



[www.originalhighlands.org](http://www.originalhighlands.org)

**GENERAL OHNA  
MEETING MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 20  
7:00 PM**

**This month's general  
meeting will take  
place at the  
Metropolitan  
Community Church  
(MCC)**

**Located at the corner  
of Highland Ave. and  
Rubel**

**Board Member  
general elections will  
take place!**

**Councilman Tom Owen  
will be at meeting  
discussing the history  
of our area!**

**Inside this issue:  
Holiday Dinner Sunday  
Dec. 3  
Bardstown Road Aglow  
Saturday Dec. 2  
Messages from 8th and  
4th District Councilmen  
Owen and Tandy**

## **Year End Message From Original Highlands Neighborhood Association President John Riddick**

### **Thank You!**

I would like to quickly thank the Original Highlands community for allowing me to serve as President of the OHNA for the past two years. It's been a lot of fun and I am hopeful that our progress is beginning to show around the neighborhood. Thanks again to everyone for a great two years!

**OHNA elections on November 20<sup>th</sup> @  
7:00 pm**

Are you interested in becoming an activist for the Original Highlands? If so, I would encourage you to run for one of the six (6) available spots on the OHNA Board. Each year, 6 of the 12 Board positions come up for election. This year's election will be held during the OHNA General Meeting on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church, 1432 Highland Avenue.

I often refer to the writings of management guru Jim Collins when discussing the make up of the OHNA Board: The executives who ignited the transformations from good to great did not first figure out where to drive the bus and then get people to take it there. No, they *first* got the right people on the bus and *then* figured out where to drive it. They said, in essence, "Look, I

don't really know where we should take this bus. But I know this much: If we get the right people on the bus, the right people in the right seats, and the wrong people off the bus, then we'll figure out how to take it someplace great."

Are you ready to "get on the bus" to take our neighborhood someplace great? If so, I strongly encourage you to join the OHNA Board. Note that you must be a member of the OHNA to run for a spot on the Board. The process is easy, simply send an email to [jriddick@insightbb.com](mailto:jriddick@insightbb.com) and I will submit your name to the OHNA Nominating Committee. Your name will appear on the ballot on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Attend the November General Meeting in order to briefly articulate why you are interested in becoming a board member. The vote will be held later that evening.

### **My Year-end Plea!**

Ah, the end of the year is upon us here in the Original Highlands. Time for another diatribe meant to stir some motivation, right? Well since my term as President is coming to an end, perhaps you'll grant me a little creative license. I've decided to quickly document six (6) relatively painless actions each and every one of us can do to make our community better. Here goes:

(See Pleas page 3 col. 1)

## OHNA Board of Directors

**John Riddick, President**  
1321 Highland Ave.  
216-2602  
jriddick@insightbb.com

**Rick Sweeney, Vice President**  
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rickjsweeney@yahoo.com

**Maggie Cassaro, Secretary**  
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**Jackie Leslie**  
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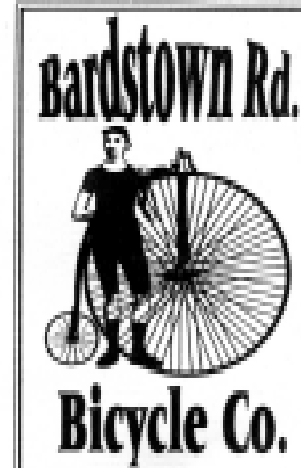
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## Pleas | be a part of the solution, get involved in your neighborhood

**1. Please, please, please turn on your front porch light!** I know you grow weary of this silly suggestion but it really does help. Our streets are extremely dark and this creates problems. My quick walk down Morton Avenue with Rover the other night proves this point – most homes were darker than Papa John's Cardinal Stadium last Thursday night. So, go to your front porch and make a few quick observations. Is your bulb burned out? If so, go out and purchase a mini-spiral fluorescent bulb to replace the old one. Leave it on 24/7 and forget about it. Has the landlord failed to install a porch light? Have them install one for you. If that doesn't work, call me @ 216-2602 – I'd love to have the conversation with your landlord. Actually, I'd just love to know who your landlord is since they seem to be quite mysterious these days.

**2. Now, walk to the back of your place – I bet you'll run into one of those magical Original Highlands alleys.** You know, the ones with trash, broken bottles, stray cats, potholes, mature weed trees, and rotting storage sheds. We've all got a unique alley story. Directly behind my house we've got a great rat habitat in the form of an abandoned early 70s GTO (I think), complete with a Suicidal Tendencies bumper sticker (great band, by the way - saw them @ Tweligan's back in the day). Hint – Louisville Metro isn't coming to clean your alley up anytime soon so here's my suggestion – catch up with a couple of your neighbors and commit to cleaning up your alley. Heck, turn your Saturday into an alley clean up day. Ice down your favorite beverage (this helps if you're not fond of your neighbors) and grab the power tools and trash bags! If you're interested, call me @ 216-2602 and we'll get it organized. We might even be able to allocate some funds to facilitate the process.

