



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, September 26, 7 pm, Carondelet Park Rec Plex

Speakers: Representatives from Laclede Gas discussing meter exchanges & piping in Holly Hills, and representatives from SLACO speaking concerning Prop NS

HOLLY HILLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (HHIA)
Grand to Morganford and Bates to Loughborough

Holly Hills Improvement Association & Crawford-Butz Insurance Agency Present Holly Hills Grills!



Exciting news! Holly Hills Improvement Association will be hosting the inaugural Holly Hills Grills fundraiser on Sunday, October 2nd from 1pm – 5pm at the corner of Leona & Wilmington. Borgmeyer Dental and Grace United Church of Christ have graciously offered their parking lots for the event and we will be closing down Wilmington between Leona and the alley.

Well-known chef Alex Cupp from the Stellar Hog at the Bungalow will be our headliner, joined by veteran BBQ masters from Keeton's Double Play, and No Class Catering who will be featuring vegetarian and vegan BBQ options. The staff from MJ's on the Park will be on hand providing beverages. In addition to the food, the event will feature a kid's corner and music from the Friendly Henrys.

The event is free to attend and BBQ tastes are available for \$5 or 5 for \$20. Be sure to check out our limited edition Holly Hills Grills aprons on sale at the event as well as other neighborhood merchandise. All proceeds from the event benefit HHIA.

Please join us for a great afternoon of good food & great company with fellow Holly Hills residents. For more information, please visit <http://hollyhills.info/HollyHillsGrills>

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Letter From the President

The HHIA organization headed up by chairperson, Lisa Bertke, has been planning the Holly Hills Grills event on October 2nd and I truly would like to personally invite all of you to attend. It will be a wonderful community event for Holly Hills!

Holly Hills Improvement Association will have our next community meeting on September 26th in the Respect Room at the Carondelet Rec Plex at 7:00 PM. Laclede Gas (Spire) will be our first guest speaker and will give Holly Hills' residents an update on gas lines and meter replacements. Stacy Ross will be giving us information on the upcoming vacancy bond issue, Proposition NS (Neighbor Stabilization) Ordinance. President Baldwin will be sharing and recruiting volunteers for the upcoming October 15 event called Neighborhoods United for Change. Naturally, our alderpersons will also be on hand to give us their reports along with Andrew Hernandez and Officer Wilson.

We also will be voting on the next term for the HHIA board members. If you would like to become an HHIA board member, please contact me at president@hollyhills.info prior to the meeting

I'm looking forward seeing all of you on Monday, September 26 at 7:00 PM in the "Respect Room" at the Carondelet Rec Plex.

- Anna Baldwin

The Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) was formed on September 10, 1927. Since its inception, HHIA has worked to promote the well being of Holly Hills and its residents.

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president@hollyhills.info

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garden@hollyhills.info

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greenspace@hollyhills.info

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Problem Properties, Officer Ginger Kavanaugh	444-0171
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 4018 Bates \$95,000
 4084 Fillmore \$95,000
 4106 Bates \$95,000
 4146 Concordia \$97,900
 6101 Adkins \$99,900
 4122 Burgen \$99,900 (UC)
 5622 Morganford \$115,000
 3929 Burgen \$115,000
 6112 Newport \$127,000 (UC)
 6117 Ray \$129,900
 6011 S. Grand \$129,900
 4126 Bates \$130,500
 4133 Haven \$134,900 (UC)

4083 Fillmore \$137,500 (UC)
 3660 Wilmington \$140,000 (MF)
 3911 Burgen \$152,400 (UC)
 4139 Alma \$158,500 (MF) (UC)
 3841 Dover \$159,900
 4057 Haven \$159,900 (UC)
 3990 Bowen \$159,900 (UC)
 4144 Holly Hills \$169,900
 4008 Dover \$169,900 (UC)
 6104 Newport \$169,900
 3678 Bellerive \$175,000 (UC)
 4142 Alma \$179,999
 4140 Federer \$187,000
 6040 Arendes \$189,000
 3830 Fillmore \$189,900 (MF) (UC)
 3950 Wilmington \$199,900 (MF) (UC)
 3967 Fillmore \$199,900 (MF) (UC)
 3694 Bellerive \$229,000

3628 Bates \$229,000 (UC)
 3839 Wilmington \$239,900
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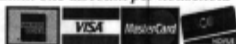
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Holly Hills Green Space Initiative (Sept 2016)

The Holly Hills Green Space Committee (HHGSC) coordinated volunteer Saturdays in June, July and August in which we were able to pull and dig weeds and to prepare two beds at Leona and Holly Hills for planting with pollinator and native plants later this fall and in spring of next year. Many of you have heard about SLU's Bee Sustainability Study and the need for residents in the neighborhood to plant more plants and flowers friendly to our local pollinators. More information on the study and pictures of local gardens can be found at <http://www.sustainabilitysciencelab.org/bees.html>

HHGSC volunteer hours are primarily spent battling weeds and we are frequently asked about what weeds need to be pulled from public green spaces. (In fact a "weed" is basically just an unwanted plant. Dandelions can be pretty pollinator nectar sources to one person and an unacceptable weed to others.) To help, we would like to identify some of the most common weeds we find in our beds and we advocate an organic approach- very limited use (if at all) of pesticides, which can harm pollinators. Continued pulling of the weeds at the roots can be effective.



