



Holly Hills Happenings

HOLLY HILLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (HHIA)

Grand to Morganford and Bates to Loughborough

Founded in 1927. St. Louis' oldest neighborhood association. Visit us online at: <http://hollyhills.info>

Spring Park Clean Up Slated for April 16, More Planned

NEXT MEETING

March 28

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Francis Slay

And

Mike Malone, Founder,

**St. Louis Prep
Charter School**

Once again HHIA and Friends of Carondelet Park will sponsor an Earth Day park clean up, starting a half-hour earlier and at a new location.

The clean up will start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 16. This year, it will begin at the playground on Loughborough.

“We want to call attention to the areas of the park that seem to need the most clean up,” said HHIA President Tara Ohler-Jenney. “Unfortunately, the playground is one of those areas. We’re hoping to get some kids and moms and dads to pitch in to help keep the playground a place where kids want to play.”

And has they have for the past several years, the Beasley Elementary School Service Club from the Mehlville School District will be on hand to help out. Neighborhood resident and Beasley teacher Ben McClusky is one of the

service club’s advisors.

“It would be great to see more people from the neighborhood come out to the clean-ups,” said Stacy Ross, HHIA vice president and clean-up organizer. “Every year, Ben brings a group of 20 or 30 kids and parents from Mehlville to help clean up our park and only a handful of neighborhood residents show up.”

While HHIA and Friends of Carondelet Park usually sponsor two clean-ups a year, Ross said additional dates would be added this year.

Helping is easy and no reservations are required. Just show up!

Don’t forget Operation Brightside’s Spring Blitz on April 2 and 3. Go to <http://stlouis.missouri.org/501c/brightside/blitzop.html> for more information.

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Aldermen Urge Yes Vote on Proposition E

On April 5 voters will be asked whether to retain the 1 percent earnings tax for five more years. According to aldermen Fred Wessels and Matt Villa the answer should be a resounding yes.

The 1 percent earnings tax is paid by individuals who live and/or work in the city of St. Louis. It generates \$141 million or 30 percent of the City’s General Fund budget (services like Police, Fire, Refuse, Streets, Parks and Health Dept.), Wessels and Villa said.

“This tax is only paid by individuals who work and have earned income,” said outgoing

Ward 11 Alderman Matt Villa. “People on Social Security or Disability do not pay this tax.”

Ward 13 Alderman Fred Wessels added that if the earning tax is repealed, other taxes that retirees pay would have to be increased.

In addition, it’s estimated that over 65 percent of the revenue from the earnings tax is paid by non residents who work in the city.

“If the earnings tax would be eliminated the revenue loss would fall entirely on the shoulders of city residents,” Wessels said.

A message from the president...

Spring has sprung in Holly Hills! With so many little green tips already sprouting, it looks like the neighborhood once again is poised to have a beautifully blooming season.

If you have a green thumb, or are hoping to grow one, check out the article on the Holly Hills Community Garden.

Help out Mother Nature by doing some spring cleaning of your own on April 2nd and 3rd for the Operation Brightside Spring Blitz.

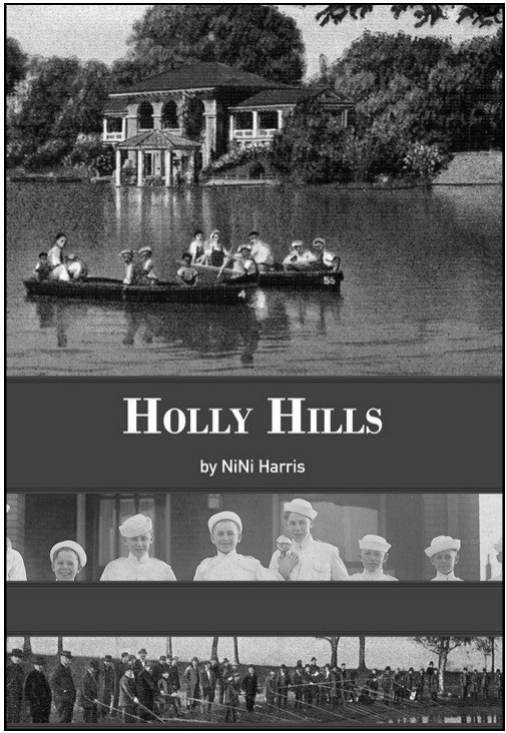
Join us on April 16th for a Carondelet Park clean up—meet at the Playground around 8:30 a.m.—and look out for future notices of a park clean up every quarter of the year.

