



Key highlights from the St. Louis Hills SBD

by Don Orf, Secretary, St. Louis Hills SBD

As of this writing, the St. Louis Hills Special Business District (SBD) Board has been working on a number of things for both 2024 and 2025. For 2025, an initial budget has been laid out to provide a framework for spending. Additionally, the cap and rate per \$100 assessed valuation was provided to the State of Missouri and to the City of St. Louis. The current rates—\$0.35 per \$100 of assessed valuation and a hard cap on contributions of \$250 will not change for 2025. Simply put, your contribution to the SBD should be the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (unless your property was reappraised during 2024).

For 2024, most of the SBD budget has either been spent or committed. Your contribution to the SBD has gone to:

- Make our neighborhood safer through consistent patrols by TCF (The City's Finest). You can see reports from TCF on the SBD website.
- Beautify the neighborhood through work with Friends of Willmore Park. FOWP is doing some great work cleaning up the park and eradicating some invasive plant species with the idea of creating new environments through the addition of a pollinator patch and wildflower areas that will add to the park aesthetic.
- Help provide information to the neighborhood by working with the SLHNA and financially supporting a printed newsletter that included information about SBD activities.
- Supporting events in the neighborhood. Working with the SLHNA, the SBD provided some financial support for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and will provide support for the Christmas Tree Lighting. Additionally, the SBD provided some financial assistance to Grub and Groove, which was again a great success and a wonderful showcase for our area.
- Add to the infrastructure of the neighborhood by helping to finance a coming playground update in

Francis Park (likely to be completed in early 2025) and repair of a stone wall on the northeast side of the park.

The SBD also conducted a survey. Participation was minimal, but you can find the results on the website at www.stlhills.com. In fact, you can find information on everything going on with the SBD at that site: meeting agendas and minutes, budgets, safety and security reports, funding requests and other related documents. You can also find contact information for the SBD Commissioners as well as important phone numbers and helpful links for neighborhood and area organizations.

The goals of the SBD are to work with residents, local organizations and appropriate City of St. Louis entities on projects that benefit our neighborhood and make it a better place to live. The SBD welcomes feedback any time. Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Buder Library.

Farewell to Art in the Park?

by Chip Kastner, Editor

Were you curious about what happened to Art in the Park this year? The unfortunate answer is that they simply didn't have enough volunteers to run it, so they had to suspend the event. Making matters worse, the event chair is retiring and has been unable to find a replacement, which means that, unless something major changes, the beloved event is likely not going to return.

Art in the Park is far from the only event that relies on a small army of volunteers to keep things running. This issue of the newsletter alone is the work of over a dozen volunteers who provided the articles and photos and maintain the SLHNA's websites, social media pages and mailing lists.

If you're interested in helping with Art in the Park, Run for the Hills, the Easter Egg Hunt, the newsletter or anything else, please reach out to membership@stlhills.com.

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A tribute to Tom and Janice


by Carol Wilson

St. Louis Hills is a neighborhood where many people stay a long time. Some even leave and come back. A few of those people become such an integral part of the neighborhood that their names are synonymous with involvement and commitment to the community. They are people you just can't imagine the neighborhood without. Two of those people are Tom Scheifler and Janice Starbuck.

Tom and Janice have been our alley neighbors for over twenty years. Some great friendships are formed in alleys, but we have also spent time together volunteering for the St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association. Tom and Janice love James Bond, dogs and cats, the theater, and their neighborhood. It's rare to be at an event and not see one or both of them attending—or more likely—volunteering for or spear-heading it.

Janice's list of talents and accomplishments are so varied and numerous, you have to wonder if she ever sleeps. We'll never forget her involvement with Art in the Park as Chairperson, coordinating artists, media, volunteers, sponsors and logistics. Janice and her amazing team built an event that has grown in popularity and renown every year. She was also SLHNA Holiday Party Co-Chair from 2000-2010—ten years! (This neighborhood is famous for recruiting people to volunteer for positions and then refusing to let them retire in less than a decade.)

Janice has also been a gifted editor ("Hills Street News"),

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Janice Starbuck and Tom Scheifler receive a resolution from State Rep. Donna Baringer and a proclamation from Alderman Tom Oldenburg. Photo provided by Nan Vordtriede.

Shreddin' with the SLHNA by Janice Starbuck

The SLHNA held its first document shredding event on Saturday, September 28th at the Wood Brothers Realty parking lot. The two hour event attracted 51 area residents. The majority were SLHNA members. Non-members paid \$10 per box of documents.

Many were happy to have an opportunity to clean up and clear out old files.

Tom Scheifler chaired the event and enlisted the help of Jerry Daugherty and David Leahy. SLHNA President Ken Gabel was on hand to provide donuts for the volunteers. Wood Brothers Realty kindly donated the use of their parking lot. Citishred was there to shred on site.

All in all, a successful inaugural event!



SLHNA Board Member and Wood Brothers Agent Toni Zychinski with event Chair Tom Scheifler. Photo provided by Janice Starbuck.

