

# SIGNALS FROM THE HILL

*Signal Hill Neighborhood Association*

Issue 6

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

June 2008

## SIGNAL HILL

A Great Place to Live

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From the Board of Directors...

## In Memory of our Friend Bob Havlin

**We value his many contributions to our  
neighborhood and his years of service**

**as a board member of**

**the Signal Hill Neighborhood**

**Association.**

**Our sincere sympathy to his family,**

**many of whom reside in the**

**Signal Hill area.**

**Bob will be missed.**



# ANGELS AND VALENTINES

## *A Final Thank You to One of Our Own...*

Dear Neighbors,

The Signal Hill Neighborhood Association lost a good friend since the publication of our last newsletter.

**Bob Havlin**, a longtime Signal Hill resident and the association's first "webmaster," passed away suddenly a few weeks ago. Whether formally introduced to Bob or not, nearly everyone in the neighborhood knew him or knew of him. Over the years he wore a multitude of hats – "husband," "father," "grandpa," "driver of the little red convertible" and even "keeper of the Christmas sleigh"—just to name a few.

To those of us on the neighborhood Board of Directors, Bob seemed a quiet, introspective family man. We thought he was just being a good neighbor when he up and volunteered to be on the Board. Turns out we really didn't know him well at all. Little did we know that there was "another Bob" lurking under that calm demeanor -- a "sweet-talking, persuasive, computer-whiz-kid Bob." He came to the first Board meeting with a thick binder under his arm and a serious expression on his face. By the end of the meeting he had convinced our computer-challenged group that it was time to bring the neighborhood association into the world of the internet...and he was the one going to make it happen.

God love him! He made us look so-o-o smart—so 21<sup>st</sup> century-ish! Within a few weeks, he created an email site so easy to use that even our computer illiterate group could figure it out. Within a few months, he got the neighborhood website up and running. Rave reviews from the neighbors came pouring in almost immediately. That didn't matter to Bob, though. He kept working on it, saying it could be better. The man was always the perfectionist!

Bob was a multi-faceted, multi-talented, MIT genius, -- but no one would ever have known that by meeting him. He didn't talk much. He was a listener. He thought about things. He always put things in "perspective." He was kind...very patient...respectful...and always the teacher. While he was building our website, he had to quickly surmise that I was the most computer illiterate of anyone on the Board. One time I asked a question, and I told him it was a dumb question as soon as I said it. I expected some wise-crack from the whiz kid in the chair next to me. Instead, Bob paused, grinned, and said, "Ducey, there is no such thing as a dumb question." If he hadn't won me over before, he sure did then.

Few people leave their mark on the world. Rest assured -- Bob Havlin did.

Respectfully yours,

Barb Ducey  
President, SHNA

# Signal Hill Neighborhood Association



## ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 29, 2008

3:00 pm

Signal Hill Firehouse



## Meet your neighbors

This is a great time to see old friends and make new ones.



## Board Members Needed.

Our annual meeting for nominations and election for the neighborhood association Board of Directors is Sunday, JUNE 29, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the Signal Hill Firehouse. This is a great way to volunteer and show your support to our neighborhood. If you would like to become a board member, please come to this meeting.



## This is your meeting.

This is YOUR MEETING. You have the floor. We want to hear from you. What do you like about the neighborhood and/or the association? What don't you like about the neighborhood and/or the association? What and/or how can the association do better? What is your vision for the future of Signal Hill? Do you have Time? Talent? Or Ideas? to give to the association? This is your meeting.



## Pick up dinner, too!

The Signal Hill Fire Volunteer Firefighters will be hosting their famous **Ribs & Raffle Day on June 29 from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** This is the neighborhood's opportunity to support the women and men who work tirelessly to protect our community. Due to high demand, you must place your order for ribs and side dishes in advance. Call 397-1995 to see if you can still place an order. Leave a message if no one is there to take your call.

### Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just content that your name is on a list?

Do you attend meetings, and mingle with the flock?

Or do you stay at home, to criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part, to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to only just belong?

Do you work with your committee, and get right in the mix?

Or leave the work to just a few, and talk about the “cliques?”

Think this over, member – you know right from wrong.

Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

*Community Service Begins at Home*

It's time for some new blood !



## ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our annual meeting for nominations and election for the neighborhood association Board of Directors is **Sunday, JUNE 29, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.** at the **Signal Hill Firehouse.**

Please consider throwing your hat into the ring this year.