In honor of Earth Day in April, and every day, make use of the new, bright blue single-stream recycling dumpsters in the alleys.

Then reward yourself with some neighborhood fun by attending HHIA’s summer movie nights in Carondelet Park, tentatively scheduled for June 25th and September 17th, and by throwing a block party on Tuesday, August 2nd, for National Night Out.

Holly Hills has a rich history as a beautiful, friendly and safe neighborhood and, thanks to neighbors like you always doing your part, the future looks bright!

- Tara Ohler-Jenney



HOLLY HILLS
by NiNi Harris

Holly Hills, the book, profiling the history, architecture, parks and personalities of the Holly Hills neighborhood. Written by St. Louis historian NiNi Harris and published by Reedy Press. Available for \$19.50 by calling 314-752-2304.

Numbers to Know!	
First District Police	444-0100
Police (non-emergency)	231-1212
Anonymous Drug, Gang, Homicide Police Line	241-COPS
Brian Kolde—Ward 11 NSO	657-1364
Kathy Savage—Ward 12 NSO	613-3163
T. J. Minden—Ward 13 NSO	622-3444
Citizens’ Service Bureau	622-4800
Humane Society	647-8800
Alderman Fred Heitert 12th Ward	622-3287
Alderman Fred Wessels 13th Ward	589-6836
State Rep. Jake Hummel 108th District	457-1792
State Senator Jim Lembke 1st District	845-8508
State Senator Robin Wright-Jones 5th District	533-8800

The Holly Hills Improvement Association (HHIA) was formed on September 10, 1927. Since its inception, HHIA has worked to promote the well being of Holly Hills and its residents. For more information or to become a member of HHIA contact us at hhia@hollyhills.info

Tara Ohler-Jenney	B O A R D M E M B E R S	President
Stacy Ross		Vice President/ Recording Secretary
Paul Sager		Immediate Past President
Beth Murphy		Treasurer
Brenda Smarko		Financial Secretary
Anna Baldwin		Member at large
Vacant		Member at large
Vacant		Member at large

Holly Hills Real Estate courtesy of Paul Sager

Active as of March 21, 2011


- 5907 Leona \$44,500 (UC)
- 4143 Burgen \$45,000
- 4127 Bowen \$47,000
- 4111 Wilmington \$51,000
- 4157 Concordia \$63,900
- 4105 Alma \$65,000 (UC)
- 3651 Fillmore \$69,900 (UC)
- 5660 Arendes \$69,900
- 4150 Fillmore \$72,000
- 5805 Dewey \$78,000
- 4096 Concordia \$78,500
- 4146 Burgen \$84,900
- 3862 Bates \$85,000
- 4153 Fillmore \$89,900
- 6730 Morganford \$110,000
- 6111 Adkins \$114,000
- 4085 Concordia \$119,900
- 4111 Burgen \$119,900
- 3632 Bellerive \$122,500 (UC)
- 6131 Dewey \$127,500
- 6015 Leona \$129,900 (UC)
- 3847 Burgen \$139,900
- 5632 Arendes \$144,000
- 6131 Ray \$144,900
- 5705 Dewey \$144,900
- 3999 Dover \$147,000
- 3618 Bowen \$149,900
- 3833 Dover \$149,900
- 4022 Bates \$154,000
- 3660 Wilmington \$154,900
- 3632 Wilmington \$164,900
- 3939 Fillmore \$169,900
- 4120 Haven \$174,900
- 3915 Fillmore \$175,000
- 3671 Wilmington \$177,500
- 6000 Arendes \$179,900 (UC)
- 4124 Toenges \$181,500
- 6142 Leona \$182,500
- 3687 Dover \$199,900
- 3924-26 Wilmington \$200,000
- 4077 Toenges \$209,900
- 4015 Dover \$211,000
- 6101 Grand \$215,000
- 4107 Holly Hills \$229,900
- 4055 Alma \$229,900
- 6120 Leona \$239,900
- 6110 Arendes \$239,900
- 3975 Federer \$289,900 (UC)
- 4117 Alma \$299,900