Tom and Janice (Cont'd from Page 2)

webmaster and membership data chair. She has been a St. Louis Hills Neighborhood Association board member and a St. Louis Hills Special Business District Steering Committee member. And let's not forget her job with the Neosho Street holiday lighting—she helps make Snowflake Street come alive.

And where there is Janice Starbuck, there is her husband Tom Scheifler, also a tireless volunteer. He volunteered as Webmaster and Traffic Manager for Art in the Park, worked on the SLHNA Holiday Party, volunteered for Run for the Hills and Francis Park Cleanup, has been a SLHNA board member and participated on the Special Business District Steering Committee.

When SLHNA decided to add a Safety Committee, Tom and Janice created it and were its Co-Chairs. They oversaw several subcommittees: Business Security, Crime and Safety Education, Neighborhood Impact Statements, Neighborhood Watch and Security Cameras. Together they raised \$10,000 through a Chili Cook-Off for Real Time Crime Center cameras along Hampton Ave. They worked to revitalize the Block Captain program, initiated a neighborhood watch program, and wrote neighborhood impact statements to judges to ask that criminals be incarcerated rather than returned to our streets.

Tom Scheifler is the SLHNA Technology Advisor for software and cameras. To me he's the super tech guy who asked me if we'd like a camera on our garage and when I said yes, he installed it and showed me how to use the app, something I never would have or could have done on my own. I'm not the only one who benefited from the

gift of Tom's time. He installed over 150 cameras for the safety program and maintained them with the approval and permission of the homeowners. He has been vigilant about communicating with residents to promote safety and awareness.

Tom will never be forgotten for one program, in particular, that he founded and exclusively created for our neighborhood—"AwareNet, LLC." It is "security by the neighborhood, for the neighborhood." Tom's AwareNet software has been an invaluable tool for our neighborhood secondary police patrols. Tom has become well-known in the city for his creation of AwareNet, and when other neighborhoods have sought his advice and assistance with his program for their own communities, he has donated his time to them, as well.

Whether individually or as a team, Tom Scheifler and Janice Starbuck have exerted a positive influence on the St. Louis Hills community. They will be leaving us soon for new adventures in another state, where I have no doubt they will make their mark, as well.

Tom and Janice, as your friends and neighbors we all wish you well, but at the same time we will miss you—a lot. We know your shoes will be extremely difficult to fill. Where you saw a need, you filled it. Where you saw a problem, you worked to solve it. And you did it without looking for credit or accolades. Every day you have provided us with an example of what it is to be a good neighbor. Thank you for your generosity and selfless efforts for St. Louis Hills.

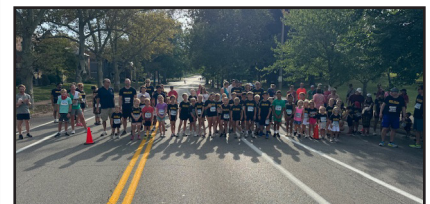
We won't forget it or you.

Run for the Hills 2024

by Wayne Myrick



Run for the Hills 2024 celebrating our neighborhood, our park and the 2023 Missouri Tigers-Cotton Bowl Champs. Thank you to our runners, walkers, volunteers and our loyal sponsors for making this a day of happiness and success while raising money to keep Francis Park beautiful! Mark your calendars for next year's race on September 20, 2025.



Grub & Groove breaks post-COVID records

by Rich Fisher

August 10th brought the 14th year of Grub & Groove in Francis Park. Along with plenty of sunshine and mild temperatures, once again St. Louis Hills neighbors welcomed thousands of people to the park for a day full of food, music and fun. This year's event featured a number of changes to improve visitor experience and event success.

Hearing feedback about lines for food and drinks, the team focused on adding more vendors and making our own bar operations smoother. This meant not only more options but hopefully shorter lines for all. Whether you wanted pizza, BBQ, tacos or boba tea, our Food Row boasted the greatest number of vendors since before COVID. A big thanks goes out to all our local restaurant partners!

With the growing popularity of the Lily Pad Lounge for cocktails and drinks, we were able to expand that program in partnership with 4 Hands Brewing Company & 1220 Spirits. New craft cocktails, an event specific draft beer, and more were on hand. Even our drink program responded to feedback with more light drinking options including a non-alcoholic option; for 2025 we have heard feedback about soft drinks, so look for that next year!

The always popular Azar Orthodontics Kids Zone continued to be packed with activities and entertainment for the little ones whether it was bubbles, face paint, or balloon art. Hopefully we were able to help tire them out a bit! We've already looked at options to bring even more activities to the 2025 Kids Zone and freshen the experience

up. Another area of significant growth was our Retail Village, with over 25 local markers and shops featured. A big thanks to our lead vendors Wynk, Chase, Mid-America Chevy, and Schicker Ford.

We also want to say thank you to everyone who supported the event with your dollars at the bars, buying merchandise, and with our vendors. That resulted in our strongest financial year since 2019, shoring up investments made into the event over the last few years. But most importantly, Grub & Groove will return nearly \$30,000 to the community in 2024 and early 2025 through our non-profit South City Investment Corp (SCIC). We have allocated funds for a number of new tree plantings to offset recent losses (will happen after the first freeze), a donation to the Buder Elementary School Media Library (to supplement our donation in 2019), and one more larger scale project to be announced.

