

Security, by the neighborhood, for the neighborhood

by Tom Scheifler

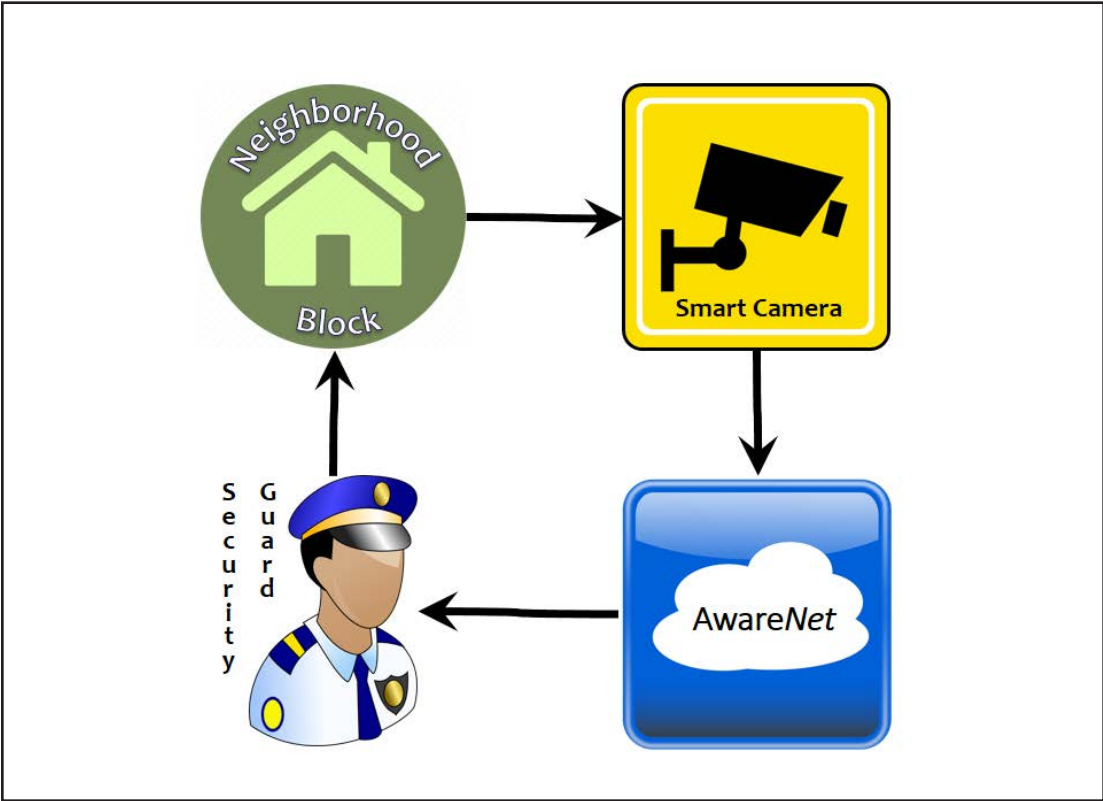
Last year, my article in the fall edition of SLH News and Views recounted the events that led to the formation of the Safety Committee for the SLHNA and the start of a project (AwareNet) to deter property crime in our neighborhood. The AwareNet project will combine smart cameras with a private security patrol to immediately and consistently respond to suspicious/criminal activity.

As expected, thieves were less active during the winter. And while the small number of test cameras (ten) did record some suspicious and criminal activity from November 2021 to February 2022, our goal was to confirm the cameras work well during the winter months (which they did). In late February, we completed a survey of SLH residents to gauge the level of interest in supporting the project, long-term, with voluntary contributions to pay for patrolling of our neighborhood by a private security

guard each night from 10pm to 6am. 91% of the 125 people who voted in the survey indicated they would support the security patrol for the AwareNet project with at least \$5 per month. And 78% of respondents indicated they would support the effort with \$10 or more each month. Based on the survey results, our neighborhood seems to have broad support for the project and we should have enough contributions from residents to cover the cost of the private security guard.

Understandably, some residents are hesitant to support the project because they want the City to “do their job” and increase the police patrols. Unfortunately, the police have been understaffed for many years and that isn’t going to improve anytime soon. It is already clear from the many reports in March, the police do not have the resources to deter the thieves from coming back night after night to take whatever they can.

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AwareNet (Cont'd from Page 1)

support for voluntary funding by neighborhood residents confirmed, the SLHNA Board voted, at the end of February, to support a large-scale test of the project. The large-scale test will require an AwareNet-compatible camera on at least 50 blocks in St Louis Hills (we have approximately 200 blocks). When we have reached the goal of 50 blocks with at least one camera, the SLHNA will fund the cost of a 4 week test of AwareNet with an on-duty private security guard patrolling each night from 10pm to 6am. The goal of the 4 week test is to prove:

1. The security guard can immediately and consistently respond to AwareNet alerts.
2. The security guard can successfully and consistently disrupt thieves from continuing their activity in our neighborhood.
3. The frequency and severity of criminal activity justifies the cost.

The results will be made available to the SLHNA Board and SLH residents to review and determine next steps (hopefully continuing the project with every block buying a camera and voluntary donations of approximately \$10 per month by a majority of households to pay for the private security guard long-term).

This project depends on our residents buying and installing a camera for their block. After two weeks (as of March 30th), we have 9 blocks with cameras and another 21 blocks in progress. So, we need 20 more blocks to participate. A camera for the project is typically \$150 or less. It can be a single household that buys a camera or multiple households can share the cost. But one household needs to provide an outdoor electric outlet for power and a WiFi connection to their internet service. To learn more, visit www.awarenet.us or contact me. I'm glad to stop by your house for a one-on-one chat and give you a short demonstration with a sample camera.

Take action now to support this project! Please, don't wait and expect others to participate. One camera on a block is good. Two or three is great. If we work together as a neighborhood, this project can be a success.



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In memory of Greg Haupt, “printing mad-man”

by Chip Kastner

When I moved to St. Louis Hills seven years ago, I didn't think much of the unassuming print shop at the end of my block. But when I started editing this newsletter in 2018 and was trying to figure out how we actually get this thing laid out and printed, I was told some variant of “Send it to Greg, he'll take care of it.”

Greg Haupt owned and managed The Done Dept at Hampton and Walsh and was a longtime supporter of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association, printing this newsletter, our annual membership cards and pretty much everything else we've needed.

