



St. Louis Hills SBD: Get ready to vote!

by Tom Bene

It's finally almost here! Election date for Board Bill 164, the creation of the St. Louis Hills Special Business District (SBD), will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at Buder Library.

Previous articles in this newsletter have provided background in explaining the role and purposes of a SBD and the reason for exploring this option for our neighborhood. This article will briefly summarize recent developments and adjustments to the SBD process after all our various community engagements. The best source

for information regarding the SBD will be the website, which can be found at www.stlhillsbd.com. Please explore the various menus on the site, such as "About," to see the endorsements from local officials, legal petition documents, and previous meeting Q&As. To see the latest proposed budget, an interactive calculator, and tax rates for other local SBDs, please visit the "Financial Information" tab.

All funds collected by the SBD must be expended for the benefit of the community. The driver ■ Cont'd on page 2

Security initiative disrupts crimes in progress

by Tom Scheifler

As of June 30th, we've completed four months with a private-duty officer on patrol at night in St. Louis Hills. During March, April and May the voluntary contributions covered the cost of patrols 3-4 nights each week. Since crime statistics show more criminal activity during the summer, the SLHNA Board decided to move some of the money allocated for later months of 2023 to June and July so we can have patrols as many nights each week as Campbell Security can provide (27 of 30 nights in June).

Proven to work – When we have an officer on duty patrolling and reviewing automatic alerts from security cameras, the officer identifies criminal activity and responds immediately to disrupt it. Our officers have disrupted 7 criminal incidents in our neighborhood since March 1st; 5 criminal incidents occurred on nights without an officer (due to limited funding).

Funding – As of June 30th, we have received 565 donations totaling over \$101,000! That allows us to sustain at least 4 nights each week with an officer on duty for the rest of 2023. With just another 25 donations, we will be able to sustain at least 5 nights each week for the rest of 2023. To reach residents who avoid social media, we have:

- Displayed informational table cards at Rockwell Beer Garden, Southside Wine & Spirits, St Louis Pizza & Wings, Salt n Smoke, Smoke & Bones. Please thank these locations with your business!

- Enlisted 50 volunteers (thank you!) to distribute informational door stickers, similar to the table cards, to every door in the neighborhood. This effort should be completed by mid-July.

To make your contribution for 2023, please visit www.stlhills.com, Safety Committee, Security Initiative – Donations. For 2024 and beyond we hope funding will be provided by the proposed special taxing district (see article in this newsletter).

Cameras – Although we have 135 cameras throughout the neighborhood (bought by residents and businesses) that send alerts to the officer on duty, we have not reached the long-term goal of at least one camera per block. For obvious reasons, we do not want to publicly list the blocks without cameras. But please contact ■ Cont'd on page 4



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

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SBD (Cont'd from Page 1)

of the SBD petition is to develop a sustainable funding solution during the 7-year life of the SBD for the Neighborhood Security Initiative, which has a primary goal of making the St. Louis Hills neighborhood safe for residents, businesses and visitors by disrupting and deterring criminal activity. Based on the most recent SBD budget outline, over 42% of SBD funds collected will go towards this endeavor. If passed, the SBD will replace the annual/monthly voluntary donation collection method of funding that over 550 households/businesses in the boundary have contributed towards in 2023 and the SBD funding would be able to provide 7 nights a week of coverage. The safety and security committee could then focus efforts on further innovations instead of having to solicit donations year-round to fund the project.

As noted in the proposed budget, with regards to the remaining collected funds, the SBD Board plans to be a partner along with other leading community organizations such as the St. Louis Neighborhood Association, City Parks Department, Friends of Francis Park, Friends of Willmore, and Alderman Tom Oldenburg to help provide a funding source as part of a larger partnership for neighborhood project improvements with the goal to supplement gaps in city services/projects, not to pay for the same things twice.

The members of the SBD Steering Committee have worked diligently during all our community engagement sessions and through various feedback from social media and email inquiries to make sure we listened to concerns of the community about its role and its cost. To further help mitigate cost impacts, the most the SBD can collect on any individual parcel will be capped at \$250 per parcel. Simply put, if you own one real estate tax parcel (a home, business, or multifamily property) in the boundary that exceeds a \$375,000 appraised value, the maximum you would pay annually on the SBD portion of your real estate bill is \$250. If you own a real estate parcel that is appraised below \$375,000, you will pay less than \$250.

This additional cap will help keep the total annual revenue generated by the SBD to \$500,000 or under. Please note, the language on the ballot will still reference the .50 per \$100 rate cap per parcel, but the rate used in Year 1 will be .35 per \$100 of assessed value and .30 per \$100 of assessed value in Year 2, subject to this maximum tax cap of \$250. As noted on mailings from the City Assessor, the SBD tax rates for St. Louis Hills is the lowest of any of the 14 SBD districts in the city of St. Louis. For point of reference, the nearby Holly Hills SBD used a .5873 rate for 2023 with no maximum tax cap per parcel.

I encourage the residents of our community to vote in favor of the SBD proposal on August 8, 2023. Please send any questions or inquiries to sbdinfo@stlhills.com. Thank you for your support!

Run for the Hills

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

32

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.

Grub and Groove returns August 12

by Lynn Venhaus

Ready to eat, dance and be merry? Grab a lawn chair or blanket and connect with friends and neighbors in Francis Park on Saturday, Aug. 12, for the free 13th annual Grub & Groove event.

