



What is an SBD?

by Tom Bene

Many moons ago, when I was a student at the University of Missouri at Columbia, I had a business school professor who urged my class not to spend time attempting to devise a novel new idea, but rather, take someone else's idea and try to do it better. Under that light, I would like to lay out a potential new path forward for our St. Louis Hills neighborhood, and it is a path that mirrors what some of our surrounding communities have already undertaken.

If I haven't lost you yet, I am Tom Bené, and I have been serving as the Treasurer of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association (SLHNA) since 2020. As avid readers of this newsletter, you are probably well aware that the SLHNA takes lead roles in the neighborhood Holiday Party, the Easter Egg Hunt, Lawn and Garden Awards, and the House Tour. The SLHNA is also involved in the Gateway Cup, the Tree Lighting ceremony, Run for the Hills, and most recently it has become involved again with Art in the Park.

Additionally, due to changing needs of the neighborhood, SLHNA is committed to the upkeep of Francis Park, contributing over \$13,833 over the past 2 years to support supplemental grass cuts of Francis Park and has allocated \$10,000 to the AwareNet security project.

These new initiatives have been well received by the community; however, the long-term sustainability of future

contributions from the SLHNA may cause these initiatives to be reduced due to lack of funds. Currently, around 30% of the neighborhood pay membership dues. Unfortunately, inflation has also impacted our organization as operating costs for events and newsletters have increased substantially.

However, asking the same 30% of neighbors to contribute more in the form of membership dues increases to benefit the entire community does not seem fair, so looking a little farther south to the recent developments in the Holly Hills community, I think we may have an alternative that can also work in our community.

As you may be aware, the Holly Hills community recently voted for the adoption of a ballot initiative to form a Special Business District (SBD). Their decision was primarily driven out of a desire to ensure upkeep and safety around Carondelet Park, similar to the same concerns our residents have for Francis Park.

What is a Special Business District or SBD?

- Authorized by state statute, an SBD allows neighborhoods to enhance existing city services (security, cleanliness/beautification) through a stable, reliable source of funds generated by the entire community.

- SBDs allow neighborhoods to take on projects that the city

We've gone digital!

— by Chip Kastner —

It is with mixed emotions that I announce the transition of *St. Louis Hills News and Views* to an online format after 27 years.

We have had many conversations over the years about making this newsletter "self-sufficient" via ad revenue, but despite various tweaks, we were never able to make it work; we were on track to lose over \$10,000 in 2022 alone.

With our costs growing, membership rates below normal, and the neighborhood association taking on more ambitious responsibilities and projects, we have decided to transition this newsletter to an online-only format. I'm sure we'll be making more tweaks to this format as time goes on.

We will still be mailing every neighborhood resident a four-page mini-newsletter each winter, so please watch your mailboxes!

Please email newsletter@stlhills.com with any feedback.

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SBD (Cont'd from Page 1)

couldn't otherwise afford (public improvements, neighborhood marketing/communication).

- SBDs do not take away from tax revenue to the city, rather it allows a locally appointed board to prioritize and control decisions from segregated funds which can serve to accelerate projects needed for the community.

- All revenue generated in an SBD can only be spent only for the benefit of the district. An SBD gives our neighborhood enhanced rights as a protected legal entity to ensure fair cooperation from the City of St Louis in its allocation of resources.

- In order for it to go into effect, the SBD needs to be on a future election ballot and 51% of voters need to approve.

- An SBD is funded as a part of the real estate tax for each property.

What does a Special Business District Cost?

- Most SBDs are set at a rate between .15 and .85 per \$100 of "assessed" value of a property (not "appraised" value).

- Any SBD rate would be dependent upon the feedback from the community engagement process that would identify the needs of how the funds are to be used.

What are the next steps?

- There is a formal legal process that must be followed before this process can get on a ballot. Part of that process incorporates community involvement through meetings and discussions so all voices could be heard and goals of the SBD established.

- SLHNA is undertaking due diligence steps to research the process and to gauge community interest in proceeding further and we welcome your thoughts. Please send any feedback to newsletter@stlhills.com.

- Based on initial feedback, if the community is interested, SLHNA will most likely engage a professional third party community development corporation such as Park Central Development to help explore this option in preparation of a future ballot initiative and set up future community engagement events so we can be in full compliance with all steps needed to qualify for a future ballot.