Despite the commitments associated with owning a print shop and raising a family, for many years he did the layout of this newsletter in his spare time, completely free of charge. If you comb through our archives online, you can pretty easily pinpoint the issue where I took over the layout: Pretty much every headline started looking the same, the colorful boxes and whimsical clip art disappeared, and the page layouts devolved into the same two or three basic formats.

Tragically, in March 2020 Greg was diagnosed with metastatic colorectal cancer that had spread to his liver and lungs. This coincided with the outbreak of COVID-19, which disrupted everyday life, children's school routines, work, and took away precious time with family and friends.

Despite undergoing chemotherapy and a trial of experimental gene therapy through the Siteman Cancer Center, Greg passed away on April 5. He is survived by his wife Megan and their three young children.

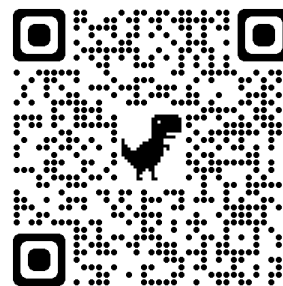
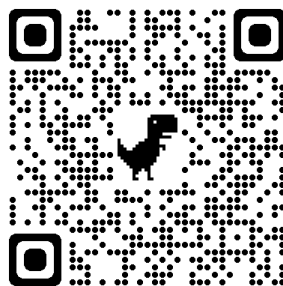
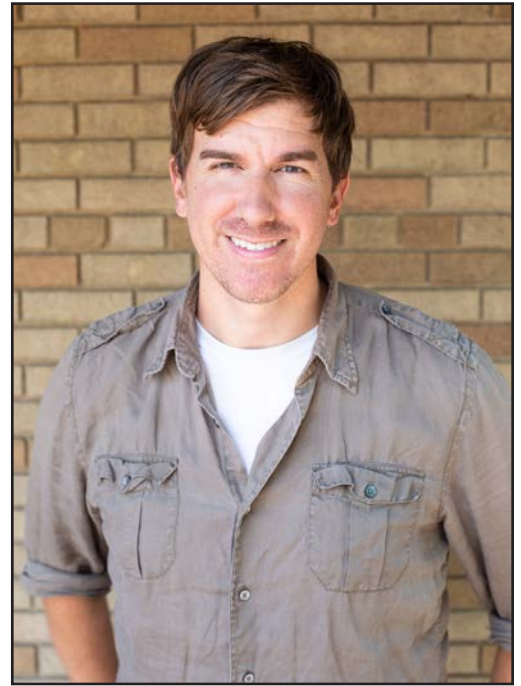
Greg was also a photographer, videographer and musician who

spent several years as a member of the popular local band Story of the Year.

Six months after his diagnosis, Greg created a beautiful song and video for his children which can be seen at <https://youtu.be/v0D-xTg6CPQ>. You can view some of Greg's other personal works at <https://greghaupt.com>.

A fundraiser for Greg's family can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/team-gregan>.

The Done Dept's parent company, Rotolite of St. Louis, has been owned by the Haupt family since 1959. For memorial details, you may reach out to his family via the shop.



Top: Greg Haupt, who owned and managed The Done Dept, passed away on April 5. Middle: The Done Dept at Hampton and Walsh has served south city since 2005; its parent company, Rotolite of St. Louis, has been owned by the Haupt family since 1959. Photos provided by Cat McMillan. Bottom left: Scan this QR code with your phone to view the song Greg wrote for his children. Bottom middle: This QR code can be used to visit Greg's personal website containing some of his other work. Bottom right: This QR code can be used to visit a fundraiser for Greg's family.

Sometimes you never know the value of a moment

by Nancy Vordtriede, President, St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association



Welcome 2022 and my second term as president of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association. I am humbled, delighted, and excited to continue to serve the residents of such a dedicated, beautiful, and wonderful neighborhood. A neighborhood I have lived in for 60 years.

As I continue to share in my writings, I am especially “humbled” as this ship does not run smoothly without our board, committee chairs, committees, 501(c) partnerships, and YOU the residents participating as members and volunteers!

Become a member of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association. A way to continue to keep our community strong and be knowledgeable in the happenings. This newsletter contains a new envelope for membership dues. Thank you to Tom Bene’ our Treasurer for this spectacular idea and working with our Membership Data Chair, Janice Starbuck, to tweak the envelope to perfection. This envelope provides a way to tell us briefly about you, send in your dues by check or scan the QR code to pay via PayPal (including automatic renewal), and volunteer too!

How are the SLHNA Membership Dues utilized? Your dues support our SLHNA events, activities, co-sponsorships with other neighborhood 501(c)’s, safety initiatives, and beautification of Francis Park. Some examples include publication of our newsletter (Chip Kastner, Editor), the House Tour (Rick Palank and Nina Chastain, Chairs), the Easter Egg Hunt (Angie LeGrand, Chair), Gateway Cup (Brad Arteaga, Chair), Lawn and Garden Awards (Sarah Seger, Chair), Christmas Lighting Awards (Mike and Caitlin Kremer, Chairs), Holiday Party (Kim Heitert, Chair), Scholarship (Michelle and Steve Cheli, Chairs) funding for our Youth, SLHNA Safety Committee (Tom Scheifler, Chair), the Welcome Committee bags (Kate Corcoran, Chair), the Streets and Property Committee (Don Orf, Chair), Marketing (Sarah Seger, Chair), Social Media, and the Young Professionals.

Partnering with Friends of Francis Park, we co-sponsor the Christmas Tree Lighting each year. Other co-sponsor items include the Francis Park lawn mower, the Gator, the David R. Francis statue, security for the park, and forthcoming smaller signs replacing the current Francis Park sign. Last


year we partnered with Grub and Groove and Friends of Francis Park to sponsor three Francis Park mowings, which made the park even more beautiful. We are delighted to co-sponsor again this year.

For 2022, in conjunction with STL Programs we were able to mail to residents the 2022 St. Louis Hills Community Directory and provide a link on our website resource tab. The directory includes information about St. Louis Hills, membership, event dates, the block captain program, citizens service bureau, important contact numbers for churches, schools, elected officials, and businesses. This is a nice resource for residents.

