



St. Louis Hills SBD: How can you help?

by Don Orf

The St. Louis Hills Special Business District could very well become a reality after the election is held in early August of this year. So, what can we, as residents of the proposed SBD, do to help lay the groundwork for its success?

First, the current SBD Committee will establish a process for those wanting to be on the seven-member Board of Commissioners for the SBD. We want to be ready to move forward if the SBD becomes a reality. Second, the current committee is working diligently to establish a preliminary budget for 2024—the first year of the SBD. Neighborhood meetings are being held to solicit input. The committee is trying to get an idea of categories, projects and needs in the neighborhood. Opportunities for improvement and areas that have been neglected and need attention. It won't be final but will give the new Board a pencil sketch of possibilities and priorities of residents.

Third, and maybe most importantly, this is a resident led initiative and as such, requires participation by those of us living within the SBD boundaries. We can't expect seven individuals on a board to handle this undertaking without input from the people they serve. As such, there will be "advisory committees"—resident led groups to assess needs and make recommendations to the board in various areas. We envision at least four committees: Safety & Security; Parks/Beautification; Events/Marketing; and Infrastructure. These committees will meet on a regular basis. They will solicit, vet, and develop recommendations for the SBD Board and potentially help to implement the projects chosen.

So... what's your passion? Hobby? Expertise? What ideas do you have to make our neighborhood more secure?

Brighter? Functionally safer? More

■ Cont'd on page 2

Security initiative: Patrols resumed March 1

by Tom Scheifler

At the beginning of March, we resumed private-duty police officer patrols three nights per week (thanks to voluntary contributions from hundreds of households and several businesses). That's a good start for 2023, and we're on our way to having four nights per week. But we need approximately 350 more donations to reach seven nights per week.

For the current status and to make a contribution, scan the QR code to the right or visit www.stlhills.com (select Safety, then Security Initiative Donations).

With two arrests during the four week test, we're optimistic the initiative can make a difference in St. Louis Hills for 2023.

The police officer is driving a dedicated "high visibility" security truck labeled "Campbell Security" with flashing blue lights. They are in uniform and can make arrests.

Their first priority is to review the automated alerts from cameras.

They patrol all blocks in the service area regardless of which blocks have cameras.

Support security in your neighborhood with \$15 per month (or any amount).

The web address for the PayPal campaign where you can make your donation by credit card or your PayPal account is www.stlhills.com/sidonate.

The campaign keeps track of the total donations, but if you prefer Venmo, you can use @SLHNA; enter "security" for "what's it for."

You may also write a check (payable to



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to learn more about the St. Louis Hills security initiative.

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St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association Board Members, Executive Committee, Chairs and Partners

Officers

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Nancy Vordtriede

Vice President

Liz O'Brien

Treasurer

Tom Bene'

Secretary

Pat Talley

Sergeant at Arms

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Executive Director

Ed Naeger

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Rick Palank

Executive Committee

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Carol Wilson

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Tyler Hicks

Mark Johnston

Business Coordinator

Brad Arteaga

Carol Wilson

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Janice Starbuck

Safety

Tom Scheifler

Streets & Property

Don Orf

Senior Liaison

Open

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Rick Palank

Social Media, Website & Communications

Jesse Rehmer

Sarah Seger

Newsletter

Chip Kastner

Welcome Committee

Sara Hallermann

Young Professionals

Open

Events and Programs

Easter Egg Hunt

Angie LeGrand

Christmas Lighting Awards

Caitlin Kremer

Michael Kremer

Christmas Tree Lighting

Rob Curtin

Gateway Cup

Brad Arteaga

Holiday Party

Open

House Tour

Nina Chastain

Lawn & Garden Awards

Sarah Seger

Scholarship

Toni Zychinski

Steve Zychinski

Community Partners

Art in the Park

Janice Starbuck

Friends of Francis Park / Run for the Hills

Tom Byrne

Joni Ott

Wayne Myrick

Grub and Groove

Kevin Kozminkske

82nd State Representative

Donna Baringer

16th Ward Alderman

Thomas Oldenburg

16th/12th Ward Neighborhood Improvement Specialist

Kathy Savage

SLMPD 2nd District

Captain

Michael Mueller

SLMPD 2nd District

Officer Liasion

Gus Karagiannis

Hampton Chippewa

Business Association

James Schmerold

The House Tour is back!

