

# The Holly Hills *Neighborhood News Newsletter*

**September, 2001**

## **CONTENTS**

- [HHIA September General Meeting](#)
- [November Speaker](#)
- [Meeting Madness](#)
- [Fighting the Bad in Good Form](#)
- [Historical Event with Nini Harris](#)
- [Photographs Requested](#)
- [Ask and You Shall Receive](#)
- [December Craft Fair](#)
- [All Signs Point Here](#)
- [Carondolet Park Update](#)
- [Fall Bulb Planting](#)
- [Aldermanic Update](#)

## **HHIA September General Meeting**

**HHIA General Meeting**  
**Monday, September 24, 7:30 pm**  
Southern Commercial Bank  
5515 South Grand

It's Back to School Time with Principal Taubenheim from Woerner School.

Our next general meeting on Monday, Sept. 24 will feature Principal George Taubenheim from Woerner Public School (Grades K-5). Located at 6131 Leona, Woerner School officially became a "neighborhood school" this past fall with 350 children enrolled during its first year. This year's enrollment is 430. According to Principal Taubenheim, "the school is blossoming because we have great kids, parents and staff." Improvements to the school include air-conditioning installed last year and Internet wiring in every classroom. New computers are scheduled for arrival any day. It's school time again, so come learn about our neighborhood's public school.

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

## November Speaker

Mayor Francis Slay Is Our Featured Speaker in November.

The HHIA is pleased to announce that Mayor Slay will be joining us November 26 for our general meeting. The format for the meeting will begin with Mayor Slay's opening comments. He will then accept questions from our members. In the interest of time, we are requesting that members submit any questions or comments for the mayor by filling out the form in this newsletter below and dropping it that night in a collection box we'll have on the table at our meeting. Volunteers will collect these cards a few minutes before our meeting starts, organize the questions according to category, and then Board President Mary Jo Gordon will ask the questions. This format was used at some of the mayoral debates and ensures that a wide sampling of questions will get asked in an organized fashion. If you want to do your homework before the meeting with the Mayor, you can find out what he's been doing in office by logging on to <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/mayor>. Please join us for an interesting post-Thanksgiving session with our city's 45th Mayor!

We would like to compile a list of questions for Mayor Slay when he speaks at our November meeting. Please submit your question the night of the meeting, or give to any board member. You can also phone in your question to our hotline, 569-5708.

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

## A Method to our Meeting Madness

Ever wondered how the HHIA board selects speakers or how to get your concerns best addressed at our general meetings? If so, here's a brief explanation. Our general meetings usually include a featured speaker and regular presentations by our aldermen (Fred Wessels and Matt Villa) along with a police department representative. We also welcome new members and present new business and committee reports each meeting. The HHIA board selects the featured speaker when it meets the month before the general meeting. If you have an issue that you want addressed at a general meeting, please call the HHIA number at 569-5708 in advance of the meeting so we can allow sufficient time in the agenda to address those concerns in an organized fashion. Beginning in September, we also will provide copies of the meeting agenda, which can be found on the table with copies of the minutes from the last meeting.

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

## Fighting the Bad in Good Form

Problem report forms will now be available at each general meeting to make it easier for residents to contact the Citizen's Complaint Bureau (622-4800) and the Police Department. Everyone is encouraged to fill out these forms whenever you notice a problem in our neighborhood. The more complaints that are received, the more attention the matter will get. Recently, a concerned resident notified the HHIA of problems such as drug use and property damage at the large rental property located at the corner of Grand and Holly Hills. Neighbors are encouraged to be alert to this problem spot and to be vigilant in their reporting of suspicious activity. Another problem spot is the area along Bates and Grand where prostitution arrests continue. If you see any criminal activity, report it by filling out a problem report form or by calling 9-1-1!

