

Original Highlands

The Original Highlands Neighborhood Association Newsletter

“By Neighbors For Neighbors”

Inside This Issue:

**GENERAL OHNA
MEETING MONDAY
MAY 16
7:00 PM**

**Metropolitan
Community Church
(corner of Highland
and Rubel)**

**Agenda Items:
Report from 5th District
Police
Garden Tour
Neighborhood Plan
Fund-raiser event for the
Neighborhood plan**

Inside this issue:

Message from Councilman Tom Owen

Safe environment ideas

Help for homeless

Tips for handling panhandlers

Important Phone Numbers:

Emergencies Only: 911

Metro Police: 574-7111

MetroCall: 311 or 574-5000

Original Highlands gardeners share yards for upcoming tour: June 11-12

Mark your calendars for the Original Highlands Garden Tour coming up Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12 from noon until 5 p.m.

Approximately 10 gardens are set to participate this year, all within the Original Highlands Neighborhood. The 2003 Garden Tour raised \$500.

OHNA hopes to exceed that amount with the proceeds going toward neighborhood projects such as the Patterson Playground restoration and the continued efforts to maintain the Highland Island at Baxter and Winter Avenues.

Visitors to the gardens can expect to see a range of garden styles from the wild cottage garden used for cuttings and growing herbs to minimalist patio gardens with tranquil water features.

Tickets to the garden tour are \$10 and will be on sale the days of the event at O'Shea's Traditional Irish Pub (956 Baxter Avenue) and Molly Malone's Irish Pub and Restaurant (933 Baxter Avenue).

Original Highlands is looking for at least two volunteers to help out with ticket sales both days. Volunteers will receive two passes to the Garden Tour.

Russie Wight-Waltman and Karen Voyer are the co-chairs for this year's tour. Please contact them if you are interested in getting your garden included on the tour or if you would like to volunteer with the tour in some way. You can call Russie at 583.5220 or Karen at 574.3455.



Exotic gardens, traditional gardens, all are welcome and needed to make the 2005 Original Highlands Garden Tour a success. The last garden tour in 2003 featured ten gardens.

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If you have questions or comments, please contact an ONHA board member.

Remember your input is valuable and necessary for a strong neighborhood. The next general meeting is Monday May 16, 2005, 7 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church, located at the corner of Highland Ave. and Rubel.

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Message from Councilman Tom Owen's office: taming the auto-beast

When your neighborhood was built long ago, no one imagined that there would be so many cars to park. These days, in the face of the auto glut, our older neighborhoods creak and groan to adapt.

Homeowners build circular driveways in the front yard, add parking pads, and construct massive garages to supplement on-street parking.

In some parts of the 8th District, the ratio between available on-street spaces to demand is so tight that residents unwisely break the law to get a space within shouting distance of their house or apart-

ment. They park too close to the street corner, alley, or neighbor's driveway, making it unsafe for the car pulling or backing out from the side. In some places, they'll even park in the front or side yard!

In one way, all the cars competing for spaces in our neighborhood are a good sign: a family that can afford several cars may well be able to keep their house up, nearby businesses and institutions are thriving, and rental property is in demand. Rejoice! The Highlands is a popular place!

On the other hand, the proliferation of cars versus limited parking spaces is a problem begging for improvement. Here are some things we can do to civilize the modern auto beast:

1. Don't park illegally. It's unsafe and enforcement has increased.
2. Don't build another driveway opening to the street without getting a permit from Metro Public Works.
3. If you live on an alley, improve

the garage or pad parking at the rear of your lot.

4. Get a building permit through Inspection, Permits and License (574-3321) before you enlarge or add-on to your garage.
5. Contact Metro Public Works at 574-.3121 for a permit before adding a parking pad.
6. For short trips, walk or bike.
7. Commute by bus.
8. Encourage nearby offices and businesses to provide tax-deductible TARC tickets for their employees.

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OHNA takes action on neighborhood issues

In an effort to curb the development of more establishments that serve alcohol in our already oversaturated neighborhood, OHNA recently took action on two issues.

OHNA has opposed a restaurant liquor license for a proposed business called "Alley Cats" at the location of the old Chuck's on Baxter. Also, OHNA opposed the extension of operating hours for Barret Liquors to 4:00 am.

Also, OHNA recently opposed a proposal from Ditto's Bar and Grill to demolish a home that it owns on Ellwood Ave. in order to reconfigure their parking lot. Currently, Ditto's is working with the Metro Planning and Design to help solve their parking issues without demolishing the house.

