



*A neighborhood with heart,
in the heart of the city.*

The SHNA Newsletter

APRIL 2010

www.seminoleholland.com

Our Own “Nature Center”

We have a natural treasure in our neighborhood, our own little nature center. It’s McDaniel Park and the Greenways Trail along South Creek, just north of Sunset Street. More than 60 species of birds and even more plants can be found there if you walk the trail in all four seasons.

The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society has been working with the city and Greenways to keep the creek in a natural state—pulling out trash and limbs, and keeping the stream flowing. This keeps out mosquitoes and makes a haven for wildlife such as fish, turtles, frogs, and occasionally foxes and ground hogs.

The 4th and 5th graders at Holland Elementary School have studied some of its wonders, and have printed a brochure: “South Creek Thru the Eyes of Children”. It is delightful in their own words and illustrations. For instance the “Button Bush” entry:

Button Bush: Have you been to South Creek? I have and it’s a beautiful place! It’s relaxing and you can see lots of interesting animals and plants like button bush. If you want to know how to find one of these glamorous bushes you can look near water up to 4 feet and BAM there they are.

If you’d like to read more of the children’s brochure, it’s all as entertaining as this. I’ll have one available at the next neighborhood meeting.

The woods along the trail contains a natural bog which makes it inviting for birds, but uninviting for development. The Parks department plans to keep the

natural integrity of this landscape when it puts a footpath and boardwalk through it in the future. The boggy land is home to unusual plants, such as the lowland looses-trife, a lovely, nodding yellow flowered plant that grows along the woods edge. (see photo)



For a tour of the area, park at McDaniel Park off National Ave. and follow the Greenways trail down to the wild flower garden at Holland Street. Follow the winding trail on to Jefferson and take a look at the developing prairie area which has been seeded for wildflowers. See what comes up this spring! Cross Jefferson and see on your left a nice display of wild flowers planted down to the creek. Butterflies will enjoy the milkweeds there this summer. Be on the lookout for shorebirds that stop in the water during their spring migration. — Dorothy Thurman

News in the Neighborhood:

- April 6th we do not have a scheduled speaker for the general meeting.
- We have a vacancy on our board, and need nominations to fill that position. Please contact Trish Pearson if you would like to volunteer, or know of someone who is interested.
- We will soon have SHNA brochures to hand out to people or businesses to become members.

A Message from the President

Knock, Knock...

I recall vividly standing in the big gym at Holland Elementary School, my knees knocking and my throat drying as it got closer to 6:30 pm and people were pouring in. "Our first Seminole/Holland Neighborhood Association meeting!" I was so excited and scared, and at the same time, incredibly optimistic. Now, a year and a half later, in front of a crowd each month, my knees don't knock and my throat is not as dry, but my optimism remains incredibly high.

Our goals today remain similar from day one, but with a little more clarity. We all want to get outside as a neighborhood, get to know each other better through gatherings, make our neighborhood more beautiful, as well as keeping our kids safe.

As a neighborhood association, we have

been trying to achieve all that. Last spring was our first Kite Festival. A dedicated group of members worked on a shoestring budget and an incredible deadline to create our first neighborhood gathering at McDaniel Park. Although we had no wind for kites, people had a great time and spirits soared! What a success! We've moved up the date to April 24th for this year's Festival to hopefully catch a little wind. Bring your lawn chairs, kites, kids and cameras. We hope to have a colorful sky filled with kites and laughter!

But wait...there's more! For the first time, this year we will participate in National Neighborhood Night Out in August. We heard about other neighborhoods getting together and having a good time. Now it is our turn to band together and join in the fun. What a wonderful opportunity to

get to know our neighbors better while we enjoy a little music and food.