by Rick Palank

Mark your calendars! The St. Louis Hills House Tour will be held on Sunday, October 15, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets day of the event will be \$35. Advance tickets may be purchased for \$30 in two ways:

- Check mailed to SLHNA, PO Box 190314, St. Louis, MO 63119
- Via PayPal at <https://stlhills.com/house-tour-tickets/>

This year's Tour will feature the following homes:

6747 High Circle 5936 Childress 6236 Loran 6446 Westway
6000 Highfield 5900 Highfield 6522 Walsh 6485 Westway

We would love to have one or two more homes on the Tour. If interested, or have any questions, please contact Rick Palank at rpalank@gmail.com.

The Tour will also include Abigail's Fashion Truck and one or more food trucks. Finally, free trollies will be making a continuous loop for the tour route. This will allow you to park once, spending less time driving from home to home, avoid parking congestion and have a charming experience.

SBD (Cont'd from Page 1)

welcoming? Are you interested in how the security initiative works? Do you have ideas to enhance our green spaces? Do you want to see cleanups like fall leaf pick up restored? Can you spend a few hours a month working with some of your neighbors to invest our money in our neighborhood?

Please consider signing up for one of these committees. We're looking for help! Please email us at: sbinfo@stlhills.com. Provide your name, email address, phone number and which committee(s) you are interested in joining.

We can keep St. Louis Hills strong by taking an active role in its life and health. Participation is key!

Security (Cont'd from Page 1)

SLHNA) and mail it to:

SLHNA Security

PO Box 190314

St Louis, MO 63119

Note: the proposed SBD mentioned in this newsletter may include the security initiative for 2024 and beyond. But for 2023, the initiative is funded by voluntary contributions.

For questions, contact safety_committee@stlhills.com.

Run for the Hills

32

September 16, 2023
5K Run/1M Walk/1M Youth Run

Years Running

**Big River
 Running
 Community
 Support Award
 Winner**

Start training today for one of the best races in StL! Run the 5k, walk the 1 miler, watch your kids compete in the 1 mile race or sign up to show your support and get an awesome commemorative t-shirt. This year marks our 32nd consecutive year and 100% of the money raised from the Run for the Hills is spent directly on improvements in our beloved neighborhood Francis Park. Please sign up to support your park and neighborhood and encourage your neighbors and friends to join you!

- Best race food in StL including Ted Drewes, StL Bread Co, Pretzel Boys, LeGrands, Schnucks and Dierbergs
- Super cool blended t-shirt
- Awards for the top runners
- Cheer on your favorite runners along the route
- Choose from:
 - 5K Run through beautiful St Louis Hills (\$25 in person or virtual runner with submitted time*)
 - 1 mile walk around Francis Park (\$20)
 - 1 mile timed youth race around Francis Park (\$20)
 - Don't want to run or walk? Be a neighborhood supporter and sign up for the shirt (\$25)

Easy to Register online

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MO/SaintLouis/StLRunfortheHills>



OR **use QR code**



Register by September 1 to be guaranteed a t-shirt.

Prices increase to \$30 on September 14, 2023 11:59 pm CDT.

*See registration for guidelines for submitting virtual race times.

Questions: Call (314) 749-8661.

Introducing Friends of Willmore Park

by Sal Easterley

As with all things in life, everything worthwhile takes time and effort.

So it goes for creating Friends of Willmore Park.

Willmore Park was established in 1947 by Cyrus Crane Willmore, a builder and developer responsible for developing much of the St. Louis Hills neighborhood. Willmore Park has become the latest city park to have an organization that will assist the city in conservatorship for this highly utilized park and great city asset.

There have been many efforts to form a Friends of Willmore, and thus credit in forming this group is not a 100% pie to divide among a group of individuals. Past efforts can be seen on dying Facebook pages that were established in 2016 with a variety of names for an organization to stand up for Willmore Park and the efforts to ensure that the park not only continues to exist but flourish.