Last, but certainly not least, we want to thank the volunteers who give their time over the course of four days to help our production group mount Grub & Groove. As a group of six volunteers living in and around the St Louis Hills neighborhood, Grub & Groove wouldn't be the event it has become without all of the generous support! We look forward to seeing you in 2025 on Saturday, August 9th!

Be sure to check out our next event: Lights at the Lily Pond, an Enchanted Market taking place on Saturday December 7th near the lily ponds.



Left: The main stage at Grub & Groove. Right: Children play in bubbles at the Azar Orthodontics Kids Zone. Photos provided by Rich Fisher.

Celebrating the best lawns and gardens

by Sarah Seger

We are excited to announce the winners of this year's Lawn and Garden Awards, recognizing the exceptional efforts of our neighbors in maintaining beautiful and welcoming outdoor spaces. The St. Louis Hills community is known for its stunning landscapes and well-kept properties, and these winners have truly exemplified the spirit of our neighborhood.

This year's honorees are:

- 6571 Murdoch: Chris DePalma & Jim Hennessey
- 5862 Delor: Elizabeth Boyd & Paul Conner
- 7017 Southland: Robert Nevinger
- 5921 Highfield: Chris & Erin Wegmann
- 6538 Neosho: David & Kim Leahy
- 6542 Itaska: Denise & John Bradley
- 4730 Prague: John & Agnes Boul
- 6226 Itaska: Richard Ernst
- 41 Willmore: Sandy & Dominic Condellire
- 4608/4610 Locke: John Carrico
- 4600/4602 Locke: Maya Muldoon Jackson
- 5826 Neosho: Michael & Jennifer Hejlek

In addition to these individual winners, we are pleased to recognize Saint Raphael's as the Best Church for its beautifully maintained grounds and 6500 Itaska as the Best Block for its collective neighborhood effort in creating a vibrant and cohesive streetscape.

Special congratulations to Robert Nevinger of 7017 Southland, who stood out as a shining example of horticultural excellence in our community, nominated by nearly half a dozen of his neighbors.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our judges and award winners for their dedication to enhancing the beauty of St. Louis Hills. Your hard work and creativity continue to make our neighborhood a wonderful place to live. If you see these neighbors around, be sure to congratulate them on their well-deserved recognition!



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

ST LOUIS HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD 2024

HOLIDAY PARTY

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SAVE THE DATE



The River des Peres: City and county watershed

by Mike Truax

Most St. Louisans know a little bit about portions of the River des Peres from newscasts and its occasional flooding. And it's very visible in south St. Louis, between Germania and River des Peres Blvd. But there's much more to learn about this historic river. Here's the unusual and interesting "rest of the story."

Around 1700, two Jesuit missionary priests established a short-lived mission at the mouth of the River des Peres and the Mississippi river, near an Indian settlement. The river soon came to be called River of the Fathers, or River des Peres in French. While the mission soon closed, the river's name remained.

The drainage area of the River des Peres is very large—about 115 square miles (see map). The river and its tributaries stretch from St. Charles Rock Road and I-170 south to the Mississippi River; and reach nearly as far west as I-270.

Because the River des Peres has such a large watershed, along its 17 mile length it had large tracts where it meandered over a wide floodplain. Heavy rains often turned these large areas into marshlands or swamps.

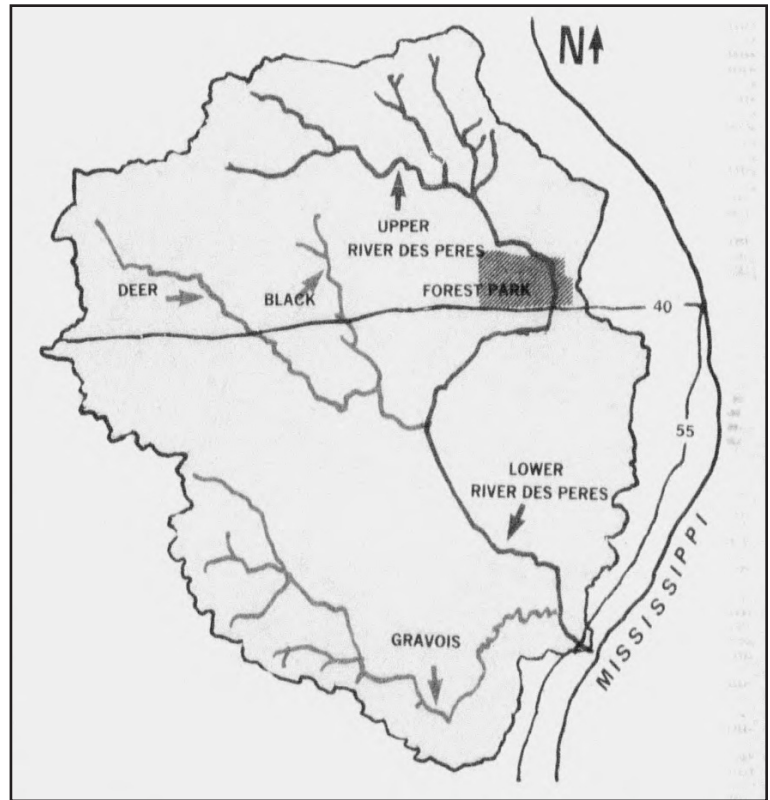
In the late 1800s, as the city grew to the west and south, this large drainage area not only drained rainwater, it also became the collector of sewage. And then in 1901, the World's Fair was planned for Forest Park, where the River des Peres meandered—right where the Fair's planners planned to build gigantic, magnificent Palaces to house the thousands of exhibits that would arrive from around the world.

