



MAY 2015

Calendar of Events - for more information, please see:

<http://www.belleville.net/calendar.aspx?show=all>

May 25th - Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Program, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., S 2nd and Lincoln to Walnut Hill

May 29th - Shriner's Parade 5K, 6:30 p.m., Union United Methodist Church

May 29th - Shrine Circus Parade, 7:30 p.m., 17th and W Main to E Main and Oak

June 5th and 6th - Highland Neighborhood Yard Sale

Highland Neighborhood Yard Sale

It's that time of year. Spring cleaning is in full swing and it is time to clear out those attics and basements! Our neighborhood is hosting their annual yard sale on June 5th and 6th. We will provide online advertising and signage throughout the neighborhood. If you would like to participate, please note that a permit will need to be required through City Hall. First, you will need to visit the Treasurer's window, then you may obtain a permit. If you would like your sale specifically mentioned in our online ad, please email my personal account, ewittlich@gmail.com, by June 1st. We hope to have many houses participating. Additionally, the Boys Scouts will be having a rummage sale at Union United Methodist Church and the Cub Scouts will be selling children's items at Douglas School.

PSOP Information

PSOP was our guest speaker at the April Membership Meeting and they shared with us so many interesting programs, some of them open to all, that we wanted to recap in the newsletter. First, the free programs offered to all include tax preparation for simple forms and the Vial of Life. The Vial of Life is kept in the refrigerator and has all of your vital information inside, including emergency contacts, existing health conditions and a list of current medications. This information is critical if there is an emergency responder in your house. Additionally, there are many programs offered for older residents in our neighborhood, including: in home senior companions, hearing impaired telephones, Lifeline (free, depending on income), Tuesday and Thursday lunches, dances, travel programs (both locally and abroad) and computer classes. There are also many different volunteer opportunities for seniors in our community. They coordinate a foster grandparent program and lead a Retired Senior Volunteer Program. If you are interested they have a newsletter online or for an annual subscription the cost is \$5. They can be contacted at <http://www.swic.edu/psop> , or by phone (618) 234-4410 x7011, or stop by. Their address is 201 North Church Street, Belleville.

Board Members

Donna Young 407-9211
PRESIDENT
Jim Bryant 233-0357
VICE PRESIDENT
Walt Ortmann 233-5499
SECRETARY
Mike Neff 234-8739
TREASURER

BOARD MEMBERS

Sue Brabenec 233-9848
Brennan Hartin 416-0174
Tom Wade 530-2623
Erin Wittlich 910-9278

Yard of the Month

Yard of the month is underway and the flowers are in full bloom!

Congratulations to our first winner of 2015!

411 South Virginia Avenue

Honorable mentions: 418 and 421 South Virginia Avenue. Beautiful!

Nominations will be accepted by phone or email, yard@

[highlandneighborhood.org](mailto:yard@highlandneighborhood.org)



Donna's Desk -

As your new president I want to thank you all for being a part of the Highland Neighborhood Association. Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts or ideas. With your help we can all continue to keep this area one of the best places to live in Belleville.

If you missed our April meeting it was very informative. We had two representatives from PSOP who told us about all that they offer the residents of Belleville. Be sure to read the meeting recap.

Over the next 5 months, 5 lucky residents will be voted "Yard of the Month". Winners are chosen by you. Vote for your favorite yard by contacting myself or any board member. The Yard of the Month winners will receive a \$20 gift card from Sandy's Back Porch and a Yard of the Month sign to display their yard. Good luck to you all!

Everyone just received their real estate tax bills. Just wanted to remind you to be sure to read the pink enclosure. You want to make sure you are getting all the deductions you deserve. I.e. Homestead, Senior Freeze, disabled person, and veteran exemptions are just a few you might be eligible to receive. Be sure to check it out.

This is the time of year when we seem to mow our yards every couple of days. It is also the time when some just let their yards go and create eyesores that lower the value in our neighborhoods. Let's all try to keep our lawns taken care of, but if you notice some that are really neglected, they can be reported to the housing department at 233-6817. Along with this, if you know of someone who would like to earn extra money doing yard work, we would be glad to publish their name and number in the newsletter. Just contact a board member with the information.

