

The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

January, 1998

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TAKE THE CHILL OFF

January may be one of our coldest months, but the Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) annual dinner meeting lets you warm to friends old and new.

HHIA Annual Dinner Meeting
Monday, January 26
6:30 pm (cash bar, 6 pm)
Lemmons Restaurant, 5800 Gravois
\$13.50 per adult; \$6.75 children age 3-10
RSVP by Wednesday, January 21

Aldermen Fred Wessels and Matt Villa have provided us with some enticing door prizes, including a ceiling fan, gift certificates to area restaurants and more. An all-you-can-eat buffet includes fried chicken, pork loin, vegetables, potatoes, a salad bar, soft beverages, and Lemmons famous lemon pie. Stick around after dinner for some friendly rounds of bingo. Seating is limited, so [click here to RSVP today](#).

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Investing in Your Neighborhood

Speaking of annual events, its time for HHIA's 1998 dues. Demonstrating support for our activities, members voted this fall to increase annual dues to \$7 (from \$6). We appreciate your support, and hope you continue to enjoy our newsletters; Web site; bimonthly neighborhood meetings; Events, Welcoming, Beautification and Maintenance/Improvement projects; and all our other activities.

If there are additional ways we can work together to keep our neighborhood strong, please let us know! In the meantime, please [click here to send us your annual dues](#).

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REPORTS FROM HHIA COMMITTEES

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EVENTS/FUNDRAISING

Results are in from our annual HHIA Holiday Lighting Contest. Our judges report that the choices were very difficult, because there were so many beautiful lighting displays from which to choose. Too bad we couldnt just give an award to the entire neighborhood!

Grand Prize: 4108 Holly Hills

Single-Family Larger Home

First prize: 3840 Bowen

Runners-up: 3949 Federer, 4001 Holly Hills, 3876 Federer, 3931 Holly Hills and 6021 South Grand

Single-Family Smaller Home

First Prize: 4134 Rosa

Runners-up: 4151 Tyrolean, 4226 Bates, 6109 Marwinette, 6130 Adkins

Multi-Family

First prize: 3652 Bowen

Runners-up: 4147 Alma, 3901 Wilmington

Best Grouping/Block

First prize: 4000-4100 Block of Burgen

Runners up: 4100 Block of Tyrolean, Holly Hills from Morganford to Grand

Our grand-prize winner receives a free family pass to the Annual Dinner Meeting on January 26. First-prize winners each receive a decorative Holly Hills brass award plaque. Congratulations to all of our winners and runners-up, and thanks to everyone who helped make spirits light for the holidays.

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WELCOMING

Our Welcoming Committee has been visiting Holly Hills homes since last spring, and we have now greeted approximately 50-60 new residents. With the extra support of three new volunteers on our committee, were currently working on increasing the content of our free Welcome packet to include information such as neighborhood houses of worship and restaurant menus.

Weve also added a new special touch to our visits. Each neighbor we visit receives a literal taste of Holly Hills hospitality in the form of home-made cookies. We want everyone to know that were sweet on Holly Hills!

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MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENTS

If you attended our November general neighborhood meeting, you may recall that we were circulating a petition to prevent a thrift store from leasing the former Walgreens location at the intersection of Morganford and Loughborough. HHIA was concerned with the declining state of the property, and we had not been convinced that the business and property owners were making sufficient plans to address our concern.

Happily, our efforts appear to be paying off. The stores conditional use petition was denied, and no appeal was made within the allowed time period. Our success is thanks in large part to grassroots opposition from neighborhood residents such as yourself, plus the efforts of **12th District Alderman Fred Heitert** and **Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Scott Harper**.

Heitert, Harper, HHIA representatives and other neighborhood leaders continue to monitor the property; our goal is to work toward future improvements to the building and parking lot, and the opening of a desirable, attractive business for area residents to patronize.