So, the first priority of the Fair planners was to "control" the River des Peres.

This challenge was enormous. The Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company (LPEC) quickly designed a multi-



A devastating tropical storm in 1915 caused the River des Peres to overflow its banks, flooding large portions of St. Louis and prompting authorities to "fix" the river. Photo from the Missouri History Museum.



A map of the River des Peres and its branches and tributaries. Photo from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

tunnel underground conduit (with slight drainage), carved into about 1.5 miles of the nearly level fairground area. They began construction of three adjoining, 14-foot square, wooden channels in early 1902. The route wound around where several Palaces were to be built. In fact, this work on the river channel took place at the same time that work on the first few of the 10-acre palaces was underway nearby; and underground utilities were also being placed everywhere. This "bury the river" project was completed in just 5 months, by the end of May 1902!

This "burial" of the River des Peres served its purpose well. It handled heavy rain storms during the Fair's construction period and through the end of the Fair. And it continued to serve the city well for over a decade.

However, in 1915, a tropical storm dropped nearly 11 inches of rain on St. Louis in just 17 hours, causing a devastating flood. Claiming 11 lives and damaging the homes of 1,025 families, the flood focused public and government attention onto the problems of the river.

The magnitude of the flooding was heavy and widespread. North of Forest Park the river was over a mile wide. Delmar Blvd and DeBaliviere Blvd were flooded. The new Jefferson Memorial (now the Missouri

River des Peres (Cont'd from Page 7)

History Museum) was on an “island,” surrounded by water. The zoo’s Bird Cage had 8 inches of water in it, and the bear pits were filled with water. To the south of Forest Park, Manchester Blvd was flooded four to seven feet in many areas. Train service to the south and west was closed for days as the tracks were flooded. Large areas of south St. Louis and Carondelet were flooded as well. Total property damage exceeded \$1 million (\$31 million in today’s dollars).

The city set up a commission to study the problem. The commission recommended a \$10 million, multi-year bond issue to address the problem.

It took several years to define and approve, but finally in 1923, 87% of over 90,000 St. Louis voters passed a record-setting \$11 million bond issue to “fix” the River des Peres. Another year passed for engineering surveys and right-of-way acquisition.

In 1924, construction finally began. Nine separate segments were planned for various improvements to “control and clean” the river. The design included new tunnels, new closed sewage drain lines and treatment facilities, and many wide drainage channels for stormwater and backflow from Mississippi floods. The construction would take nine years, to 1933.

Several open channels were constructed from 1924-1927, from near Macklind (where tunnels under the park would end) west to Lindenwood, following the railroad tracks.

Six miles of open channels were constructed from 1926-1931, and extended from Lindenwood south to the Mississippi River. The river was placed into nearly straight channels up to about 200 feet wide. The channels have rock sides (at about a 40-degree angle) with raised levees to protect the bottomland from backflow during high water on the Mississippi. These sections, which lie between Germania and River des Peres Blvd, are probably the most visible part of the river.

The “channelization” of this lower section of the river not only limited the periodic flooding of the river’s floodplain, it enabled two large city parks to be established. The 145-acre River des Peres Park (greenway) opened in 1934. It stretches for 2.5 miles along the river’s western bank, from Lansdowne Ave to Morganford Rd. And on the eastern bank is the 70-acre Willmore Park, named for St. Louis developer Cyrus Crane Willmore, the city’s newest city park which was developed and opened in 1947.

Over 3 miles of closed, concrete tunnels were constructed



Following the flooding in 1915, portions of the River des Peres running through Forest Park were rerouted through large underground tunnels. Photo from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

from 1929-1931. They extended from near Macklind, north to (and under) SLU High School and Forest Park, west along Lindell, then north under Des Peres Road and northwest to the city limits near Skinker and Rosedale. These concrete tunnels were about 32 feet in diameter with a flattened “floor”. The tunnel was later extended into University City, just west of Kingsland.

For this massive project, about 5 million cubic yards of earth and 400,000 cubic yards of rock and shale were removed. Construction required 10,000 tons of steel and 350,000 cubic yards of concrete. The channel is designed to carry 40,000 cubic feet of water per second, which is greater than the low flow of the Mississippi River!

In 1933-34 during the Depression, additional projects were completed. Up to 20,000 men moved large amounts of rip-rap (limestone rocks) to line the open channels, and fabricate and place 260 large concrete covers (10 feet by 8 feet) on the sewage treatment facilities. These efforts continued through 1935-40 under the Works Projects Administration (WPA). These contributory efforts were noted by painting the rip-rap along the eastern bank with “SAFETY FIRST / W.P.A. / BE CAREFUL”. It can still be seen today, on the eastern bank, just south of the Watson/Chippewa overpass.