From Spring to Fall, we have several activities planned in-between to help clean up our streets and our garages. The biggest thing we are missing is YOU! From Adopt-a-Street to Neighborhood Garage Sales, there are plenty of opportunities to get you out and about, meeting your neighbors and creating a positive impact in our neighborhood. Come join us at a general meeting or visit a board meeting. Both are open to the public and we try to have a little fun each time. If you listen closely, you may still hear my knees knock!

Until then...

Take Care and See You There!

Trish Pearson

April 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter	5	6 Election Day Monthly SHNA Meeting 6:30 pm <i>No Speaker</i>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Board Meeting 6:30 pm	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 SHNA Spring & Kite Fest 10:00 am at McDaniel Park
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**Seminole/Holland
Neighborhood Association
Officers & Board:**

President

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Secretary

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Treasurer

Allison Overmyer
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Board Members

Bill Havens

Bruce Helm

Debbie Hopkins

Michael Lyons

Jenni Mettemeyer

Vivian Rye

Bob Thurman

Janet Wreath

One Seat Is Vacant

Mailing Address:

**925 East Seminole
Springfield, MO 65807**

Web site:

www.seminoleholland.com

Neighborhood Notes

Can you name your neighbors? Probably no problem with naming the ones next door and across the street. How about the ones four doors down or at the end of the block? You don't have to go very far to run into neighbors who are complete and total strangers.

It used to be that we wandered out into our backyards and chatted over the fence with our neighbors, cup of coffee in hand. Now, we're more likely to set the cup of coffee on our desks and drop by our cyber-neighbor, mouse in hand, and chat with people we've never even seen. We're plugged in and wired up, but we're often disconnected from the very people we live closest to. Sure, we're probably busier today than yesterday, and so much more, but it all leads to an erosion of "social capital" and loss of community with increased isolation.

Hello to your Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association which is about creating social bonds and building that "social capital" so vital to the well-being of neighborhoods. We share common interests, pursue mutual concerns, address issues important to us as neighbors. Our participation in those very things breathes life into our neighborhood.

We can't alter the complex dynamics that undermine social capital in our society, but we can determine that it is worth it to have a vital neighborhood. Start small. Find out the names of your neighbors. (And come meet a whole lot more every first Tuesday at the Association's meeting at Messiah Lutheran.)

From Bill Havens, 607 E. Berkeley St.

billrh@mchsi.com

Speakers inform group about graffiti

Springfield police officer John Decker and MSU Professor, Dr. Mike Carlie, gave presentations about graffiti at the February general meeting of the Seminole Holland Neighborhood Association. They talked about the mindsets, goals, prevention and insights into the growing graffiti culture.

Graffiti "art" is called tagging – and these "taggers" are generally not associated with gangs. Officer Decker indicated that the examples of tagging that the SHNA had reported to the police department were not gang related. Taggers mostly try to distance themselves from gangs – although gangs have been known to hire "taggers" to mark their territory for them.

Taggers sometimes uses three initials to identify their marks. A group of taggers are known as a "tagging crew", and when they cover an area (such as our neighborhood boundaries) that is called "bombing."

Graffiti is done to: gain fame and respect for the "artist's" works and name; to try to perform as many tags in a single time period, usually at night; to try to cover as large an area as possible in one event; to attempt to perform challenging tags that require a degree of difficulty; and to earn respect from peers and population at large by getting their work noticed.

– from notes of David Beahan



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***Would you
like to become a
member of the
Seminole/Holland
Neighborhood
Association?
Contact us to
get an application,
or just attend
our next
monthly meeting!***

Mission Statement

The mission of the Seminole / Holland Neighborhood Association is:

- To identify issues and/or problems of common neighborhood concerns.
- To express opinions on these issues and/or problems.
- To coordinate with appropriate government officials and others to resolve those issues and/or problems relative to the neighborhood.
- To enhance communications between the citizens who reside within the Association boundaries.
- To provide an outlet for neighborhood socialization.
- To be a neighborhood with heart in the heart of the city.

**May 2010 SHNA Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, May 4, 6:30 pm
Messiah Lutheran Church**