

The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

September, 1998

CONTENTS

- [September General Meeting Announcement](#)
- [Committee Reports](#)
- [Reports from Our Reps](#)
- [Bits & Pieces](#)

A VIRTUAL VISIT TO HOLLY HILLS

Thanks to the World Wide Web and generous funding from the St. Louis Community Information Network (CIN), it doesn't matter whether you live in Holly Hills; Hollywood, California; or Holland, Europe. Wherever you call home, you can take a tour of our neighborhood anytime at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/hollyhills>.

Catch up on our newsletter, view pictures of our scenic boulevards, see what businesses are located here or just chat with neighbors. At our upcoming September general meeting, we proudly demonstrate our Web site, see for yourself what all the excitement is about, and perhaps come up with ideas you would like to include on the site. Among many other advantages, promotion of neighborhood Web sites help residents communicate with each other and provides information to those interested in moving to Holly Hills. (Besides, it's fun!)

Neighborhood volunteers who have helped build our site will be available to answer your questions. **Sonya Pelli, CIN Administrator**, will describe how her agency has helped make our own and other city neighborhood Web sites possible, and why CIN needs our continued support to keep these sites funded. We hope you'll join us for this special live demonstration.

HHIA General Meeting
Monday, September 28, 7:30 pm
Southern Commercial Bank, 5515 S. Grand

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

While all of our committees continue to thrive, all current projects are ongoing, with no significant updates to report. Look in future *Neighborhood News* editions for the latest news concerning our Beautification, Welcoming, Maintenance/Improvements and Events/Fundraising committees. In the meantime, should you have specific questions about any of our committees activities or if you would like to volunteer, please call us at 569-5708. Following is a sample list of some of our current projects:

- **Beautification** ongoing planting, watering and fundraising via grant application
- **Welcoming** monthly visits to new residents homes or apartments
- **Maintenance/Improvements** receiving complaints or concerns about the neighborhoods appearance; working with city representatives to address such issues
- **Events/Fundraising** planning is currently under way to sponsor a Holly Hills family picnic in Carondelet Park, scheduled for next summer (details in upcoming newsletters)

A Bright Idea

Dont forget, while supplies last, free lightbulbs for your porch lights are available from HHIA, thanks to a grant from Ameren Electric. Bulbs are available at upcoming neighborhood meetings and other HHIA events (next meeting Mon., Sept. 28). Limit one bulb per household.

You Can Help!

If you would like to help us distribute the free lightbulbs to folks on your block or in your area, give us a call at 569-5708, and will fill you in on the details.

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

REPORTS FROM OUR REPS.

- [Alderman Fred Wessels, 13th Ward](#)
- [Alderman Matt Villa, 11th Ward](#)
- [Congressman Dick Gephardt, Third Cong. District](#)
- [State Rep. Brian May, 108th District](#)

Alderman Fred Wessels, 13th Ward

Ald. Wessels, in conjunction with Ald. Villa and Heitert, is spearheading a campaign to reduce speeding and other unsafe driving along Holly Hills, particularly between Grand and Morganford. The effort is partly in response to several recent incidents involving accidents and damage to parked vehicles, as well as an accumulation of years of unsafe conditions along this stretch of road. Increasing residents complaints are contributing to the efforts as well. (It pays to bring your concerns to your alderman!)

Wessels initial efforts are two-fold. First, police are currently patrolling the road daily for an approximate one-month period, issuing speeding tickets. Follow-up patrolling will ensue regularly. Second, the Traffic Division is going to submit a study of accident patterns along this stretch and provide recommendations for a solution. Says Wessels, I believe we are in need of the best advice possible. That is why I have asked the Traffic Division to study the problem.

Look in future newsletters for updates. If you have suggestions or comments you would like to make during this review period, now is the time to contact your alderman at the Board of Aldermen Office (622-3287).

On a more uplifting subject, at last Anne Borgemeyer, member of the HHIA board is going to get her lifelong wish for the neighborhood. A fountain is to be installed in Carondelet Park! Ald. Wessels notes the fountain is thanks to the generosity of a private benefactor, **Henry Ohlendorf**, who purchased three fountains for city parks. Parks Director Dan McGuire chose the Boat Lake at Carondelet Park as one of

the three sites. Installation work is scheduled for completion in the fall and will be illuminated at night. Says Wessels, In addition to its aesthetic value, the fountain has an aerator and will provide ecological benefits to the lake.

[\[Return to Representative List\]](#)

Alderman Matt Villa, 11th Ward

Ald. Villa reports that several individuals were able to take advantage of a \$2,000 First-Time Home Buyers forgivable loan to help purchase homes in his ward. While the deadline for the loan application ended in July, he notes there still is some money for the program left in his ward, resulting in a second phase of funding. A loan is potentially available (until funding is used up) for anyone who currently lives in the city and who is purchasing a home for the first time. There is no income requirement. Villa notes similar funding might also be available in neighboring wards, such as those of aldermen Wessels or Heitert. Contact your alderman at the Board of Aldermen Office (622-3287) for more details.