In 1988, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) designated the “River des Peres Sewerage and Drainage Works” project as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. A plaque and monument were placed above the tunnel near the Missouri History Museum—right over a portion of “the buried River des Peres”.

Please see page 14 for sources used in this article.

What we love about living in St. Louis city

by Teresa Turin-Lis

Whenever the seasons change, it feels to me like a good time to step back and think about what I'm grateful for. My family, my friends, my home, and my city are at the top of the list. I was born and raised in St. Louis city and love living here.

Recently I've asked neighbors in south St. Louis what they love about living in the city. Here's what they had to say. I bet you'll share many of their sentiments.

"Community is my favorite part about living in the city. Everyone knows their neighbors. It's very exciting to be in a community that's growing and that's sought-after and where there's always something to do. The parks are a source of community. The church and the schools are within walking distance so everyone gets to know each other. I like that family is close and it's multi-generational; that's unusual."

-Ann Curry, resident of St. Louis Hills

"I believe this is where God put me. My mom emigrated to America from Germany and landed in New York. A Catholic charity sponsored her and settled her in St. Louis. My brother and I grew up in Soulard. Soulard Market was an adventure! My mom worked in the spice shop. The scents took you on trip around the world.

We now live in the Carondelet area. There's always something in progress. We've welcomed new restaurants like Stacked, Riverside Diner and Wine Down Cafe. The old Carondelet Y has been converted into living spaces. Friends are made and kept in the city. The city is my home; it's my happy place."

-Jackie Coleman, resident of Carondelet and employee at Leshers

"One of the main reasons we moved to STL was because we wanted somewhere with a real sense of community. We've only been here for a couple years and I already know more of my neighbors than I did after 20 years of living in Atlanta."

-Fred Vigdor

"The city is familiar. This is where the people and places I've known all my life are. It's where I made all my childhood and teenage memories. Living alone now, I find that comforting."

- John T., resident of Lindenwood Park

"Everything's great in St. Louis city: food, music, neighbors, parks, some of our sports teams... And my wife and I are now living in my wife's dream house, an unmolested mid-century ranch home. When we moved in five years ago we painted and added our own art and that's all we had to do. It's perfect."

-Dave D, St. Louis Hills

"I love St. Louis because it's like a small town with all the advantages of a big city. The people are friendly and my neighbors all look out for each other. Everybody talks to each other, even in line at the store. If you have a conversation with anybody for five minutes, you'll discover you have at least one friend in common. 'Where did YOU go to high school?'"

- Beth Wagner, resident of Bevo Mill

"I love that everything is close and accessible. Walking to a restaurant, store or park is something

you can't find easily outside the city."

- Alex Turin, resident of Bevo Mill

"I feel comfortable and safe and familiar... like my childhood. I like being close to my neighbors, knowing who they are and having street parties, chatting with them when I go out, catching up. We have the bond of being city dwellers. Like a family."

- Liz Young, St. Louis Hills

"I was born and raised in St. Louis, namely St. Louis Hills. I have always felt this warm, relaxed, architecturally diverse sense of community. Where else can you walk out your door intending to do yard work, go for a walk, or visit a

local small business, and end up talking to your neighbor for hours? Where else can you work with a wonderfully talented group of people that foster such a strong sense of community, growth, and strength?

"Where we live I love that I have access to two beautiful parks and I also quick access, within minutes, to our trails for riding my scooter around. Also, I feel perfectly comfortable walking my dogs in the dark around here."

- Stephanie Failoni, St. Louis Hills

I'm often complimented for my volunteer work. I would love to state that it's all the many volunteers, residents, and small businesses that make this neighborhood strong, happy, and running smoothly."

- Nan Vordtriede, resident of St. Louis Hills and former SLHNA President

St. Louis Hills Donut Shop is back in business

by Lynn Venhaus

Back to steady weekend hours, the St. Louis Hills Donut Shop has been attracting a loyal clientele since they first opened in a small, green-painted building at 6917 Hampton Avenue, next to a gas station on the corner, in 1991.

After a personal health setback and the pandemic difficulties, the mom-and-pop shop has received a welcome return to the south city neighborhood.

Now open from 5 to 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, a steady stream of customers enters a tiny counter space to pick out their favorites—or what's left on the trays.

If customers don't see what they are looking for, they ask Teresa Magnan, who works the counter while her husband Larry is the early-morning baker.

"Are you out of French donuts?" a man asks. She finds a lone chocolate-glazed cruller still in a nearly empty pan.

Another man comes in, engaging Teresa in conversation. She greets people by name.

"They're all like family," she says. "We first saw them as kids, then they come in with their own families."

A married couple chats with Teresa like an old friend. He says they moved away but made a special trip back to visit. "I tell people I only miss the donut shop and the hardware store," he says.

A Sunday school teacher arrives to pick up her standing weekend order of two boxes of glazed donuts.

"I'll be here next week," she tells Teresa.

"We like when people call ahead. That way they know we have what they want, and especially for large orders. We encourage it," Teresa says.