We ask that you consider this as an insurance policy to ensure the upkeep of our community in light of declining city services.

In the past two years, we have seen great coordination with our other local community organizations: Friends of Francis Park and Grub n Groove as we all work together with similar goals for our community.

By removing these maintenance/security burdens that these organizations have recently picked up, it will allow for all of us to get back to our core organizational missions.

Thank you for consideration and thoughts, and we welcome all feedback as we evaluate whether to proceed on this endeavor.

Adventures from the Francis Park Lily Pond

by Kitty Quinn

The hawk was struggling to stay upright in one of the circles in the Lily Pond. A couple walking by noticed its distress and called the World Bird Sanctuary. The sanctuary sent a worker who rescued the bird and explained to the couple that they had picked up several birds recently who appeared to be suffering from either West Nile virus or heat exhaustion. Our hawk would be treated for West Nile as it was hard to tell which was the cause of its collapse. He gave the couple the case number and explained that they could call and check on the hawk.

That was just one of the many “adventures” that the Lily Pond volunteers have encountered while working at the pond. The Bo Derek Caper (as we like to call it) happened one afternoon as two volunteers came to fertilize the lilies. A young woman was fully immersed in the pond as her male companion perched on the edge taking pictures of her as she emerged. We were shocked that anyone would want to submerge in water meant only for plants, that has fertilizer, algicide bacteria, mold, etc. in it. Most volunteers are not thrilled with even just getting our feet wet.

The Darling Ducks Adventure has given us both joy and sorrow. Joy in how sweet and delightful the babies are, but as all babies do, they become ravenous teenagers and eat the lilies. Then there is the problem of feeding the ducks with human food which is harmful to the ducks, to say nothing of the problem of getting the bread, oatmeal, bird food, granola, etc. out of the pond.

The Goldfish Affair should have been a nice surprise. Each year, for the past several years, some eager soul has put a handful of goldfish into the pond. It's lovely to see those golden fish swimming around, but it is the kind of gift that keeps on giving. So, by the end of the season when we were ready to drain the pond, there were thousands of goldfish. It took the volunteers several days to rehome them so we didn't have dead fish or blocked drains.

Most recently, The Rain and Drain Incident caused a bit of a tragedy. After the Big Rain (9 inches), the pond overflowed. Someone, eager to help, pulled the drain pipe that keeps the water in the pond. Although there is a volunteer at the pond almost every day, we did not catch it in time to prevent the lilies from being damaged, some severely. Up until then the lilies were flourishing in the heat and humidity of our summer. Fortunately, they recovered thanks to the work of our volunteers.

The Pond as The Home of Lost Treasures: A few of the

objects volunteers have found in the pond have ranged from an office chair in one of the circles, to a landscaping roller (that was a bear to get out), to a razor blade, to bricks, tree limbs, broken bottles, and crabapples from neighboring yards. And always, mowed grass.

The Lily Pond didn't always have volunteers helping to keep it looking nice. When the pond was built by the Works Progress Administration between 1933-35, the City of St Louis maintained it. At some point, the pond was used as a wading pool but was closed and drained due to health concerns. When park upkeep became the responsibility of the neighborhood, the St Louis Hills Neighborhood Association put Rosemary Spittler in charge of volunteers.

In the late 1990s, Rosemary teamed up with Joe Summers, formerly from the Missouri Botanical Garden and now owner of Chalily Garden Center, to obtain lily plants for the pond circles. Joe helped with setting things up, and initially got lilies from the Botanical Garden for her. Initially the lilies were dug and stored at the Botanical Garden during the winter, but they didn't transfer well in most cases. When Joe opened Chalily, she bought lilies there. Rosemary was a skilled recruiter, calling people (on her landline, can you believe it) to help with many projects that the Association sponsored. No one refused Rosemary. The pond was her special project and an army of volunteers showed up on Saturdays from June until October. Rosemary always came with snacks and drinks and a step stool for getting into and out of the pond safely.

In 2002, Friends of Francis Park supplied funds from Art in the Park proceeds to employ artist Robin Murez to add interest to the pond. She created the sparkling mermaid named Francine (after David Francis), the gargoyle that used to have wings (who people mistake for a dog), the heart, and the stalagmites and the thrones on either side of the pond. The fish named Rosemary who spouts water 24/7 came later as a well-deserved tribute to Rosemary Spittler.