This current and successful effort includes a full array of names that are known beyond the adjoining neighborhoods surrounding Willmore Park and include Alderpersons Bill Stephens and Tom Oldenburg, State Representative Donna Baringer, several neighborhood association presidents for both St. Louis Hills and Princeton Heights (past and present) as well as representatives of the dog park and the disc golf association.

The latest effort by Bill Stephens was outlined in a recent edition of the St. Louis Hills newsletter, and expanded by people on social media by a Facebook page that was established for the "Society of Willmore." This name for the group did not make the official cut and thus morphed into "Friends of Willmore Park" as seen on its public Facebook page.

Momentum to finally create a conservatorship began when several individuals chatted on the Facebook page for the "society," and a meeting was finally organized at the Buder Library and has continued on a monthly basis on the second Wednesday of each month.

The group considered itself a "gaggle" until it could organize officially with the state and IRS. This group that met monthly instituted bylaws that were established with the help of the Friends of Francis Park and created and submitted to the state along with our official name and the filing for 501(c)3 status. In February of 2023, a board

was voted on and is now steering the group along with an extended advisory group.

The board is made up of Princeton Heights and St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association members, but anyone can join the group. Friends of Willmore Park is currently involved in trying to create a logo for a car sticker, letterhead, and website. With the help of donations from founding members and alderpeople, the group was able to gather enough money to offer a \$300 Grand Prize for the logo contest, the details of which were posted on the Facebook page.

On March 4th, the newly organized Friends of Willmore Park held a tree pruning and vine cutting event to help the older trees in the park breathe a bit. The outing itself was the first event that had the support of the new Friends of Willmore Park organization. The event was initiated by Aaron Dohogne, who is member of Friends of Willmore Park, and done in conjunction with STL TreeLC and their oversight of the project.

The group continues to evolve, and Chairman Derrick Neuner has sent letters to city officials to introduce the group. There are also planned efforts to clean the park on Saturday, April 22nd (Earth Day) as well as continuing to raise funds. Friends of Willmore Park would love to have additional members as well as attendees at the monthly meetings at Buder Library on Hampton. Individuals may contribute and become designated founding members by sending \$20.00 to Friends of Willmore Park at 5401 S. Kingshighway Blvd., 63109.

Willmore Park is not only enjoyed by city residents in surrounding areas such as Lindenwood, Southampton, St. Louis Hills, Boulevard Heights, and Princeton Heights but also utilized by the Carpenters Union for its picnic, and has many uses such as pickleball, soccer, baseball, rugby, dog walking, walking, running, fishing, disc golf, cross country running, tennis, biking, drones, the dog park, birdwatching, the children's water pad and unique playground.

If you would like to volunteer, please go to the Friends of Willmore Park Facebook page and look for upcoming events, as well as join as a founding member and allow us to communicate to you via your supplied email.

Happy Earth Day to all.

Jefferson City debates minors carrying firearms

by Donna Baringer, Missouri State Representative, District 82



In 2022, over 200 people were murdered in St. Louis city, a figure that's all too high even though it's lower than the previous two years. However, because of the national attention to these statistics, these figure are beginning to impact the rest of the state and its economic viability. The Missouri Chamber of

Commerce asked that it be made a priority by our current leadership in Jefferson City.

Then Speaker-elect Dean Plocher put together a special task force made up of 3 Republicans and 3 Democrats, including myself. We were asked to bring our recommendations on how to address crime via state statutes in the 2023 legislative session. Our recommendations became House Bill 301 which had multiple areas within it to address crime. At the very end, on page 19, was my very simple gun language that would prohibit unaccompanied children from carrying firearms on public property.

When doing my research, I asked law enforcement what they needed, and they said we need to get guns out of

the hands of children. There are videos of minors, some as young as 13, walking the streets of St. Louis with these high-powered weapons. This is because Missouri eliminated its CCW (concealed carry law) around 2012 which required a written evaluation and range practice course before one could legally carry a gun. Then, Republicans passed a law in 2021 which bans firearm regulations at any level but state.

The rural vs urban cultural divide became the center of controversy with my bill. When the bill was in committee, my language was stripped out by conservative Republicans. I feel fortunate that the bill's sponsor and the Speaker both agreed that I should be able to state my case on the House floor and try to put the language back in as an amendment. I never wanted the whole world to know about this flaw in our gun laws in Missouri; I just wanted to fix it.