From 2 to 10 p.m., you can partake in Food Row, which offers a wide range of eats and drinks from popular local restaurants, check out the area merch at the Retail Village, and enjoy live music from the SWADE stage.

Azar Orthodontics Webster Groves is back as sponsor of the popular Kids Zone for their third year. That means a

full day of games and activities for kids of all ages. New this year will be a grab-n-go kids meal offering (more details to follow on the #grubandgroove23 Facebook page.)

The “Grub” vendors will be announced soon. Two local beer companies, 4 Hands Brewing and Rockwell Beer will be back, in the bar tent and an on-tap draft hall.

The versatile music line-up includes singer-songwriter Rachel Deschaine; contemporary country-rock artist Matt Jordan; The Blue Sparks with Craig Straubinger, a mix of rockabilly, electric blues, and early rock

■ Cont'd on page 6

Security (Cont'd from Page 1)

me, Tom Scheifler, if you would like to consider a camera for your home/apartment/business (typically less than \$200). I can be contacted at safety_committee@stlhills.com or 314.406.1166.

Continuous Improvement – We are evaluating the results of the security initiative week-to-week and month-to-month. We meet frequently with Campbell Security Group to discuss the performance of their officers and their valuable feedback. In May, a feature was added that allows the officers to see a map of GPS data which shows where in our neighborhood they have patrolled during their shift. This helps them ensure they are covering the entire neighborhood each shift and allows us to confirm we are getting the level of service we expect.

Please remember, the first priority for our officers is to review the alerts from cameras and their second priority is to drive/patrol the neighborhood. So if you see them stationary for a period of time, they are probably reviewing alerts.

Additional Information – The SLHNA web site has a [Security Initiative Q&A](#) page with answers to many of the commonly asked questions and the [Security Initiative Monthly Reports](#) page has a detailed report for each month as well as a year-to-date summary. If you are unable to locate information or still have questions, please contact Tom Scheifler, Safety Committee Chairperson, at safety_committee@stlhills.com or 314.406.1166.

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 Abigails Gift Boutique.

art ⁱⁿ the Park

artintheparkstl.com

St. Louis Hills

FRANCIS PARK BY THE LILY POND

THE ARTISTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED

Many are new to our event along with many of our returning favorites. I'll be posting pictures of raffle items on our facebook page leading up to the event.

THE FOOD VENDORS ARE LINED UP

New this year is Go! Gyro! Go! and Latin food by Amaiz-ing Cakes. Also, all of last year's food vendors are returning:

- > Bogarts Smokehouse
- > Crispy Edges
- > Destination Desserts
- > Estela's Frescas
- > LeGrand's
- > Pretzel Boys
- > ShowMe Kettle Korn
- > Tom's NY Food Truck



John Vogler

THE ENTERTAINMENT HAS BEEN BOOKED

- > 10 am - *Brian Curran*
easy listening music
- > 12:30 pm - *Connor & Rachel*
fun and lively music
- > 3 pm - *Fanfare*
rocking out



Fred Schollmeyer



Laurie Van Mondfrans

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help with sponsor and advertiser solicitations is greatly needed. Please contact me at janice.starbuck@artintheparkstl.com if you are interested in helping or have a lead on a business that would be possibly interested in supporting this event. We will be reaching out for event day volunteers in September. Please consider volunteering an hour or two of your time.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ART IN THE PARK

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

BILLBOARD



PLATINUM

Tom Oldenburg
ALDERMAN • WARD 2

GOLD



SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 • 10 AM - 5 PM

Grub and Groove (Cont'd from Page 4)

'n roll; jazz-hip hop-world musician Lamar Harris with his 18-piece big band, Georgia Mae; and the John Hughes Experience, known for their '80s pop hits and more.

Not only are the festivities a great opportunity to meet and greet people, but any proceeds are used to improve Francis Park and the surrounding neighborhood. Through the nonprofit South City Improvement Corporation, the event has helped fund park lighting, crosswalks, water fountain upgrades and decorative signage.

Organizers are a volunteer committee who just want to give back to their St. Louis Hills neighborhood. The event has grown every year, and any help is appreciated.

If you are interested in being involved, you can fill out a sign-up form here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4fa9ac2ba3f94-2023#/> or go to the website, <https://grubandgroove.org/#getinvolved>.

You can help sell Grub & Groove merchandise, serve food, set-up the day before or clean-up afterwards, among all the tasks needed. You'll be able to see what slots are not filled yet.

Organizers remind everyone that outside food and drink is prohibited and they ask that you support the vendors and sponsors who help keep the event free for all. Tents are not allowed within the main event footprint. And they do not encourage pets to attend as the crowd and noise can be unsettling.

2023 Neighborhood Events

Aug 8: SBD Voting -Buder Library

Aug 12: Grub & Groove - Francis Park

Sep 2: Gateway Cup - Francis Park

Sep 16: Run for the Hills - Francis Park

Sep 22-23: Ascension Lutheran Plant Sale

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)

St. Louis Hills
News and Views



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Neighborhood Association

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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

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, 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:**

John DeGuire, 314-657-1365
deguirej@stlouis-mo.gov

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

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Friday, 9/22 from 4-6pm &
Saturday, 9/23 from 9am-12pm



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