In the directory named above is the listing of dates for the neighborhood’s wonderful events. It is back! Art in the Park, a free family event with artists, food, music around the lily pond, September 25, 2022. If you would like to volunteer for this artistic event reach out to Janice Starbuck via www.artintheparkstl.com.

The SLHNA is especially appreciative of our volunteers. Join us and volunteer too! We are blessed with so many who share their time and talents with the Association. Newcomers to our Board are Liz O’Brien as Vice-President, Ed Naeger as Executive Director, Angie LeGrand as chair of the Easter Egg Hunt, Nina Chastain as chair of the House Tour, and Tyler Hicks as a member of the advisory board.

It is back! The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association Easter Egg Hunt, April 16th in Francis Park between Rockwell Beer Garden and the playground, promising as a fun event for our children, with Easter Bunny helpers, photo opportunities, live bunnies, and other egg surprises. Kristen Miller has passed the torch to Angie LeGrand as committee chair of the event. A huge thank you to LeGrand’s and Ted Drewes who provided special coupons for the eggs and to Rockwell Beer Garden for their morning treat participation.

The SLHNA History Committee is pleased to announce another interview which will be on our website. The first interview was with Ted Drewes. This interview is with Ron Elz (better known as Johnny Rabbitt). Ron has lived in the neighborhood for over forty years, authored articles for our newsletter, has served as a wealth of knowledge for our History Committee along with being nearly 70 years in broadcasting and writing the best Trivia Book, “Johnny Rabbitt’s 1001 St. Louis Trivia”  Cont’d on page 5

Art in the Park returns this September

by Janice Starbuck

Art in the Park St. Louis Hills is now produced by Friends of Francis Park rather than its own non-profit organization. The event returns this year after a two-year absence to Francis Park. Proceeds will be used for artistic improvements in the park.

Save the date: Sunday, September 25th.

Before committing to take on the job of organizing the event this year, I sent an email to artists from previous years to see if they had interest in returning to the event. I was gratified to receive over 100 positive responses within just two weeks. I sincerely hope the interest level of the artists is mirrored by that of the residents of our neighborhood.

Friends of Francis Park will be selling the beer, wine and mixed drinks at the event. All proceeds will be invested in Francis Park. LeGrand's has signed on to serve their fabulous burgers, brats and hotdogs. Bogart's Smokehouse is also in with their delicious pulled pork

and smoked turkey sandwiches. In addition to our event staples we hope to welcome a few new food vendors this year. I will be extending invitations to apply in May.

Two sponsors have already paid for their space at the event: The Kittner Group and Naeger Family Insurance.

We are most grateful to them and all sponsors to come. Sponsors and advertisers determine the success of this event.

We are in the process of reaching out to artists, prior food vendors,

advertisers, sponsors, performers and volunteers. In addition to event day, volunteers are needed now. If you have time to support the event as a volunteer, please email me at janice.starbuck@artintheparkstl.com.

Please direct any potential advertiser or event sponsor you may know to artintheparkstl.com/ad-sponsor-info.

A special thanks to Alderman Tom Oldenburg for his help getting things rolling.

See you in September!



After a two-year hiatus, Art in the Park will return to Francis Park this September. Photo provided by Janice Starbuck.

The Value of a Moment (Cont'd from Page 4)

Questions." A huge Thank you to both Ron Elz and Rick Palank (chair of our History Committee), who interviewed Ron.

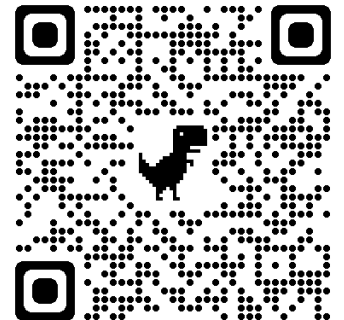
The Board voted recently to support Tom Scheifler and the SLHNA Safety Committee's next phase of the AwareNet crime deterrence project. The next step is to install an AwareNet compatible camera on at least 50 blocks in St. Louis Hills. When this happens the SLHNA will fund the cost of a 4-week test of AwareNet with a private security guard patrolling our neighborhood, every night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. To learn more about this project visit our website at www.stlhills.com.

And finally, I coordinate the volunteers for two events: Francis Park Cleanup (May 7th and Sept. 10th) and Run for the Hills (Sept. 17th). For the park cleanup we often need people to help the corner captains. If you would like to volunteer for either event, please contact me at

president@stlhills.com.

While drafting this article and thinking about our neighborhood, the people and events a couple of quotes came to mind.

From Dr. Seuss - "Sometimes You Will Never Know the Value of a Moment, Until It Becomes a Memory. If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and fun is good." From Winnie the Pooh - "We did not realize we were making memories. We just knew we were having fun. Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart."



Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to visit the St. Louis Hills website.

I am St. Louis Hills

by Rick Palank

The year was 1953, and my parents purchased a home at 6303 Bancroft. Since I was only seven years old, I knew nothing about St. Louis Hills. My parents enrolled me at St. Gabriel school, and I soon became acclimated to my new neighborhood.

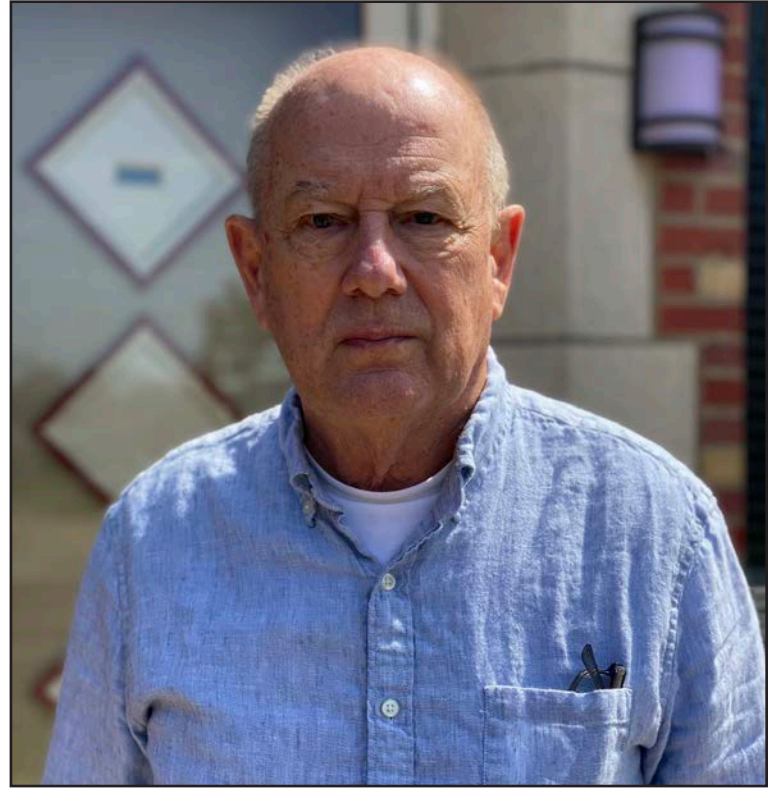
Some of my favorite early memories include playing Indian ball on the large field that is now occupied by Target on Hampton... buying White Castle hamburgers for 10 cents at the store located on the southwest corner of Hampton and Chippewa... walking to school every day – first to St. Gabriel, and then to DuBourg High School... working at the Kroger store located at Hampton and Bancroft from 1963 until 1969... frequently driving my bicycle to Stan Musial's house on Westway, ringing his doorbell and asking for an autographed picture of Stan. I still have about 14 of them in my basement.

