



Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, May 22, 7 pm, Carondelet Park Rec Plex

Speakers: Stacy Miller-Jurado, The Vecino Group—Update on the Intrada Project and
Matt Vianello, Jacobson, Pres & field —MO. Non-Partisan Court Plan

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

Neighbor Spotlight—Mike & Sue Schwent

This month, HHIA introduces a new section to our newsletter, dedicated to our fellow neighbors who are investing in our neighborhood and making it a great place to live. For our first Neighbor Spotlight, we ventured over to MJs on the Park to talk with owners, Mike and Sue Schwent. Mike and Sue have lived in the Holly Hill neighborhood for over 30 years, spanning 3 homes and investing in 2 neighborhood businesses, Mel's Service on Wilmington and MJ's on the Park, a great bar with some of the best wings (IMHO) in St. Louis.

Q - How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

Mike: We moved in the neighborhood in 1985. Sue: We bought the house in December 1985 and moved in January 1986. Mike: That was on Wilmington, we bought the two-family flat which we still own. In the flat from 1986-1991, then we moved to Marwinette. Then 20 years ago we moved to the house on Holly Hills Blvd.

Q - Where did you meet?

Sue: He was my softball coach. He robbed the cradle big time. Mike: I was dating someone else and she came up to the station when I was driving her home and my cousins thought I was with Sue. Sue: I was better looking than the other girl. Mike was coaching basketball for St. Anthony's high school when we met...we've known each other a long time. We knew each other before we started dating.

Q - You already operate one business in the neighborhood and that was your father's, right?

Mike: Mel's Service Station opened at Grand and Meramec in 1961, and then we moved to the Holly Hills location in 1971. I took it over in 1986. I worked there and then we bought it from my Dad and Mom in 1986.

Q - You've owned and operated a business for a long time, what made you decide to open MJ's bar and grill?

Sue: We haven't figured that out yet. If this were further away from home than it is, it would never have happened. Just because of the hours and the transport. There's just no time. When you work a full time job you have to stay close. Mike: She always wanted to run a restaurant.

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Letter From the President

It is so wonderful seeing everyone out and about enjoying this beautiful weather in Carondelet Park. Walking the trails, riding bikes, fishing in the lakes, enjoying picnics, spending time with our four legged friends and soon Sunday summer concerts will be enjoyed by all.

I would like our neighbors to join us at our next HHIA meeting on Monday, May 22 at 7:00 PM at the Rec Plex in the Respect Room. Please think about what improvements you would like to see in the Holly Hills neighborhood and come share with us. Guest speakers this month will be Stacy Miller-Jurado from the Vecino Group, and she will be discussing the Intrada Project on Grand and Holly Hills. Matt Vianello with Jacobson, Press & Fields will be speaking about the Missouri Non Partisan Court Plan. Updates from our Neighborhood Liaison Officer, Neighborhood Improvement Officer and our Aldermen will be available.

Won't you please come and join us at the Rec Plex on Monday, May 22nd at 7:00 PM in the "Respect Room". We will have snacks, HHIA merchandise and also a 50/50 raffle.

HHIA's regular and business memberships or renewals are accessible on the HHIA webpage at hollyhills.info or you may mail your checks to HHIA, Attn: Membership, PO Box 22144, St. Louis, MO 63116.

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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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Holly Hills Police Liaison, Officer Steve Wilson	393-8453
Citizens' Service Bureau	622-4800
Problem Properties, Officer Ginger Kavanaugh	444-0171
Anonymous Drug, Gang, Homicide Police Line	241-COPS
Alderman Sarah Wood Martin 11th Ward	622-3287
Kathryn Woodard—Ward 11 NIS	657-1364
Alderman Beth Murphy 13th Ward	589-6836
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State Senator Jamillah Nasheed 5th District	573-751-4415
Humane Society	647-8800
Lost Pets	stllostpets.org

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 4121 Concordia \$85,000 (UC)
 6704 Morganford \$85,000
 4069 Burgen \$89,900 (UC)
 4148 Wilmington \$89,900
 3904 Burgen \$89,900 (UC)
 4176 Burgen \$92,000 (UC)
 6131 Dewey \$110,000 (UC)
 3902 Bates \$125,000
 4232 Bates \$125,000 (UC)
 6134 Morganford \$129,900
 6017 Leona \$135,000 (UC)
 3912 Dover \$139,500 (UC)
 4112 Alma \$145,900
 3816 Dover \$149,900 (UC)
 3844 Burgen \$150,000
 3814 Wilmington \$150,000

