

SIGNALS FROM THE HILL

Signal Hill Neighborhood Association

ISSUE 16

www.signalhillna.com

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Signal Hill

A Great Place to Live

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*May your stuffing be
tasty
May your turkey be
plump
May your potatoes and
gravy
Have nary a lump.
May your yams be
delicious
And your pies take the
prize
And may your
Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off your thighs!*



Dear Neighbors,

We turned our clocks back and we're raking up the last of our leaves. We stacked the wood by the back door and got our winter clothes out of storage. So now, we can light the gas logs, put our feet up, and take a long look back at everything that has happened in Signal Hill over the past year.

- In January, there was a controlled breach of the dam at **PETERSON'S POND** and the pond is gone. Site restoration is ongoing.
- The **SIGNAL HILL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRAIL** is back on track. An Open House is scheduled for Thursday, December 1st when we'll have an opportunity to look at the engineers' actual renderings of the trail design and give comments. (*See page 3*)
- The Association hosted its second **POLITICAL FORUM** in March. It was well attended and the debate was lively and very informative. We look forward to doing it again in the next election cycle.
- We were extremely proud to have several of our neighbors' yards selected to take part in the **UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS GARDEN TOUR**.
- The long standing problem with the failed **PUMP STATION ON CRESTON DRIVE** should be fixed sometime after the first of the year. The funds have been allocated and a contractor has been selected to install a new energy efficient system sometime in January 2012 – weather permitting.
- In early October, SHNA hosted the **SCARECROW JAMBOREE** and it was a great success! (*See page 5*)
- Thanks to the generosity of our neighbors, there will be twenty-four **NEWLY DESIGNED BANNERS** installed throughout the neighborhood by the end of the year.
- The **NEIGHBORHOOD DECORATING CONTEST** and "*HOLIDAY ON THE BOULEVARD*" are right around the corner and the planning committee hopes all of you will join in the festivities. (*See pages 6, 7 & 8*)

I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support for Signal Hill. Because of you, it truly is a "*Great Place to Live!*"

Wishing you and your family a
safe and happy holiday season.

Brian Triska
SHNA President

SIGNAL HILL PARK UPDATE

LIGHTING IN SIGNAL HILL PARK

August 9, 2011. Belleville Police Chief, Bill Clay told the park committee...

- 'Lighting up' the park at night should be our #1 priority

- The recent increase in loitering, vandalism, fights, inappropriate behavior of roving groups of teenagers, and trespassing after dark, cannot be dismissed as sporadic juvenile behavior. Separately, they may seem innocuous. Together, they are indicators of behavior that must be curbed *immediately*.

Three important factors comes into play here.

1. Signal Hill School District #181 owns the park.
2. The Park Committee can only make recommendations to the School Board.
3. The School Board has the final say in whatever changes are made on the park grounds.

The following report outlines the committee's progress, to date, with regards to getting additional lighting in the park:

Ameren has installed 3 new lights on Signal Park Lane and installed new amber-colored lights in the previously existing street lights. This is the maximum amount of lighting that the township can direct on to that street.

(FYI: Centreville Township cannot direct lighting into the park. It can only direct lighting onto the streets within the township boundaries.).

We would like to thank **Marty Crawford** for working so quickly to complete his part of the project.

Ameren upgraded the light fixtures on the existing poles on Carbon St., thanks to Belleville Alderman, **Dean Hardt** and **Jim Musgrove**. Residents say that it did make a difference on the street, but it did nothing to increase lighting in the park. The same can be said for South 95th Street: new light fixtures installed; no noticeable effect in the park.

At the September 22nd Park Committee meeting, Signal Hill School Board member, **Alicia Slocomb**, said the school would contact Ameren and set up a meeting with one of their engineers. Although no definitive date was set, the SHNA Board was hopeful that that meeting would take place shortly after the September meeting.

After three weeks passed, the Neighborhood Association (SHNA) called Ameren for an update. There was no record in Ameren's system that anyone but **Marty Crawford** had contacted them regarding Signal Hill Park. In an effort to keep project moving forward, the SHNA Board went ahead and scheduled a meeting with the engineer, and invited members from the School Board and **Superintendent Lambert** to join us.