This is a great way to volunteer and show your support to our neighborhood. **If you would like to become a board member, please come to this meeting.**

### **NOMINEES MUST BE**

a Signal Hill property owner  
at least 18 years of age  
a dues paying member

### **ABOUT THE BOARD**

2-year term limit  
monthly meetings (we strive for 1 hr)  
no traveling (not even to Dupo)  
no stipend (Figures, right? But aren't you volunteering?)  
never on a committee of one (we believe in sharing the fun)  
sense of humor suggested, but not required

### **MUST BE A DUES PAYING MEMBER TO VOTE.**

There will be someone there to collect dues before the meeting. Dues are \$20 for the year.

**AGENDA: Election, President's Annual Report, Treasurer's Report and Public Comments.**

## 7 BOARD MEMBERS STEPPING DOWN AS OF JUNE 29, 2008

THANK YOU, Carole Butler: Carole has been the treasurer of the association since 1985. Her reputation for being frugal is well deserved. By staying true to her "Don't mess with my money" policy, she managed to keep us afloat in even the leanest of years. We're in good financial shape today because of Carole's diligence.

THANK YOU, Lori Meyer: Lori was a newcomer to the neighborhood who jumped right in to lend a hand. Though her job frequently took her out of town, she was only an email away. No issue before the Board escaped her notice and she was diligent in responding to the questions and comments of other Board members. Her critical thinking skills will be missed. We hope her employer appreciates what a conscientious employee they have working for them.

THANK YOU, Rod Rodriguez: Rod stepped up to the plate when the neighborhood began hosting the Labor Day Bike Race. He did all the artwork entailed with that event. He was an absolute delight to work with, never got rattled and met every deadline. PLUS -- he made a mean pitcher of sangrias!

THANK YOU, Mariva Scherck: Mariva is one of the sharpest gals around. She wears more hats than Bob Havlin did. She gave a new perspective to the Board and was always available when we needed her. We will miss her smile and quite demeanor.

THANK YOU, Dr. Sierra: Greg was a man who got hold of an issue and wouldn't let it go until it was resolved. You could count on him revisiting issues, asking pointed questions, and giving lengthy opinions. We always knew where Greg stood on matters before the Board. He was a breath of fresh air.

THANK YOU, Barb Stalker: Barb moved to the area from New Jersey, bringing along a mountain of expertise regarding zoning issues. The Board quickly seized the moment, and asked her to chair the association zoning committee. She was kind enough to say yes, and took over a job no one else wanted. She was professional and fair to everyone who sought her out, residents as well as public officials. Barb is the best kind of neighbor. You need help. Ask Barb. You have a problem. Ask Barb. You just need a shoulder to cry on. See Barb. She's always there for you. Barb is the kind of neighbor we should all be.

THANK YOU, Steve Suess: aka Mr. Nice Guy. Steve came on board years ago. He was kind enough to take on the defunct Neighborhood Watch Program and got it up and running again. His positive attitude was infectious. If we ever needed volunteers, we'd call him because no one could say no to Steve. (This might have been because he taught half the adults in this neighborhood when they went to Signal Grade School, something we could never understand because he's so young.) His energy level has no limits. He will be sorely missed and so will the get-togethers at his home. We could always count on great hospitality and a big spread.

### VOLUNTEER TO BE A BOARD MEMBER AT SUNDAY'S ANNUAL MEETING

**As you can tell from reading the above, the neighborhood association board isn't only about work. We make a point to get to know each other. We respect each other's opinions. We come from all backgrounds. We're all ages, colors and religious beliefs. We're different, yet we're alike. We strive to become a cohesive group of neighbors, not with one opinion, but with one goal....to make Signal Hill a Great Place to Live.**



Merci

Gracias

Grazie



## **2008 DUES - PAYING MEMBERS (so far)**

### BLUFF DRIVE

Lisa Burger  
Jean Dixon  
Dr. Gregorio/Ana Marie Sierra  
Larry/Barbara Taylor  
David Toler and Virginia Cole

