

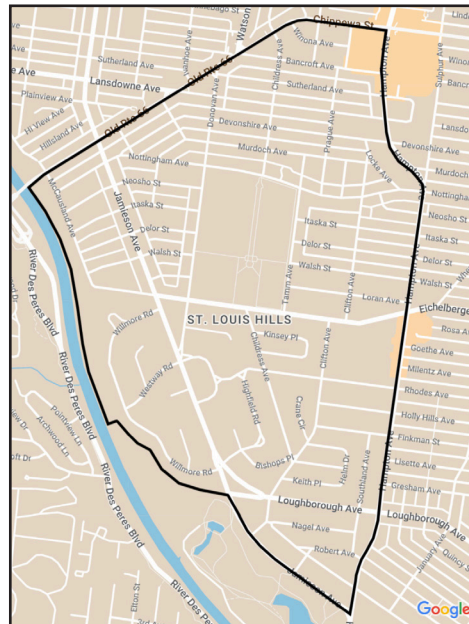


Four week AwareNet test a success

by Tom Scheifler

Two previous articles (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022) introduced the AwareNet project for our neighborhood and explained how we were working with volunteer households to test a classic neighborhood watch effort reimaged with security cameras and an on-duty security officer. From March to November, more than 90 households volunteered to purchase and install cameras (thank you!).

Fast forward to the present (January 2023) and I'm very happy to say, on December 15th we completed a very successful four-week test. With \$15,000 of funding from the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association, we hired Campbell Security Group to provide secondary-duty police officers working five hour shifts each night during the test. Their first priority was to review alerts sent automatically from the 108 security cameras located throughout St Louis Hills and identify any suspicious or criminal activity. ■ Cont'd on page 3



Now collecting donations from all St. Louis Hills households in the service area (see map)!



Scan with your smartphone camera or use other options listed in the article to the left.

SLHNA looking to launch SBD

by Tom Bene

As noted in the previous newsletter, the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association (SLHNA) is exploring the launch of a Special Business District (SBD) within our neighborhood boundaries.

SBDs are funded via a real estate tax collected on all properties within a designated area. All funds raised through an SBD must be spent only on items directly related to that area. SBDs have been implemented in many areas within St. Louis, including the Central West End, Soulard, the Grove, and most recently, Holly Hills.

SBDs must be approved by voters within the proposed boundaries of the district, and must be renewed periodically by voters after the SBD's term ends. SBDs are governed by Missouri state law and must comply with state regulations.

Based on favorable reception from our previous article

discussing this topic, a Steering Committee was formed and has been meeting monthly to not only identify needs of the community, but also to investigate the if, when, and how an SBD would work. Additionally, the Committee is identifying a future election cycle to put the issue before voters and send out all necessary communications and notifications that would need to happen to qualify for inclusion on a ballot. SLHNA is working with Park Central Development to help guide us through the process.

As of the date of this article, the SLHNA is attempting to get the SBD initiative on a ballot in Summer 2023, tentatively in August. If all goes according to plan, and the ballot initiative is approved, then funds would be available to the SBD starting in 2024. If the ballot initiative is postponed until 2024, then funds would not be available until 2025. Any SBD ballot initiative

■ Cont'd on page 2

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

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Nancy Vordtriede

Vice President
Liz O'Brien

Treasurer
Tom Bene'

Secretary
Pat Talley

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Executive Director
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John Burghoff
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Angie LeGrand

Christmas Lighting Awards
Caitlin Kremer
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Christmas Tree Lighting
Rob Curtin

Gateway Cup
Brad Arteaga

Holiday Party
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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 Kozminski

82nd State Representative
Donna Baringer

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Thomas Oldenburg

**16th/12th Ward Neighborhood
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Kathy Savage

**SLMPD 2nd District
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Michael Mueller

**SLMPD 2nd District
Officer Liasion**
Gus Karagiannis

**Hampton Chippewa
Business Association**
James Schmerold

The House Tour is back!

by Rick Palank

After a five-year absence brought about by COVID-19, the St. Louis Hills House Tour is returning on Saturday, October 8. The House Tour is normally held every other year; and while it is an excellent source of revenue for our Association, the primary purpose of the House Tour is to draw people who are not familiar with St. Louis Hills.

The increased awareness of St. Louis Hills results in people wanting to move into our neighborhood, thus increasing the demand for homes, condos, and apartments. The House Tour Committee still needs a few more homes or condos for the Tour. No home is too big or too small to be included on the Tour.

If you might be interested, please email Rick Palank at rpalank@gmail.com; or call 314-352-9399.

Thanks to past and future volunteers!

by Nan Vordtriede, President, SLHNA

My sincere thank you to the following volunteers who, due to other commitments, retired in 2022. We have been blessed by their time and talents over the past many years helping in their various capacities and their willingness to train incoming volunteers to replace them. Take time to thank them personally: Steve and Michelle Cheli (Scholarship), Kate Faust Corcoran (Welcome Bags), and Kim Heitert and Jennifer Bettag (Holiday Party).