Bindweed: this weed (climbing up one of our rose bushes in the picture) is frequently misidentified as Morning Glory. It primarily grows on the ground but will twine around other plants for support. It has small white/pink flowers when in bloom and the root systems can reach down 15 feet or more. It is important to control small infestations, especially before the plant goes to seed.

Lambs quarters: this weed is edible and nutritious, if one was so inclined. Mature leaves pale, gray-green in color and the leaf edges are wavy or slightly toothed. The height of a lambs quarter weed varies from a few inches to 5 feet. Tiny, yellow-green flowers bloom in clusters at the tips of the stems. They usually bloom from July to September, but can bloom early in the season as well. They are very easy to pull out of the soil.



More information about these and other weeds can be found at <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/weeds.aspx>

If you wish to get on the HHGSC email list, wish to adopt a remaining bed, get plant ideas or request mulch for a public area, please contact the committee at greenspace@hollyhills.info!

Important note for Fall: the Parks Department does not have vacuum equipment or sweepers to remove leaves from the boulevards, so please blow/sweep all leaves to residential curbs for pickup, **not** curbs along the boulevards or other green

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Minutes of the Carondelet Park Advisory Board Meeting

July 20, 2016

Dan Skillman updated the board on the following old business items:

- Wayfinding Signage – 100% drawings are complete and the job will be out for bid in August.
- Boathouse and Lake Improvements – A railing is needed on the access ramp for the new dock.
- Upgrade Athletic Field Lighting (Ballfield/Tennis Courts) – A meeting is scheduled with the contractor for next Thursday, 7/28/16. Construction is due to begin the first week of August.
- Upgrade Tennis Courts (court surface) – A meeting is scheduled with the contractor for next Thursday, 7/28/16. Construction is due to begin the first week of August.
- Trees are scheduled to be planted in the fall near the bandstand.
- Bird Habitat – 100% plans are due in August

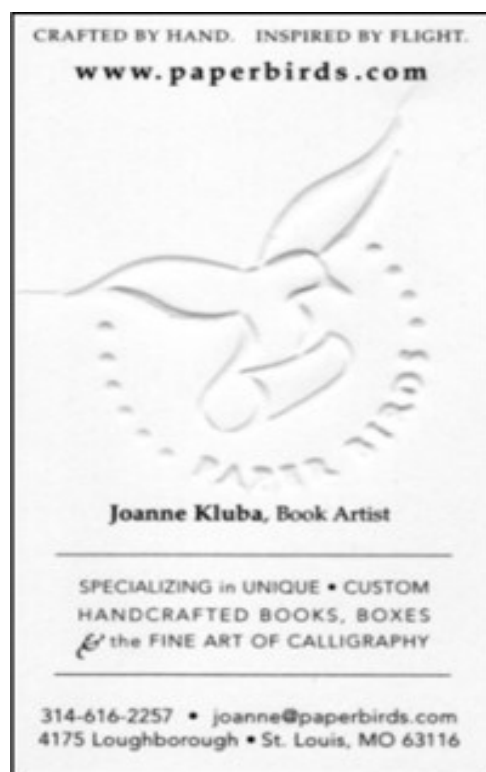
The following new business items were discussed:

- New funds received from the ½ cent sales tax and the Metro pot total \$345,000. This brings our current fund total to \$705,000 for park improvements.
- Dan will reach out to the people at Gateway Disc Golf to discuss the installation of a Frisbee Golf course in the park.
- Dan will call about getting a new (bigger) flag for the pole on the circle island near the Lyle House. He will also have the light adjusted to shine on the flag.
- The lids are missing on all of the green trash cans throughout the park (likely stolen by scrappers) and will need to be replaced.
- It was requested that more trash cans be placed around the bandstand. They are overflowing especially after the Sunday concerts.
- The doggie bag dispensers are rusted out and need to be replaced.
- The board discussed a possible Food Truck event at the park. It was decided that this should be planned and sponsored by a group (Friends of Carondelet Park, Holly Hills Neighborhood, etc.).