SOLD

- 4157 Concordia \$19,000
- 4079 Concordia \$40,000
- 4160 Fillmore \$41,500
- 4017 Wilmington \$115,000
- 6158 Leona \$155,000
- 5922 Marwinette \$160,000
- 6141 Grand \$169,900

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HHIA General Membership Meeting Minutes for November 22

Roll Call: Tara Ohler-Jenney, Beth Murphy, Brenda Smarko, Anna Baldwin, Stacy Ross Not present: Paul Sager

Minutes approved. Stacy Ross elected as Vice President

Undine Lee recently elected block captain on Eiler, introduced as new neighbor

Officer O'Brien Report

Provided two-page handout on Fire safety

Discussed problems in Camden NJ where they laid off half of police force. "We don't want this to happen in St. Louis. We need more officers on the street." St. Louis used to have 2200 officers now we have 1200.

Larceny from vehicles, one last year in January, this year so far we've had four.

Someone reported cars parked with "for sale" sign on the public street, also can't park on side walk – too heavy, will crack the side walk

This Southern Commercial Bank robbed last week – security guard realized she had no accomplice and wasn't armed so he chased her to the parking lot and bashed out her window. By the time she got out onto Grand the cops were there.

Average response time 3.5 minutes on priority 1 and 2 calls.

Officer transferred to the district from traffic – told to keep traffic uniform and motorcycle so he will set up traffic patrol a couple days a week. This guy has written over 10,000 tickets in 10 years. Everyone who gets stopped gets a ticket.

Audience member reported ATVs in the park, on the median and on

paths – Officer O'Brien encouraged her and others in the future to call non-emergency number: 231-1212

Guest Speaker: Blake Youde, Deputy Superintendent of Institutional Advancement

Here to give an update on the school district

We need to do a better job of getting out and letting people know what's going on in the school district. We have a lot of new things on line or coming online.

Brought two handouts – snapshot of the district/stats and "report card"

Need 6 points for provisional accreditation, we now have 5 points. 2 years ago we had 3 points. We're making progress, not enough, but we're pointed in the right direction.

2010 MAP improved in every testing category except one (3rd grade communication arts).

We've addressed three areas – stability in governance, stability in finances and stability in academics. Now focus is how can we assure that every child in the city receives a high quality education.

50,000 kids in SLPS or charter or attend schools in county

Early childhood education lays the foundation for academics, critical reasoning and thinking skills, succeed in high school and as an adult

Adding 24 more EC classrooms for

2011/12 school year to serve 400 more children.

Looking at New York policy: close or "reconstitute" schools that are failing after 3 years. Send kids to higher quality school or bring in new teachers and administrators to that school.

Programs for students who don't succeed in traditional schools.

Gender based schools – generated a fair amount of discussion – 4 elementary/middle either 2 schools all girls/ 2 all boys or may have schools segregated by floors where students of opposite gender don't see each other after they step off the bus. Increased academic performance, lower

discipline problems.

Dr. Adams is not for or against charter schools – just wants a high quality school. A real redirection for the school district – hasn't been much love of charter schools. Definitely one of Dr. Adams' initiatives

We're looking for creative ways to meet the needs of our constituents for less cost as our local and state revenues are declining. Better product for less money.

Questions from audience:

Q: You haven't said anything about parental responsibility.

Youde: We're trying to figure out the best way to deal with that issue. There's no one right answer.