While they are scoping the glass case, people ask Teresa about her family, especially her husband, who suffered a stroke in 2019.

They had been open Wednesdays through Sundays but had to temporarily close the business. Then, the pandemic hit, causing more delays. Larry's use of his right hand and arm were impacted by the stroke, so those setbacks also meant adjustments to figuring out how to return.

His progress has been tremendous, Teresa says.

"We have wonderful customers. The love and support we have received from the community has been heartfelt," she says. "They have been so caring and kind."



Top: The small building at 6917 Hampton that houses the St. Louis Hills Donut Shop. Bottom: A selection of donuts from the shop's case. Photos provided by Lynn Venhaus.

As their family dealt with illness and recovery, they received generous donations and many prayers and well wishes, Teresa says.

They posted on social media:

"Knowing our shop matters to you the way it does to us, keeps us hopeful we can serve our community again."

"We were reassured that the growing community cares -- the dog walkers, kid-strolling parents, early bird go-getters, long distance drivers. We see you come in, so not only do we do our best to provide the best donuts, we do our best to remember your specific routines," they said in a post.

Right now, the weekend hours suit them, but they could re-evaluate in the future.

Larry makes 50 different varieties, both traditional types such as twists, glazed, iced, cake and filled, and specialties like cherry cheesecake-filled ones dusted in graham cracker crumbs. A dozen is \$15, and donuts are \$1.50 a piece, except apple fritters and cinnamon rolls which are \$3.

"He really has fun creating different ones," she says.

The shop prefers advance notice for baby showers, weddings, birthdays, and special occasions. Their phone number is (314) 833-3348.

Captain's Corner

by **Captain Thomas E. Zipf, Jr.**
District Two Commander, SLMPD

I'm proud to report that crime is significantly down in the Saint Louis Hills neighborhood, both year over year and in recent months. This is to the really good police work being conducted in Saint Louis Hills and other nearby neighborhoods.

As I'm sure you're all aware, things that happen in Lindenwood Park, South Hampton, and North Hampton usually have a direct effect on Saint Louis Hills and other surrounding neighborhoods. If officers and detectives arrest burglars, robbers, or car clotters in one of the surrounding neighborhoods, you can be sure these arrests are also preventing crimes in Saint Louis Hills. Criminals typically do not respect neighborhood or district boundaries, but they're not free to commit crimes in Saint Louis Hills while they're being confined in jail.

We've made several arrests of suspects who were involved in burglarizing businesses throughout the Saint Louis region, including businesses located in the Forest Park Southeast (Grove), Tower Grove South, the Hill, and South Hampton neighborhoods. Warrants were issued against eight different suspects, who are all part of an organized

criminal gang, and thankfully they are all still confined.

Detectives identified a group of individuals who committed numerous car clottings throughout Saint Louis City and Saint Louis County, including multiple thefts from motor vehicles in the North Hampton neighborhood. Second District detectives, working closely with University City detectives, were able to identify the suspects. One of the suspects was arrested and charged, and he is currently confined. Additional suspects have been identified and we hope to have them in custody in the near future.

On multiple occasions, officers working overtime have thwarted the attempts of individuals attempting to engage in criminal conduct in our neighborhoods. There were on-view arrests made by officers in two separate car clotting incidents on the same night. In one instance, an officer who was working overtime in the Second District, apprehended a suspect who was in the act of breaking into vehicles in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood. Later that night, two other officers apprehended two juvenile suspects who were breaking into cars in the Saint Louis Hills neighborhood.

In several other connected cases, detectives identified and arrested suspects who were responsible for numerous car clottings, as well as an armed robbery, which occurred on several different gas station parking lots, primarily along the Hampton and Kingshighway corridors. Warrants were issued by the Circuit Attorney's Office in those cases.

A couple of months ago, I began rolling out a two-officer car every night. The officers' primary responsibilities are preventing car clottings, burglaries, and robberies, and apprehending suspects who are committing these offenses. These officers have been highly successful as they have interrupted suspects committing criminal acts on multiple occasions and have effected several arrests.

I believe strongly in public recognition for exceptional police work, and I have nominated our officers, detectives, sergeants, and lieutenants for several different department awards. In that vein, please join me in congratulating the following Second District Officers of the Month for the past three months: Detective Nicholas Muehlheausler and Detective Andrei Nikolov for the month of May, Officer Joel Carvajal for the month of June, and Officer Kyle Zulkowski and Officer Eric Modde for the month of July. I am extremely proud of our Second District officers and detectives who are truly second to none. Their aptitude, professionalism, and the caliber of their work are of the highest order.



Trick or Treat

Fire Trucks, Police Cars, Bomb and SWAT trucks,
 Police ATU's, Traffic Cars,
 Police Horse

Candy, Ice Cream Truck, Kid Safety Info

October 20th, 2024 1:00 pm till 3:00 pm

Schnuck's Parking Lot: 7450 Hampton Avenue, 63109



Hosted by:
 South Patrol Division
 &
 1st and 2nd District Business
 Associations



Building bright futures at St. Gabriel the Archangel

by Michael Heithaus

Autumn is my favorite time of year in St. Louis Hills. Each morning, you can see hundreds of neighborhood kids walking to school, and each evening a myriad of sports practices happening in Francis Park. Every weekend brings an almost endless array of local community events. And because fall weather is so delightful in St. Louis, you cannot navigate the neighborhood without seeing any number of block parties or impromptu gatherings of friends. It is the time of year when our neighborhood feels the most alive and its strengths shine their brightest.