On October 18th, Ameren engineer, **Mike Koch**, met in the park with SHNA Board members, **Michele Cowell**, **Barbara Stalker**, **Donna Dougherty** and **Barb Ducey**, and Signal Hill School Superintendent **Suzette Lambert**.

SHNA Board members reiterated to **Mr. Koch** what **Chief Clay** had told us at the August meeting and he led the discussion from there. We asked for a comprehensive plan for additional lighting and a breakdown of all costs -- immediate and long-term - to be completed before November 14. That was the date of the next school board meeting. Our goal was to have the question of adding additional lighting in the park put on the School Board's meeting agenda.

Mr. Koch completed his report on November 4th and hand delivered it to SHNA Board member, **Michele Cowell** and **Superintendent Lambert**. The SHNA Board emailed the 4-page report to the Superintendent and all School Board members on November 4th, 10 days prior to the November 14th School Board meeting. The question of additional lighting in the park was put on the agenda. At the November 14th school board meeting, the School Board referred it to Buildings and Grounds Committee members, **Greg Nester** and **Mary Kelly**. There was no discussion.

The neighborhood association will ask that it be put on the December 19th School Board Meeting agenda. We will continue to keep you updated.

SIGNAL HILL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL "Open House"

Thursday, December 1st 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Signal Hill Firehouse

At the request of the Signal Hill Neighborhood Association, Belleville City Engineer, Tim Gregowicz, and Geri Boyer from Kaskaskia Engineering, will be on hand to explain the trail design and answer questions from the public.

Why is this meeting important to you?

This is the only opportunity you will have to see the actual plans and have any input before construction begins next spring.

Why should you be asking questions?

On the *Illinois Safe Routes to Schools*' own website, it states a two-fold purpose of this trail:

1. To enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school
2. **To make bicycling and walking to school a safer alternative**, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.

On September 15, 2011, in a meeting Signal Hill Neighborhood Association Board members had with the engineers and the Superintendent of Signal Hill School, the following information was disclosed:

1. There will be a pedestrian crossing light (with a push button) at the entrance to the Country Club/Powder Mill neighborhood.
2. There will be flashing light near the curve on Foley Drive, warning drivers that a traffic light is ahead.
3. The trail will run from the entrance of the Country Club/Powder Mill neighborhood, along Foley Drive on the opposite side of the entrance to Country Club, and head toward Signal Hill School at the curve near Gerold Lane. The trail will be 10 feet from the edge of Foley Drive. There will be no barriers on Foley Drive between the children using the trail, and the cars. (This was not decided by the engineers - IDOT's rules will not allow a barrier.)
4. Lighting along the trail was not included in the grant application. There is no money for lighting.
5. Emergency call phones were not included in the grant application. There is no money for emergency call phones.
6. The design does not call for clearing the entire 100 ft. width of the right of way. Leaving overgrown brush along the sides could create blind spots.

If you have questions or comments about the trail, we urge you to come.

PUBLIC MEETING

A Chat With Law Enforcement

“Let’s Talk About Safety”

**Tuesday, December 13th
7:00 P.M.**

**Signal Hill School
Community Center**

Invitees:

St. Clair County Deputy, Lee Graham

St. Clair County State’s Attorney,
Brendan Kelly

St. Clair County State’s Attorneys
Juvenile Division

FROM LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT: TIPS FOR WALKING SAFELY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

It gets dark at 5:30 p.m. now. If you choose to walk, jog or run at night, wear reflective clothing or purchase reflective tape and put it on your clothing.

Find a partner to go with you.

Take a walking stick in case you run into an unfriendly dog.

Carry a cell phone in case you need help. If you see something suspicious, and there’s still enough light to take a picture, get it on film. Then call the authorities.

Carry pepper spray.

Take your dogs with you when you go for a walk.

**Be Smart • Stay Alert •
Report Suspicious Activity**

ON THE AGENDA ...