Whether you renew your membership via QR code or the envelope attached to this newsletter, listed are opportunities for you to volunteer: The SLHNA Holiday Party, Senior Liaison, and the Young Professionals. This is truly the most rewarding experience, giving back to your community.

We are very pleased to announce the new Chairs: Sara Hallermann (Welcome Committee), Toni and Steve Zychinski (Scholarship), and Nina Chastain (House Tour).

SBD (Cont'd from Page 1)

would need to receive the support of the majority of the voting turnout for the proposed boundaries of the district.

Once clarity on future elections can be obtained, the Committee will start focusing on identifying needs of the community and then determining the revenue that would need to be raised to cover those items. Then, more in-depth community engagement will occur to make sure the effort is line with the expectations of the community.

Please feel free to reach out to treasurer@stlhills.com to provide any further feedback or comments about the SBD initiative.

Never forget to renew your membership again!

by Chip Kastner and Pat Talley

I've been editing this newsletter for over four years now, and I'm pretty sure I let my membership lapse in 2021. It's hard to remember to stay up to date. That's why I'm extremely excited at the fact that we've added the ability to set up recurring membership payments via PayPal on our website. You can sign up by scanning the QR code or visiting the web address on the back of this newsletter.

With dues and money from fund-raising activities, many events and services are provided to the neighborhood, including this newsletter, neighborhood security, grass cutting in Francis Park, scholarships to neighborhood students, and special events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Party and Christmas Tree Lighting.

Unfortunately, in spite of our efforts, our coffers are steadily being depleted. The City is not providing as many services as in the past, thus the need to cut grass in the Park ourselves and to ramp up our own security measures.

Recognizing the current financial situation, your neighborhood association Board has made the difficult decision to increase membership dues this year. The new annual dues rate will be \$50, or around \$4.00 per month. We sincerely hope that this increase does not create any difficulties for our residents and we hope everyone recognizes the value of activities and services provided by the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association.

AwareNet (Cont'd from Page 1)

Their second priority was to patrol all blocks in the service area using a high-visibility vehicle (you may have seen the SUV with a flashing blue light bar on the roof).

Directly as a result of reviewing alerts, the officers made two arrests and responded to several suspicious incidents.

In the Spring 2022 newsletter, we identified the following evaluation criteria:

- The security officer can immediately and consistently respond to AwareNet alerts.
- The security officer can successfully and consistently disrupt thieves from continuing their activity.
- The frequency and severity of criminal activity justifies the cost.

Items 1 and 2 were confirmed by the two arrests and multiple other responses to suspicious activity.

Item 3 is more subjective. In the six weeks prior to the test, there were 12 separate nights with criminal activity (but we did not have an officer patrolling). Temperatures dropped to freezing the first week of the test so it's not surprising there was a corresponding drop in criminal activity.

However, when warm weather returns, so will the higher frequency of criminal activity. And there's no reason to think the criminals will carry fewer weapons or be any less likely to use them.

For more details about the test results, visit: www.stlhills.com/safety/SLH-Four-Week-Test.pdf

Based on the results, the SLHNA Board voted to continue to the next step of the project—collecting donations to pay

the ongoing cost of the security officers (approximately \$13,500 per month). The request is for every household to donate at least a \$180 lump sum (or at least \$15 per month) to help pay for 12 months of security officer service.

Don't wait for others to donate! To restart the security officer patrols, we need approximately 800 households to contribute.

Below is the web address for the PayPal campaign where you can make your donation by credit card or your PayPal account (you can also use the QR code on the previous page): www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=C56PUH93SCTZW

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

You may also write a check (payable to SLHNA) and mail it to:

SLHNA Security
PO Box 190314
St Louis, MO 63119

Note: the SBD mentioned in the previous newsletter and accompanying article may eventually replace the need for donations but for the next 12-24 months, **donations are critical to restarting and continuing the security officer patrols.**

For more information, contact safety_committee@stlhills.com.

St. Louis Hills

News and Views



Publication of the
St. Louis Hills
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Editor and Layout
Chip Kastner

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...



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



The St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association (SLHNA) encourages activity and participation in all aspects of community living in our St. Louis Hills neighborhood. Nominal yearly dues provide operational expenses for many events, programs, and projects for all residents.

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.

2023 Neighborhood Events

Feb 16: Neighborhood Meeting
Bishop Dubourg Cafeteria

Apr 8: Easter Egg Hunt
Francis Park

Jun 29: Neighborhood Meeting
Bishop Dubourg Cafeteria

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 8: St. Louis Hills House Tour

Oct 19: Neighborhood Meeting
Bishop Dubourg Cafeteria
(Date Tentative)

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