For 90 years now, one of the pillars of our neighborhood has been St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church and School at the corner of Nottingham and Tamm. This neighborhood would not shine so brightly without the foundation that St. Gabriel's has provided in the very heart of this community for the past 90 years. It is one of the primary reasons why so many young families desire to move into this neighborhood, and the reason why so many continue to stay.

To ensure our neighborhood continues to shine and grow, St. Gabriel's also must do the same - and to do so, it must prepare for, adapt to, and respond to the changing needs of its parishioners, students, and neighbors. Over the coming months, St. Gabriel the Archangel will be embarking on its Building Bright Futures Capital Campaign to do just that.

The campaign's goal is twofold in nature, both of equal importance:

The campaign's first goal is to renovate the former convent, commonly known as the Gabriel House. Built in 1955 for the School Sisters of Notre Dame who then taught at St. Gabriel, the convent has sat largely vacant for almost a quarter of a century and has fallen into a state of disrepair and disuse. To prevent the building from further deteriorating and turning into a neighborhood eyesore, the campaign proposes to gut and renovate the entire building, turning it into a Center for Innovative Learning for students during the day, with flexible use space for parishioners in the evenings and weekends. The new Center for Innovative Learning will embody active learning and team teaching – exciting and proven methods that combine direct instruction and collaborative project building in highly flexible spaces.

The second goal of the campaign is to address the desire of many parishioners and guests for additional accessible spaces for fellowship and welcome. To meet this need,



the campaign provides for a new welcome center to be built on Nottingham between the church and rectory. The welcome center will offer additional meeting space for over 100 people and allow for a broad range of events spanning parish meetings to baptismal and funeral gatherings. With stained glass windows and stone designed to match the original exterior of the church and rectory, the new welcome center will seamlessly link to the St. Gabriel campus, both physically and aesthetically.

As we move into late October, expect to hear more about the Building Bright Futures Campaign. The parish and school will officially kick off the campaign on the weekend of October 26-27, and numerous townhall meetings will follow in the days after. More details, videos and building renderings will be available on the St. Gabriel website at that time. In the meantime, to learn more about the campaign or donate, please visit St. Gabriel's website at <https://www.stgabrielstl.org/Campaign>.

Gone but not forgotten

Recent months have seen the passing of several pillars of the St. Louis Hills community.

- [Ted Drewes](#), former owner of the eponymous frozen custard stand on Chippewa
- [Dorothy Leshner](#), former owner of Leshner's Flowers, who supported this newsletter with advertising and multiple Flower of the Month articles
- [Dave Ehnes](#), former SLHNA board member, gardening crew member and block captain coordinator

Their contributions to the St. Louis Hills neighborhood will always be remembered by the community.

Kindness Begins With Me turns 2

by Toni Zychinski

Kindness Begins with Me began in 2021 when the founder, Letty Goering, saw the great needs of Afghan refugees arriving in St. Louis. She wanted to help, so she started organizing transportation for grocery shopping and park outings. It quickly became clear that the refugees were seeking to create a new home in St. Louis and, thus, Kindness Begins with Me was established as a non-profit in March of 2022.

In the last 2 years, Kindness has grown to have over 100 active volunteers who serve 250+ refugees on a weekly basis through 3 core programs. The core programs work to help refugee families achieve self-reliance and facilitate independence while making a home in St. Louis. The organization focuses on providing support for the whole family because they believe that when families are supported, communities are built and strengthened.

To help build this independence, Kindness Begins with Me offers 3 weekly programs: a women's social group, driving and permit classes, and English classes. Each program