I briefly departed St. Louis Hills in 1973 when I got married and we moved into an apartment in south county. Two years later, we moved back to St. Louis Hills and into 6560 Neosho. It was there that my two sons, Mike and Nick, were born. They attended St. Gabriel grade school, and then SLUH. Both of them worked at Ted Drewes. Some of my best memories included our annual street parties with our Neosho neighbors, and playing tennis every Sunday morning at Francis Park with my tennis buddies (including the “famous” George Faheen).

My love for St. Louis Hills has resulted in my active involvement in the neighborhood association for the past forty-four years. Over those years, I have chaired the Marketing Committee, Streets & Property Committee, History Committee, and House Tour Committee. I am still involved in the latter two committees. I also served as a Trustee for St. Louis Hills #1 and #2 (along with Mike Miklas and Bill Nolan) from 1978 until neighborhood trustees became irrelevant.

In late 2002, I purchased my current home at 5404 Jamieson, and continued to be involved in my neighborhood. In 2015, I was proud to become involved in an effort to raise money for a statue of David R. Francis in the park that he donated to the city in 1916. Through the efforts of the Committee (including Tom Byrne, Steve Doss, Kathy Fellin, Judy Murphy and Joni Ott), we raised over \$180,000, and the memorial by renowned sculptor Harry Weber was dedicated on October 7, 2018.

In 2016, I led an effort to form SLH Investors, LLC. The goal was to purchase apartments in the 6900 block of Chippewa, some of which were beginning to look a little



questionable. The response was immediate and each investor (Tom Anstey, Kevin Broccard, Ryan Dolton, Dan Harbaugh, Steve Doss, Kevin Kozminski, Chris Murphey, Tom Oldenburg, Patrick McGinnis, Andy Schwartz, and me) was eager to be involved. Kevin Broccard and I are in charge of all rehabbing, maintenance and administration.

I cherish my many years in St. Louis Hills because of the many wonderful residents that I've had the pleasure of being associated with, the proximity to Francis and Willmore parks, the many shopping and eating venues that are part of or nearby our neighborhood, and the amazing history of St. Louis Hills, beginning on July 30, 1930, when the first home built in St. Louis Hills (6226 Itaska) hosted its Open House.



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Get the word out... advertise with us!

by Gary Wells

The SLHNA is not just an association for persons—we count local businesses as our neighbors, too!

As our neighbors, we would love to support you and your business. A vibrant community absolutely needs to have commercial enterprises as anchors along the busier streets. You also provide incredible convenience to residents by having a storefront or conducting business right here in the neighborhood.

The SLHNA puts out quarterly newsletters to keep people informed about what is going on in and around the area. When you advertise with us, you are informing our neighbors of the products or services which you can

provide.

If you are interested in advertising in the SLHNA newsletter, please reach out to Gary Wells at 314-223-7015. You can also reach us by email: wellsstl@att.net or newsletter@stlhills.com. Please keep in mind that we do have space limitations and may not be able to include every advertisement. Also, we may cap ads from similar services at the discretion of the President of the SLHNA. Usually, it's first ad in, first to be included.

Finally, we do require a copy of your ad and payment in full before we can include your ad. Check with Gary for rates on individual newsletters and annual rates!

A busy summer is coming to Francis Park

by Tom Byrne, President, Friends of Francis Park

Springtime is here. And springtime means the beginning of fun time in Francis Park. Whether you are a kid playing on the playground swings, an athlete-in-training being tortured by Thorne, a baby boomer chasing after an elusive pickleball, or a person who just likes to relax and read a book in the sun with your dog, Francis Park has something for everyone. And this year Francis Park promises to be even better than usual, for at least two big reasons.

One, the Rockwell Beer Garden is back for its first full season. In its short life, the beer garden has become a favorite neighborhood hangout for local beer drinkers, pizza lovers, dogs and kids. (But not hooligans.) It has restored a bit of the "beer garden" culture from nineteenth century St. Louis and become a real asset to our park, our neighborhood and our city. So cheers to the return of the beer garden!

And second, MSD and the City of St. Louis, with the steady encouragement of Alderman Oldenburg, have finally completed the significant construction project that was needed to resolve the problem of sewage leaking into the creek. So Francis Park promises to be better smelling this year in addition to its other charms.

Spring also heralds many park events. Events like the Easter egg hunt (April 16), Grub 'N Groove (August 13), the Tour de Francis Park bike race (September 3) and Brew in the Lou keep the park hopping many weekends in the spring and summer. Friends of Francis Park is particularly

proud of the fall events that it sponsors—Run for the Hills and Footgolf (September 17). Both of these events donate all of their proceeds to maintaining and improving the park. This year, we are happy to report that Art in the Park is returning (September 25), as another partner of Friends of Francis Park. We are very excited to help with the return of this wonderful event after a two-year pandemic-related absence. So mark your calendars for all these great park events.