We heard at our last meeting that some people are not getting our newsletter. If you know of someone like this, please have them contact one of the board so we can fix the problem.

We are currently short a board member. If you think you might be interested or know someone interested, please give me a call and I would be glad to discuss what is involved and how much time is needed.

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer! Don't forget to keep a watch out for problems or issues in our neighborhood (see watch tips in this issue). By doing so we all help to keep Highland a safe place to live.

Donna

Aldersperson Contact Information and Committees

With the results of the general election tallied and orientation complete, we'd like to update everyone on our current city representation and what committees they serve on.

Ward 7

Phil Elmore (618) 363-0016
Committees: Police and Fire,
Streets and Grades, Sewer and Traffic

Trent Galetti (773) 742-5865
Committees: Economic Development
and Annexation, Finance, Ordinances
and Legal Review

At least one Aldersperson is expected to attend our general neighborhood meetings from this point out.

Property Tax Bill

Property tax bills have gone out and you should have received yours by now. If you haven't, please contact the County Assessor's Office at (618) 825-2704. There are a few exemptions that can save you little money on your bill. They include the Homestead Credit, Senior Freeze, Disabled and Veteran. If you should be receiving these credits, be sure to check that they have been applied.

If you feel your bill is too high and you have confirmed that your exemptions have been applied, please contact the assessor's office so they may review your bill and either correct it, or help clarify the assessment value and taxing rates.

If your assessment value is incorrect, you will need to have an appraisal done and file an appeal with the St. Clair County Board of Review.

Please note that the first installment is due on July 1st, 2015. The second installment must be received by September 1st, 2015.

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

Here is my \$10.00 to make me an active member of the Highland Neighborhood Association for 2015.

NAME _____

ADDRESS:

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL _____

Place an X in the box if you would like a membership card

CLIP AND MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:

HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
C/O MIKE NEFF
815 FOREST AVENUE
BELLEVILLE, IL 62220
YOUR CANCELLED CHECK IS YOUR RECEIPT.

Do you know of a neighbor not receiving the newsletter?

If so, please contact a board member so we can make sure they are included. Our newsletters are hand delivered and sometimes a property is missed.

Neighborhood Watch

You may have noticed that old Neighborhood Watch signs have been replaced with new signs around the neighborhood. We have been fortunate enough to have this update completed. However, did you know that our Neighborhood Association got its start as a Neighborhood Watch group. Neighborhood Watches are very important to our community, but what exactly is a Neighborhood Watch? Neighborhood Watch, in its current form, dates back to the 1960's, but Americans have used this concept since Colonial times. It is a crime prevention program that relies on neighbors keeping an eye out on their communities and not only being aware of suspect activity, but reporting it to local law enforcement. They also help spread information to their neighbors on securing their property to make it less inviting to criminals. Watch groups also help with beautification projects and neighborhood improvement. As you can see, our association still has quite a bit in common with Neighborhood Watch. Recently, Lt. Eiskant shared a few tips to keeping an effective Neighborhood Watch group in your block.



Observe and Report Low Level Crimes

Broken Windows, Downed Tree Limbs, Abandoned or Unlicensed Vehicles, Drug Houses, Hand to Hand Deliveries, Burglaries of Sheds, Cars or Homes, Intimidation, and Suspected Child Abuse

Report All Crime

The squeaky wheel gets the grease. As a matter of fact, this is the number one reason we have the neighborhood we do. We must continue to call and report suspicious activity and work with the police to keep communication open regarding problem properties.

Always Lock Your Car Doors

Not only will they pass up locked cars but they will get your personal information from the contents of the glove box and sell or use it themselves. You have given that information to them on a silver platter. Also remove personal information and valuables from a car at the attendant driven car wash, valet parking, auto repair.

Know What Times are Opportune for Crime

Most car burglaries occur at night. They will usually pass up locked vehicles. Home burglaries mainly occur between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

To monitor the crime in our neighborhood, visit <http://www.belleville.net/police>