The statue of David R. Francis overlooks it all at the far south end. What he sees are neighbors invested in their community, volunteering on a daily basis to keep the pond looking pristine for the benefit of all the neighbors of St. Louis Hills. Thank you, David, for providing this beautiful piece of property for Francis Park and thanks to all the neighbors who volunteer in all parts of our beautiful park and to the members of the SLHNA who work tirelessly to keep the neighborhood a desirable place to live.

1904 World's Fair Society brings new exhibit

by Mike Truax and Nan Vordtriede

The 1904 World's Fair Society sends special thanks to Janice Starbuck (Art in the Park Chairperson), as the Society was invited to set up a display about the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. We were pleasantly surprised to do an early morning interview with Channel 2, garnering some nice PR for the event and this new exhibit.

Francis Park was a perfect location for the Society to share knowledge about the 1904 World's Fair. In 1916, David R. Francis donated land for the park to St. Louis, having previously served as St. Louis Mayor, Missouri Governor, and President of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company (the 1904 World's Fair). The park is named in his honor, and a 7-foot bronze statue of him now graces the center of Francis Park.

A glorious fall day resulted in an enormous crowd, and brought a steady stream of visitors to the 1904 World's Fair Society tent. Our volunteers helped ensure that our World's Fair flag flew high on our flagpole, and our displays were brimming with Fair handouts, memorabilia, and Society merchandise.

Large banners provided visual insight to major features of the Fair: the Ferris Wheel, Festival Hall, a large aerial view, and a

Left: The 1904 World's Fair Society tent at Art in the Park. Right: One of several exhibits of the society put on display during the event. Photos provided by Nan Vordtriede.



wide-angle panoramic photograph of the Fairgrounds.

Many visitors to the Art in the Park learned about the amazing Fair, and saw memorabilia from 1904. Our handouts were given to all visitors, providing them with amazing Fair details. Some purchased various merchandise items, including shirts, magazines, books, and even framed prints of the large World's Fair banners.

Over and over, the visitors had the same astounded reaction to learn that a World's Fair of such mammoth proportions had been held in Forest Park.

1904 World's Fair Society volunteers did a great job fielding a wide range of inquiries. Most ■ Cont'd on page 6

Interview of Ron "Johnny Rabbitt" Elz now online

by Rick Palank

The date is August 19, 1964. The location is Cow Palace in San Francisco. The Beatles are about to begin their very first concert in the United States. They are introduced to the sold-out crowd by St. Louis Hills resident Johnny Rabbitt.

Fast forward 58 years and Johnny Rabbitt (a.k.a. Ron Elz) is still going strong. Ron's career has been nothing short of amazing, which is why SLHNA wanted to interview him

on camera. Another reason is that Ron and his wife, Gwen, have been residents of St. Louis Hills for fifty years.

The interview is on the SLHNA website (www.stlhills.com), and includes Ron's involvement with celebrities (including George Harrison, Michael McDonald, and Tony Bennett), his many career highlights, and of course his video interview of Ted Drewes (which is also on the website).

Enjoy!

1904 (Cont'd from Page 5)

common were: “But why did they tear it down?” “How big was the Ferris Wheel?” or “Isn’t the axle buried in Forest Park?” Their frequent reaction to learning about the Fair’s remarkable achievements was music to volunteers’ ears: “Wow!”, and “That’s really cool!”

Another Society member taught people how to make cat’s cradle string configurations, which were popular in 1904. Coloring pages of Fair buildings were available for kids.

Also raising awareness for our Society was the half-page color ad in the official event booklet. Nan Vordtriede, the Society’s Director of Concessions & Admissions, donated funds to the Society for the ad in memory of her parents.

We had strong merchandise sales, gained new Society members, and provided visitors new knowledge about the 1904 World’s Fair.

Many St. Louisans have a few pieces of memorabilia from the 1904 Fair that they’ve acquired, and know “a bit” about the Fair. Others have a collection of items which helps them remember the Fair, that perhaps a family ancestor attended.

And several local people have become serious collectors of World’s Fair memorabilia. The myriad souvenirs produced for the Fair reflect 1904 culture, from china and glass souvenirs, to books, photos, and postcards. There also are some special, near-unique items of memorabilia that are highly sought after and treasured.