Friends of Francis Park is a charitable organization that is 100% dedicated to helping Francis Park be the best park it can be. With the help of our members, volunteers and partner organizations we keep the corner gardens and lily pond looking good every year. We plant dozens of trees in the park every fall. We buy and maintain garden tools, a heavy duty riding lawn mower and the gator used for work around the park. We hire summer workers to water trees and plants and pick up trash and branches. We have completed various special projects to improve the park, like facilitating the purchase and installation of the David Francis statue, constructing the native plant garden and gazebo and repairing the racquetball courts. In partnership with the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association, we paid for security guards to patrol the park at night and we co-sponsor the Christmas tree lighting every year.

This year we are focused on two new initiatives. First we are working with Alderman

 Cont'd on page 8

Get back to normal with a garage sale

by Sal Easterley

One south city tradition that should make a strong comeback from the pandemic in spring of 2022 is the garage sale. Even though it is not a local phenomenon, we can report that our family has lived in four different cities in several states and the garage sale is to south city as toasted ravioli is to The Hill.

In 2020, we missed the homemade yard sale signs on the corner of the street that appeared to be made by a 6th grade art student, adorned with sparkles and advertising an address and time for the ultimate bargain opportunity. Now, we need an outlet for all of the new puzzles we amassed and assembled over the last 2 years and hope to give them a new life.

Raising our family on the 6500 block of Itaska, we always participated in our multi-block garage sale, ridding ourselves of tens of thousands of dollars of retail purchases that we can now re-sell to the masses for hundreds of dollars, and even sell some of the items we bought in previous years from our neighbors.

The multi-block sale we participated in for years was held in May on the Saturday before Mother's Day and was bookended with our block party. Eventually, age took its toll and we moved some festivities to other weeks; the garage sale and block party made it hard to get up for church that Sunday.

Yard Sale, Garage Sale, Flea Market can be used


interchangeably and depends on what your family called it, but let us be clear, this is the south side way to rid our garage of "stuff", make a bit of money, and socialize.

On a personal note, my wife was the socializer and I was the lowly store clerk left to bargain with people. Advice for husbands that are left behind to sell—do not come clean with your wife when she inquires about how much you got for an item that you did not want and she did not want discounted. And in full disclosure I never did tell her, except she will know it now.

The national average for what can be made in a garage sale is \$300 to \$500. One monetary suggestion is to go to the bank a couple of days beforehand so that you can have a petty cash stash of around \$50 to \$100 in one's and five's with a range of change (mainly quarters), and it is best to keep it in one pouch or cash box. Even after downsizing seven years ago to a condo, we still have our cash box that we bought at a garage sale.

For old time's sake I took the box out of the storage shed and found stickers (with amounts printed on them), bright red "sold" stickers, and a handful of blank tags. If you are interested in purchasing this treasure just email me, we deliver. Another tidbit is to get pre-printed stickers to reduce the time of pricing items during your prep time.

We had our last garage sale when we downsized, in which we grossed thousands of dollars. For you

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Friends of Francis Park (Cont'd from Page 7)

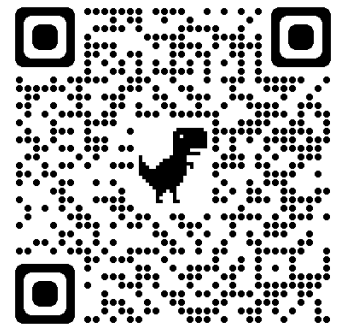
Oldenburg, the parks department and other neighborhood organizations to sponsor park mowings by a professional landscaper to improve the look of the park. Last year the landscaper mowed the park three times and did an excellent job, and we are hoping to increase that number this year.

Second, we are working with Alderman Oldenburg to help sponsor the installation of stone "monument" signs for the park, similar to but smaller than the signs at other city parks like Willmore and Carondelet Parks.

If you would like to help with these projects and help keep Francis Park the gem of our neighborhood that it is, there are two ways you can contribute. First, consider becoming a member of Friends of Francis Park or make a donation to our organization. Information

about membership and donations can be found on our website: friendsoffrancis.org, or you can send in the membership application below. Second, consider coming out for our spring and fall park clean-up days. This year's spring clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 at 8:00—meet at the corner of Tamm and Nottingham. The fall clean-up is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 10.

I'm looking forward to a great spring in Francis Park and I hope to see you there!



Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to visit Friends of Francis Park's website.

Get your lawn and garden ready!

by Sarah Seger

It's time to prepare for another year of our Lawn and Garden Awards! Judging will begin in May to recognize our neighbors and their landscaping efforts.

In addition to the traditional front yard awards, we will once again have the backyard award. Backyard awards are nominated by the homeowner or another party with the understanding that our judges will be coming into your yard at various times to judge. Nominations can be made via social media or to sarahseger15@gmail.com.

The best kept block will also be recognized. The block award will take into consideration the block as a whole and with so many beautiful yards strung together it gets harder and harder to select this one each year.

Winners will receive a customized plaque for their home

and will have a temporary yard sign placed in their front yard recognizing their home as being one of the best landscaped homes in our neighborhood.

If you have an interest in joining our committee and becoming a judge, let us know! Being a judge is easy and is a good excuse to get out and enjoy the nice weather and take in the neighborhood. If you are interested or have questions please email Sarah at sarahseger15@gmail.com!

If you are not a member of the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association or have not renewed your membership for 2021, be sure to sign up today to be eligible. Your membership allows us to do things such as Lawn & Garden awards among many other events each year!

Garage Sales (Cont'd from Page 8)

accountants and financial people, you know we did not really make thousands especially when you look at cost of goods or cost of acquisition. Our goal was not money making on the last one, but how not to move trash to a new home and it was worth it.

To be fair, my wife was the brain trust and the hardest worker preparing for the multi-block sale and I will list some of the tips that she utilized getting ready for this one-day sale:

- 1) Prepare for rain. Be ready to improvise and adapt
- 2) Clean your stuff – nobody wants your dirt
- 3) Organize by tables
- 4) Have change on hand

- 5) Help people load up their car
- 6) Keep your money close
- 7) Hang the clothes & wash them
- 8) Move merchandise forward and don't leave tables empty
- 9) Kids' stuff goes second fastest after tools
- 10) Be nice
- 11) Be ready to bargain with really cheap people
- 12) Have refreshments like water, coffee, or donuts
- 13) If you don't sell it, put it out by the garage door for a few hours. There will always be people cruising to look in trash bins

One of my favorite things to do is to walk around to other garages and be very judgmental or just plain generalize about families. Items in a garage sale tells you a lot about your neighbors; if the bikes and toys and clothes are getting sold, this means the family is probably done adding to their flock or the kids are college age.

