

Friends of the



Hilltop

Spring 2008 Newsletter

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Our Mission:

The purpose of Friends of the Hilltop is to foster a sense of community, thereby encouraging reinvestment in the community, and ultimately in the reemergence of the Hilltop as a respected, powerful part of the great city of Columbus, Ohio.

Beautification Award Nominations Due July 4!

John Lowry, Beautification Committee Chair

Each year, Friends of the Hilltop celebrates our neighbors — both residential and commercial — who go above and beyond in the care of their landscapes.

This year, we will be hosting our **Twelfth Annual Beautification Awards Ceremony** on August 10.

Nominations for a beautification award will be accepted through July 4. Entry forms will be available at the Hilltop Bean Dinner. We will accept multiple nominations from the same nominator, and you can nominate your own property.

All nominees and nominators will be invited to attend the awards ceremony. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet with other gardening enthusiasts and to share

A Beautification Award nomination form is on page 3!

stories and tips. In addition to the formal recognition of every nominee, four special awards will be given in the following categories: commercial, best use of annuals, best use of perennials, and most improved.

The co-sponsors for the 2008 Beautification Awards are State Rep. Dan Stewart, Hennessy Landscaping, Spears Funeral Home, Schoedinger Hilltop Chapel, and Gearhart's Hardware. If you would like to be a co-sponsor, please contact John Lowry at 832-8481 or Gary L. Baker, II at 871-8963.

Volunteers Welcome!

Do you have ideas on how to make the Hilltop an even better place to live? Or maybe creative ideas for the planters or the park? Please volunteer to help with one of our committees.

For more information, call John Lowry at 614-832-8481 or Sue Laughlin at 614-278-9350 .

Friends of the Hilltop Mini-Calendar

June 28	Historic Hilltop Bean Dinner (10 a.m.-5 p.m., Westgate Park)
July	NO Board Meeting
July 4	Beautification Award Nominations Due
July 13	Westgate Park Planting (4 p.m., Friends of Westgate Park)
Aug. 10	Twelfth Annual Beautification Awards Ceremony
Aug. 14	Friends of the Hilltop Open Board Meeting (7 p.m., Hilltop Library)
Sept. 11	Friends of the Hilltop Open Board Meeting (7 p.m., Hilltop Library)
Sept. 14	Westgate Park Planting (4 p.m., Friends of Westgate Park)

The full 2008 calendar is available at www.FriendsOfTheHilltop.com.

Busy Spring for OHC

Sue Laughlin, Operation Hilltop Cleanup Chair

This spring, volunteers have collected over a ton of trash, collected bags of recyclables, cut down weeds and underbrush, and trimmed overgrown bushes and trees. We began the season April 12, with a joint project with the Beautification Committee to clean up the Hilltop Neighborhood Park, Lechner Avenue traffic calmers, and West Broad Street.

Two more cleanups followed: one at the Hilltop's eastern boundary and one at its western. In honor of Earth Day, 34 volunteers scoured the low-lying area of Glenwood Park on West Broad Street. Over 55 bags of trash and recyclables were collected, in

addition to tires and other large items. Assistant Director Mark Young of Columbus Recreation and Parks was on hand to tour the area and thank the volunteers for all their hard work.

On May 2, volunteers cleaned the railroad overpass area at Great Western Shopping Center. 37 bags of trash were collected. A crew from the Camp Chase Railroad helped, and one of CCR's managers inspected the bridge and discussed possible solutions to cleaning up this Hilltop eyesore.

If you would like to join in the fun, please e-mail Sue Laughlin at suelaughlin@sbcglobal.net or call at 353-7549.

Friends of Westgate Park Update

Lisa Grazier, Friends of the Hilltop Trustee

Friends of Westgate Park would like to thank Friends of the Hilltop for its partnership.

Friends of Westgate Park has been able to apply for and receive a grant from the City of Columbus with Friends of the Hilltop as its fiscal agent.

Both organizations complement each other as the quest for the beautification of the Hilltop continues.

Friends of Westgate Park had a successful cleanup on May 17 and

looks forward to a summer of fun-filled events that will be the beginning of a renaissance for Westgate Park!

For more information on how to be involved with Friends of Westgate Park, please e-mail Lisa Grazier at lmgrazier@yahoo.com

Become a part of your community with involvement in the beautification of your neighborhood (through Friends of the Hilltop) and your park (with Friends of Westgate Park).

