

The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

November, 1999

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Can You Dig It?

At the November meeting of the Holly Hills Improvement Association, Terry Briggs, Director of Communications for the Metropolitan Sewer District, will speak about MSD's plans for a sewer project that will help relieve the periodic flooding that has occurred in the area around Grand and Bates for the past 85 years.

You may see surveyors out in the neighborhood soon. MSD has hired a consultant, TSI Engineering, to design a project to relieve the flooding problem. The consultant has surveyors in the field now, determining the elevations of basements and low spots in the area. This work will help the engineers accurately determine who floods and to what degree during moderate to heavy rains.

The planned schedule calls for engineering work to be completed by the fall of 2000. Construction is scheduled to start early in 2001. During the past year, MSD has met with community leaders to explore various methods to correct the flooding which has plagued the area.

The project which is proceeding will carve a tunnel beneath the streets to divert the excess amounts of storm water runoff during a rain event from new sewers into the tunnel. The tunnel flows would then be directed to and discharged into the Mississippi River. Along with the a tunnel, additional storm water inlets (the openings on the street that collect storm water runoff) and sewers will be constructed to collect and carry the water off the street and into the tunnel. The project's estimated cost is \$16 million; it will be built over several years.

The goal of the project is to greatly reduce the chances of homes and businesses flooding from storm events like the one that occurred in August of 1995. That event inundated the area with water and caused extensive damage.

Flooding problems in this part of the city started just after the City of St. Louis completed construction of the Glaize Creek sewer in the early 1900s. (The Glaize Creek sewer is the main trunk sewer that drains the Holly Hills neighborhood and many others into the River Des Peres.) The engineers knew then that the line was undersized and had the potential for causing flooding. In fact, at some point in the construction the city enlarged the sewer they were building. As a result of this change, the Glaize Creek sewer has a 16-foot horseshoe shaped sewer emptying into a 12-foot horseshoe sewer. This structural characteristic

results in flooding which has continued in the neighborhoods around the intersection of Grand and Bates for the past 80 years.

MSD plans to hold a public meeting to explain the project in more detail late next Spring. The November meeting will allow you an early look at the project.

Terry Briggs has been the Director Of Communication for MSD since 1988 when the position was first created. Mr. Briggs joined MSD in 1984 as Public Information Coordinator.

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REPORTS FROM HHIA COMMITTEES

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Beautification

The Beautification Committee At It Again!

From Tim Bolt, Beautification Committee Chairman: Holly Hills was granted 2 programs sponsored by Operation Brightside: Neighbors Naturescaping and Growing St. Louis. 50 volunteers showed up to spruce up the 35 pots and 50 beds around the area Saturday, November 6, during Plant Your Neighborhood Day. In all, they planted 1200 bulbs and 280 flowering plants.

What a great turnout! We were really pleased with the sense of community that was expressed by young and old alike! Maybe it was the great weather, or maybe it was everybody wanting to pitch in and watch their efforts grow. Either way, thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and also to those who responded by donation. We couldn't have done it without you!

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Events

Holiday Lights Contest and Annual Holly Hills Banquet

Have your **holiday lights on Saturday-Sunday, December 18-19**, when our judges will drive all around the neighborhood, selecting winners for this year's Holiday Lighting Contest. To be announced in our January newsletter, awards will be given to the best decorated single- family as well as rental properties. Show your Holly Hills pride.

Not into holiday lights? No problem. But be sure to have your porch light on every night for safety. Thanks to a donation from AmerenUE, you can obtain a free lightbulb for this purpose at any of our HHIA general meetings (limit one per household).

Planning is also under way for our annual **Holly Hills banquet** on Monday, January 24. We'll provide you with all the details in our January newsletter, but be sure to set aside this special date today.

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Welcome Committee

Additions on Your Block?

Call or e-mail us the address of your new neighbors. We would love to welcome them to the neighborhood and let them know what a friendly place they live in. Call 569-5708 or e-mail at hollyhil@stlouis.missouri.org.

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Reports From Your Reps

Alderman Fred Wessels related the following news items to us:

- **City leaf pickup** began November 1 and ends around mid-December. Street division crews will be in and out of the Holly Hills area during this period.
- **The property at 5440 Grand (formerly Chippewa Trust Co.)** is being converted to a Mary Margaret Day Care and Learning Center. The building will be expanded and an outside play ground will be developed.

Alderman Matt Villa related the following news item to us:

- Effective January 1, 2000, taxpayers who meet certain requirements are eligible for a **state tax credit** of 15% of the eligible costs for a new residence. The credit is limited to no more than forty thousand dollars per residence per ten-year period (twenty-five thousand dollars for certain locations).

Homeowners (or taxpayers) that perform non-substantial rehabilitation are eligible for a state tax credit of 25% for the rehabilitation costs of an eligible residence or qualified residence. Minimum costs must exceed ten thousand dollars for an eligible residence and minimum costs must exceed five thousand dollars for qualifying residences. This credit can not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars per ten-year period per residence.

A taxpayer that incurs eligible costs for substantial rehabilitation of at least ten thousand dollars is eligible for a state tax credit of 35% of those costs. Substantial rehabilitation is a rehabilitation in which the costs exceed fifty percent of the basis of the property before rehabilitation. This credit can not exceed seventy thousand dollars per ten-year period per residence.

Taxpayers are required to submit applications for the tax credits to the Department of Economic Development. Applications should be available in November 1999.

For more information, call LuAnn Bauer at 573-751-5981. [Click here](#) for our September 1999 article on the same topic.

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Tree Tip

Here's a tip from Mark and Kathy of the Flower Box Did you know that buying your Christmas tree early is actually a good thing? Buying a fresh cut tree and immersing the end in water ensures that the tree will keep drinking water longer-keeping the needles on the tree longer. Once the tree is cut the sap inside the tree starts to crystallize, cutting the water drawing action down the longer it sits without moisture. What to do? The Flower Box opens the weekend after Thanksgiving selling trees just begging for a home (or at least for a bucket of water!).

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Welcome, Hollywood Video

Hollywood Video will be opening soon at the corner of Morganford and Loughborough, next to Sav-A-Lot. No definite date to report yet, but keep your eyes peeled.

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Shell Service Station Update

Speaking of changes, the Shell service station on the opposite corner has stopped selling gasoline. They aren't leaving, but switching gears a bit. Joe Knese and Keith Cogo says: "To all our faithful customers and friends- As you know by now, circumstances beyond our control have made it impossible for us to continue to provide you with your fuel needs. However, we will always be here to continue to take care of your maintenance and repair needs. We hope you will continue to give us this opportunity. We promise to give you the same high quality and efficient service as we have in the past. Thank you again for your past fuel business and the continued opportunity to be of service to you."

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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](#).

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