The next time you send a child away to college or they finally move out of the basement, garage sales are the optimal opportunity to furnish a dorm room or new apartment. The garages are full of great furniture, fans, mini-fridges, ladders, grills and other great items that work well in a new apartment without hitting your credit card.

The garage sale is a great way to get to know your neighbors and the junk they wish to part with. Hope to see you at one nearby!

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Pipe lining may prevent plumbing nightmares

by Chip Kastner

In the last few years, I've become convinced that the five most terrifying words in the English language are "Can I show you something?" – specifically, when they're uttered by the plumber that you've hired to fix a seemingly-minor issue in your house. Unfortunately, I've been hearing that a lot lately.

Assuming your house is similar to mine, the drain pipes under your basement slab are made of cast iron. Depending on who you ask, cast iron drain pipes tend to last 50 to 100 years... and if your house is north of Eichelberger, chances are your house is pushing 90 years old at this point. Those of us who still have cast iron pipes under our homes are sitting on ticking time bombs.


One of our downspouts had been overflowing whenever it rained. We'd get it cabled out by a plumber every now and then, but before long it would return to form. After the third or fourth time this happened, I finally paid a plumber to stick a fiber-optic camera down the downspout... and they discovered a big break in the pipe. So big, in fact, that the camera got stuck in the hole. I guess that's one way to get me to pay them to dig up my basement. Until they could get us on the schedule, their expensive fiber-optic spool was just sitting in my backyard, one end stuck in the downspout.

Unfortunately, my basement has been finished. So first, I had to pay someone to roll back the carpet in the area so the plumber could bust up a portion of my basement slab, remove the corroded cast iron pipe, replace it with a section of PVC, and backfill the hole. This all happened when my wife was in the hospital before giving birth to our daughter, so all in all it was really a joyous occasion.

A few months later, the downspout started overflowing again.

The plumber came back out, and stuck their camera down the downspout again. Remember how it got stuck in the hole the first time? Well, because of that, they didn't get a chance to find the other hole another ten feet further down the line. But this time, I learned some nauseating news: The break ran under our foundation, from the inside of the house to the outside. Their master plumber confessed to me that fixing it was going to be a big mess.

But, he said, there was possibly an alternative. He recommended a couple of different companies around town who specialize in cured-in place

 Cont'd on page 11



Something out of every homeowner's nightmare: A burst cast iron drain pipe under a finished basement requires rolling back the carpet, digging out the old pipe, fitting in a new one, filling the hole with gravel and covering with concrete. The large break in the old pipe can be seen in the lower-right picture. Photos provided by Chip Kastner.

Pipe Lining (Cont'd from Page 10)

pipe lining: A technology first used in the U.S. in the 1980s, in which they slide an epoxy-coated felt sleeve through your drain pipe, use an air bladder to inflate it while the epoxy cures, and then remove the bladder. Voila, you have a new, seamless, epoxy pipe inside your old, corroded cast iron pipe. No digging required.

I had one of these companies come out and take a look, and fortunately they said they would be able to employ their solution to my particular break. The thing I found is that (at least with the company I used), pipe lining is cheaper per foot than digging up and replacing the pipe, but there's a moderately steep upfront cost to map and clean the pipes and prepare the site. So, if you're going to do a little bit of pipe lining, it's more cost-efficient to have them do a lot all at once. I asked them to deploy their liner from the break all the way out to the curb, which they agreed to do.

When mapping out my pipes to deploy the pipe liner, they did find more cracks leading back to my main stack (a route I had previously not cameraed), so I then asked them to extend the pipe liner all the way back to the main stack as well. So now, the bulk of my pipe has been rehabbed without any digging, and there's a ten-year warranty on the work. The only catch is that pipe lining doesn't really work on joints, so joints along the route are still cast iron and may need to be dealt with in the future. Still, it's a much smaller problem than I had before.

If you're staring at the prospect of a nasty plumbing job that involves tearing up your basement or your front yard, it's definitely worth seeing if pipe lining is a solution that can be employed in your case. I breathed a huge sigh of relief at not having to tear up my basement twice in the course of a year.

The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association does not endorse businesses or services, so I have omitted the names of all companies from this article. I do not have any personal relationship with or financial interest in any of the companies or services described here. If you're interested in talking to me in my personal capacity about my experience, feel free to send an email to newsletter@stlhills.com.



Top: It's a bit hard to tell from this grainy photo, but this old cast iron pipe has a large crack in the bottom. Replacing it would normally involve lots of digging and disruption in the basement and/or yard.

Center: The corroded iron pipe has been repaired with a cured-in-place epoxy liner.

Bottom: The transition between pipe liner and old pipe is relatively seamless.

Photos provided by Chip Kastner.



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Missouri draws new state House, Senate maps

by Donna Baringer, State Representative, Missouri District 82




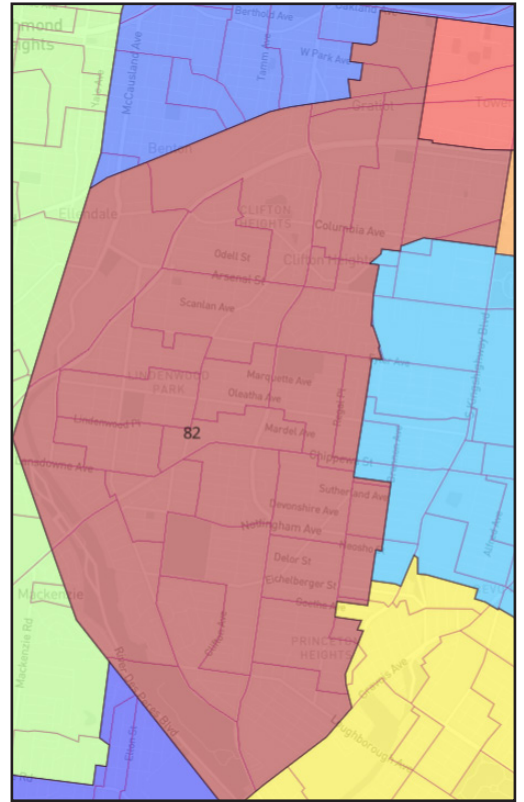
Every decade, we take inventory on our population via the census. Once counted, we begin the redistricting of all political subdivisions. If you are curious as to how redistricting will impact you, you are not alone. Starting this year, there will be new Congressional, State Senate, State House and Ward boundary lines, which means people may find

themselves with new representation while some may see little to no change.

