

The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

May, 2002

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June 3rd Featured Speaker: Captain Antoinette Filla

HHIA General Meeting
Monday, June 3rd, 7:30 pm
Southern Commercial Bank
5515 South Grand

The HHIA is pleased to welcome Antoinette Filla to our next general meeting. Captain Filla has been employed by the St. Louis Police Department for over 28 years. She grew up in south St. Louis near Marquette Park and is very familiar with the south side area that she serves. Since being assigned to District One she has directed the officers to be very responsive to citizens and their concerns. She is a firm believer of zero tolerance for all violations, but especially those that affect citizens' quality of life. Because it is not feasible to have an officer on each block 24 hours a day, she requests that citizens participate in crime prevention by contacting the police department for any problem. Documenting even a seemingly "insignificant" problem can lead to a solution down the road. A first step in making our neighborhood a safe one is establishing a working relationship with the police officers who serve our district. Come to the next meeting to begin building that relationship with Captain Filla.

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13th Ward Update

The City is beginning an annual exterior building inspection program. One-third of each City ward will be inspected each year. This year the Holly Hills and Newport Heights area of the 13th Ward will be inspected. This area is roughly bounded by Morganford Road, Holly Hills Boulevard, Grand Avenue and Delor Street. The program is designed to insure that the exterior (both residential and commercial) are in good condition. The plan is to have this type of inspection made every 3rd year in our area.

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Goodbye to a Friend

The Holly Hills Improvement Association says goodbye to Brigitte Pidduck, our neighborhood stabilization officer. Brigitte has been a longtime advocate for our neighborhood, and the HHIA is grateful for the dedication and expertise she brought to her job. We wish her and her husband well as they embark on their next adventure.

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Revitalizing Neighborhoods

I have been Mayor of St. Louis for almost a year now, and as I have visited different parts of the city, I have been greatly encouraged by the strength of neighborhood organizations. Time after time I have seen them act as a force to improve the quality of life.

They have been a galvanizing force for change in neighborhoods that have seen hard times; a stabilizing force in a time of great transition; and an uplifting force that provides services such as home repair, commercial development, and even youth programs. Having been to a great number of neighborhood and block meetings across the city, I am more certain than ever that, together, we can bring this city back to greatness.

In order to assist you with the preservation of your neighborhood, my administration will be starting several initiatives over the coming months. These Neighborhood Life Initiatives will be designed to focus attention on various aspects of the quality of life in neighborhoods. They are part of an overall strategy to enable our city to fulfill its enormous potential as a place to live, work, raise a family, go to school, or start a business.

Some of the initiatives that you will hear about include:

Problem properties and Nuisance Offenders: A single vacant or derelict property can bring down the value of a whole block, and can also act as a magnet for crime. In order to help give our residents the safe and pleasant neighborhoods they deserve, my administration will soon begin to put in place a series of steps to crack down on absentee landlords and aggressively enforce residential building codes.

We will work with the Police Department, the Neighborhood Stabilization Officers and others to make sure that people who behave unlawfully in our neighborhoods will be prosecuted before they further disrupt the quality of life on our streets.

Crime: For far too long, too many of our neighborhoods have been hindered by crime and the fear of crime. This must change. That is why I am working with the heads of city, state, and federal law enforcement agencies on formulating a common strategy to reduce crime. This unprecedented level of cooperation between the Mayor's Office and our various law enforcement agencies will be a great asset in making St. Louis a safer and more vibrant city.

Efficiency in Government: I want to make sure that City Hall is an asset-not an obstacle to neighborhood progress. For too many years, City Hall has been a center of inefficiency, bloat, and poor service hardly the innovative, effective ally that our neighborhoods need.

That is why I have created an initiative called CityView. This will be a management tool, a way to measure what city departments are doing with the resources you provide us. I am currently working with department managers to determine what services should be measured and the proper ways to measure them. Essential services that residents need most will be highlighted. Trash collection, street repair, and building inspection are some of the services that will be measured. And I can assure you that I will make

each and every department head accountable for his or her actions.

None of these initiatives can succeed without the cooperation and support of the residents of each and every neighborhood. Whenever you tell us about a problem property, alert the police to criminal activity, or join a neighborhood organization, you are going a long way toward ensuring that St. Louis's best days are still to come. An engaged and enlightened citizenry is the first line of defense against the evils that can plague a city, and the first line of offense in bringing it back.

Yours sincerely,
Mayor Francis G. Slay

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Carondelet Park Master Plan

The Master Plan process for Carondelet Park has officially begun. This plan is being modeled after the Forest Park Master Plan and, in fact, will involve that plan's author, John Hoal. The Carondelet Park Master Plan Committee has already met several times to begin the process of identifying issues that face the park, and to develop new ideas that would potentially improve the park.

Input from residents living in the park's neighborhood will be crucial in determining the priorities as the plan progresses. On Saturday, May 11th the public will have their first chance to give their comments. This is an exciting opportunity to create a vision for the future of our park. We will keep you up to date in subsequent newsletters with information about the Master Plan process and progress.

If you are unable to attend the Public Meeting, you may bring the following questionnaire to the HHIA general meeting on June 3rd or send it back to: HHIA, P.O. Box 22144, St. Louis, MO 63116. Or, you may e-mail your questionnaire to: [Holly Hills Webmaster](#).

Carondelet Park Issue Identification

How do you use Carondelet Park?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are the key assets of the Park?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are the key issues for the Park?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What Activities/Improvements would you like to see in the Park?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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The Sinkholes Are Alive with the Sound of Music

Next month marks the return of the Concerts in the Park so grab your blanket or lawn chairs and head for the bandstand in Carondelet Park. The concerts are sponsored and organized by the Carondelet Community Betterment Federation with the Holly Hills Improvement Association as a proud co-sponsor. Here is the concert schedule for your listening pleasure.

June

- 2 Mitzi MacDonald and Positive Change
- 9 Ambassadors of Swing
- 16 Waterloo German Band
- 23 St. Louis Banjo Club
- 30 Raven Moon

July

- 7 Jazz Legacy
- 14 Marcel Strong
- 21 Trilogy
- 28 Die Spitzbaum

August

- 4 Jules Blattner
- 11 King of Hearts
- 18 Air National Guard Band of the Central States
- 25 Starlifters

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Summer is Here!!

With the warm weather, there is nothing better than finally being able to dine, play, and relax outdoors. Please keep in mind that we all share the same wonderful space. While your music may truly entertain you, your neighbor might have a slightly different idea. Your dog's barking, even though expressing his/her enjoyment with the season, might be a true source of aggravation for those around you. Remember that without those neighbors, we wouldn't have this great neighborhood. It works both ways!

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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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