Congrats to Matt!

The HHIA wishes to extend its congratulations to Alderman Villa and his new bride Laura, who were wed on July 25. The wedding resulted in one of the few occasions Matt was unable to make our general neighborhood meeting. Join us at our next general meeting to congratulate Matt in person.

[\[Return to Representative List\]](#)

Congressman Dick Gephardt, Third Cong. District

One of Congressman Gephardt's recent efforts on our behalf has been working on legislation to make it easier for more Americans to achieve the dream of homeownership. Cong. Gephardt notes that, as a result of the efforts of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and others in the home mortgage industry, we have reached a national all-time record level of homeownership of 67%. However, he adds, the \$99,150 loan limit within the City of St. Louis is near the lowest FHA limit of \$86,317. St. Louis County's loan limit, on the other hand, is \$142,050. The disparity makes it difficult for city builders to provide new homes within that limit, and deters first-time home buyers from investing in City housing. It has perpetuated a perception that urban housing is not a valuable or wise investment, says Gephardt.

On June 25, the House Appropriations Committee approved the VA-HUD Appropriations bill for FY1999, including increased FHA loan limits for most areas. Working together, Congressman Gephardt and Congressman Obey, Senior Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, ensured that the bill specified that, where there are currently two loan limits in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (such as St. Louis City and County), the highest FHA loan limit will apply to the entire area. The bill passed the House on July 29. Currently, the Senate version of the bill includes the increased FHA loan limits, but does not include the specific MSA language. Following conference between the House and the Senate, Gephardt hopes that the final bill will include both clauses, and he will keep us up to date on its status.

[\[Return to Representative List\]](#)

State Rep. Brian May, 108th District

State Rep. Mays 1998 District Directory is now available and has been mailed to many homes within the district. Prepared especially for his district, the directory provides a helpful, up-to-date listing of government agencies, officials, addresses and telephone numbers. If you did not receive the directory, there will be copies available at our upcoming general neighborhood meeting (Monday, Sept. 28), or you

can contact Rep. May and request one (352-7639).

[\[Return to Representative List\]](#)

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

BITS & PIECES

- [An Ending and a Beginning](#)
- [Rendezvous Reminders](#)
- [Summer Fun Days](#)
- [Welcome, New Members](#)

An Ending and a Beginning

After more than 20 years of service to the area, Cleat Davis has taken a deserved retirement, and temporarily closed the doors of the Amoco service station at the corner of Bates and Virginia (just off the Bates Street exit on I-55). Davis, his wife Della and his entire family asked us to let everyone know they are extremely grateful for the patronage all of their friends and neighbors have provided over the years they were open. Fortunately, the station already has been purchased and will re-open, again as an Amoco, in mid-September. The new owner is Michael Najjar, current owner of another Amoco station at the intersection of Gravois and Hampton/Germania. We bid a fond farewell to the Davis family and a warm welcome to Mr. Najjar! Another station that is a Holly Hills Improvement Association business member and deserves our patronage is the Shell service station at the intersection of Morganford and Loughborough.

[\[Return to Bits & Pieces Content\]](#)

Rendezvous Reminders

If you would like a souvenir of this summers Rendezvous Carondelet event, t-shirts and medallions commemorating the event are for sale (\$10 for t-shirts and \$5 for medallions). They can be picked up while supplies last at the Cardonelet Community Betterment Federation (CCBF) office, 6408 Michigan, 8-4 pm, Monday-Friday.

[\[Return to Bits & Pieces Content\]](#)

Summer Fun Days

Looking for a place to enjoy some fun time with your family? You need look no farther than St. Louis City. Mark your calendars with these two upcoming events:

- **Bevo Day**
Sunday, September 20
Near Intersection of Morganford and Gravois
- **Historic Shaw Art Fair**
Saturday-Sunday, October 3-4
10 am to 5 pm
Near intersection of Shaw and Flora

[\[Return to Bits & Pieces Content\]](#)

Welcome, New Members

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

Business Memberships:

- Dennis Murphey, Realtor
Coldwell Banker
2016 S. Big Bend 63117
647-0001
- Geoffrey J. Seitz
Geoffrey J. Seitz, Violinmaker
4171 Loughborough 63116
353-1312

Family Memberships:

- James & Diane Longenecker on Federer
- Tom & Chris Bujnak on Bowen
- Mark & Jeanie Braun on Toenges
- Kevin Prange & Kate Hastings on Leona

[\[Return to Bits & Pieces Content\]](#)

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

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](#)