The first map that was approved by the House Redistricting Commission, which is wholly separate from the House of Representatives, passed with unanimous bipartisan agreement on January 19th. As such, the 82nd House District did see some changes, which are overall positive. A focus on keeping communities connected that did not split between multiple House districts was the goal. All of St. Louis Hills will remain in the 82nd district. The new district lines also encompass “The Hill” and some areas of Clifton Heights, which means the district will look more like it did in its previous iteration before 2011-2020.

The commission to draw the new State Senate districts finally came out in March and there

 Cont'd on page 13



The new boundaries of the 82nd Missouri House District after the 2020 census. Image provided by Donna Baringer.

Never forget to renew your membership again!

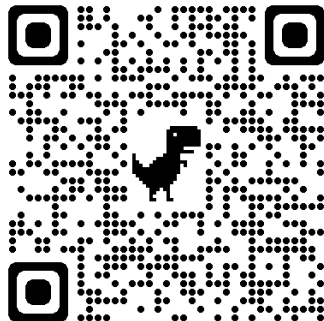
by Chip Kastner

We spend a surprising amount of time debating how to ensure this newsletter is enjoyed by as many people as possible. For the last few years, we've settled on maintaining a print copy of this newsletter while also distributing it online. We mail one issue a year (that being this issue) to all neighborhood residents, and the remainder to all paid members.

I've been editing this newsletter for over four years now, and I'm pretty sure that I let my membership lapse during 2021. (Please don't tell anybody.) It's hard to remember to stay up to date.

That's why I'm extremely excited at the fact that we've recently added the ability to set up recurring membership payments via PayPal

on our website. You can sign up by scanning the QR code below (the QR codes containing links to more information is something we're trying out for the first time this issue) or at <https://stlhills.com/membership-benefits/slhna-membership/>.



Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to visit the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association's membership page.



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Ward redistricting, ward reduction and elections


by Gary Wells

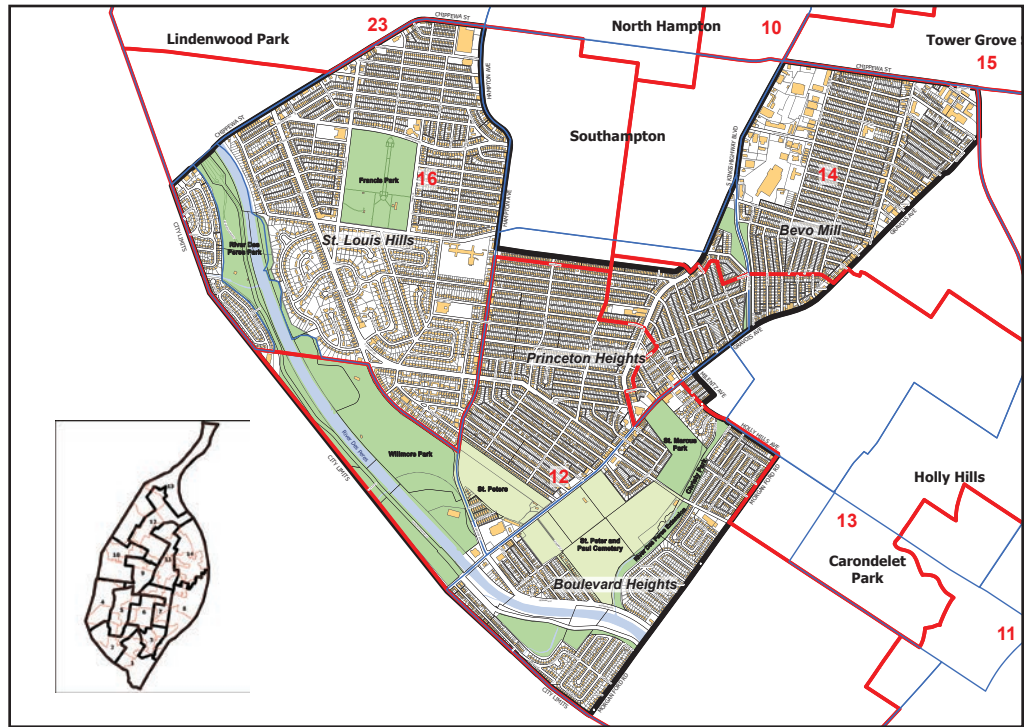
As you are probably aware, we have been undergoing decennial changes to political lines within our region. These changes occur after every US census is conducted, so that equal and equitable representation can be provided for citizens. In conjunction with this, the City of St. Louis has voted to reduce the total number of aldermanic wards in the City from 28 down to 14. That change was decided by the voters as a reflection of the shrinking population of the City.

Here's a quick run-down of the changes we are seeing:

For the entire St. Louis Hills Neighborhood, we will no longer reside in the 16th Ward. We will now be residents of the new 2nd Ward.

We will be joined

 Cont'd on page 14



The new boundaries of Ward 2, which includes the entirety of St. Louis Hills, after the 2020 census. Image provided by the City of St. Louis' website.

Free SUMMER CONCERTS

Outdoors on the church lawn!
Saturdays in June and July at 7:00 pm.

June 4

Dave Black
(Jazz Trio)

June 11

Two Times True
(Jazz Quartet)

June 18

Ascension Worship Team & Grafted
(Christian Contemporary Music)

June 25

Knights of Swing
(Swing Big Band)

July 2

The Mighty Pines (Bluegrass/Folk Trio)

July 9

SideXSide Percussion (Percussion Quartet)

July 16

Blake Flattley (Christian Music Ensemble)


Ascension
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Donna Baringer (Cont'd from Page 12)

was some shifting of the 4th and 5th Senatorial districts which share the city of St. Louis. All of the 82nd district is now within the 4th Senatorial district.

The legislative redistricting process for Congressional redistricting is determined by the General Assembly, and not appointed commissions. Congressional redistricting follows the normal legislative process, with the Senate and House of Representatives passing the new congressional redistricting plan as a bill, which the governor can either sign into law or veto.

On January 18, the House approved a new Congressional map and sent it to the Senate. The House map had five Republican districts, two Democratic districts, and one seat that leans Republican.