Centreville Township Tax Levy Hearing
Mon. Nov. 28, 2011 • 1:30 PM
More info: 874-1034
PUBLIC WELCOME

Signal Hill School Board Meeting Tax Levy
Park lighting
Mon. Dec. 19, 2011 • 6 PM
More info: 397-0325
PUBLIC WELCOME

Commonfields Sewer Board Pump on Creston
Finance Committee Meeting
Mon. Dec. 12, 2011 • 6 PM
More info: call 332-6620
PUBLIC WELCOME

SHNA Board Meeting Halloween 2012
Tues. Jan. 10, 2012 • 7PM
More Info: 409-4148
PUBLIC WELCOME

We’re going GREEN.

HAVE YOUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED TO YOU

In an effort to save both trees and money, the Neighborhood Association has begun to email the newsletter to area residents.

To get your newsletter emailed to you, send your email address to Board member, Barbara Stalker at bstalker06@hotmail.com



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

There are currently 153
“Friends”.

Type in **Signal Hill Neighborhood Association**. You’ll know you found us if you see the **Gatehouse**. For security reasons, you will have to ask to become a friend.



ANGELS AND VALENTINES

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

~ Dr. Seuss

A Special Thank You to. . .

... **STACEY and MARK HENKE**, the husband/wife team who have co-chaired the Scarecrow Jamboree since its inception...and made it a "new Signal Hill tradition" everyone looks forward to each year.

...Our Scarecrow Jamboree Lawnmower Race winners, **LOLLY FRILLMAN, 1st Place...JERELL DAWSON, 2nd Place...and SHANE CONZELMAN, 3rd Place.** Your lightning speed of 3 mph kept the crowd on their feet from start to finish. (And just a little heads up to Lolly...**SHERIFF SEAN WAGNER** said he'd be a' watching you next year...said that that 60 second 'jump start' you took ahead of the boys looked mighty suspicious to him!...and may have be illegal!)

...All the Chili Cook-Off participants and winners...**1st Place, the LANEY FAMILY, 2nd Place, the SCHMITZ FAMILY** ("Chicken Schmitz Chili"? Really?)...and **3rd Place, the RUSSELL FAMILY,** a surprise winner because this was their first year in the contest. Congratulations to you all!

...All 70+ entries in the Scarecrow Contest and **1st Place winner DANNY LANEY...2nd Place winner, the COOPER FAMILY...and 3rd place winner, the GEIGER FAMILY.** Really imaginative outfits this year!

...All the Scarecrow Jamboree volunteers who made the event so much fun and run so smoothly... **KERRI LANEY, LOLLY FRILLMAN, PEGGY BEAUPRE, FRED COLLIFLOWER, NANCY HOLM, BARBARA TAYLOR, JOE and CHRIS CIPFL, MARY and MARK BERTRAND, GLORIA TIALDO, PAULA RODRIGUEZ, SHARON RODRIGUEZ, JILL DALKE, GEORGIA ANN EDWARDS, DONNA WHITAKER, BARBARA and STEVE SUESS, MICHELE COWEL, ZABELLE VARTANIAN, MARIA and ASSHI SHARMA, LESLIE and TOM HANKLEY, TOM and SHAWN BIVER, BARBARA STALKER, CEIL HOLZMEIER, YVETTE and ROGER ELLIOT, EARL and MARGARET GUSS, PAUL and ALICIA SLOCOMB, MARK and KIT SCHMITZ and FAMILY, DEREK HENKE, DEVIN ALEXANDER and DONNY HOLM.** THANK YOU ALL!

...**PEGGY BEAUPRE,** one of our Traffic Control volunteers on Halloween night, for reuniting a frantic mother with her daughter, after 10 terrifying minutes of searching for each other. Three Cheers to Peggy! ! !

...**MARGARET and EARL GUSS, SHARON and JOE RODRIGUEZ, DOUG and SAM TEDFORD, HERB and DONNA WHITAKER, BARB DUCEY, MIKE MAXWELL, LEANDER BROCKMAN, JOE GEIGER, JACK HETTICK, and BRIAN TRISKA...**who worked tirelessly to direct traffic, keep the peace, find lost children, and control the madness on the streets of Signal Hill on Halloween night. It was indeed - 'Baptism by Fire'. However, each and every one of them kept their cool and did one heck of a job!