### BLUFF HILL ROAD

Rod/Tony Rodriguez

### BRIAR HILL ROAD

### CARBON STREET

James /Cecilia Holtzmeier  
Dennis/Gwyneth Thomas

### CIRCLE DRIVE

Clint/Barbara Pratt

### CONCORD

### CRESTON DR.

Milton/Kay Albert  
Ray/Betty Politsch  
David/Angela Walker

### SOUTH CRESTON

### DIVIDE

### EDGEWOOD DRIVE

### FOREST

Irv DeFrates  
David/Lisa Hollenbeck  
William/Jan Kratky  
Jim/Rose Pappas

### FREDERICK

### GLENVIEW

Bob/Sharon Cook  
Nancy Macklin

### HAZEL AVE.

Dan/Jackie Bainter  
Kevin/Yolanda Hileman  
Cory/Michele Hudson  
Robert/Rose Laux  
Brian Triska  
William/Lavern Will

### JULIA PLACE

Dennis/Margaret Beaupre  
Ed/Lynn Constance  
Brian/Renee Dietz  
Jim /Sharon Eisele  
Margie Jones  
Ann Laney  
Mariva Scherck  
Alicia Sierra  
Greg/Sarah Sierra  
Dick/Zabelle Vartanian



*Thanks to these wonderful neighbors, our 2008 dues' collection is off to a great start! Our goal is to see the name of every Signal Hill family on this page. Please return the enclosed form with your check now and let us add your family's name to the list of Signal Hill supporters.*

*“Together we can do more!”*

### KINGSTON DRIVE

Sam/Cindy Cerneka  
Mark/Lynn Foster  
Pat/Laura Kilroy  
Alan Sikorski / Ann Gillespie  
Steve/Barb Suess  
Mary Waller

### LAMASK

### LAWRENCE DR.

### LENEL

### LINDORF

Jim/Hildegard Bandy  
Lee/Della Paul

### MARTIN ST.

Lori Meyer

### MILDRED

### MILLE

Mark/Robbie Williams

### PERRY LANE

### RAVINE

### RIDGE LANE

Tom/Barb Ducey  
Doy/Jane Freeland  
Dana Meier  
Jim/Donna Shaw

Margot Uhrig

### RUTH

Carole Butler  
Delores Weiss

### SIGNAL HILL BLVD.

Scott/Nancy Alexander  
Mary Barger  
Tom Biver  
Leander/Patricia Brockman, Sr.  
Ken/Sally Castelli  
Charlie/Sandy Cullen  
Ed/Donna Dougherty  
Chris/Marilou Dugan  
Joe/Tamora Geiger  
Jack/Beverly Hunter  
Michael Kappel  
Rolland/Dot Keller  
Patrick/Kerry Laney  
Lee Mikesell  
Otto/Dana Roberts  
Tom/Debbie Owen  
Col. Mark/Katherine Schmitz  
PaulThompson / Joy Hembel  
Terry/MaryLou Tyrrell  
Alan/Donna Veile  
Peter Wehrly / Susan Meister

### SIGNAL HILL TERRACE

### SIGNAL PARK LANE

### SIGNAL POINT

Ted/Bertha Bryan  
Tom/Shannon Dibajg  
Georgia Ann Edwards  
Richard/Karen Engel  
Pat Kane

Craig/Barbara McKee  
Harold/Leona Morrison

### SOUTH 95<sup>th</sup> STREET

Kathy Burch  
Dean/Lisa Seales

### SUPERIOR

George/Dianne Dill, Sr.  
Charlotte Kroupa  
Bryan /Ida Mitchell  
Mervin/ Gertrude Wagner II

### SYLVANIA

Lori Eyre

### VALLEY

### WALNUT

### WEDGEWOOD LANE

### \*FRIENDS OF SHNA

Martha O'Malley, Belleville, IL



# WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO WHEN YOU PAY DUES?

## Great question.

First of all, the best thing you have going for you is our treasurer, **Carole Butler**. She treats your money like it was hers. For Carole to write a check on the association account, the Board must have (1) a really good reason why there is a need to spend your money and (2) be ready to show how we're getting "the biggest bang for your buck." Otherwise, the idea is toast! Carole has been our treasurer since-----well, she's the only treasurer we've ever had. Her motto always was, and still is:

**"You can mess with me, but you can't mess with my money."**

Right now we're able to pay for the bare essentials. Your dues are necessary for the upkeep, mowing, landscaping, and maintenance of the entrances into the neighborhood, the planting area at Kingston and Concord and the gates at Kingston Dr./Hwy 157. In addition we pay for the electric lights on the gates at Kingston and Hwy 157...for insurance for neighborhood events...for 500 paper copies of the newsletter and 500 doorknob bags every time we publish a newsletter...and any and all costs associated with the association website.