**3. Send me your email!** Okay, quickly run to your computer and send

an email to [jriddick@insightbb.com](mailto:jriddick@insightbb.com). No need to type a subject or message. You're done! If you haven't noticed – the best way for me and other neighborhood leaders to communicate is email. If I have your email address I can include you on important neighborhood communications. I promise there will be no spam!

**4. Complain.** Yep, that's right. Pick up the phone and dial MetroCall 311 and complain about the abandoned vehicle in your alley or that pesky 25 year old bar patron that's passed out on your front lawn. Put it on speed dial! I can almost guarantee that nothing will happen early on but, believe or not, Louisville Metro tracks these complaints and you know what they say about the "squeaky wheel." If we complain frequently, we'll eventually get an issue on the radar and position some of Louisville Metro's limited resources to solve the problem.

**5. Okay, now that you've been able to channel your outrage and log your concern with Louisville Metro, realize that the only way to make a difference around here is to get involved.** It's amazing what a little action will do for credibility. In fact, I'm working on a theory these days – the level of credibility one has regarding a particular issue is directly related to how much work and passion they've put into addressing the issue. If you're sitting on the sidelines and throwing out an occasional barb it just won't go very far in addressing the problem. So, pick your issue. Here's starter list:-

**\*Alley clean up**

**\*Parking**

**\*Historic landmark designation for the Original Highlands**

**\*Neighborhood block watch**

**\*New green space (park) for the Original Highlands – that's a hint for our friends @ Kindred!**

**\*2007 Original Highlands Art & Music Street Festival.**

Did you locate a hot button? Good, now pick up the phone and call me @ 216-2602 to get going.

6. Okay, so you reviewed my list above and you've suddenly grown quite tired. You realize that you just can't commit that much time to our neighborhood. No problem, I've got the solution – **plan on attending just four (4) neighborhood meetings in 2007.** Come to think of it, put these dates on your calendar:

**-March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 @ 7:00 pm**

**-June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007 @ 7:00 pm**

**-September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 @ 7:00 pm**

**-November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 @ 7:00 pm.**

That was easy, right? I personally guarantee that these meetings will be one hour in duration or less. So you are basically looking at a four hour commitment for the 2007 calendar year. Painless!

### The Original Highlands blog

We've set up a blog site for the Original Highlands. You can find it @ <http://originalhighlands.blogspot.com/>. Use this blog site to start a dialogue on neighborhood issues and/or concerns.

## Light up Louisville Friday Nov. 24 Bigger and Brighter

Light up Louisville is set for Friday November 24. The festivities begin at 3 p.m. when food, beverage, and craft booths open, featuring a Charles Dickens themed pub.

The Winter Wonderland Parade begins at 4 p.m. at 8th and Jefferson and ends at 4th Street Live! Entertainment on the main stage and children's craft activities begin at 5 p.m. Santa arrives at 7 p.m. followed by the lighting of the 65 foot Christmas tree dedicated to U.S. Troops.

## *Holiday dinner, join your OHNA for fun, food*

The Original Highlands Neighborhood Association is once again hosting the annual holiday dinner.

Mark your calendars for Sunday Dec. 3, 2006. The holiday dinner is at St. Brigid Church on the corner of Hepburn and Baxter Avenues. The fun starts at 6 p.m. with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The neighborhood association will provide the main meat course, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

There will be music and a children's craft area. Come see old friends or make new ones. The holiday dinner is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with your neighbors.

## **Bardstown Road Aglow -lights up Dec. 2**

The Highlands and The Highland Commerce Guild are kicking off the holiday season with an "Open House" celebration on Saturday December 2 from dusk til 10 p.m. The festival celebrates 21 years of shopping, eating, drinking, and merriment this year.

Boutiques, eateries, and businesses all along Bardstown Road and Baxter Avenue open their doors offering food, drink, and discounts for the holiday shopping. Enjoy music and entertainment as you walk along the corridor or ride a free trolley with elves to your favorite stop.

Visit with friends and get some early holiday shopping done. Don't forget to visit Santa at Mid City Mall from 5 to 8 p.m.

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## Message from Councilman Tom Owen: Don't be a victim

The Highlands has very little crime when compared to most parts of town. Despite that fact, we never feel safe enough. "Breaking News" stories on TV reminds us that even in comfortable neighborhoods no one is "perfectly" safe.

Indeed, our area has seen a spate of very serious felony crimes: shootings, armed stickups, and a bank robbery. In addition, we're experiencing our regular diet of "crimes of opportunity" where thieves steal just about anything we leave out: unlocked bicycles, purses and electronic equipment visible on car seats, and unsecured lawn equipment.

Finally, there are the perpetrators of vandalism on both public and private property, including those using spray paint, not to mention the less visible "white collar" criminals

who prey in so many ways on the vulnerable.

