



Help wanted: Volunteer for the SLHNA!

by Chip Kastner

Are you interested in getting to meet your neighbors, stay involved in the community, and give back to the neighborhood that you call home?

If so, the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association (SLHNA) wants your help! We are looking for two chairpersons in particular to fill recent vacancies on our board.

The **Streets and Property Chair** is a member of the SLHNA Executive Committee who serves as the association's liaison with our Neighborhood Improvement Specialist (NIS).

The NIS is a city employee assigned to investigate, track and take action against "problem properties" in a designated neighborhood. The Streets and Property Chair is responsible for holding periodic meetings about

problematic residential properties in St. Louis Hills to keep the NIS and board president informed of any recent developments.

The **Holiday Party Chair** is an event chair responsible for organizing the SLHNA's annual party in December. This involves scheduling the event with the venue; creating and distributing invitations, flyers and posters; working with a caterer to plan the menu, seating and decor; coordinating desserts, gift baskets and a DJ; and coordinating activities the week of the event.

Beyond these two chair positions, we are always looking for volunteers to serve on various committees and otherwise help out around the neighborhood. If you are interested, or have any questions, please email president@stlhills.com!

Security initiative marks seven months in operation

by Tom Scheifler, Chair, SLHNA Safety Committee

As of September 28th, the St Louis Hills neighborhood security initiative has been up and running for seven months. During that time, our private-duty officers have successfully identified and disrupted in-progress criminal activity on eleven separate occasions. This is the most important metric we track because we know without disruption, criminals will continue block-to-block, for as long as they like, taking whatever they want, and often doing costly damage to property along the way.

In addition, we know from video clips recorded in our neighborhood and posted on social media by adjacent neighborhoods, the criminals often carry weapons openly. So please do not confront the subjects when you see suspicious or criminal activity. Call 911 immediately and remain in a safe location.

The complete set of monthly reports and year-to-date stats for the security initiative are publicly available at www.stlhills.com.

With the official formation of the St Louis Hills Special Business District, we will have reliable funding for the neighborhood security initiative, and other important neighborhood projects, starting in early 2024. Although I am not a board member of the SBD, I will be working with the board as they move forward with developing the required request for proposal (RFP) to establish a contract with a security service company for 2024. Please direct any questions or concerns regarding the RFP process to the SBD (www.stlhillssbd.com).

A frequent question is, are other neighborhoods starting to do something like our security initiative? The answer is yes. There are at least six groups from other City neighborhoods (north, mid, and south) who are considering or moving forward with a similar effort. I'm glad to work as a volunteer with any group interested to explore something similar.

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

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Liz O'Brien

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Secretary
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Christmas Lighting Awards
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Christmas Tree Lighting
Rob Curtin

Gateway Cup
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Holiday Party
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House Tour
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Lawn & Garden Awards
Sarah Seger

Scholarship
Toni Zychinski
Steve Zychinski

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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

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16th/12th Ward Neighborhood Improvement Specialist
TBD

SLMPD 2nd District Commander
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SLMPD 2nd District Officer Liaison
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Hampton Chippewa Business Association
James Schmerold

2023 Lawn and Garden Award winners chosen

by Sarah Seger

Congratulations to this year's Lawn & Garden winners! We had many beautiful nominations this year. Thank you to all of our judges who volunteered their time. Special shout out to our junior committee members Aileen Kremer, Tessa Thenhaus, Perry & Louise Hallermann for help distributing yard signs!

Best Lawn & Garden:

6512 Eichelberger - Hrisoula & Vasillios Makos
6517 Itaska - Wayne & Cathy Myrick
6530 Murdoch - Laura Nager
5021 Donovan - Patrick & Emily McGinnis
6262 Delor - Diane & Michael Bello
6201 Delor - Mike & Patti Reda
6220 Walsh - Carl & Caroline Schwarzen
6474 Kinsey - Katherine & Stephen Schmitt
6429 Kinsey - Melissa & Thomas McCarthy
5938 Hilgard - Nan Vordtriede
6000 Guilford - Matt & Terri Borowiak
6717 Neosho - Maureen & Michael Niedringhaus

Best Block:

6400 Kinsey
6200 Delor

Best Church:

Hope United Church of Christ

Best Corner:

Tamm & Nottingham



One of this year's Lawn and Garden Award winners. Photo provided by Sarah Seger.