...the **ST. CLAIR COUNTY DEPUTIES** who patrolled the area and gave out candy to the kids on Halloween night...You were a really big hit, and kept the chaos to a minimum.

And last, but definitely not least...**DOUG TEDFORD** and son **SAM, BRIAN TRISKA,** and **JACK HEDDELL** and daughter **Annabelle** ...for planting 1,000 daffodil bulbs throughout the neighborhood. Can't wait till SPRING!!!!!! Thank you, ALL!

Annual Neighborhood Holiday Decorating Contest

“ Deck your house with holly and bright lights

Fa Sa Sa Sa Sa.. Sa Sa Sa Sa

*’Tis ’ the season to win **1st Place** braggin’ rights*

Fa Sa Sa Sa Sa.. Sa Sa Sa Sa “



Eligibility:

All houses within the Signal Hill Neighborhood Association Boundaries.

This includes...Signal Hill Proper...Belleville city streets – Carbon St., S. 95th St., Signal Park Lane, and Glenview Drive...the entire Briar Hill Area...and Mille, Martin, Frederick and Signal Hill Terrace.

Contest Categories:

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Houses

- **Most Traditional**
- **Most Whimsical** (examples: cartoon Characters, Frosty the Snowman, Santa’ Workshop, etc.)
- **Best Team Spirit** (examples: alma mater colors, sports team themes, pink for breast cancer, etc.)
- **Griswold Award** (in case you don’t get this one, rent the “Christmas Vacation” DVD starring Chevy Chase)

NEW THIS YEAR!

- **Best Decorated Front Door** (examples: wreath and Christmas lights, I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Clause, Christmas card collage, Snowmen Everywhere, An island Christmas, etc.)
- **Best Decorated Mailbox** (examples: turn it into a reindeer or snowman, use evergreens and bows, etc)

Judging:

- Homes will be judged Friday night, December 9th
- Trophies will be awarded and signs will be placed in the front yards of the winner of each category • Households can win in only one category per year.



A Sneak Preview of Holiday on the Boulevard
Sunday, December 11, 2011 • 4 to 8 pm



Enjoy Boy Scout Troop 520's Famous Chicken & Dumpling Dinner

- 4-7 PM • \$7 per person

Take a Horse Drawn Carriage Ride On Historic Signal Hill Boulevard

- Every half hour from 5-8 PM
- \$5 per person
- Make sure you secure your ride. Buy your ticket when you arrive.

Listen to the Musical Sounds of the Holidays at Signal Hill United Methodist Church

Performed by local Choirs

- 5:05 PM Althoff Catholic High School
- 5:35 PM Signal Hill Grade School
- 6:05 PM Signal Hill UMC & Bethany United Methodist Church Choirs

Be Utterly Delighted by Performers from "Take A Bow Showcase"

- a string quartet and period costumed carolers in the community center

Stop by, Chat with and Buy an item or two from our Specialty Vendors.

- ***All vendors are local non-profit organizations who spend 100% of their time and effort Giving Back to Our Community.***

Purchase Memorial Luminaries in memory of loved ones.

- See Family Hospice [insert for more details.](#)
- Luminaries are personalized and placed outside the Signal Hill UMC for all to see.

More Activities/Events

- Make and Take Crafts
- Children's Games
- Face Painting
- Visits and pictures with Santa
- Turner's Kettle Corn
- Holiday Food

*For more information: Contact Donna Dougherty, 398-6836 or
 Barb Ducey, 398-6435.*

See enclosed Flyer or call 277-1800 for information about Family Hospice Memorial Luminaries.



Holiday on the Boulevard



Giving Back to Our Community

Who benefits from the resources and support that is provided by charitable groups and not-for-profit organizations located in our community?

The homeless, the veteran, the disabled, the unemployed, the victims of domestic abuse, child abuse, sexual assault...even the beloved family pet.