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

## **November Historical Event with Nini Harris**

The HHIA is proud to sponsor a dinner lecture with local historian NiNi Harris. The topic of her discussion is entitled "Putting Holly Hills in the Big Picture" and features a slide presentation and discussion of early 20th century architecture in South St. Louis, including the Bellerieve and Holly Hills areas. The event will be held at Chameleon's Catering on S. Grand and will include a menu to be announced. The date for this event is Saturday, November 3 with reservations available for up to 50 people. If there is additional interest, a second presentation can be arranged for the following Sunday, November 4. Further details on time, menu and price of tickets will be announced at our general meeting and in the newsletter. Please contact HHIA board members Dan Haag (351-3845) or Ray McCollum (352-9416) for more information.

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

## **Photographs Requested**

Plans for a neighborhood historical presentation are in the works. If you have any old photographs of your home or the neighborhood, please contact Board Member Dan Haag at 351-3845. We'd also like to scan some historical photographs for use on our web site.

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

## **Ask and You Shall Receive**

In our last newsletter we requested help with labeling the newsletters and three volunteers have responded. We would like to wholeheartedly thank Addie De Guire, Ramona Daninger and Margaret Ringkamp for their assistance! We are always looking for other neighbors to help with any events or committees of interest. Contact the HHIA hotline (569-5708) if you'd like to get involved.

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

## **Carandolet YMCA Hosts December Craft Fair**

Our local YMCA is having a craft fair in time for holiday gift giving. If you are a crafter interested in renting a booth, you can contact Kathy Adkisson at 353-4960, ext. 33. Of course, if you're just interested in shopping, you are also welcome to attend the fair on December 8, 2001, from 9 to 4 p.m.

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

## **All Signs Point Here**

Partly with proceeds from the recent Holly Hills House Tour and potentially from grant funds we've applied for from the 2004 organization, the HHIA is planning to erect attractive and permanent signage at key entry points to our neighborhood. The signs will enhance a sense of community for those of us living in Holly Hills and will help promote our neighborhood to visitors. Too often we've been told by visitors,

"We didn't know this beautiful neighborhood existed!" We hope the signage will be one step to promote our well-kept secret of Holly Hills.

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

## Friends of Carondelet Park Update

An event is being planned to celebrate the opening of the new playground at Carondelet Park, scheduled to be completed this fall. Look for this family event to take place by mid-November. Contact Megan Everding at 314-832-0775 (press 2 after listening to the message prompt) if you're interested in learning more about the Friends of Carondelet Park organization and the upcoming playground celebration.

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

## Fall Bulb Planting Event

The HHIA has submitted a grant application for 80 flowering plants and 5300 bulbs to be placed in existing pots and flowerbeds in our neighborhood. If our grant application is approved, a volunteer planting event will be scheduled in October. So, keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned for signs announcing this event. We'll need plenty of volunteers to bring their garden gear for a neighborhood plant fest!

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

## Aldermanic Update

### From Alderman Fred Wessels--13th Ward Update

Serving as Chairman of the Aldermanic Housing, Urban Development and Zoning committee allows me the opportunity to work on some large-scale development projects. Here is a summary of some of those:

- The Laclede Gas Building located at Olive and Pine Streets recently completed a 23 million dollar renovation. They plan to break ground on a 780 car parking facility next door in the McDonald's building.
- The conversion of the historic Lennox Hotel on Washington Avenue into a 165-room Renaissance Hotel is about 50% complete with opening scheduled for January 2002. The Lennox and the refurbished Gateway Hotel will serve as the Convention Center hotels. The Gateway will be operated by Marriott and is scheduled for completion in December 2002.
- The Merchandise Mart at 1000 Washington Avenue will begin construction within the next 2 months. The building is being converted into 213 apartments and should be completed by December 2002.

- A.G. Edwards will start a 900,000 square foot office building on their campus at Jefferson and Market. They have already begun construction on a 250,000 square foot learning center. Both buildings will be completed in the summer of 2003.
- The Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel opened last month in the former Edison Brothers warehouse building at 14th and Spruce Streets. 72 condominiums are being constructed in the building and 38 already have buyers.
- Sigma Aldrich is an international specialty chemical company headquartered in St. Louis. A 40 million, 156,000 square foot Life Science Technology Center is under construction and scheduled for completion in December of this year.
- These and many other development projects are examples of positive investment in the City of St. Louis.

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

*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](#)