Thank you to all Run for the Hills participants!

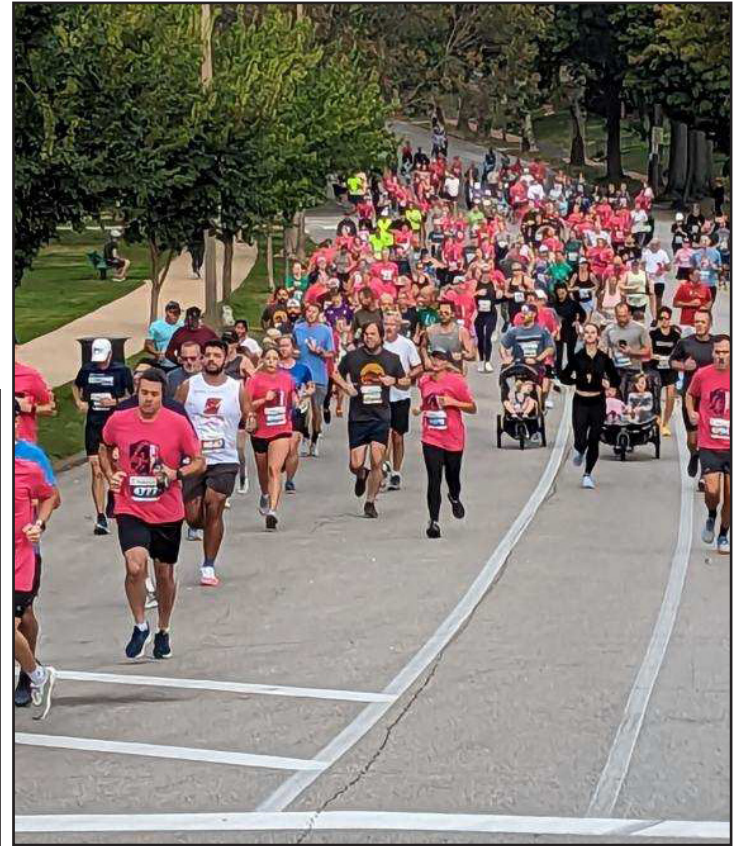
by Wayne Myrick

Thank you to all our runners, walkers, sponsors, volunteers and neighborhood supporters who made the 2023 Run for the Hills another tremendous success for our neighborhood and Francis Park.

The neighborhood is so grateful for our loyal sponsors who donate \$500 every year and our 100 volunteers who sacrifice their valuable time on the third Saturday morning of each September to wake up our neighborhood with a blast of energy and make our neighborhood safe for our runners and walkers.

If you love our neighborhood, Francis Park and running, join our wonderful team of leaders next year for the 33rd Run for the Hills on September 21, 2024.

Send an email now (while you are thinking about it) to waymyrick3@yahoo.com and join our Run team as we'll start our planning next spring.



St. Louis Hills HOUSE TOUR

Historic Southwest City Neighborhood



**October 15, 2023
Sunday**

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Information & Tickets
stlouishills.com**

Early Bird Savings on Tickets!

**10 Homes
*
Trolley
Cars**



- * Home to Ted Drewes Frozen Custard
- * Scenic Francis Park



Tickets Also Available at Southside Hardware and Abigail's Gift Boutique.



Top: Runners take off from the starting line at Run for the Hills 2023.
Bottom: The t-shirt given to participants in the 32nd annual Run for the Hills. Photos provided by Wayne Myrick.

art in the Park

artintheparkstl.com

St. Louis Hills

FRANCIS PARK BY THE LILY POND

2023 ART IN THE PARK ST. LOUIS HILLS RECAP

After a week of weather forecasts of rain that changed hourly, we were fortunate to have a dry, glorious day for Art in the Park St. Louis Hills. This year's event was a bit larger than it has been in the past few years. We had more than 80 artists, 11 food vendors, 15 sponsor booths and 11 nonprofit booths.



As you may have read in the event program, we are not planning to have Art in the Park in 2024. Rather, we are going to focus on finding and installing some new art in the park.

It is my fervent hope that I can find someone to focus on volunteer recruitment so that the event can return in 2025. I'm physically



Attendance was good. We're not certain it equaled last year's but it was close. The bars ran out of liquor and we ran out of raffle tickets, so we are pleased with the turnout. The feedback from the artists has been very positive. So, I think we pulled it off!

unable to continue to do all I did this year. That is true for many on the Art in the Park team and most of our go-to volunteers. I'm hoping that if tasks are smaller and very specific that more people will be interested in helping in advance and on the



day of the event. Event participants say that Art in the Park has the greatest group of volunteers and they are right!

