

HHIA General Meeting, November 25, 2002

Guest speaker was St. Louis Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce who announced the creation of the Safe Cities website. The website can be used by the public to track criminal cases as they move through the court system. Sentencing information is presented in "plain English" along with the circuit attorney's recommended sentence. Ms. Joyce noted some significant achievements in meeting her campaign promises: Her office had received more a million dollars in state and federal grant funding; added 3 additional prosecutors; defendants were now more likely to pay courts costs and victims restitution; and started a volunteer program to help 3rd grade students stay drug free. It was noted that Holly Hills was one of the safest neighborhoods in the city, with only 11 cases being prosecuted at the time of the meeting. According to the circuit attorney, this difference can be attributed to our involvement in the community.

Major Jochemstaller from the 1st District was available for questions. He reported that robberies and major crimes were down, although there had been an increase in thefts of autos and license plate tabs. It was reported that there had been some acts of vandalism to a vehicle parked outside of Grace United Methodist Church during services and that a police report had been filed.

Alderman Matt Villa spoke about a large number of calls due to a delay in leaf pickup throughout his ward. Matt asserted that the St. Louis Street Dept. has set a schedule and tackles the streets with the most leaves first. The MSD project along Bates is moving forward and you should call if you have any problems with property being damaged. Matt discussed a meeting on Dec. 6 for the River des Peres master plan that is being developed in conjunction with Metro Parks and the Corps of Engineers. The master plan is looking for ways to enhance the look of the River des Peres and potentially tie into Grant's Trail at Orlando Gardens. Matt finished by mentioning some of the updates to the St. Louis City website. Matt also fielded questions on the proposed community center.

Alderman Fred Wessels announced that Boos Bar & Grill, a new restaurant on Delor, had recently opened. Chameleon's Catering was now also open for Sunday brunch. He mentioned that a bill before the board of alderman to create a civilian oversight board for the police department would cost over 2 million dollars a year and would not pass in its current form, but that they were working to create a version acceptable to the police and public. He also indicated that Sterling Autobody in Ohio had purchased Stockman Lumber Co. and that it would employ about 40 people. He noted that the city's funding for a new downtown stadium for the Cardinals was not affected by the November ballot measure on public funding of sports stadiums. Lastly, he noted that Horseshoe Lake was currently dry because the State of Missouri now has the funding to make the lake deeper and stock more fish varieties.

Brian Kolde, our new Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, spoke next and indicated that he was taking over Bridget Piddock. He also provided handout on the Community Service Bureau's problem resolution workflow.

Anne Borgemeyer requested that anyone interested in getting a Christmas caroling project going should contact her.

Missouri State Representative Tom Villa updated us on business before the State House of Representatives. St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City is suing the State of Missouri. He mentioned that a commission was meeting to determine whether or not state office holders should get a pay raise. Commenting on an earlier question about the theft of license plate tabs, Mr. Villa indicated that the options for reducing these thefts had been proposed in the past, but always met with opposition. He talked about the recent Republican Party takeover of the Missouri House and newly approved tax credits for the Old Post office and new ballpark for the Cardinals. The stadium tax credits are for infrastructure modifications.

Tim Bolt passed out fliers for the next Carondelet Park Master Plan meeting and mentioned a proposal for a Forest Park to downtown bike trail.

New Business: A proposal to approve raising HHIA membership dues from \$7 - \$10 for individuals and \$20-\$25 for businesses was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Haag