Through a 1904 World’s Fair Society meeting and attendance prize drawing, Nan Vordtriede won a private tour of St. Louis Hills resident Jerry Miller’s home. Jerry

is a serious collector of 1904 memorabilia items, owning approximately 3,000 individual items, plus books and postcards of the fair. He displays them magnificently in his home.

When you walk in his home, you feel as if you are traveling back in time!

Jerry grew up in Jefferson County and moved to St. Louis City in 1988. Interestingly, none of his ancestors attended the fair. What piqued his interest in 2008 was a carved ivory Meerschaum pipe from the World’s Fair made in Germany. Its carving depicts a pair of ivory horses.

When asked if he had a favorite item, he replied “I love them all! I want everything! Always looking for the next piece!” When pressed for that favorite item, he said a hat from a Jefferson Guard official at the fair was special to him because of its rarity. And, his micro-mosaic frames are also special because they were so intricate and beautiful.

When asked if there was a “holy grail” treasure from the Fair, he said, “no, because as soon as I get something I want the next thing.”

From the Howard Rossen collection, Jerry was able to obtain the original Jefferson glass lemonade set, which contains a blue glass pitcher and four glasses called “Iris with Meander.” A fleur-de-lis is in the design, and “1904 World’s Fair” is inscribed on each.

As Jerry’s collection has grown, he has also researched the history of the memorabilia. Jerry is a member of the 1904 World’s Fair Society.



A small selection of pieces from the collection of Jerry Miller, who has collected over 3,000 items from the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair. Photos provided by Nan Vordtriede.

Thank you from Friends of Francis Park!

by Judy Murphy, Treasurer, Friends of Francis Park

Friends of Francis Park (FOFP) is a charitable not-for-profit organization that was established to preserve, improve, support and promote Francis Park. FOFP works closely with the Neighborhood Association (SLHNA), Alderman Tom Oldenburg and the City Parks Department to accomplish these objectives.

We are funded by memberships; donations, including those restricted for the David R. Francis statue and other specific purposes; and Park events: Run for the Hills, Foot Golf, and effective in 2022, Art in the Park. Thank you to everyone who organized and/or volunteered at these events and everyone who attended and supported them in 2022—the events (and numbers of participants) were spectacular!

FOFP – working with SLHNA – organizes bi-annual park clean ups and coordinates the many volunteers who help maintain our park throughout the year. A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers who keep our park beautiful, with special thanks to our Park Needs coordinators: Tom Byrne, Joni Ott, John Burghoff, Gerry Murphy, Brad Arteaga and Mike Banahan and to our Coordinator of Volunteers and Tools, Nancy Vordtriede. We would also like to thank the individuals who clean out and beautify the Park's four corners, the center of the Park, the areas around the statue and the Frog and Caterpillar sculpture, and the Creek Bed: Jean and Robert Terry, Nina and Randy Liebler, Kim and David Leahy, Peggy and John Lee, Gerry Murphy, John Burghoff, Evelyn and Charlie Kuhn, Janet and Phil

Mannhard, and Janice Starbuck and Tom Scheifler. There is also the team that keeps our lily pond looking fabulous, which is led by Tyler Hicks and includes Cynthia Kluzak, Cindy and Adam Murphy, Dan Kelly, Eva Johnston, Diana Dougherty, Judith Doss, Justin Rahn, Kitty Quinn, Marcia Daab, Kim Leahy, Mary Dobbins, Nina Liebler, Tara and Steve Rick, Jane Wright, John Rempe, Andrew Rocco, Julie Krapf and Kris Arteaga. We are very grateful to all of our volunteers! (Apologies to anyone I missed – please let me know – I will make sure to include you in a future article.)

In addition to funding park clean-up costs, flowers, supplies, park equipment repairs, we employ summer help to water the trees, clean up tree branches, and perform general park maintenance. This year, we also helped finance grass cutting and tree clean up at the park, much of which was funded by a very generous \$25,000 donation for this purpose and a donation from Grub & Groove.