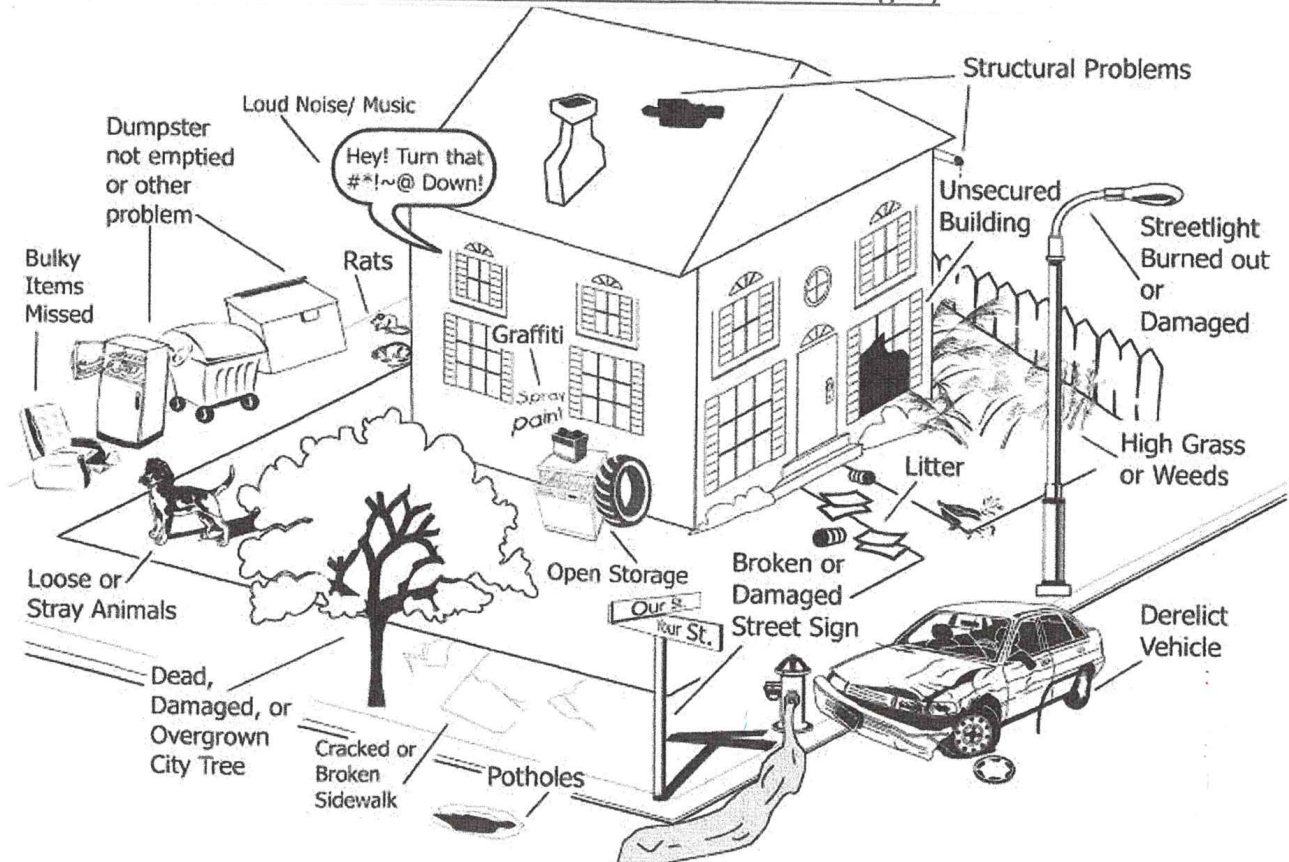
focuses on building refugees conversational English and empowering them to find gainful employment while providing a welcoming, family-centered environment.

Kindness Begins with Me's programs are held at the Welcome Center located right off of Chippewa and River Des Peres at 6740 Loughborough Ave 63123. They are always looking for volunteers to provide transportation to and from classes, teach English, or to support the women's group! The READY (Refugee Education And Development Youth) Board is starting this Fall! If you know of a 15-25 year old student willing to help or if you are interested in learning about volunteering opportunities email the Volunteer Coordinator, Toni Zychinski (toni.zychinski@kindmestl.org) or check out the "resources" under the "Volunteer" tab at www.kindmestl.org!

Mark your calendars now, as they will be hosting a trivia night on Saturday November 16th at Bishop DuBourg High School (further information available on their website).

When & How to contact the Citizen's Service Bureau (314-622-4800)

[Request A City Service \(stlouis-mo.gov\)](http://stlouis-mo.gov)





Publication of the
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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

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Des_Peris_Park

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The River des Peres: a St. Louis Landmark
(book)

Unseen St. Louis
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https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/parks/parks/browse-parks/index.cfm#by_name

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parks_in_Greater_St._Louis#Parks_in_the_city_of_St._Louis

Picnic Season

Two St. Louis Hills churches, St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church and St. Thomas the Apostle Romanian Orthodox Church, held their parish picnics the weekend of October 5th. The below pictures were taken at the St. Gabriel picnic. Photos by Chip Kastner.



Upcoming Events

Brew in the Lou
October 12
Francis Park

Kindness Begins with Me trivia night
November 16
Bishop Dubourg

SLHNA Tree Lighting
December 1
Francis Park

Lights at the Lily Pond
an Enchanted Market
December 7
Francis Park

SLHNA Holiday Party
December 7
Pietro's Restaurant

Important Neighborhood Contact Information

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

Commander, 2nd District SLMPD:
Captain Tom Zipf, 314-444-0100

Police Officer Liaison, 2nd District SLMPD:
Officer Gus Karagiannis, 314-444-0161
gkaragiannis@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:
Darius Redmond, 314-657-1730
redmondd@stlouis-mo.gov

SBD Website: www.stlhillsbd.com

SLHNA Website: www.stlhills.com

SLHNA Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/stlhills/>

Friends of Francis Park Website:
www.friendsoffrancispark.org

Friends of Francis Park Facebook:
www.facebook.com/FriendsOfFrancisPark/

Friends of Willmore Park Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3275363809382426/>

2nd Ward Alderman:
Tom Oldenburg, 314-896-0204
oldenburgt@stlouis-mo.gov

82nd State Representative:
Donna Baringer, 573-751-4220
Donna.Baringer@house.mo.gov