house-warming gifts for new neighbors or thank-you gifts for long-time neighbors! (Place your holiday orders early to ensure availability.)

Questions? Call us at 314-569-5708 or send an e-mail inquiry to [HHIA Webmaster](#).

HOLLY HILLS HOUSE FLAGS

Please print or type legibly!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please deliver _____ flags to me for \$25 each (pole purchased separately) as soon as the flags are available!

Enclosed is an additional donation of \$_____ to support other HHIA neighborhood projects.

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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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