

The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

March, 1997

Contents

- [March HHIA General Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Reports from HHIA Committees](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Bits 'n Pieces](#)

Come Meet With Us

The next meeting of the Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) is Monday, March 24, at Southern Commercial Bank at 7:30 p.m. The HHIA has invited Carol B. Sestric, C4 Neighborhood Development Task Force charter member, and Brigitte Pidduck, Holly Hills' Neighborhood Stabilization Officer (NSO) to speak about housing and neighborhood stabilization issues (one of the concerns expressed in our "Take Heart in Holly Hills, Take Part in Holly Hills" program).

Carol and her husband Tony are long-time and active residents of the Holly Hills neighborhood. C4, or "Churches Committed to Community Concerns," is a consortium of area churches. Since its inception five years ago, it has addressed many neighborhood stabilization issues, including helping low- and middle-income families purchase homes, working toward keeping key city schools open and currently promoting legislation that would increase fines for gross or repeated city housing code violations.

As Holly Hills' city-appointed NSO, Brigitte has served for several years now as a valuable liaison between our neighborhood and representatives within the city on all types of stabilization issues. She recently won a mayor's award for her efforts.

Both Carol and Brigitte will provide us with insights on ways we can work with organizations such as the city and C4 to successfully address neighborhood stabilization concerns in Holly Hills.

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

Reports from HHIA Committees

Thanks to all the time and enthusiasm that so many of you have been providing since last December's kickoff of our "Take Heart in Holly Hills -- Take Part in Holly Hills" neighborhood revitalization program.

With your help, the Holly Hills Improvement Association has been able to establish four committees to focus on the issues you told us were most important:

- [Neighborhood Beautification](#)
- [Maintenance/Improvement](#)
- [Events/Fundraising](#)
- [Welcoming Committee](#)
- [HHIA Board activities](#)

Neighborhood Beautification

It's spring (almost), and our new committee already has several projects going on:

- We're delighted to have received a substantial grant from the Urban Gardening Partnership and the Missouri Botanical Garden for a Gateway to Gardening Program in Holly Hills. The grant enables us to plant two dozen new shrub areas in Holly Hills, beginning in April.
- We're also working with the Missouri Department of Transportation to improve one of the "entrances" to our neighborhood at I-55 and Loughborough with new plantings.
- Last, but not least, beginning in March, we'll be holding regular Saturday morning spruce-up projects to help maintain our existing beds with raking, weeding, etc.

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

Maintenance/Improvements

Our primary mission is to work with city officials and other appropriate organizations to ensure that city ordinances are enforced by our elected and hired representatives. Carol Sestric and Brigitte Pidduck, this month's featured speakers at our general meeting (see page 1), will provide us with some helpful advice and tips toward this end. In addition, we have held our first meeting and have agreed to focus on the following:

- Improvements to Carondelet Park toddler's play areas and restrooms
- Graffiti
- Issues concerning our neighborhood's "gateway" streets -- Bates and Grand -- including keeping up to date on city plans to find a tenant for the vacant Schnucks at Grand and Iron

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

Events/Fundraising

Come one! Come all! Join your neighbors for our new committee's first big event:

HHIA Community Fair

Sunday, June 22

2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Carondelet Park Boathouse

- Walk through the St. Louis Fire Department's "safe house" fire prevention demonstration
- Enjoy hot dogs and ice cream (small fee)
- Buy a raffle ticket to win a television

But most of all, just come and enjoy your neighbors and your neighborhood. Following our picnic, the **German Waterloo Band** will hold a free concert at the adjoining bandstand. Come rain or shine -- we'll be looking for you!

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

Welcoming Committee

Our first Welcoming Committee meeting generated much discussion on ways to provide new homeowners and renters with a warm welcome. Our biggest challenge is learning of new residents. One plan is to establish a "block contact" for each street who can let us know when new residents move in. Volunteers are welcome! We're putting together a packet of fun and informational materials, and are exploring other innovative ways to reach new residents and to provide them with information and services of value. For example, we're working on setting up a Holly Hills neighborhood Web site (address to be announced).