If you would like to get involved or support our efforts, there are multiple ways. First, we are always looking for volunteers – for our Park clean ups, for all of the events, and for general maintenance throughout the year. It is a great way to meet your neighbors while benefiting our Park. Second, we welcome your ideas related to needed park maintenance or improvements as well as suggestions for FOFP. Please reach out directly to a Board member or through our website. Third, if you would like to provide financial support, there are numerous options. You can

become a member of FOFP at levels ranging from \$25-\$100 per year. You can attend/sponsor/participate in the various Park events mentioned above. You can support the statue with the purchase of a brick for \$250 or \$1,000. You can also consider a bequest or planned gift to FOFP. All of these donations can be made via check or Paypal. Additionally, we have established a brokerage account to which investments, such as appreciated stock, can be donated. You can find more information related to all of these opportunities on our website, friendsoffrancispark.org.

We look forward to seeing you at Francis Park, and we thank you for all of your support!




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Another summer full of

Grub & Groove enters its second decade

by Rich Fisher

2022 kicked off the second decade of Grub & Groove in Francis Park in a major way. While each year seems to be bigger, this past year saw the event reach new heights.

This year's grub component featured returning favorites and several new additions to the "Food Row." It goes without saying that having the event named one of Sauce Magazine's "Foodie Things to Do" in August is a result of the participation of so many great restaurants. We want to thank all of the food vendors for keeping the lines moving as best they could given the crowd and serving up great eats. Here's to Adams Smokehouse, Boba Bl'tch, Ices Plain & Fancy, Mission Taco Joint, Steve's Hot Dogs, Mama 2's Biscuits, Grace Chicken & Fish, Tapped, Edibles & Essentials, Pretzel Boys, and Pete's Pops.

For a number of our team members, The Urge was a key part of the soundtrack to their formative years. Having Steve Ewing on the Grub & Groove stage was years in the making and a true #STL highlight. And if we could have found a way to bottle up the energy of the Guilty Pleasures, we'd be set for life! Thanks to all who played The Kittner Group Stage in 2022 including Riley Holtz and the Lost Cause, Dave Brickey and the 40 Pass, The Screeching Halts, Steve Ewing Band, and Guilty Pleasures.

You were one of the lucky ones if you managed to get your hands on one of the limited light-up volleyballs from Azar Orthodontics. As a returning sponsor, we thank them for their continued support of the Kids  [Cont'd on page 10](#)



Tour de Francis Park brings racers from 14 countries

by Brad Arteaga

Another year, another fabulous bike race goes down in history. The amazing Mike Weiss of Big Shark Bicycle Company has this down to a science. Riders came from 14 different countries to race in the 2022 Gateway Cup. Once again, St. Louis Hills was a spotlight neighborhood hosting one of four bike races over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

The riders really enjoyed Tour de Francis park as they are faced with challenges of an incline and a speedy decline. What makes it more difficult is that once again St. Louis Hills was hit with plummeting rain. It becomes a nail biting experience as the riders make each turn, careful to avoid clashing with other riders and the pavement.

However, the rain didn't stop the race nor did it hinder  [Cont'd on page 10](#)

Car show returns to Art in the Park with 23 vehicles

by Brad Arteaga

Excellent weather, perfect temperature and impeccable cars! Car owners couldn't ask for a better day to bring their cherished vehicles to the car show at Art in the Park. It's always amazing to see what folks in the neighborhood are stowing away in their garage. This year we had a total of 23 unique cars. There was a wide variety of years, makes and models.

A big thank you to Nick Zervos for his help during the car show as well as the '55 Chevy that won this year's People's Choice Award. Also, thank you to the Naeger family of insurance who sponsor the car show every year without fail. We truly appreciate your support.

If you're interested in showcasing your jewel next year, please get in touch with the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association who will pass on your contact information.



fun around Francis Park



Run for the Hills attracts 1,000 runners

by Wayne Myrick

Thank you to all of our runners, walkers, volunteers and neighborhood supporters who made the 2022 Run for the Hills another tremendous success. The Hills were alive with the sound of music as the runners turned the corner at Tamm and Nottingham with the Rocky theme song blaring from the park.

What's so great about the Run for the Hills?

The Park. In 31 years, the Run for the Hills has raised approximately \$600,000 for Francis Park. The Run was the first Francis Park fundraiser to ensure we maintain the vibrancy and beauty of the park. Since then we have been joined by our other SLHNA and FOFP events with a grand vision for our 106-year old gift from David Francis.

The Atmosphere. In one morning,

 Cont'd on page 11



Clockwise from upper left: Now in its second decade, Grub & Groove brought live music and delicious food to Francis Park, raising over \$15,000 for the park. Photo provided by Ella Reimer.