OHNA is committed to helping this long standing business in the neighborhood find solutions to parking, without altering the historic fabric of the neighborhood.

For more information on these issues, Please attend the general OHNA meeting on May 16.

How to help the homeless and handle aggressive panhandling

Panhandlers can be a common sight in the Highlands. You can help the homeless without giving into panhandlers.

According to information regarding panhandlers, you may be doing more harm than good when

you give out money.

The Coalition for the Homeless

continued on page 5

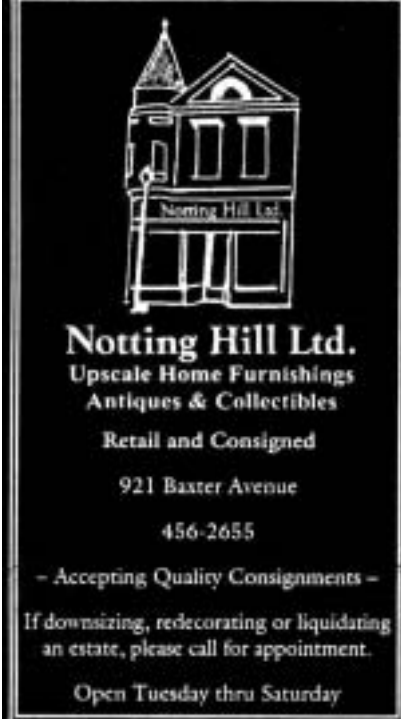


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OHNA Board Meetings
Held at Metropolitan Community Church located on the corner of Highland Avenue and Rubel at 7:00pm.

Next Meeting Dates:

June 20, 2005

July 18, 2005

August 15, 2005
(General Meeting)

September 19, 2005

October 17, 2005

November 14, 2005



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BEST OF Louisville

panhandlers

in Louisville has a new program underway to help the homeless. If you are asked for money, you can now give the person in need an informational card. This card provides phone numbers of local shelters where people can go for help.

These cards will be available at the May OHNA general meeting.

According to the coalition, there is a fine line between asking for money and aggressive panhandling. The next time you are approached by a panhandler, keep this in mind:

Don't give money to panhandlers. Acknowledge a panhandler with a nod, and answer the request for money by saying, "No," then

walk away. Give the person in need an informational card from the coalition that can provide phone numbers of where to call for help.

Food and shelter are available for those who are homeless. The coalition for the homeless needs everyone's help to make Louisville a "panhandling unfriendly city", said coalition Executive Director Marlene Gordon.

If you really want to help the homeless, make a donation to one of the many agencies that offer help.

Check out the coalition's website at www.homelesscoal.org for a list of shelters, or call the coalition at 589-0190 if you have questions. If a panhandler becomes aggressive, call the police at 574-7111.

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Thinking, planning help make safe environment

Safety and security are important for both you, your home and property. Recently there have been several armed robberies in the area and several business along Bardstown Road have been burglarized. Here are a few tips from the Louisville Metro Police Department's website to help you plan a safe environment:

Lighting

Illuminate your property at night. Don't depend on streetlights or lights from adjoining properties. Leave outside lights on after dark. Make sure there are no shadows or dark areas around the house, garage, or yard in which a person could hide. Good four-cor-

ner exterior lighting is important, particularly where there are dark areas around the house. Floodlights installed under eaves can illuminate these areas and expose anyone next to the house. Timers or photoelectric cells can be used to turn lights on at dusk and off at dawn. And motion sensors can be used to turn lights on when any motion is detected.

While You Are Out

Don't take shortcuts: don't walk in or near alleys, and don't walk on deserted streets. Use caution in parking lots, and don't walk in poorly lighted areas, or dark doorways, or near shrubbery. Watch your surroundings and be alert for suspicious persons, especially

around banks, stores, streets, and your car or home.

Robbery Prevention Tips

Avoid poorly lit areas. If you must walk through such areas, walk purposefully and with an air of confidence. When walking to your vehicle, have your car keys in hand, before walking across the parking lot. When you enter your vehicle, immediately lock your doors. When driving, keep your doors locked at all times and your car windows rolled up to the point that an arm can't be stuck into your vehicle. Before you use a bank's automated teller machine, be observant. Look around the area for people loitering. If you see a suspicious person or persons, do not use that machine at that time. Whenever possible, park your car in a well-lit area and as close to an open business as possible. For more information checkout www.Impdky.org. Call the police to report suspicious activity or go to "Quick Tips" on the Louisville Metro Police Department's website to fillout an anonymous "tip" form.

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