## Think of the possibilities, though, if every household paid dues...

There could be thousands of red tulips and yellow daffodils lining our roadways in the spring. We could beautify more common-areas in the neighborhood...build stone entrances at Mille and Foley Dr. and the Boulevard and Foley Dr. (mirroring the entrance at Signal Hill School) ...landscape the gate on Bluff Hill Rd...place park benches along our streets for our walkers to take a breather...start a Welcome Wagon Program...put on more special events...build walking and biking trails in and along our wooded areas...hire private security during the winter holiday season...build a neighborhood message board for better communication...earn the reputation of being the best neighborhood on the east side of the river and help you get the best price possible for your family home if you ever have to sell your house.

**Bottom line**...paying dues is a decision each family has to make. All the neighborhood association asks is that you give the question...and the answer... a little thought...with a simple reminder that

*"Together we can do more!"*

\*\*\*\*\*

Tear off this section and mail with your Signal Hill Neighborhood Association dues in the enclosed envelope.

**\$20**

**2008 DUES FORM**

**\$20**

Count me in as a MEMBER of the SIGNAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SHNA and mail to: Carole Butler, Treasurer/SHNA, 36 Ruth Place, Belleville, IL 62223.  
**( Do not send cash.)**

## **A LITTLE BIT OF THIS.....**

## **A LITTLE BIT OF THAT**

### HACKMANN ISLAND LOOKS GREAT!!!

The island in front of the Dollar Store at the intersection of West Main Street and Hwy 157 (affectionately known in the West End of Belleville as **Hackmann Island**) recently received a little tender loving care from some neighborhood residents.

The grassy island is on state owned property. Several years ago a West End group known as the West End Partnership asked the state if they could landscape and maintain this area because this was a major entrance into the city of Belleville.

What you see planted there today was accomplished through soliciting private donations and a lot of sweat equity from a number of adults as well as **students from Althoff HS, Blessed Sacrament Grade School, and Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School** in E. St. Louis. Earlier this spring, **Donna Dougherty, Sharon Eisele, Barbara Taylor, Larry Allen, Tony Rozdriguez, Becky Johnston** and her two sons, **Scott** and **David Johnston**, spent long hours over several weekends picking up trash, weeding and pruning.

Remember to take a gander the next time you drive past. And give these great people a big THANK YOU the next time you see them.

### NEW TREES FOR HACKMANN ISLAND

The storms over the last few winters have taken its toll on the trees on Hackmann Island. This past spring, it was determined that two of the trees needed to be replaced. Thanks to the generous donations from **St. Clair County West End Rotary** and past Signal Hill resident, **Rena Murphy**, 2 trees on Hackmann Island will be replaced in the fall.



### WARM WEATHER BRINGS US OUTSIDE ...

#### REMEMBER TO BE MINDFUL OF OTHERS

Tis' the season for walkers, joggers, bikers, skateboarders and mini-bikes. Stay alert! We don't want anyone hurt.

#### DRIVERS: SLOW DOWN.

Keep a sharp eye for little ones and nighttime walkers.

#### WALKERS/JOGGERS: IT'S ALL IN THE CLOTHING.

Wear reflective clothing if you choose to walk at night. We have dark streets and we don't want any accidents. Consider a construction vest. They're lightweight and inexpensive.

#### KIDS: BE SMART

Use your heads. THINK before you cross!

Don't run out in the street. And tell your parents or big sisters or brothers where you're headed.



#### REMEMBER YOUR PETS IN THE "DOG DAYS OF SUMMER"

We've been lucky so far. It's been pretty cool. But we know how hot it's going to get. Don't forget your four-legged family members if you leave for the day. If you leave them outside, remember to leave them with a big bowl of water and a cool place to sit. Dogs can get sun stroke, just like us. Never take your pet with you if there is any chance you have to leave them in a car. Cracking the windows for air won't keep them from getting overheated.

## A LITTLE BIT OF THIS.....

## A LITTLE BIT OF THAT



### From the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department

Fact: Living in a safe community is a direct result of an effective Neighborhood Watch Program and the diligence of the people living within that community.

Fact: Our neighborhood is safer than others because Signal Hill residents pride themselves in getting involved.

### **THE CURFEW LAW WILL BE ENFORCED**

*PARENTS: Keeping children safe and free from harm begins at home. For a safe, happy and trouble-free summer please keep track of your children. Talk to them about this curfew and tell them it will be enforced.*

Fact: The State of Illinois has a curfew law which restricts the comings and goings of children under the age of 17 during certain hours of the day.