3626 Fillmore \$155,000 (MF) (UC)
 6104 Newport \$158,000
 4131 Federer \$159,900 (UC)
 4153 Holly Hills \$164,900 (UC)
 3823 Dover \$165,000 (UC)
 3666 Dover \$165,000 (MF) (UC)
 4088 Haven \$175,000 (UC)
 4100 Rosa \$179,999 (UC)
 3658 Dover \$200,000 (MF) (UC)
 3686 Bellerive \$205,000
 3918 Fillmore \$209,900 (MF) (UC)
 6135 Ray \$210,000 (UC)
 4140 Holly Hills \$229,900
 4058 Holly Hills \$239,900 (UC)
 6110 Arendes \$252,500
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 5620 Arendes \$289,000 (UC)
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 6115 Coronado \$344,900
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 3650 Bowen \$146,000
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 5650 Leona \$186,000
 4140 Federer \$195,000
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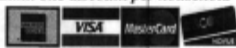
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Minutes from March 27 HHIA Meeting

Roll call

Present: Anna Baldwin, Lisa Bertke, Jim Sahaida, Lisa Coleman, Beth Murphy, Stacy Ross, Kendal Dauphin, Tara Ohler

Lisa Coleman – new member at large has lived here a year and a half. Would like to join the board. Approved unanimously.

Introduce New Neighbors

Guest Speakers

Dr. Gerardo Camilo from the Center for Sustainability SLU and Dr. Damon Hall, Assistant Prof with Sustainability Dept

Holly Hills and Ward 23 are our focus for insect pollinator decline. Decline in native bees, 452 species within the state of MO. Gerardo has been sampling many sites around the city. St. Louis has great diversity of native bees. 168 different bee species. 1/3 of all the bee species in the state. In general we have a very healthy bee population. Places where you need bees, agricultural sites they don't have the bees. Why is there so much abundance and diversity in St. Louis? What can they do to encourage conservation? He asked Gerardo what is going on socially that we see here? So they wrote up a grant to figure it out. This is their fourth year exploring the question. Can we plant our way out of the pollinator health crisis? Looked at the two sites with the lowest diversity: Ward 23 (South Hampton) and Holly Hills. Can they encourage homeowners to start planting for bees and managing their lawns differently? Most bees do not live in swarms; they are solitary and nest in the ground. Hosted 6 workshops in both communities last year. It can be as involved as planting flowers and it could be something as simple as mowing every two weeks instead of every week. Some of the flowers that we see as weeds are beneficial to bees. Still out sampling weekly at sites around the city. Have applied for more grants. Have seen some early examples, anecdotal success. This year they have received funding again. Will continue to sample at the Holly Hills Community Garden. If you live within 500 meters of that site, we are very interested in your yard. The other part of the study is to try to understand what it is about urban sites that is encouraging bee diversity. Detroit, Singapore... Will send out postcards to ask you to answer some questions through an online survey to talk about yard management.

Stacy Ross, Chair of Neighbors for a Stable St. Louis. Campaign committee

Prop NS will create a fund that will stabilize and secure vacant city-owned residential buildings. These are the buildings that you are already own. Repair and replace the roof, tuck-

pointing. Anything to make the envelope of the building water tight and secure. These buildings are extremely dangerous currently. We don't want to see our history end up in a brick pile. Up to \$6 mil a year of bonds issued, up to \$40 mil dollars. Those bonds would need to be approved each year. Repairs will be paid for with a penny increase in the property tax rate. \$100,000 it would be \$11 a year. The work will be put out to bid according to the city's guidelines. \$30,000 per unit can be spent. Homes will be sold at auction. We are putting them in pre-rehab condition so people can buy a home that is ready to rehab. The house then goes back on the tax rolls. We are losing \$7 mil a year in prop tax revenue. Vacant buildings also cause a decrease in prop value for those living near these buildings.

Fire Chief Jenkerson

Fire in a vacant home is a big issue for the Fire Dept. If we respond to a fire in your home, normally something alerts you to the fire. You're standing outside and tell us where the fire is. We know that the building has been secured and kept up. You've told us where you think the fire is. We normally respond in 4 minutes. We can't consider a building vacant...since we have a fairly large homeless population that moves around. There could also be children playing in the building so we have to make entry into the vacant building. It's unsecured and damaged from wind, water, etc. Impacts the roof and all of the wood inside the building. Pressure of the water causes collapse. I spent 10 years up in NW city. Very decorative brick. People would take individual bricks out of these buildings and then prop them up with bathroom sinks. Very hazardous situation. Any large fires in the city that impacts more than one building it typically starts with a vacant building. The city has really nice buildings. MSD has just started their program and will be eliminating a lot of vacant homes that aren't worth saving. But we have a lot of buildings in neighborhoods that are anchors. The cost to the Fire Dept is large: The injuries in vacant buildings are almost double. People remove the steps. Workman's comp... 30 firefighters and 9 pieces of equipment attending to these fires almost doubles our response time fighting these other fires. You can look at a vacant building and think that it looks terrible. But look at the construction in these buildings, these things are built well. I live in the Holly Hills neighborhood. A home that is unoccupied is a lot different than a vacant home. They are a hazard to the fire dept. and the police dept. On the avg. week the fire dept. responds to 25 calls for vacant buildings. Lots of drug-related activity. It's going to help the city and help the fire dept. reduce the wear and tear on our firefighters and fire trucks.