- Over 1,000 people participated in the 31st annual Run for the Hills. Photo provided by Wayne Myrick.

- Participants in Run for the Hills took home a shirt listing the race's sponsors. Photo provided by Wayne Myrick.

- A large crowd gathered for the first Art in the Park since 2019. Photo provided by Janice Starbuck.

- Participants compete in one of multiple races in Tour de Francis Park. Photo provided by Brad Arteaga.

Art in the Park returns after hiatus

by Janice Starbuck

Art in the Park returned from its Covid hiatus in great style on September 25.

We were so incredibly lucky this year that it made me think we had "a perfect storm" of good events. The weather was sunny but not hot. The music was festive but not loud. The crowd was happy to return to a beloved event. It was a perfect environment for shopping, eating, drinking and socializing.

Our new emcee, Andy Baker, joined the Art in the Park team this year. A true fan of St. Louis Hills, Andy gave a polished and professional performance and it is hoped he will play this role for many years to come. Also, thanks  Cont'd on page 10



Grub & Groove (Cont'd from Page 8)

Zone. Our adult drink program continued to expand with more options than ever thanks to the support of 4 Hands Brewing Co., Rockwell Beer Co., and 1220 Spirits. Our ON TAP Draft Hall and Lily Pad Lounge continued to be the place to gather and enjoy the event. And of course, this year's 4 Hands Brewing Co. Fireworks Finale was a fitting end to another fantastic Grub & Groove!

We'd like to thank all of our sponsors for continuing to support one of St. Louis' longest running festivals. This year saw a record number of local businesses participating. It is the support of the local businesses that helps keep the event free to attend while allowing for investments in signage, amenities, and musicians.

However, all of this would have been for naught had the neighborhood and St. Louis not shown up like they did! Our gratitude goes out to everyone in St. Louis Hills who continues to support the event whether that be through volunteering, attending, inviting friends, or helping the event grow.

Because of this overwhelming support from the attendees and sponsors, Grub & Groove will be re-investing nearly \$15,000 into the park through additional landscape maintenance and playground improvements! Look for announcements on additional investments and projects on our Facebook page.

Tour de Francis Park (Cont'd from Page 8)

bike enthusiasts' thirst for an ice cold brew. The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association was able to sell beer at this year's event and split the proceeds with Big Shark. Beer sales generated a little under \$3,000 for the neighborhood.

I would be remiss if I didn't extend a big thank you to Mike Weiss and his many hardworking volunteers. Also, thank you to Wayne and Kathy Myrick, Mike and GERALYN Banahan, Tom Byrne, Dominic Arteaga and the many beer booth volunteers making it possible to generate money for our neighborhood.

As they say, it takes a village.

...until next year (hopefully minus the rain)!



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Art in the Park (Cont'd from Page 9)

to another Hills resident, Paddy McPhillips Jacobsmeyer, we were fortunate to have KTVI, channel 2, use Art in the Park as the backdrop for their Sunday morning remote spots.

Friends of Francis Park did a fantastic job with the drink service, which is a huge job, and it was all new to them. We thank FoFP for all they did to keep the libations flowing.

The artists provided effusive feedback saying sales were great. In fact, some had to return home during the day to get more art. That could not make us happier. All the food vendors had lines of waiting customers every time I walked by (which was frequently!). The sponsor and non-profit booths were busy as well. Our billboard sponsor, Aletto Construction Group, gave away 330 birdhouses to children before 3:30pm, when they ran out.

I have to say it again and again, thank you to our volunteers. Recruiting volunteers this year was very difficult, making more work for those who stepped up. I appreciate everyone's "can do" attitude that helped make this a very special and successful day.

If anyone is interested in joining the planning committee, please drop me a line at janice.starbuck@artintheparkstl.com.

Help is needed in social media, marketing, logistics, graphic design, accounting... If you have skill or desire, I will find a use for it!



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Duck and cover?

by Ron "Johnny Rabbitt" Elz, KMOX Radio

After WWII came to a screeching halt following the A-Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the collective world breathed a sigh of relief in the belief that the atomic bomb, which was exclusively in the U.S.A. arsenal, would keep the free world safe. To help ensure this, our country developed the thermonuclear weapon called the hydrogen bomb and tested the first H-Bomb in 1952. But the Soviet Union, which had been one of our allies in the war, had other ideas and they too came up with A and H bombs. And since that country had turned against us, the Cold War was underway.

