

# The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

July, 1997

## Contents

- [July HHIA General Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Schnucks' Grand & Iron Property Update](#)
- [Web Site Update](#)
- [Committee Reports](#)
- [Reports from Our Reps](#)
- [A New Community Service Officer](#)

## Holly Hills: A Sound Investment

Did you know a substantial network of assistance is available within Holly Hills for our area landlords? We are pleased to welcome representatives from this support network at our upcoming Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) meeting:

**HHIA General Meeting**  
**Monday, July 28, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Southern Commercial Bank, 5515 S. Grand**

Speaking at the meeting are representatives of the **Holly Hills & Carondelet Landlord Association** as well as the **Southside Landlord Association**. Brigitte Pidduck, our Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, also will be available to answer questions on the subject. An important part of what makes Holly Hills thrive is its harmonious balance of single-family and rental properties. We value the active participation of landlords and tenants in our neighborhood.

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

## Iron Will

Its been two years in coming, but thanks to the ongoing efforts of residents, our government representatives and the HHIA, a grocery store soon will be reopened at the now-vacant Grand and Iron property, formerly a Schnucks. On July 3, a press conference was held by State Attorney General Jay Nixon, joined by Representative Brian May, at Grand and Iron. Nixon announced an agreement in principle that Schnucks has made with the state and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

The agreement, subject to formal FTC approval, will give Schnucks six months in which to lease the store. If it is not leased in that time, a state-appointed trustee will find a tenant. The agreement also calls for Schnucks to pay \$3 million in penalties to the FTC, plus state investigative fees.

The re-opening of these stores will allow local consumers to once again enjoy the competition and variety that has been missing since Schnucks closed the stores in 1995, Nixon said. The penalties and fees assessed to Schnucks should also be a warning to other parties that this office and the FTC intend to vigorously enforce compliance with their agreements.

Thanks to all of you who have written or spoken out on this important neighborhood issue. Your efforts should soon be rewarded!

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

## Web Weaving

While there already is a lot to look at on the Holly Hills Web site (<http://stlouis.missouri.org/hollyhills>), we continue to work on adding more. Our current focus is on: expanding the Holly Hills neighborhood calendar of events, adding a contact list of all Holly Hills government representatives, adding a guest book and a message board for area residents to share common interests, and adding a page with tips and advice on neighborhood safety.

### You Can Help!

If you have an upcoming event you would like to have announced on our Web page, please contact us: 569-5708 or [via e-mail](#) We also have many other project ideas for the Web, but only so many hours in the day. If you would like to help write materials for our Web site, please let us know. No experience is needed!

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

## Reports from HHIA Committees

- [Events/Fundraising](#)
- [Beautification -- Operation Brightside & Bates Street Projects](#)
- [Maintenance/Improvement](#)
- [Welcoming Committee](#)

### Events

Several hundred area residents turned out to enjoy beautiful weather, bounteous friendship, and barbecued brats at the first Holly Hills Community Fair in Carondelet Park. Kids young and old enjoyed carriage and Rams Helmet rides through the park (carriage rides sponsored by the Shell Service Station at Loughborough and Morganford), balloon art by our Fair clown, an exciting police dog demonstration, numerous door prize drawings and visiting with friends and family. The day was capped by the free Waterloo Band performance, part of the Carondelet Community Betterment Foundations Concerts at Carondelet Park series, and sponsored by the HHIA.

We are also pleased to note that, while the main goal of the event was to give residents a chance to enjoy each others company in the park, we also were able to raise some funds to help us hold future events. Shirley Wright, Events Committee Chair, thanks all who attended or volunteered to assist with the Fair particularly members of the Events Committee, who organized the event, and our Beautification and Maintenance/Improvement committees, who helped clean up the area prior to the event.

In addition, special thanks go to our Fair sponsors: Aldermen Matt Villa and Fred Wessels, AMC Theatre, Accent With Flowers, Cardinal Vending Company, Ms. Denise Dowd, Family Company of America (National Food Store), Feasting Fox (welcome, by the way, to their new Head Chef, Richard Hudson, a native South St. Louisan), Flower Box, Goedekers Superstore, Kuna Meat Company, Lemay Bank & Trust Company, Lemmons Restaurant, McMahon Ford, Sams Membership Club, Schnuck Markets, Shell Service Station, Shoppers Cleaners, Southern Commercial Bank, St. Louis City Fire Department, St. Louis City Police Department, St. Louis Rams, Sterling Signs, Ted Drewes Frozen Custard and Mr. Robert Wright.

[\[Return to Committee Report List\]](#)

Holly Hills is really blooming, with several projects completed, under way or in planning:

In early May, the first half of our **Neighborhood Greening** program was completed, including 12 new planting beds in parkways along Holly Hills and Federer, and at Leona and Bowen. The program is part of a citywide Gateway to Gardening program, and was sponsored by a grant from the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The second half of the program will be completed next spring with an additional 12 beds. As part of the program, MBG Horticulture Specialist Elena Victory, and Gateway to Gardenings Kathy Bosin joined committee volunteers, sharing valuable tips and suggestions to help our programs success. We are particularly proud to note that our project has been filmed by the Dept. of Conservation, and is scheduled to appear in an upcoming public television program, **Missouri Outdoors**, coming this fall or next spring (watch for updates)!