It reads as follows:

#### Violation of Curfew, Chapter 720, Section 1(a)

**Any person, under the age of 17, unaccompanied by an adult, must NOT be on the street between 11:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. Sunday thru Thursday, and between 12:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. on Friday and Saturday. Violation of this curfew is a Petty Offense. The individual(s) will be taken into custody and driven to the Police Station and/or the County Jail. A Bond of \$75.00 must be posted**

If you see any kids under the age of 17 wandering around the neighborhood after curfew, please call the authorities. This is for their safety as well as yours. They will be taken into custody and their parents will be called.

- If the violation occurs in St. Clair County, call the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department.
- If the violation occurs within Belleville city limits, call the Belleville Police.

*It does take a village  
to raise a child.*

### **Top Mistakes That Make Homeowners Prime Targets for Burglars**

**Mistake #1: Leaving the burglar alarm off when you're running out for a few minutes.** A recent study found that a great majority of houses robbed had alarm systems – and more than half the time, the alarm was turned off. Burglars watch neighborhoods and they're ready to move when you leave. So do yourself a favor and set the alarm, even if you're just running out for 15 minutes.

**Mistake #2: Posting detailed alarm signs.** When you post a sign that identifies the alarm company, you've just given the burglar the information he needs to disable the alarm. All a burglar has to do is buy a diagram of how that particular system works.

Better. Buy a generic sign from a home-supply store that simply says "this house is protected by an alarm System."

**Mistake #3. Hiding valuables in a bedroom.** It's the first place burglars look. More than half the time a burglar spends in the house is spent in the bedroom, checking the usual hiding places—the underwear drawer...under the mattress...high closet shelves, etc.

Keep money or jewelry you rarely wear in a safe-deposit box. Hide other valuables in places where burglars don't think to look—in the garage, or above removable ceiling tiles. Or hide valuables in fake cans in your pantry made for this purpose. Most important – don't hide all your valuables in one place.

**Mistake #4. Getting a big dog.** A 100-pound Rottweiler or German Shepherd might look scary, but burglars know better. Most big breeds, unless they are trained as guard dogs, aren't barkers. What you want are "yappers," small dogs that make a lot of noise.

**Mistake #5. Having newspaper and mail delivery stopped when you go away.** You may trust your mail and newspaper carriers, but the fact is you don't know who else is getting the information. So keep your plans quiet. Have a trusted neighbor or close friend pick up your paper or mail. Ask them to drop by at different times of the day if they can.

**Mistake #6. Leaving the lights on.** A light that stays on all the time is no more of a deterrent than a dark house. Use timers that turn the lights on and off at different intervals in different parts of the house.



## Greetings from your friends at Signal Hill United Methodist Church !

May 2008

It has been almost a year since my family and I moved into the church parsonage at 2 Signal Hill Boulevard from our former home in Springfield, IL. My wife Susie Meister, our daughter Shana Wehrly, and our dog Malachi are glad to be in the neighborhood!

Signal Hill UMC has been part of your community since 1910. In that year, Carr Smith invited children in the neighborhood to Sunday school classes by writing in chalk on the sidewalks near the original Signal Hill School. Classes met under the trees around the school and in the building itself until the basement church across the street was built. Over the years, three additional buildings were completed – the sanctuary above the original basement church in 1926, the education wing in 1952, and the new sanctuary/fellowship hall in 1967. At our May 4 Heritage Sunday event, we celebrated our history and recommitted ourselves to ministry with our neighbors.

We hope you will take the time to learn more about the activities of Signal Hill UMC through our new web site, [www.signalhillumc.org](http://www.signalhillumc.org), which is updated every week. We also feature upcoming events on our outdoor sign at the corner of Signal Hill Place and Superior Street. Our next big event will be a “Teacher Appreciation Luncheon” for the teachers at Signal Hill School on Monday, August 18.

Our members and friends offer a heartfelt invitation to you to join us for worship, Sunday School, and church events for children, youth and adults. If you have any comments or questions about the church, please call me at 397-7780, or [pastorpeter@compu-type.net](mailto:pastorpeter@compu-type.net).

And, if you see Susie or me walking Malachi around the neighborhood, we hope you will say “Hello!” (Yes, Malachi is named for the last book of the Old Testament – he is our favorite canine “messenger of God.”)

Rev. Peter J. Wehrly  
Directing Pastor, Signal Hill UMC