Each year we ask artists to consider donating a piece of their work to our raffle to raise money for Art in the Park. Seventy-five raffle items were donated this year and we are very grateful to the artists. Fairgoers purchase raffle tickets for just \$1 each and spend the day going from booth to booth putting their tickets in the boxes of the raffle items they desire. At the end of the day, the artists pull the winning ticket for their raffle item and our volunteers have the fun of distributing the raffle items to the lucky smiling winners.

This year we ran a contest for the artist with the most raffle tickets in their box at the end of the day. Julie Goodman Fine Arts took home the \$200 first place prize. The \$100 second place prize was won by Jon Biscan.



Julie Goodman Fine Arts with "Serene" – an original Gold Leaf and Acrylic on Canvas with a bronze-coated frame



Jon Biscan –Blown Glass with his TBD glass pumpkin

I want to take time to acknowledge the indispensable help we receive all along the way from Alderman Tom Oldenburg. This year, there were two serious problems that would have affected our event in negatively that were resolved solely due to the Alderman's intervention. Plus, he is a platinum sponsor! Thank you, Tom.

Thanks to the Parks Department and all of the volunteers from other organizations that spruced up Francis Park and the Lily pond. They looked fabulous! Andy Banker was again an outstanding volunteer as emcee of the event.

Thanks to all of you that attended. I hope you had a great day of sunshine and St. Louis Hills. I also hope that you took note of our sponsors and will give them your consideration. We are so grateful to our sponsors.

And finally, thanks to Friends of Francis Parks for being a no-hassle parent organization and for running the bars at the event!! Great job!!!

Please consider coming on board as a team member or volunteer. We need to fill key positions as soon as possible for 2025, starting with a volunteer coordinator.

art in the Park
artintheparkstl.com St. Louis Hills



THANKS TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

BILLBOARD



PLATINUM



GOLD



13th annual Grub and Groove draws a crowd

by Lynn Venhaus

Big bubbles, tasty treats and cool sounds made for a festive 13th annual Grub and Groove despite the steamy weather. Neighbors and friends gathered at Francis Park on Aug. 12 for food, music and fun, with proceeds benefitting Francis Park and neighboring area through the South City Improvement Association.

“My favorite thing about it is how the neighborhood comes together and throws/supports such a fun event,” said Eileen Engel. “From the food and beverage and booths full of items, to the fireworks closing out the party, it was such an amazing day at Francis Park. I feel so lucky to have this in my backyard.”

Sarah Harvie, mother of three teenagers, said she has been coming every year “since the very first one when my kiddos were still little and played in the bubble bus bubbles. It’s the epitome of the St. Louis Hills community.”

Longtime neighborhood supporter Brian McKenna said it is one of his favorite days of the year. “Francis Park is the perfect setting. Everything is so well organized. The food, drinks, music, and sense of community make this a must-go-to event. There’s something for everyone including the kids.”

Organizers and volunteers spent three days setting up, hosting and cleaning up. Check out the Facebook page for more information and for sign-up sheets to help for next year.



A young eventgoer enjoys watching a stilt walker at Grub and Groove. Photo by Chip Kastner.

Congratulations to our 2023 scholarship winners!

by Toni and Steve Zychinski

Membership in the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association is an excellent way to meet your neighbors and contribute to the success and beauty of our neighborhood.

Another great benefit of membership in the SLHNA is the Annual Scholarship competition. The eighth grade children of parents who are members of the SLHNA may enter the competition to be awarded a one-time \$600 scholarship to the high school of their choice.

This year, scholarships were awarded to Patrick Casciola and Anthony Bene, both 8th grade students from St. Gabriel the Archangel who will be attending Saint Louis University High School.

We congratulate these students on their scholarship, leadership, and service in school, church, and community. They are very deserving of the award!

Exciting changes are coming to this scholarship in 2024 but a history of membership will still be required for

application consideration.

If you have current student(s) in your household, now would be a great time to join the association or make sure your membership is up to date in preparation!



Anthony Bene (left) and Patrick Casciola (right) were the winners of the 2023 SLHNA scholarship. Photos provided by Tom Bene and Lisa Casciola.