Q: How do we compare to schools

(Continued on page 6)

Summer school has posed a real challenge— state cut back funding that we rely on – to three weeks... Right now we're planning on a four-week summer school.

Holly Hills Fares Fairly Well in 2010 Census

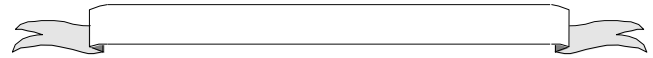
The Holly Hills Neighborhood fared better than many city neighborhoods in the 2010 census, according to an article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The city of St. Louis had a drop in population over the last decade, but the Holly Hills population has virtually stayed the same in the last 10 years, losing only by four residents in the most recent census findings, with a population of 3,701.

Our own Mike Schwent, owner of Mel's Service on Wilmington, was interviewed and gave his opin-

ion on why Holly Hills has remained so stable. He has lived in the neighborhood for 25 years and states that he notices older residents moving out, being replaced by younger residents.

He also noted that the neighborhood has a reputation as a favored home for St. Louis police. However, with the 2005 police residency rules relaxed, some police have left the neighborhood. But, he said, new residents are moving in and enjoying our nostalgic, down-home community.



Make an impact on your neighborhood and increase your business too!

Already advertise in the HHIA newsletter, but wish you had a bigger ad? Want to start a new ad in the newsletter?

HHIA is now offering new levels of annual business memberships with larger newsletter ads.




You can still pay \$25 per year for a business card sized ad and subscription to the newsletter, or get a quarter page ad for \$50 per year,

half page ad for \$100 per year or a full page ad for \$200 annually.

Advertisers will receive a subscription to the newsletter with any size add.

Please email hhia@hollyhills.info or mail HHIA, P.O. Box 22144, St. Louis, MO 63116 with your ad request or go to our website: hollyhills.info to contact us.






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(Continued from page 4)

around the country?

Youde: We have the same successes and challenges of other schools. Member of organization of large urban school districts from around the country.

Enrollment decline is leveling off, probably because of the economy. Issues that affect the community are coming into the schools – we love it when it’s a great thing – churches or organizations adopting a school

Atlanta Public Schools held up for quite a while as the best urban school district in the country – recently some challenges to the validity of their statistics.

DC public schools – seen as very successful but their superintendent recently left.

New Orleans – where Dr. Adams came from – signs point to it moving in the right direction.

Q: Doesn’t see a lot of latchkey or after school programs.

Youde – that’s a great question. In elementary schools we have after school programs – 3 hours, five days a week. Academics, enrichment, recreation. Some programs in middle schools, none in high schools, rely on extra curricular activities – sports, drama club etc. It’s our intention to build our after school programs in middle and high school.

100 school buildings, 73 schools operating, Average age 75 years old, some over 100 years old. 25,000 students

Q: Graduation/drop-out rate

Youde: Dr. Adams came in two years ago and kept peeling the onion back and discovered we weren’t doing a good job of tracking our students. If a student moves out of the district we’re supposed to track whether they graduated – very difficult. We’ve used things like Facebook and Twitter to find students – it works very well.

The other part is keeping them in

school. If they have a meaningful relationship – we have people who call them, go to their house or go to the Bread Co., if that’s where they hang out. It’s a very slow process, it doesn’t give you a 10-20 point spike but it should give you steady upward trend.

Q: I notice children on my block are bussed. During the summer I see a lot of children just playing aimlessly outside.

Youde: Summer school has posed a real challenge – state cut back funding that we rely on – to three weeks, but that’s three weeks more than a lot of districts. We need those three weeks for academics, for nutrition. State hasn’t told us yet what they will fund. Right now we’re planning on a four-week summer school. We’re talking to the Y, the rec centers to help us out. We’re trying to develop a coordinated effort.

Aldermanic reports:

Matt Villa

Brought fliers on recycling. 11th Ward recycling containers should be in by the end of February.

Almost everything can be recycled. No plastic bags, no window glass. It’s a single stream so you can put everything in the same containers (please rinse food off).