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Minutes from January 30 HHIA Meeting (cont.)

...continued from page 4

Steve Kickham - Here on behalf of Prop 2.

The importance is Prop 1 and Prop 2 passing. The use tax goes up the same as the sales tax. Use tax is for businesses for things that they pay that are over \$2,000 from out of state. AB for example pays a lot of the use tax. \$15 mil from the use tax. Additional taxes on tickets. In that respect the county residents are paying an additional tax. I know people are pessimistic about sports. They see what Kronke did and it upset a lot of people. When I look at Jim and the ownership group, they are born and raised here and it is extremely important that they help revitalize the City of St. Louis. It's not just about getting more police on the streets and making houses more affordable. How am I generating economic development and jobs? The more people that want to live in the city. I live in the county but it doesn't make me love our city any less. One of the first questions I heard "Why isn't it a city-county partnership?" Quite frankly, Dave would have loved that but the timeline that MLS put in place was too tight of a timeline to pull it off. The city has done a great job of negotiating this to where it is a net revenue positive deal. Conservative numbers from an independent study \$17 mil revenue positive. If it is truly revenue positive, then the city is getting all of that revenue. The county won't be sharing in that. If you look at soccer, it is a very passionate sport. The avg watcher of football is 40-50, avg watcher of soccer is 20-30. Most played sport by the youth, fastest growing sport. NFL has issues with how big they have become. That's our pitch.

Alderman Beth Murphy, 13th Ward

Prop 1, a 1/2 cent sales tax to generate \$20 mil a year. The bulk of that would go for the Metrolink expansion. It won't build it...it will start the design project. We would be putting money in the pot to be matched by the fed govt. But we have to come up with something in order to get that match. \$12 for Metrolink expansion, \$2 mil for neighborhood revitalization, \$2 mil workforce development, \$2 mil public safety, \$2 mil infrastructure improvements. Things like roads, bridges, lighting, vehicles, and equipment. Some people say that the problem with sales tax is that everyone pays it. Rich and poor pay the same amount. In this case everyone will benefit. It's up to you to make the final decision. I haven't decided myself. The sales tax increase would trigger the use tax for Prop 2.

Prop S passed \$5,000 license fee for payday loans. Redirect people with lower incomes to credit unions. We do have LRA properties in the 13th ward. A small developer bought three empty lots. One on Frieda, two others on Grace. Three new homes to be developed. One rehab on Eichelberger that a police officer bought. Lemmon's restaurant keeps telling me

they're going to open soon. Applied for their occupancy permit. Stop signs have to go through the traffic commissioner. We need traffic enforcement; hopefully the incoming mayor can help with that. The traffic commissioner looks at the traffic patterns and accidents to determine the need for a stop sign. Prop A combining the Recorder of Deeds into the Assessor's office, estimated to save money to pay for body cameras but it will not provide that savings. This will remove an elected office. And will not save money since state law requires the office. Prop B move elections to Nov. Turnout in Mar and Apr elections is low. Rex S wants to make it easier for him to pass his bills. Prop C to give extra points to city residents when they apply for jobs. Just so you know if anyone gets hired in the city, they are given 120 days to move to the city

Next meeting will be May 22nd Off during June, July, and August

Quick announcement: Tues 4/18 for Cops Walking a Beat, 7pm at Epiphany Lutheran Church, final push for the spring/summer

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Neighbor Spotlight—Mike & Sue Schwent (cont.)

...continued from page 1

Sue: Mike wasn't sure how long he would be able to work outside in the cold and the heat in the shop. So this would be inside during the day and it's close to home. Mike: It's a lot of work.

Q - Why have you remained in the neighborhood for so long?

Mike: We lived in Cedar Hill for 10 years. Sue: Gotta live somewhere. It's a great neighborhood. Mike: We just enjoy the neighborhood, the kids were raised here. It's been very fair to us. Both of us lived at Grand and Meramec. Sue: We grew up in the city, it's not like we traded down.