When I was given the go ahead to offer the amendment and explain on the House floor that we have an epidemic in the City of St. Louis of juveniles, some as young as 13, carrying automatic weapons, it still failed. I don't want these children killing anyone because they are too young to understand the suffering families go through when they destroy someone's life. What I thought to be the most convincing reason, is that the police cannot initiate any intervention with minors holding a firearm until they brandish it with intent.

The positive of this negative attention is that the Republican lawmakers did come up to me the following day and told me they do want to fix this hole in our gun laws. We are working on new language now and we have until 6 p.m. on May 12th to get it done.

Deadline for scholarship application is April 14th

by Steve and Toni Zychinski

The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association is accepting applications for the 2023 SLHNA Student Award for scholarship, leadership and service in school, church, and community. Three one-time scholarships in the amount of \$600 will be awarded.

The application deadline is Friday, April 14th, and requires submission of a 3rd quarter/2nd trimester report card.

The applicant must be an eighth-grade student and the child/legal dependent of a St. Louis Hills Neighborhood

Association member living within the boundaries of St. Louis Hills. The applicant's family must have a current history of membership in the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association, including 2023.

The scholarship award is for the freshman year of high school only; it is non-renewable.

For more information and an application go to <http://stlhills.com> and browse to the membership/benefits section.



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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

Hope UCC Recognized

by Aaron Wagner

The United Church of Christ has officially recognized Hope UCC at 6273 Eichelberger as a Creation Justice Church. As followers of Christ, we at Hope have a responsibility to help heal and restore the earth and to work on behalf of all those who face issues of environmental injustice and oppression. Change can be contagious.

In addition to gradually reducing our ecological footprint, our environmental justice team and our worship leaders regularly weave issues of environmental justice, climate justice, renewable

energy, water resources, and food justice into the worship experience.

Please contact us to learn more, or stop in for one of our Sunday worship services. Check out our green resource blog at <https://hopeenvjustice.wixsite.com/my-site>.



2023 Neighborhood Events

March 30, 6:30 pm: General Meeting
Bishop Dubourg Cafeteria

Apr 8: Easter Egg Hunt
Francis Park

Apr 27, 6:30 pm: General Meeting
Bishop Dubourg Cafeteria

Apr 29, 9 am-1 pm: Plant Sale
Word of Life School

Jun 3, 7 pm: Summer Concert
The Knights of Swing (Jazz Big Band)
Ascension Lutheran Church Lawn

Jun 10, 7 pm: Summer Concert
Fanfare (Cover Band)
Ascension Lutheran Church Lawn

Jun 17, 7 pm: Summer Concert
Gerard Erker & Friends (Bluegrass & Folk)
Ascension Lutheran Church Lawn

Jun 24, 7 pm: Summer Concert
Side X Side (Percussion Ensemble)
Ascension Lutheran Church Lawn

Jun 29, 6:30 pm: General Meeting
Bishop Dubourg Cafeteria

Jul 1: Summer Concert
Violin & the Silver Screen (Cinematic Scores)
Ascension Lutheran Church Lawn

Aug 12: Grub & Groove
Francis Park
(Date Tentative)

Sep 2: Gateway Cup
Francis Park

Sep 16: Run for the Hills
Francis Park

Sep 24: Art in the Park
Francis Park

Oct 15: St. Louis Hills House Tour

Nov 26: Christmas Tree Lighting
Francis Park

Dec: Holiday Party
(Details TBD)

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:**

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/>

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

Ascension Lutheran Church's Annual THINK SPRING SALE

Saturday, April 29, 2023 | 9AM to 1PM

held at Word of Life School
6535 Eichelberger 63109

Choose from a colorful selection of fresh, locally grown
annuals, perennials, vegetables and hanging baskets. Brighten
landscapes or give to Mom for Mother's Day! Some additional
perennials and annuals will be available on sale day.

Please visit AscensionSTL.com/PLANTS (or scan QR code) after March 1 for complete
details and to download the order form.

Pre-order required and due by April 14, 2023. Proceeds benefit our youth activities.

Questions? Karen Hilkerbaumer - 314-378-2977 | gbomber@swbell.net or Julie Headrick - 314-258-2169 | hea102@sbcglobal.net