Brochures on smoking ordinance. I’ve had a lot of questions on the smoking ordinance that went into effect on Jan. 1.

Carondelet Neighborhood paid for private study and put together a nice color brochure of the businesses in the neighborhood. 12-month study – what do we need to do to better mar-

ket the neighborhood, demographic trends, residential housing stock, all-encompassing plan, includes some of Holly Hills. Carondelet Neighborhood is not that big so we knew what was happening in surrounding neighborhoods.

A lot of good has already come out of it. A number of new businesses have moved there. Coordinated efforts with visitor’s guide to bring people into the neighborhood. Received some stimulus money about a year ago, because of the plan we were able to implement part of plan along South Broadway – 4 blocks around St. Louis Square Park. Hope to extend it. If you haven’t driven down South Broadway lately I think you’ll be impressed with the development that’s taken place over the last couple years. There’s still a long way to go, I realize.

I was interviewed for You Paid For it. I invited Elliott Davis down to see it and he sent me an email that said he was dropping the story because I was able to justify it. I don’t know how often that happens.

(Continued on page 7)

A landscape architect put together three plans – an orchard design – what it may have looked like when the Lyles lived there – a formal garden and a natural prairie garden.

Stay tuned for more information on HHIA's Summer Movie Nights tentatively scheduled for June 25 and September 17

Carondelet Park Board meeting last week: Lyle House will be taken down to the bare wood and repainted, landscaping and lighting. That will spruce up the Lyle House. Landscape architect put together 3 plans – an orchard design – what it may have looked like when the Lyles lived there – not necessarily fruit trees but small flowering trees relatively closely spaced, a formal garden and then a natural prairie garden.

Matt will email them to HHIA to put on the web site. The park board is looking for feedback – what would people prefer to see.

Q: Could it house a restaurant?

A: It's in bad shape. Pinocle group holds a lease there. They've taken care of the building, they pay insurance. We hope to eventually use it for catering events. We'd like to get the parks department out of that area and renovate the stable as event space – that's in the long range plan.

Plan was to move park service facilities to the old Gasconade animal shelter and then the renovations could begin.

Matt met today with Archdiocese about old St. Mary and Joseph school building that is empty – hasn't had a school in there for probably 30 years. We're looking for a developer to either renovate it or tear it down.

Been meeting monthly about Shopper's Cleaners building. Some talented people are donating their time to help us come up with some creative solutions. Hopefully we'll have a positive development this year. We do have some federal money set aside. We do have to find someone with private money, we could help them out.

Loughborough Bridge – Phase 1 is the only phase we had money for. We should really be widening both sides. Well that's great but we don't have money for both sides, so for right now we're just doing the north side. That was the original plan. It's not sched-

uled to be complete until early summer. Then the Holly Hills and Delor bridges

New bridges over River Des Peres at Germania – slated for construction in 2013. Money is in place, they're just doing the design work now.

Fred Wessels and I are at Food Land at 8:30 on Friday mornings. We do have constituents who come.

We've been having email down at city hall over the last 2 weeks. If you've emailed Brian(Kolde) or I and haven't heard from us, give us a call.

NSO – Brian Kolde – 657-1364

I am now back in Ward 11 full time. Was covering both Ward 14 and Ward 11. Now I'm happy to be in one place. We're in the dept. of public safety, we're not in the police dept but we deal with the police every day. We deal with a lot of nuisance issues, problem properties, trash problems, street lights – problems with city services that you haven't been able to resolve any other way.

We're divided by ward boundaries. It used to be by neighborhood boundaries. It does make it easier for the aldermen – they have one NSO instead of 3.

Anyone who tried to email anyone in city govt. with stlouiscity.com – problem with AT&T. Normally you get an email that says there's a problem with the email address – well it was taking 2 weeks to get those bounce backs. Supposedly they've gotten it fixed. The phones seem to be working.

Old Business

Holiday lighting contest

Tara – this year they seemed especially great. There are some homes that every year just look great.