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

HHIA Board

In addition to the above committees, your HHIA board has been hard at work:

- Producing this newsletter
- Sponsoring the general neighborhood meetings
- Pursuing neighborhood promotion opportunities, within and outside of our boundaries
- Coordinating (and funding!) committee activities

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

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Wow, you're hopefully thinking by now, how is HHIA going to accomplish all of this? That's where you come in! We've got big plans, but we won't be able to accomplish them without lots of participation. Following are some ideas on ways in which you can get involved today. Any effort, be it large or small, is a valuable contribution:

- Newsletter assistance -- Contribute articles, help with layout or assist with the copying/bulk mailing process for Neighborhood News.
- Web page assistance -- Fancy yourself a Webmaster? We'll be setting up our page soon!
- Committee participation -- Any of the committees described on these pages have numerous volunteer opportunities. Just give the appropriate committee chair a call.
- Board participation -- we could use a few good men or women on the HHIA board. Contact 569-5708.
- Donations -- if you have items, money or talents that you're able to share, give us a call.
- Other -- if none of the above tickles your fancy, contact [Webmaster](#) with your comments.

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

Bits 'n Pieces

As Sweet as (Lemon) Pie

HHIA thanks Boatmen's Bank, Alice 104.1 FM, Data Research Associates and Alderman Dan Gruen for their gifts of door prizes for the January Holly Hills dinner meeting at Lemmon's Restaurant. In addition, special thanks go to Alderman Fred Wessels, who generously donated two \$20 gift certificates to the Feasting Fox Restaurant.

The Pride of the Neighborhood

In the recent annual Mayor's 1996 Neighborhood Awards ceremony, our own HHIA board member Tim Bolt received a blue ribbon in the beautification category. He received the award in recognition for his planting and other beautification initiatives in our neighborhood. The award text noted that a neighborhood's well-kept appearance can deter all types of deterioration and point out to slumlords and criminals that they are not welcome.

Our Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Brigitte Pidduck also was recognized with a blue ribbon award for her neighborhood improvement efforts.

Congratulations to both Tim and Brigitte!

Lock It, and Pocket the Key

Captain Tim Reagan of the First District recently notified HHIA that there have been items stolen from some vehicles in the neighborhood recently. In each instance, the vehicles were unlocked.

Although Holly Hills is an extremely safe neighborhood, please remember that crime knows no geographic boundaries. The Police Department advises that you always remove valuables from your vehicle, or at least store them out of sight. Always lock your car or truck, so that you don't make yourself or your neighborhood an easy target for crime.

Alley Oops

Some vehicles have recently been ticketed in the neighborhood for parking in alleys. It is illegal to park a vehicle in an alley for long periods; our alleys need to be open to allow fire and other emergency vehicles quick access. Blocking alleys endangers life and property.

In some areas, alley dumpsters are being overloaded and misused. Please remember, a refuse truck cannot empty a dumpster if other materials are propped or stacked around it. Even the best neighborhoods have rodents, and they seek such improperly stored refuse. Here are some handy tips on "alley etiquette."

- Don't put large items in the alley until just before the week for large-item pickup (the first Monday of each month).
- Using dumpsters for the wrong refuse (i.e. mixing yard waste and other trash) costs the City money, because the trash must be separated by hand to comply with state law and to be accepted by landfills.
- You can address questions or concerns about the proper use of dumpsters to your alderman (Fred Wessels in the 13th Ward, or Dan Gruen in the 11th Ward, both at 622-3287). Ask him for a free copy of the alderman's "Good Neighbor Guide."

A Major Loss

Major Roy Joachimstaler of the St. Louis Police Department, a past guest speaker at the HHIA general meeting, was recently transferred to a new position where he will hold the Department's patrol support area. The new commander of Area 1 is Lt. Col. Ray Lauer. As commander, Lt. Col. Lauer will oversee the entire 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Districts, which essentially comprise the south side of St. Louis. Holly Hills is in the First District. Holly Hills resident, Capt. Tim Reagan, will remain in his position overseeing the First District. Many thanks to Major Joachimstaler for his responsiveness and helpfulness in resolving neighborhood problems. HHIA also extends a big welcome to Lt. Col. Lauer.

[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