You Are Invited!

The next meeting of Friends of the Hilltop is August 14 at 7 p.m. at the Hilltop Library (511 South Hague Avenue).

Friends meetings are open board meetings, meaning YOU are

invited and welcome to attend.

All current members can make motions, discuss motions, and vote on motions at the meetings, so you can fully participate if you choose.

Friends meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Hilltop Library. We do not meet in January, July and December.

Committee Beautifies the Hilltop

John Lowry, Beautification Committee Chair

Cleanups & Plantings

The Beautification Committee's first clean up of 2008 was held April 12. We cleaned up the Hilltop Neighborhood Park (2105 West Broad Street), as well as the traffic calmers on Lechner Avenue.

On May 17, we planted annuals at the Hilltop Neighborhood Park. We also planted 15 of the 17 planters along West Broad Street,

On May 31, annuals were planted in the remaining two planters. Also, weeds and trash were removed from the Lechner Avenue calmers, and topsoil and perennial ground covers were added.

Thank you to all the volunteers who were able to pick up trash, pull weeds, spread mulch and plant flowers!

Grant Awarded

Friends of the Hilltop has been awarded a \$1,000 matching grant from the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department for the continued maintenance and plantings of the Lechner Avenue calmers and the West Broad Street planters.

This money will allow us to add much needed topsoil and mulch to the Lechner Avenue calmers, as well as to plant more perennials in the two beds.

We will also use the money to add additional topsoil and plants to the West Broad Street planters.

Friends plans to supply our match to the grant through our many volunteer hours working on these two projects.

2008 Board of Trustees

- Gary L. Baker, II – President
- John D. Lowry – Vice President
- Judy Manley – Secretary
- Marilyn E. Zimmerman – Treasurer
- Lisa Grazier
- Sue Laughlin
- Barbara Lowry
- State Rep. Dan Stewart
- Andrea Stockel-Wills
- Danielle X. Weber
- Diane Wendel Baker

Committee Chairs:

- Beautification: John Lowry
- Operation Hilltop Cleanup: Sue Laughlin
- Nominating: Danielle X. Weber

Beautification Nomination Form

I would like to nominate the following property for a 2008 Beautification Award:

(Please provide as much information as possible)

Residential Property OR Commercial Property

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

My information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

You **can** nominate more than one property. You **can** nominate your own property. Copies of the nomination form WILL be accepted. **Nominations are due July 4.** Please mail this form to Friends of the Hilltop, Attention: Beautification Chair, Post Office Box 44435, Columbus, Ohio 43204, Hilltop, USA. Thank you!

President's Message

Gary L. Baker, II, President

The first half of 2008 has been incredibly productive for Friends of the Hilltop.

We have hosted five beautification events this year that have seen more than 60 volunteers collect more than a ton of refuse.

These volunteers have also planted hundreds of flowers. They worked in the cold, the heat and the rain. Their commitment and perseverance have inspired me during this season of service.

Members have also been generous financially. We received two anonymous \$1,000 gifts and a pledge of \$1,000 from a third anonymous member. Friends also received a \$1,000 grant from the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department through the leadership of City Council Member Priscilla Tyson.

We are gearing up for our annual beautification awards. The Beautification Committee is working hard to make this year's event special. If you would like to help with the Beautification Committee activities, please call Chair John Lowry at 832-8481. John has done a admirable job of leading beautification events.

If you would like to volunteer with Operation Hilltop Cleanup, please call Chair Sue Laughlin at 353-7549. Sue has been an incredible leader of this important project.

As we work with other Hilltop organizations, the City of Columbus and various other partners to bring about the Hilltop Renaissance, we are making a difference in our community.

Long live Hilltop, USA!

Membership Privileges

With your membership, you gain voting privileges at all Friends meetings, so you can have a say in Friends projects.

Are Your Dues Due?

Please check the mailing label on the envelope to see if it is time for you to renew your membership. To pay your dues, please complete the following form and return to Friends of the Hilltop:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Membership (check one):

- Individual, \$10
- Family, \$15
- Organization, \$15
- Company, \$25

Please make your check payable to Friends of the Hilltop and mail to Friends of the Hilltop, Attention: Memberships, Post Office Box 44435, Columbus, Ohio 43204, Hilltop, USA. *Thank you!*