New Business

This bank has been wonderful for the many years that we have had this meeting here. But for a number of reasons we'd like to move the meetings. Accessibility – we actually have letters

from people who say that they can no longer come to the meetings because they can't get down the stairs. It's also outside the neighborhood boundaries. And we're hoping to get more members and we're hoping a change of venue might increase our membership.

The Y has offered us space – it's accessible, it's in the neighborhood, it's a community center.

Principal of Woerner school also offered their space – in the library.

Looking for writers for the newsletter – we'll help come up with topics

New ad sizes available for advertising in the newsletter

Flags/ and boathouse tiles available for sale

Summer movies – planning will begin soon

March meeting – discussion groups, goals for HHIA, speaker ideas, how we can better serve the neighborhood.

Quarterly park cleanups .

Q: House tour? Not right now. It's a big, big job and we need help!

The meeting was adjourned.

Sustainable Garden Tour Planned

Home Eco, South City's environmentally friendly general store located at 4611 Macklind Ave., is planning its first ever sustainable backyard tour.

Are you interested in getting chickens, curious about bees, want to learn about backyard composting, rain barrels, rain gardens and more?

If you would like to attend, to have your yard on the tour, volunteer, or sponsor this tour, then contact Home Eco at (314)351-2000 or www.home-eco.com

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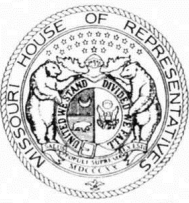


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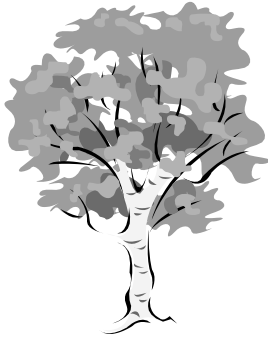
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Spring Has Arrived at HHIA Neighborhood Garden

The HHIA Community Garden is looking better than ever. Our Missouri native River Birch and Red Buds are taking hold and framing the garden beds quite nicely.



The berm and raised bed flower gardens will soon be in full bloom attracting all the necessary pollinators for our crops.

HHIA has gained several new gardeners for 2011. Continued growth and interest will probably result in

a couple new raised beds being constructed this year. As in previous years, we're charging \$25 bed to support our water costs as well as infrastructure improvements.

At press time, we were planning on a spring garden cleanup on Sunday, March 20, weather permitting. It will be a good opportunity for you to meet and work with your fellow gardeners.

Our rain date would be Saturday, March 26. Please contact Dan Haag

at 351-3845 if you think you can make it that day.

Also, we're strongly encouraging all HHIA members and gardeners to make an effort this year to put in some volunteer hours at Gateway Greening. Each community garden is supposed to put in at least 30 hours of volunteer work a year, which translates into just a couple hours for each of us. This will help to maintain a better relationship with Gateway Greening who gave us the grants to get the garden off the ground.

~ Mark Groth

Calling All Aspiring Writers! Get Published!


Do you know a talented middle or high school student who would be interested in writing articles about their neighborhood? *Holly Hills Happenings* would like to showcase budding writers and reporters of all ages

by publishing their work in this newsletter.

Articles could profile neighborhood residents or institutions, provide perspective on how citywide issues are affecting our neighborhood, report on

community events or any of a number of topics.

For more information, contact newsletter editor Stacy Ross at stacy@hollyhills.info

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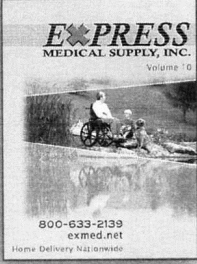
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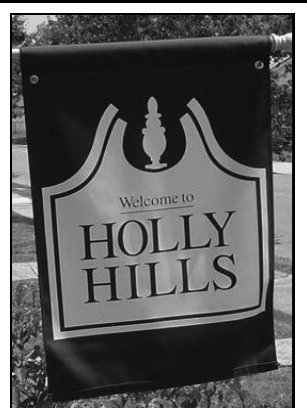
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