Speaking of problem properties, HHIA also has turned its attention to the vacant lot at Chippewa and Kingshighway, (a former Famous Barr location). While this property is not within Holly Hills boundaries, we feel it is a detriment to our entire region. We thus join with the propertys immediate neighbors in opposing continued delays in appropriate property development. We would like to see this property put to good use as soon as possible, with immediate interim solutions to make the current lot a bit more attractive and to prevent further deterioration from littering or vandalism.

You Can Help!

- Write Mayor Clarence Harmon today to voice your opinion (City Hall, Tucker & Market Streets 63103).
- Send a carbon copy of your letter to HHIA (P.O. Box 22144, 63116) or call us at 569-5708 with your contact information. It is possible area neighborhood organizations will be organizing a peaceful demonstration at the site in the coming months, and we will contact you should such a demonstration be scheduled.

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BEAUTIFICATION

Thanks to those hearty souls who came out on a chilly but productive Saturday, December 6, to help with some neighborhood planting. Our fantastic volunteers added four new flower beds at Wilmington near the railroad crossing, one new bed at Leona and Holly Hills, and eight pine trees in the neighborhood.

Appreciation also goes to many neighbors who have made donations to our Beautification Committee during the past year, helping to make these plantings possible.

Beautification work also continues near Bates and Arendes. In the fall, we used Operation Brightside funds to plant several bushes and perennials there that should look especially fetching come spring.

You Can Help!

Were interested in learning more about any statues or fountains that existed in Carondelet Park in the past. If you have memories or information on this subject, please give us a call (314-569-5708).

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REPORTS FROM OUR REPS.

- [State Representative Brian May](#)
- [Alderman Fred Wessels, 13th District](#)

State Representative Brian May, 108th District

State Representative Brian May reports that Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan visited our next-door Carondelet neighborhood (part of Mays ward) in December, choosing the locale to announce a \$100 million tax cut proposal for homeowners and renters.

The Governors proposal is to be taken up by the state legislature in its 1998 session beginning in January. "The proposal has a good chance of being passed," says May, "given the combination of Governor Carnahans leadership and the importance of dealing with the issue of state taxes."

According to the Governors press release, the Homestead Property Tax Credit would reduce the property tax for the average married couple by almost 10 percent and would result in a savings of \$70 for most households. Under the proposal, homeowners would be eligible for a tax credit on property tax paid. Renters would be given a tax credit for property tax payments that are part of their rent payments. Refunds would begin for tax year 1998.

The Governor also announced an expansion of the "Circuit Breaker" Seniors and Disabled Property Tax Credit. "Our unemployment rate has been consistently lower than the national average throughout our administration. It is because of Missouris booming economy that we are able to offer citizens this new tax relief," says Governor Carnahan.

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Alderman Fred Wessels, 13th District

Alderman Wessels has a new way to be even more accessible to his constituents: a 24-hour hot line at 589-6836. Leave messages for him there day or night, and he will return your call if appropriate by the next day.

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BITS & PIECES

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Welcome, New Members

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

- LaVerne Reitz on Toenges
- Gene Crawford on Dover

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City Perks

Did you know there are several city programs available by contacting your alderman? Here are a few examples:

Sidewalk Program

St. Louis City will split the cost of sidewalk repairs with the homeowner.

Tree Planting

If you would like to have a tree planted in front of your home, the city will do so at no charge.

Bulk Trash Pick-Up

During the week of the first Monday of each month, the City of St. Louis offers free bulk trash pick-up within Holly Hills. Items should be left near your regular trash pick-up point. (However, please do not put out your items until the week our area is serviced. Bulk refuse left for longer periods of time is unsightly, unsafe and unneighborly.)

To Contact Your Alderman

Matt Villa, 11th District: 622-3287

Fred Heitert, 12th District: 353-4711

Fred Wessels, 13th District: 589-6836

If you're not sure which district you live in, call the HHIA at 569-5708, and we'll help you find out!

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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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