Announcements:

- Hannah Ehrlich shared information about a study being done by the SLU Center for Sustainability on pollinators. She explained that Holly Hills is a study site, and suggested that we consider purchasing pollinator friendly plants for the Bird Habitat. Dan offered to connect with the people at SLU to discuss.
- It was reported that the drinking fountains are being vandalized and have had to be replaced several times. It was suggested that they are checked more frequently.
- A question was raised regarding the frequency of the Park Rangers patrol of the park. Dan informed the board that the Park Rangers were now under the control of Police Chief Dotson.
- Future Projects:
- The YMCA parking lot will be patched, resurfaced, and relined.
- It was suggested that a community bulletin board be built in the park, and that information would be available for park users regarding rules, regulations, events, etc. Lena Reading will gather some information and ideas and present them at the next board meeting.

The next meeting of the board will be on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 5:00PM in the Honesty Room at the Rec Complex.



Neighborhoods United for Change



Could the contention and turmoil that surfaced in the wake of Michael Brown's shooting result in bridging the racial divide? SLACO's Neighborhoods United for Change project will allow people to get to know others with different life experiences. Participants will tour another St. Louis neighborhood, gain insight about its strengths and successes, and network about potential approaches to working together. This project will create an opportunity for people to connect with their similarities across racial lines, while reinforcing mutual respect for differences. This program will explore barriers to interaction and help to reduce stereotyping of people and neighborhoods.

Because of its history of inclusiveness, SLACO provides a perfect convener for this program. SLACO specializes in providing venues for neighborhoods to learn from and network with each other to create a desirable urban environment. Its 30 member neighborhoods represent 33% of the City's population.

SLACO will partner with CREA (Civil Rights Enforcement Agency of the City of St. Louis), the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Team, the Mayor's Office, and Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis to build a robust platform for discussing racial equity.

A media partner that can document the program and its impact on individuals is being sought. Neighborhoods and individuals who are not participating directly may gain new insight through thoughtful coverage from the media partner. Logical partners would be NineNetwork, St. Louis Public Radio, and STL-TV and their new magazine. A tie-in with #EndViolenceSTL certainly is feasible.

The partners hope to set the stage for breakthroughs during kickoff exchange events that pair two neighborhoods for a half-

day of neighborhood tours, lunch, and conversation. First event occurred August 27, 2016 with West End Neighbors and Tower Grove East. Second event was held Sept. 10, 2016 with Bevo and West Pine/Laclede.

The partners plan to pioneer this approach in 2016 and to complete the first round of programming by the end of October, 2016.

A neighborhood or community interested in participating should call the SLACO office, 314-361-9406.

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Neighbors for a Stable St. Louis

There are more than 30,000 vacant properties – lots and buildings – in the city of St. Louis. The city's Land Reutilization Authority – that's you and me - owns about 40 percent of them and more are being added to its inventory every year. The LRA is the owner of last resort. These are properties that have been abandoned because owners died with no family, or had no bidders at tax sales, among other reasons. Often, the buildings were once beautiful, historic homes that have been allowed to deteriorate.

Neighbors for a Stable St. Louis is a group of citizens proposing a bond issue to address vacant city-owned, residential buildings. The group is in the process of collecting signatures to place the issue on the April, 2017, ballot. The proposal would:

- Stabilized homes could only be sold individually, discouraging big developers.
- No more than \$6 million in bonds could be sold in any one year up to \$40 million over about six years. They would be paid back with a property tax increase starting at about a penny. The tax would increase by about a penny a year as more bonds are sold each year, up to about 7 cents. The bonds would be paid back over 20 years
- A penny increase would result in a \$1.90 increase in the property tax on a \$100,000 home. By year six, the increase would be about \$13 per year and continue for 14 more years until the bonds are paid off.

Why do we need this? There are few vacant homes in Holly Hills.

- Vacant properties anywhere affect all of us. We pay for the excessive police and fire calls; we pay for the city to mow the lawn. Chief Jenkerson noted recently that vacant buildings are particularly dangerous for his fire fighters.
- Nearby neighborhoods such as Carondelet and Dutch-town have an increasing problem with vacant property.
- Vacant buildings drag down property values and increase insurance costs for everyone.
- Studies have shown vacant properties pose a danger to and demoralize residents and are magnets for crime.

Other questions:

- Why can't these buildings just be torn down? It costs about \$13,000 to demolish a brick home. Then, we're still stuck with a vacant lot that needs to be mowed, attracts crime, and is not on the tax rolls. Wouldn't it be better to spend this money improving these buildings?

- No one wants to buy homes in the areas with a lot of these homes. People DO want to buy these homes. Many people are committed to the neighborhoods where generations of their family have grown up. Purchasing homes in such dis-repair is a hurdle many potential buyers just can't overcome. Once a few homes are rehabbed, this will draw more people and businesses to these areas.
- There are higher priorities in the city. The growing scourge of vacant properties is a fundamental problem that exacerbates nearly every other problem in the city. Addressing it can help reduce crime, widen our tax base and draw more people into the city.

For more information go to: Neighbors4StableSTL.org or email Neighbors4StableSTL@gmail.com



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