In November 1957, a study called The Gaither Report alerted President Dwight D. Eisenhower with a worst-case scenario about the potential threat of nuclear war with the U.S.S.R. and if this "unthinkable" concept occurred what could be done to protect the civil population.

The conclusion was that passive defenses such as Fallout Shelters and air raid sirens might be utilized even though the study stated such things would likely be borderline effective at best, but psychologically they would create the appearance of protection to the public. Plus, literature would be freely distributed to the populace on how to (hopefully) live after a nuclear attack.

By 1958, people across America and here in St. Louis Hills were taking heed and at least considering making their own private shelter for fear if the bomb did come they wouldn't want to leave their home, or the government-supported shelters might be too far to get to or be too crowded. Such shelters, complete with government supplies, were few and far between in our general neighborhood. Some locations included St. Gabriel's school, Bishop

 Cont'd on page 12

Run for the Hills (Cont'd from Page 9)

the neighborhood is filled with 1,000 smiling happy faces, friends and family encouraging one another to be their best, kids who are beaming with pride and sense of accomplishment as they complete their first one mile or 5k race, and runners pushing and competing against themselves to prove they are able to grow in their fitness regardless of their age. There is no shortage of energy and positivity on the morning of the Run for the Hills.

The t-shirts. If you don't have a Run t-shirt, what do you have to wear to work out or wear to Rockwell or Target or the tennis/pickleball courts? This year's shirt, designed by Cathy Myrick, is a very outdoorsy design perfect for trail running and hiking and showing our StL Hills spirit.

My favorite topic-food. Let me know if you are aware of any 5k's in which you can treat yourself to frozen custard from Ted Drewes, bagels from St. Louis Bread Company, and pretzels from Pretzel Boy? The Run for the Hills is a 5k race with Marathon food!

The people. I can tell you that the magic in the Run is the people who serve. Special thanks and recognition to Cathy Myrick, Sarah Seger, Nancy Vordtriede, Lynn Wolf, Judy Murphy, John Burghoff, Mary Kate Mullen, Matt Sallaberry, Mike Banahan, Erin Murphy, Alex Curtin, Anne Gliedt, Sarah Henderson, John Fuchs, Jack Riegel and the 100 other volunteers who keep making this event successful and safe year after year.

Our sponsors. 25 companies, groups and families support us as \$500 Run sponsors! We are so thankful for how they show up every year to support our park and neighborhood!

Our next Run for the Hills will be September 16, 2023 so you have plenty of time to train. Contact me (waymyrick3@yahoo.com) to volunteer or to share any ideas to make the Run for the Hills better.

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Don't make yourself a target for carjackers

by Pat Talley, Crime and Safety Education

The term Carjacking was first coined in 1991 by a Detroit newspaper after a high-profile carjacking in which a woman was killed. Carjacking is not defined in most criminal codes as a separate crime and so statistics on carjacking are not readily available. However, there's plenty of information on the internet and from police departments nationwide on how to avoid becoming a victim. Carjackers use fear, intimidation and physical violence to steal vehicles from the drivers. Police departments all over the nation advise not to resist.

What are the opportunities carjackers are looking for?

- Intersections controlled by stop lights or signs.
- Garages and parking lots for mass transit, shopping malls, and grocery stores.
- Self-serve gas stations and car washes.
- ATMs
- Residential driveways and streets as people get into and out of cars.
- Highway exit and entry ramps, or anyplace else where drivers slow down or stop.

Here are steps recommended by law enforcement agencies to avoid this type of confrontation:

- Have your phone with you and fully charged;
- Always be aware of your surroundings – look around before you exit the vehicle;
- Park in well-lit areas and as close to a parking attendant, entrance door or sidewalk as possible. Never park near a dumpster, large truck or van, woods or anything that

restricts visibility;

- Keep your car doors locked at all times;
- Walk with purpose in going to your vehicle;
- Don't sit in your vehicle with doors unlocked and windows down. It's best not to spend any time in a parked car, especially at night;
- Don't stop at isolated ATMs;
- Travel in the center lane when possible to make it more difficult for carjackers to approach the vehicle;
- At stops leave enough room to maneuver your vehicle away from trouble.
- Don't stop to assist stranded drivers – make a 911 call instead.