As mentioned in the last issue of Neighborhood News, we have begun our **Bates Street project** to upgrade the metal storage building and surrounding property near Bates and Arendes. The building received a power washing in June, and HHIA members Marianne Powers and Shari Cunningham are working with a local artist on the design. Keep reading our newsletters for updates. And remember, to help us buy paint and other materials, *any businesses or individuals donating \$25 or more will have their names painted in a commemorative area on the base of the building.* Send your donations to the Holly Hills Improvement Association, Bates Street Project, P.O. Box 22144, St. Louis, MO 63116.

Committee chairs Tim Bolt and Mark Richardson are planning to submit applications for two new Operation Brightside grant programs: Growing St. Louis and Neighbors Naturescape. We received both these grants last year, using them to provide circle flower beds from Grand to Christy. We will know in September if we have received the grants again this year.

### **You Can Help!**

If you have or would like to grow a green thumb, we can always use help with our planting projects. We also are always on the lookout for nurseries or friendly gardeners who have plants to donate. If you would like to help, give us a call at 569-5708, or send us [e-mail](#).

We would like to give a big thanks to all of our Beautification Committee volunteers; we also thank the following individuals who have made donations to the committee: Denise Dowd, Kevin Monahan, Rosalie and Frank Palazzolo, Mike and Connie Tilman, and Alderman Matt Villa. Last, but not least, thanks to Aldermen Fred Wessels and Fred Heitert, who have arranged for replacing many of the missing trees in our neighborhood.

[\[Return to Committee Report List\]](#)

### **Maintenance/Improvements**

Reported at our last General Neighborhood meeting, our Maintenance/Improvements Committee has continued to address issues important to the safety and well-being of the neighborhood. We are happy to note that the resident on the 4100 block of Holly Hills, whose application for a zoning variance we reported in the last issue of *Neighborhood News*, has withdrawn the variance request and has cleaned the area around his house. We thank him for his recent efforts. The committee currently is working with Woerner School to ensure ongoing maintenance of the school grounds and surrounding area. The committee also reports that the First District Police recently seized pornographic tapes that were improperly displayed at the video store near Grand and Bates.

[\[Return to Committee Report List\]](#)

### **Welcoming Committee**

The Welcoming Committee continues to make monthly visits to new residents of Holly Hills, providing a free packet of informational materials to help new residents quickly feel at home. In cooperation with our Welcoming Committee, the HHIA also is exploring establishing a **Business Partnership Program**, part of which will include providing residents, long-time and new, with comprehensive information about the businesses serving the Holly Hills neighborhood. Look in upcoming newsletters for more details.

### **You Can Help!**

Please, continue to call us (569-5708) or send us [email](#) if you know of any individuals who have moved into the neighborhood. We will add them to our Welcoming Committee list to visit! In case we have questions about your call, it would be helpful if you also left your name and telephone number when leaving a message.

[\[Return to Committee Report List\]](#)

### **Reports from our Reps.**

Ending this years legislative session on a positive note, **Representative Brian May** reports sponsoring bills targeted at bad tenants, child abusers and negligent pawnbrokers, all awaiting Governor Carnahans signature for final passage.

- Landlords could more easily evict tenants engaged in criminal activity under one of Rep. Mays bills (HB 361). This measure would provide landlords with the tools to deal with bad tenants, an issue May feels is key to neighborhood stabilization.
- Our states children would be better protected under one provision of Senate Bill 56. Under this measure, penalties for child abuse are stiffened, as are crimes resulting in the death of and sexual misconduct involving a child.
- A third bill passed by Rep. May would revise current laws relating to pawnbrokers and the purchase of stolen property (SB 142). This measure would simplify the process of recovering stolen properties, held by pawnbrokers, to their rightful owners. An owner would have the opportunity to prove ownership in a small claims court. (May emphasizes that keeping records of major household items increases your chance of recovering them, should they be stolen.)

**Alderman Matt Villa** reports the popularity of a pet vaccination clinic he and the St. Louis Health Dept. co-sponsored in June, and notes that the program will be repeated annually. Ald. Villa also held the first of his Neighborhood Advisory Group meetings, designed to involve neighborhood citizens in his activities. The group includes neighborhood leaders (with a representative from the HHIA), landlords and general residents. One of the decisions approved by the group, was to set aside part of districts budget for neighborhood lighting enhancement. A program already under way in **Alderman Fred Wessels** 13th district, Ald. Villas lighting program will upgrade streetlights throughout the 11th district during a four-year period. We also touched base with **Alderman Fred Heitert**, whose 12th district overlaps the southwest corner of Holly Hills. He notes that one of his efforts of late has been replenishing the curbside trees in this area with several dozen new plantings. If you would like a tree planted at your curb, contact your districts alderman at the Board of Aldermen office: 622-3287.

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

## A New Community Service Officer

Please join the HHIA in extending a warm welcome to **Officer Mark Reichert** as our new Community Service Officer, replacing retiring **Officer Ted Heffner**. We thank Officer Heffner for his years of service to us and wish him all the best.

Officer Reichert is looking forward to bringing his many years of experience with the St. Louis Police to his new role. In addition to serving as the districts CSO, he also continues as Captain Tim Reagans liaison with the public. I meet with Tim every morning, and we discuss concerns or issues regarding the district, says Officer Reichert. We work very closely together.

Officer Reichert encourages citizens with questions or concerns to contact him at 444-0176 (his voice mail) or 476-5699 (his pager). You can also meet him at our upcoming HHIA General Meeting on June 28.

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

*Please address questions or comments about this Web site, the Holly Hills neighborhood, or the Holly Hills Improvement Association to [our Webmaster](#).*

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[Main](#) [Map](#) [Photos](#) [Newsletter](#) [Calendar](#) [Email HHIA](#)