Most of their funding comes from federal and state programs, grant programs, and donations from local businesses and local residents.

The national economic crisis has forced cutbacks in most of these programs, which means that many of the local charities are no longer receiving funds.

The United Way distributes donated funds to several of the health and human service agencies located in our community. However, not all of the charitable groups and local charities qualify to receive their donations.

This holiday season, The Signal Hill Neighborhood Association is inviting these charitable groups and not-for-profit organizations to join us and participate in our annual "Holiday on the Boulevard".

It is our way of giving back to the community, in hopes that these 'cylinders of excellence', who are truly committed to helping those in need, will be able to increase their visibility and bring awareness to the services they offer. We want to give them the opportunity to share their message, and raise funds for their group or organization.

They will have tables set up in the Community Center and they will keep 100% of the money or proceeds they receive.

When you come out for "***Holiday on the Boulevard,***" be sure to stop by their tables and find out what they're all about and what they do for their community.

None of us has gotten where we are solely by pulling ourselves up from our own bootstraps. We got here because somebody bent down and helped us.

~ Thurgood Marshall

Association dues are \$20.00 a year, which comes to \$1.70 a month. Dues are used to pay the monthly electric bill for the lights on the gates at Kingston Drive, the cutting of the grass at all the common areas, the expenses associated with the printing our newsletter, signage and flyers for neighborhood functions, our annual purchase of 1,000 daffodil bulbs, and support membership events such as the **Scarecrow Jamboree in October** and **Holiday on the Boulevard in December**.

Signal Hill Neighborhood Association

2012 Dues Form

2012 dues are due January 1, 2012. Please complete and return the form below with your check/money order payable to **Signal Hill Neighborhood Association**.

For questions about our association, contact:

President Brian Triska oct7brian@yahoo.com (618)397-8091

For questions about dues, contact:

Treasurer Angela Kammann alkammann@gmail.com (618) 394-1083

SHNA 2012 Dues --\$20 Payable Now

On the MEMO line on your check, please write the year your dues are to be applied.

Make you check payable to:

Signal Hill Neighborhood Association
c/o Treasurer Angela Kammann
28 Signal Hill Boulevard, Belleville, IL 62223
Email: alkammann@gmail.com

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address(es) _____

Phone(s) _____

Comments: _____

Please mark one.

_____ I want a hard copy of my newsletter hung on my mailbox.

_____ I will get my newsletter off the Neighborhood Website www.signalhillna.com

_____ I want my newsletter emailed to me.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2nd Tuesday of every month		SHNA Board Meeting 7 PM • Signal Hill Firehouse • Public Welcome
Week of Nov. 17 – 26		 <p><u>Centreville Township Hwy Dept. Leaf Vacuuming</u> Centreville Township streets only Call 332-1520 for more information</p>
Saturday, November 26, 2011		Help the 'Holiday Committee' decorate the outside of the school, church and entrance to the Boulevard 10:30 AM – MEET AT SCHOOL Questions? Call Brian Triska, 409-4148
 <p style="color: red;">Calling All Neighbors..... Let's Decorate!</p>		
Monday, November 28, 2011	Details on pg.4	Centreville Township Hearing on Tax Increase 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 1, 2011	Details on pg. 3	 <p style="text-align: center;">SIGNAL HILL "Safe Routes to School Trail" OPEN HOUSE 6:00 – 8:00 PM Signal Hill Firehouse</p>
Friday, December 9, 2011	Details on pg. 6	 <p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Decorating Contest Judging (after dark)</p>
Sunday, December 11, 2011	Details on pg. 7 & 8	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i><u>Holiday on the Boulevard</u></i> 4:00 – 8:00 PM Signal Hill Community Center Signal Hill United Methodist Church</p>
Tuesday, December 13, 2011	Details on pg. 4	<p><u>Public Safety Meeting</u> 7 PM Signal Hill School Community Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Clair County Deputy, Lee Graham • Brendan Kelly, State's Attorney • Juvenile Division, State's Attorneys Office
		
December 19, 2011	Details on pg. 4	Signal Hill School Board Meeting 6:00 PM School Library