

Pasadena Hills

Summer August 2019
CITY HALL NEWSLETTER

BETTER ALONE

We have lots of good news to report. We'll start with the looming threat that hung over our city - and our surrounding communities - over the past year. As many of you were aware, because it was newsworthy and very contentious, a new group called **Better Together** was attempting the latest effort to merge the city and the county into a single entity. Had this effort succeeded, we would have ceased to exist as an independent municipality. We would have become a suburb of the city of St. Louis.

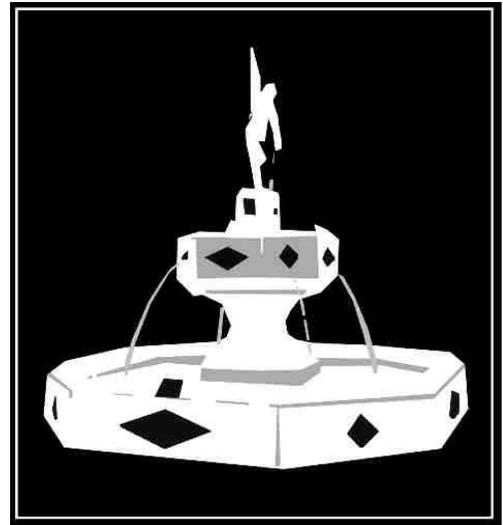
These efforts have failed in the past, so Better Together was attempting an end run around local voters. They petitioned the legislature to make it a state-wide ballot initiative - giving every far-flung Missouri voter the opportunity to decide our fate.

This attempt to circumvent the will and independence of regional voters, on an issue that concerned them alone, was met with a firestorm of resistance, and early this spring, Better Together folded. The failure of this effort represents a great victory for the independence and viability of small municipalities like ours, and a defeat for the invisible entities that would seek to benefit from our extinction.

ROCK THE FIREHOUSE

We're working on a great solution for the empty firehouse at Pasadena and Roland. The former Pond Committee saddled up again and is pursuing a joint **Municipal Parks Grant** with **Normandy** and the **Northwest Ambulance & Fire District** to raze the building and replace it with a commemorative park dedicated to first responders.

We received \$6,400 in Planning Grant funds for architectural concept design offered by the Municipal Park Grant Commission. We are very close to having the final design complete and will have it posted in City Hall for your viewing pleasure. We are now applying for the Construction Grant through the same entity.



CITY OF PASADENA HILLS

City Hall
3915 Roland Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121
314-382-4453

Elected Officials

Kevin Quinisk – Mayor
Cynthia McCarthy – Alderman Ward 1a
Alan Dickson – Alderman Ward 1b
Betty Moore – Alderman Ward 2a
Robin Titus – Alderman Ward 2b

City Administrator/City Clerk
Eye-Liza Conner, M.A.

Appointed Officials

Jim Schulte – Bldg. Commissioner
Ron Matthews – Street Commissioner
John Odell – Environmental Commissioner
Jeff Bennett – Director of Emergency
Management Operations

City Hall Hours

Tuesday – 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
and 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday – 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday – 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
and 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Shane Evans – Section I
Bobbi Jo Carman – Section 1
Herman Nebel- Section I

Allen Penkake– Section II
(2 positions open)

Chris Petty – Section III
Lynn Thien – Section III
Robin Titus, Treasurer – Section III

www.pasadenahills.com

Odd but true, Normandy owns the majority of the land the firehouse sits on. If fully funded, our combined total award could be \$370,000.00. While this is a substantial amount, the costs for this project are substantial as well. Therefore, we envision this will be a two- to three-year project, beginning with the purchase and demolition of the empty building, removal of the debris, grading and prepping of the ground. More details as we move forward. Of course, all of this is dependent upon this project being funded.

ADDITIONAL GRANT NEWS

The City is also in line for about \$20,000.00 from a **Community Development Block Grant** (CDBG), to add a pergola to the north deck at the pond - matching the south deck pergola - and for lattice-top coverings for both pergolas for better shade. Additional seating and another picnic table would also be added. The fountain/aerator is back in the water so please avail yourself of our beautifully restored pond area. Be aware, however, that the bridge between the decks is temporarily closed because of some buckling issues with some planks. We'll get this rectified as soon as possible.

The Commission for Historic Preservation (CHP) also has about \$100,000.00 in grant money to be distributed to historical groups and communities. We are exploring that funding source for the dedicated purpose of maintaining our historical beauty.

SUMMER SAFETY REMINDER

If it's summer, it's time for the usual recommendations to stay crime free. Recently, in broad daylight, a contractor's truck was stolen right out from under him. He left the truck running so he could listen to the radio while up on a ladder. Warm weather allows opportunistic petty thieves easier access to our cars, open garages or unlocked homes. Don't make it easy for them to ruin your week. Please call the non-emergency number - 636-529-8210 - to report suspicious activity and 911 to report a crime in progress or other emergencies.

Our Normandy police coverage is only as good as the information they have. The basics: Please don't leave your car or truck running unattended and never leave valuables in your cars, day or night. If your exterior security systems detect questionable activities, please share this information with the Normandy Police Dept.

GARDEN DELIGHTS

Jefferson school has received a grant from **Gateway Greening** to expand their garden plot, which is located on the north side of the school and visible from Ravinia. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to the benefits and joys of gardening. Volunteers are welcome. Just contact Emelia Belciak at ebelciak@normandysc.org

CITY ANNIVERSARY EVENT

The Events Committee is putting together an event to celebrate the city's 90th anniversary, to be held on Sept 8 from 2:00 till 6:00. We'll keep you apprised as this event takes shape as well as other activities, as they materialize by the efforts of other volunteers. If you would like to join

the events committee, contact city hall at cityhall@pasadenahills.com . It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and new volunteers are in demand!

PLEASE DO AND PLEASE DON'T

We've received more complaints about residents who don't pick up after their dogs. For your convenience, we've strategically placed six small trash containers around the city for you to deposit your poop bags. We work very hard to keep the city grounds beautiful and healthy. Refusing to clean up behind your dogs is disrespectful to our efforts.

Kids have been spotted in the pond. We love that the Roland Park Ravine is appreciated, but parents, please instruct your children to stay out of the pond. The water depth varies and the pond is not treated with bacteria- killing chemicals like pool water. We will be posting "NO SWIMMING" signs to discourage the temptation. Also, be aware that bridge is temporarily closed due to some maintenance issues.

DAVID HOFFMAN

As many of you know, David Hoffman has moved back to his hometown of Red Bud Illinois to be around his extended family. David has been the city's unofficial horticulturist for many years, and his efforts have added incalculable beauty and value to our city islands and pond area.

As one of the founding members of Flowers in the Hills garden club, he designed island beds that provide amazing blooms from early spring through fall. In addition to his community gardening, his yard on Woodland Way was nationally known for its vast hybrid day-lilies, always in its glory in late June.

David was also a Ward 2 alderman, a pond committee member and was active in putting together city-wide events. He was the consummate big-hearted volunteer who gave back to the community in immeasurable ways. We wish him the best in his new community and thank him for all he did in Pasadena Hills.

On the subject of volunteers, a big thanks to everyone in the **Pasadena Hills Garden Club**, **Flowers in the Hills** and individual city residents who plant, weed and water the public gardens, throughout the city and at the pond. With so many beds to maintain, it takes constant tending to keep things beautiful. Thanks a million!

Enjoy the second half of the summer and always be mindful of your neighbors during the hot and humid weeks ahead, especially the elderly.



This newsletter is written and edited by John Odell and Marjorie Pingel