In our imaginations, we create an image of those who commit crimes among us and it's usually persons who are from outside our neighborhood. While no doubt those folks may sometimes commit crimes, I believe that many who commit crimes actually are "from" the Highlands—our neighbors driven by bad habits, mental issues, greed, meanness, rank immaturity, and disregard for things that belong to others.

This means that any growth in feelings of security must look beyond just keeping the "bad apples" out to include knowing more about our neighbors and our neighborhood.

The Police, with whom I have a close working relationship, can't patrol every street corner. You and I must be more observant of our sur-

roundings and be willing to report suspicious activity to the Police. In addition, our homes, garages, and cars are invitations to robbery. We've got to tie things down better. Wouldn't it be something if the robbers among us had to leave to commit crimes because we thwarted them at their home base? Our Fifth Division has a citizen's advisory council and your participation on it would show that crime-fighting is something not just left to the professionals.

In the coming months, I'll be working with your neighborhood association, our Police Division Commander, and others to open crime-fighting lines of communication. Ultimately though, we will be victims a lot less if we engage our community and its need, think smart about our surroundings, and understand that we are on the frontline as observers and reporters of suspicious activity. .

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## OHNA Needs to Hear from You!

Often times, the best way to stay in the loop on neighborhood progress is via email. As a result, the OHNA is trying to expand its email distribution list. If you would like to receive updates on the Original Highlands via email, please send a quick message to John Riddick @ [jriddick@insightbb.com](mailto:jriddick@insightbb.com). We will add you to the Original Highlands general distribution list.



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Do you have a concern or issue that needs to be heard in our neighborhood?

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We want to be part of the solution, not the problem... Meredith Wickliffe

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## From the desk of Councilman David Tandy...

Fall is officially here and we hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. I am honored to represent your neighborhood, along with Councilman Owen and the two of us have a great working relationship. According to Metro Police, we are mainly dealing with acts of graffiti/vandalism in the area. It's important that all neighbors work together to make sure the Original Highlands remains a great place to live. The Fourth District is very diverse stretching from Baxter Avenue all the way to 26th Street to the West. We deal with many different issues on a daily basis, but I can tell you this no matter what neighborhood you live in, it's up to everyone to get to know their neighbors...that is the best way to prevent crime on your street.

I'd like to thank all those who came out to the Fourth District Barbecue on Sept. 30 at Shelby Park. We fed almost 500 people, despite the rain showers, and if you weren't able to attend, mark your calendars next year for the last Saturday in September!

In this update, I will address several issues that we have been contacted about or have been working on over the past couple months.

I am excited to announce that new ornate trash cans will be placed throughout our area of the neighborhood in late January. They will have Original Highlands Neighborhood in ironwork similar to the ones downtown. The trash cans have been a collaborative effort working through my Neighborhood Advisory Board. We are also working to appropriate funding for alley cleanup in the next fiscal year. Please know that the alleys are everyone's responsibility and we ask that you work with your neighbors to keep them maintained. We would like to keep the old brick alleys because they add to the charm of the area, but if they aren't maintained, we will have to pave over them.

My office is currently looking for an artist to paint the Baxter Avenue Railroad underpass. I have agreed to provide \$2,000 to the artist whose design is selected for materials and labor. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 15. This

is a major intersection and thousands of cars pass it on a daily basis. It is the main corridor into the Highlands Area from East Downtown.

Recently, I partnered with Leadership Louisville to offer scholarships to Fourth District residents for the Focus Louisville Program. Focus Louisville is an intense two and a half day program that shows participants many aspects of the city. Its government, business and organizations and how each interacts with the other to solve problems. The Center's mission is to develop a diverse group of leaders who serve as catalysts for a strong community. Those who would like to apply for the scholarship program should

contact the Louisville Leadership Center at [www.leadershiplouisville.org](http://www.leadershiplouisville.org).

That's all from City Hall. Oh by the way, after much debate, we also passed a comprehensive smoking ban that will take effect July 1, 2007. Whether you are for it or against it, I hope everyone will go out and support our local establishments. Louisville is a great restaurant town and we don't want to lose our unique flavor and those hard working entrepreneurs that help make our town great.

Thanks again for your support and as always, feel free to contact our office anytime.

David W Tandy  
Fourth District Councilman

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## "A Riverside Christmas" Holiday Tours Dec. 3-10

Plan to visit Riverside to see the Farnsley-Moremen House decorated for the holiday season during the first week of December.

Holiday tours begin on Sunday, December 3 and end on Sunday, December 10. Learn about 19th century holiday customs in the 1840s and the 1880s. This is the perfect outing for your club, church group or civic organization. Plan to gather for light refreshments in the Visitors Center auditorium before or after your tour. Reservations are required for refreshments and group discount.

Call 502-935-6809 to make reservations. Regular admission is: \$6/Adults; \$5/Seniors; \$3/Children (ages 6-12). Call to find out about group rates. For more information on Riverside and directions visit [www.riverside-landing.org](http://www.riverside-landing.org)

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