2023 Tour de Francis Park sets new records

by Lynn Venhaus

This year's Gateway Cup at Francis Park was the highest racer turnout of the Labor Day weekend, reports Event Coordinator Mike Weiss of Big Shark Bicycle Company.

"Almost 100 children in the kids' races. The Ride to Unite charity event that precedes the competitive races had its largest turn out- possibly 150 people. We see about 650 unique racers at the venue, the highest of all the events," he said.

"My belief is that the course is perceived as the safest of the four days and likely the one that is most amateur and local athletes can finish cleanly," he said.

The Gateway Cup takes place in four unique city neighborhoods and includes Tour de Lafayette Friday night, Tour de Francis Park Saturday, Giro Della Montagna on the Hill Sunday, and The Benton Park Classic on Monday.

Many things make the Tour de Francis Park a welcome competition, he noted.

"Francis Park is the perfect distance for a Criterium (race format). It has enough of a rise to add a bit of excitement to the finish. The pavement quality is great- so the 'field of play' is terrific for a big event like the Bommarito Audi Gateway Cup. The setting is wonderful as well, the

churches on the corner, the yard parties, and the festival/ food court on the inside of the course in the park is great. Each year the turnout seems to improve," Weiss said.

In cycling, the Gateway Cup is the final race of the U.S. Masters Cup, a competition for the best Masters Racers in the United States. Three age groups (40+, 50+, 60+) compete for an overall series prize list at three marquee events this season – Tour of America's Dairyland (TOAD), The Intelligentsia Cup, and the Gateway Cup.

The racecourse in each host community is a defined one mile lap, and the Americanized style of racing appeals to both athletes and spectators alike as the pack of cyclists pass by every few minutes at impressive speeds holding lines only inches apart from one another.

Spectators can watch the race develop lap after lap and hear commentators announce race strategy, allowing more of an understanding and involvement.

There are nine races each day based on ability, ranging from new riders to pros. Each day begins with the amateur races and builds up to the featured events, the men's and women's professional races.

Weiss said the Gateway Cup gets a lot of positive feedback. In terms of competitive cycling, there are not many events in North American like the Gateway Cup-and it draws from across the U.S.

"We see residents having fun and getting into the spirit of the event. We like holding all four days in St. Louis City proper- one unified permit, one streets department, one police department, one fire department- it's just easier- and St. Louis needs positive events," he said.

"We showcase neighborhoods with the race- rather than investing in a facility or stadium, professional cycling brings the benefits of a pro sport to our community, and it's free to watch," he said.

They have not started planning yet for 2024, but they intend to return to the city with all four days of racing for the 39th annual event. They are renewing their position as the final for the American Criterium Cup.

Weiss announced more exciting news for cycling enthusiasts: "A documentary on the season will be released this winter/December."

For more information, visit the website: <https://gatewaycup.com/>.



The 38th annual Tour de Francis Park brought over 650 racers to St. Louis Hills. Photo by Richard Jefferson.

Picnic Season!

Over the weekend of October 7-8, both St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church and St. Thomas the Apostle Romanian Orthodox Church held their annual parish picnic. From September 22-23, St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church held theirs.

Nottingham Ave north of Francis Park was closed for St. Gabriel's annual festivities (pictured at right) that included rides, games, and plenty of food and drinks.

At the west end of the block, St. Thomas' annual Romanian Festival provided traditional Romanian cuisine alongside tours of the historic church.

Further south, St. Raphael's picnic featured karaoke, an outdoor mass, cake walk and game booths.

Photos by Chip Kastner.



2023 Neighborhood Events

Oct 14: Brew in the Lou
Francis Park

Oct 15: St. Louis Hills House Tour

Nov 16: General Meeting w/
Circuit Attorney Gabe Gore
Bishop DuBourg Cafeteria

Nov 26: Christmas Tree Lighting
Francis Park

Dec 16: Live Nativity Scene
Ascension Lutheran

Important Neighborhood Contact Information

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

Commander, 2nd District SLMPD:
Lt. Daniel Zarrick, 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, dekrampf@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:**
TBD

**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

St. Louis Hills
News and Views



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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

LIVE NATIVITY

Saturday, December 16
5:00 - 9:00 PM



Ascension Lutheran Church
5347 Donovan Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109
AscensionSTL.com | 314-532-5600