Q- How would you describe Holly Hills to people that don't live here?

Mike: Very nice, very friendly. We ran the school picnic for 13 years. Enjoyed the friends and people we met there. When you don't have kids involved in school, things change. Sue: Still a great neighborhood, everyone takes care of their property. Everybody for the most part are nice, decent people. Mike: People have a lot of investment in the neighborhood, which makes it nice. Sue: The way I see it we have a lot in real estate in the neighborhood, we don't want to go too far. Gotta keep an eye on things.

Q - Where did you go to High school?

Sue started at Immaculate Conception for grade school initially then moved to St. Anthony's for grade school. Mike went to St. Anthony's for grade school and Roosevelt for high school.

The Schwent's business are:

Mel's Service
3970 Wilmington Ave
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MJ's on The Park
6312 S. Grand Blvd
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Bee Study Follow Up

Dr. Gerardo Camilo of Saint Louis University's Department of Biology reports that students from his department and SLU's Center for Sustainability will be in the Holly Hills neighborhood during the week of May 15th to sample our bee population – so if you see adults running around with butterfly nets, now you know why! Dr. Camilo also provided the following information about the invaluable services bees provide for us as well as simple actions we can take to help sustain healthy bee populations:

Pollination is one of the most important ecosystem benefits provided to humans by nature. Pollination is required for the production of produce (e.g., tomatoes, peppers, apples, etc.), feed for animals (e.g., alfalfa), and even fiber (e.g., cotton). It is estimated that in the United States alone, pollination services contribute over \$37 billion annually to our economy. Worldwide, the contribution of pollination to the world economy is over \$250 billion. Thus, pollinators, like bees, provide a free service that essentially can't be replaced.

Unfortunately, pollinators in general, and bees specifically, have been in decline for at least the last decade. Some of those declines are minimal, while others have been dramatic. Many of the bumble bee species that once were tremendously abundant in the Midwest, like the American bumble bee (*Bombus pennsylvanicus*) are now rare throughout its range, have not been observed in over twenty years at some locations (e.g., at the Indiana Dunes nature reserve).

There are multiple reasons for those bee population declines. Among the most relevant is the increased extent of land that has been partitioned for the production of crops like corn and soybeans. Another important reason is the extensive use of a class of pesticides commonly known as neonicotinoids (neonics for short). This newer type of pesticides started to be used broadly some 15 years ago. Most of the large-scale crops grown in the United States are protected from insect pests by these chemicals. By the same token, many of the decreases of bee abundances have been tied to this broad use of neonics.

Our research has shown that individual homeowners can do something significant in order to contribute to the conservation of pollinators in urban environments. By increasing the number of bee-friendly plants in your yards and gardens, bees can have access to a diversity of resources from early spring to late fall. One very important point is that these plants couldn't have been treated with neonics. So when you go to your favorite garden store or plant nursery, make sure to ask the employees or managers and make sure that the plants you are buying are neonic-free.

For more information and further tips to help conserve our bee pollinators visit our website:
<http://www.sustainabilitysciencelab.org/bees.html>

By: Lisa Coleman, HHIA Board Member





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Cestitam, that's how you say Congratulations in Bosnian. We congratulate the Grbic family as they prepare to open their new venture, Lemmons by Grbic at 5800 Gravois Avenue in the Bevo neighborhood. With a blend of rustic and modern styles, the Grbic family has renovated the original Lemmons Restaurant from top to bottom. Stop by anytime beginning May 24th and try a traditional Bosnian dish, or one of the old time Lemmons favorites their new version of the Lemmons fried chicken.

The Grbics bought the building in 2014 and have been hard at work making just the perfect Balkan-American menu including dishes like chicken kabobs, flatbreads, dips and spreads. The building itself has been a lengthy project as well; renovating nearly 5000 square feet of lounge and dining space. According to Feast Magazine, Ermin, the brother of the business owner/family designed and constructed several pieces of the furnishings himself, several other pieces were imported from Sarajevo.

According to the St. Louis Post, the previous owner, Mike Gross was in business for 12 years as a pub with live music. As business declined, the owner decided to sell to someone with a vision and was excited about the business, he had basically gotten worn out.

Good luck to the siblings, Erna, Senada and Ermin we wish you the best and can't wait to try out the new menu.

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2017 Vann Knight Tuesday Night World Championship Criterium Training Series

Why are all these bicyclists in the park on Tuesdays and what is a criterium? Glad you asked! Well first, a criterium is a mass start bicycle race that takes place over one day on a circuit closed course. Or at least that is what Google said. But if you were ever curious, you should come out to the park on Tuesday evenings to watch! The races take place starting in March and run through August 29th. If you want to do more than watch, you are welcomed to participate.