However, a handful of Republican Senators decided to tie map-making with other policy and a deadlock in the Senate kept all other legislation at bay until March 28. The map sent back to the House after 2 months in the Senate was gerrymandered for some state senators running for Congress. As of this writing, the bill was sent to the conference committee and if not approved, it would head to the courts to decide how the maps should be drawn.

Prevent auto theft with a #9PMROUTINE

by Pat Talley, Crime and Safety Education

Have you heard of it? #9PMROUTINE is a crime-fighting initiative sponsored by police departments and communities nationwide. The neighborhood associations for St. Louis Hills, Lindenwood Heights and Princeton Heights are collaborating to share the cost of signs and postcards to introduce the program to these communities. The 9 p.m. Routine encourages people to remove firearms and valuables from vehicles, lock vehicle doors, garage doors, exterior house doors, and turn on exterior lights all by 9:00 p.m. every night.

Common sense car theft prevention includes locking car doors, closing car windows, using your garage, and parking in well-lighted, highly visible locations. There are other ways to prevent auto theft as well:

1. Bar locks known as a Club attach to the steering wheel making it impossible to steer the vehicle. Another device that attaches to the brakes serves the same purpose by

making the brakes unusable. Car and truck clubs are available for purchase at the St. Louis Police Department District 2 station at 3157 Sublette or call 314-444-0169.

2. Auto alarms are loud and attract attention. Additionally, they have a blinking light that the thief can see.

3. When an engine kill switch is activated, it cuts the power to the starter making it impossible to steal the car. It is important to hide this device as a thief can also operate it.

4. A fuel switch is similar to the kill switch but it stops the flow of fuel to the engine within a short time after the vehicle is started.

5. A GPS tracking device is installed at the factory on some vehicles to help locate the vehicle if it is stolen. In some models the ignition can be disabled and the doors locked remotely with this system.

Whenever possible use the tools available to keep your property and our neighborhood safe!

Ward Redistricting (Cont'd from Page 13)

by all or parts of the following neighborhoods: Princeton Heights, Boulevard Heights, Bevo and Holly Hills. These changes will take place in time for the next municipal elections in the spring of 2023.

With the recent passage of Proposition R, pending likely court challenges, the manner in which wards are drawn will change after the next census. The maps will no longer be drawn by the Board of Aldermen but will instead be drawn by a group of volunteers randomly selected from applications turned in throughout the City.

There are also new maps for State House and State Senate; at the time of this writing, maps for US Congress have not yet been finalized. For more details, see State Representative Donna Baringer's article on this topic on page 12.

In the upcoming August 2nd primary election and November 8th general election, City voters will be asked to vote for State Representative, State Senate, all statewide elective offices, US Representative and one of our two US Senate seats. The "County of the City of St. Louis" will likewise have elections on these same ballots for Collector of Revenue, License Collector, and Recorder of Deeds.

Persons who have moved, had a change of name, or turned 18 recently must register to vote by July 6th for the August primaries. Voters are encouraged to verify their voting status with the St. Louis Board of Elections – 314-622-4336 or at www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/board-election-commissioners.

The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association does not endorse candidates, although we do encourage current elected officials to participate in our meetings and neighborhood functions.



Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to visit the St. Louis Board of Elections' website.



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The SLH History Committee is here to help!

by Michael Heithaus

It was Mark Twain who famously said, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes." On the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association History Committee, we take those words to heart. The first residents of St. Louis Hills were drawn to this neighborhood because of its prospect of architectural beauty, a family friendly neighborhood and the proximity to two amazing parks, all within city limits. Ninety years later, it is those same qualities that continue to draw residents here. And we at the History Committee are here to help connect the past of the neighborhood with the present.

Have you ever asked yourself, "I wonder what my house looked like when it was built?" or "Who are Francis and Willmore Parks named

after?" or any other multitude of questions about the history of the homes or neighborhood? The History Committee is here to help! In addition to having a working knowledge of the history of the neighborhood, we also have archives with numerous records of St. Louis Hills. From old neighborhood magazines to recent open house booklets, and everything in between, we encourage you to contact us when looking for information about the area. You might just be surprised by what we have available!

If you would like to help the History Committee and support our work, there are any number of ways to help. First, we recommend you get involved in the neighborhood and join the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood

Association. Second, you can reach out to the History Committee directly and see what we are working on. Quite frequently we are looking for neighbors with special skill sets in technology, photography, video, etc. to help us continue to record and preserve all that makes this neighborhood so special. Finally, and most importantly, you can help by donating to the History Committee. We frequently hear stories about someone cleaning out an attic or basement and finding old documents about the neighborhood or their house. We'd be more than happy to take those items off your hands!

For more information on how to help or be helped by the History Committee, please contact us at historycommittee@stlhills.com.

Due to new committee formation, the SLHNA is in need of a **Senior Liaison** and a **Young Professionals Liaison**.

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.



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

Commander, 2nd District SLMPD:
Captain Christi Marks, 314-444-0100
cmmarks@slmpd.org

Police Officer Liaison, 2nd District SLMPD:
Officer Vince Stehlin, 314-444-0100
vstehlin@slmpd.org

Community Outreach/Business Liaison:
Don Veile, 314-444-0168, dveile@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:

Kathy Savage, 314-657-1362
SavageK@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/>

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

Representative Donna Baringer
Proudly serving the 82nd District

Reach out and connect at the following:

State Capitol, Room 109-I
201 W. Capitol Avenue

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
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Donna.Baringer@house.mo.gov



<http://facebook.com/DonnaBforSTL>



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St. Louis Hills
News and Views



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Please notify us of any errors in your address (other than "Or Current Resident") at membership@stlhills.com.

Upcoming Events

April 30, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Annual Spring Plant Sale @
Ascension Lutheran

Every Saturday in June and July, 7:00 p.m.: Ascension Lutheran Summer
Concert Series @ Ascension Lutheran church lawn

June 13-17, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Ascension Lutheran Vacation Bible School
(registration details at www.ascensionstl.com)

June 30, 7:30 p.m.: SLHNA General Meeting @ Bishop DuBourg

August 13: Grub & Groove @ Francis Park

September 3: Tour de Francis Park

September 17: Run for the Hills

September 25: Art in the Park @ Francis Park

October 8, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.: Brew in the Lou @ Francis Park

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