If threatened by a carjacker, give up the vehicle and get away from the area as quickly as possible. Report the incident to the police.

St. Louis Hills is no stranger to this crime as there have recently been carjackings and attempted carjackings in our neighborhood. This crime is not isolated to the City and these precautions should be used no matter where you are.

Due to new committee formation and recent retirements, the SLHNA is in need of a Senior Liaison, a Young Professionals Liaison, a Welcome Committee Chair and a Holiday Party Chair. You must be a member of the SLHNA to participate as Chair.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Nan Vordtriede at president@stlhills.com.

Fallout Shelters (Cont'd from Page 11)

DuBourg, Buder school, and the Christian Science church at 5807 Murdoch. Such shelters were created as part of the U. S. Community Fallout Shelter Program.

Individuals were creating their own safety places in basements using concrete blocks and other materials as outlined in Civil Defense Administration materials. Interest in shelters increased in 1961 with the Cuban Missile Crisis and at the urging of President John F. Kennedy. It was advised that keeping 'personal' fallout shelters secret was a good idea, so private St. Louis Hills shelter locations were hush-hush. I know of two but the owners want them to stay secret, especially since there's now a renewed fear that Russia might employ nuclear

weapons in its bid to take over Ukraine—and to teach us a lesson.

If having a fallout shelter is something you'd consider, contact Ready.gov, the United States Department of Homeland Security's disaster preparedness website.

Part of a 1961 magazine ad read: "You might consider a patio-style bomb fallout shelter cover made of strong concrete with steel reinforcing. It protects your family and adds patio space. Only \$179.00 delivered for the 8' X 8' model from Consolidated Research & Development Corporation." Their slogan was "40 Million May Die, How About You?"

St. Louis Hills
News and Views



Publication of the
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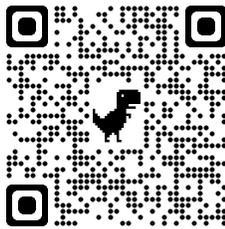
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To view all past newsletters, and
for information on upcoming events,
visit www.stlhills.com.

Visit the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association
on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stlhills

Let's get into the habit every night
at 9 p.m. Make sure to always
lock car doors, roll up windows,
lock your house and secure your
valuables...



St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association Membership
dues help support Francis Park cleanups and mowing,
neighborhood safety initiatives, our annual scholarship,
and events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas
Tree Lighting.

Never forget to renew your membership again by visiting
stlhills.com/membership-benefits/slhna-membership/
and choosing a recurring membership... or scan the QR
code to the left with your phone's camera.

Important Neighborhood Contact Information

**St. Louis Police (SLMPD) Non-Emergency
Number:** 314-231-1212

Commander, 2nd District SLMPD:
Captain Mike Mueller, 314-444-0100

Police Officer Liaison, 2nd District SLMPD:
Officer Gus Karagiannis, 314-444-0161
gkaragiannis@slmpd.org

Community Outreach/Business Liaison:
Don Veile, 314-444-0168, dlveile@slmpd.org

Problem Properties Officers:
Anna Biondolillo, ambiondolillo@slmpd.org
Dave Krapf, dekrapf@slmpd.org

Crimestoppers: 866-371-TIPS

City Fraud Hotline: 314-641-8600

Citizens Service Bureau: 314-622-4800

Refuse Division: 314-353-8900

Neighborhood Improvement Specialist, Ward 16:

Bernie Powderly, 314-657-1356
PowderlyB@stlouis-mo.gov

**President, St. Louis Hills Neighborhood
Association (SLHNA):**
Nancy (Nan) Vordtriede, 314-616-6468
president@stlhills.com

SLHNA Website: www.stlhills.com

SLHNA Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
stlhills/](https://www.facebook.com/stlhills/)

SLHNA Membership: membership@stlhills.com

16th Ward Alderman:

Tom Oldenburg, 314-896-0204
oldenburgt@stlouis-mo.gov

82nd State Representative:

Donna Baringer, 573-751-4220
Donna.Baringer@house.mo.gov

Upcoming Events

November 27: Christmas Tree Lighting @ Francis Park

December 9, 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.: Holiday Party @ Christy Banquet Center

December 17, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.: Live Nativity Scene @ Ascension Lutheran

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