Race Information provided by Big Shark Bicycle Company:

Most evenings there are four races: A, B, C and Juniors U-18.

- The "A Race" will be for USA Cycling Category 1, 2 and 3 licensed racers.
- The "B Race" will be for USA Cycling Category 4 licensed Men, Category 1/2/3 licensed Women and Masters 40+ Category 1/2/3 Men.
- The "C" Race will be for USA Cycling Category 5 Men, Category 4/5 Women and 1 Day License Holders.
- The "Juniors" Race will be for Under 18 Boys Category 4/5 and Under 18 Girls Category 4/5 and 1 day license holders.

The Course - is an open .7 mile loop with a fast downhill turn + a bit of elevation gain. Pavement quality is near perfect and corners are very safe.

The Perfunctory Stipulation - In exchange for usage of the course, St. Louis City has requested that local racers simply respect the Park and the residents of the adjacent neighborhood.

Parking-The area and facilities will be available as close to 5:30 pm as possible. Please do not park blocking the one-way access loop on the west side of the course.

Registration is on site only and opens around 5:00 pm each Tuesday. Registration closes 30 seconds prior to the start of each race. Numbers issued are for the entire series. Fees are as follows:

- Your first race of the season: \$20
- All other race nights: \$15
- Your 2nd race on the same night: \$3
- Fees include a \$4.35 per rider insurance surcharge/BAR fee.
- Season Pass- Before March 14th, you can purchase all 25 races for \$300. This includes a 2nd race on the same evening. Normally \$380.
- The Junior Race (starts May 9th): \$12

For more information, please visit the Big Shark website at <http://bigshark.com/articles/2017-vann-knight-tuesday-night-world-championship-criterium-training-series-3-14-17-to-8-29-17-pg1262.htm>.



Concerts In Carondelet Park

Break out your picnic baskets and dancing shoes for another season of concerts in Carondelet Park! As always, the series features a variety of music to appeal to any taste.

Concerts are on Sunday nights starting at 6pm in June & July, 5:30pm in August.. Hope to see you there!

June 4

Bob Kuban Band - Variety

June 11

Miss Jubilee - Hot Jazz and Swing

June 18

Tommy Halloran's Guerrilla Swing - Vintage Jazz/Swing

June 25

Dirty Muggs - Pop/Rock

July 2

Air Force Band - Contemporary

July 9

Gaslight Squares - Jazz

July 16

Dawn Weber & The Swinging Blues & Funk Show - Electronic/
Funk/Jazz

July 23

Power Play - Variety

July 30

Mystic Voyage - Variety

August 6

Memories of Elvis - Elvis/Patsy Cline/Buddy Holly

August 13

Soulard Blues Band - Blues/R&B/Soul/Cajun

August 20

Cornet Chop Suey - Jazz and Swing



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Carondelet Historical Society
6303 Michigan Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63111
314-481-6303

Email- carondelethistoricalsociety@yahoo.com
Web-Site <http://www.carondelethistory.org>
Facebook- Carondelet Historical Society

Home of Susan Blow's first public school kindergarten, the Fred Bouchein Library, the Wall of Honor, and artifacts of the Carondelet Area.

Visit us on Sundays, 12 noon until 3:00 p.m.
on Wednesday, Fridays, and Saturdays
from 10.00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Call 314-481-6303 for Group tours

Save the Date! Holly Hills Grills 2!



That's right folks. Planning is already in the works for the second year of HHIA's smash hit of 2016, Holly Hills Grills! We are lining up a great assortment of food vendors and sponsors for this year with a hope to make it another great afternoon.

The date is set for **Sunday, October 1st** so mark your calendars now.

Want to get involved? Plenty of opportunities! We need sponsors, raffle items, introductions to possible food vendors, and most of all, volunteers. Want to be a part of this year's event? Contact Lisa Bertke at lisa@hollyhills.info for more information.

Missed it? Check out some pictures from last year's event below.





**HOLLY HILLS
IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 22144

St. Louis, MO 63116

info@hollyhills.info

Hollyhills.info

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household Membership includes 1 Euro Sticker | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership Includes business-card ad | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large Flag | \$49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Flag | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's T-shirt light gray forest green | S-M-L \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's T-shirt light gray kelly green | S-M-L-XL \$15 XXL \$18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Longsleeve unisex T-shirt light gray dark gray | S-M-L-XL \$20 XXL \$22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Euro Stickers - Member exclusive | \$2 |

Name

Address

Phone

Email 1

Email 2

Phone

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

☐ "Green" email newsletter delivery