**We had 37 attendees at the May NHNA General meeting. We had a Ward 5 update from Joe Vollmer and a safety/crime update from Officer Karagiannis from the 2nd Patrol District 2. Donna Baringer, State Rep for the 82nd district reviewed the outcomes of the 2024 legislative session. Neighborhood Improvement Specialist, DeAnna Murphy, gave a detailed report on issues that have been resolved by the NSD. We also had brief updates on upcoming Buder library activities in May/June. We will have a social meetup/happy hour on June 24th at the Golden Hoosier in lieu of a meeting. The next NHNA General meeting will be held on July 22nd at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.**

**Please email the NHNA admin at** **admin@northamptonneighbors.com** **with any questions.**

**5/20/24 Northampton Neighbors Network meeting:**

* Jane Rain opens the meeting at 6pm with the first agenda speaker.
* Joe Vollmer, Alderman for Ward 5 (Contact: vollmerj@stlouis-mo.gov, (314) 622-3287)

-He reviewed the Kingshighway road project that includes plans for lane reduction, speed control and streetscaping from Calvary cemetery to Gravois.

- He reviewed the terms of “red light/speeding cameras” by law enforcement. The cameras must be marked, and violators will be notified to allow response after which the confirmed violators will be fined. Technology-based law enforcement tools, such as the red-light cameras, will be an important backstop for SLMPD until they can hire and train more officers.

-There is a general employee shortage in St. Louis City (>1000) that will affect services like trash pick-up, tree trimmings, pothole repair, etc. He reiterated the importance of volunteer efforts to maintain Tilles Park (trash and garden beds).

-Q/A issues touched on the use of Rams settlement money ($250M). One proposal is to spend only the 800K/month interest that accrues and leave the principal in the bank. Recently purchased new trash trucks.

* Officer Gus Karagiannis, SLMPD South Patrol Station, Second District Community Outreach Officer. (Contact phone 314-444-0161, gkaragiannis@slmpd.org) presented crime trends and arrests for last month.

-Trends:

Garage break-ins are always an issue with thieves breaking into cars to access the remote garage door opener. This is not an issue for programmed entry tech in newer vehicles, which requires the car to be running to work. North Hampton District 2 leads the city in theft from vehicle at gas stations. Take a moment to check windows and locks and the valuables visible on the seat before leaving your vehicle to pay for gas.

-Crime details for May:

There was an uptick in all crime categories in May:

5 larcenies involving removal of property from backyards/garages

5 burglaries at businesses

Multiple car thefts

3 assaults

7 car break-ins

-Q/A Gus was asked about vehicle recoveries. He noted that about 50% are recovered within a month.

- To request the weekly crime alerts, email your contact information to Gus Karagiannis, community outreach officer/2nd District at gkaragiannis@slmpd.org.

* DeAnna Murphy, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist for Downtown, Downtown West, JeffVanderLou (314-657-1371, murphyd@stlouis-mo.gov) provided Sam Kippen’s update for the neighborhood.

-Issue details for last 4 weeks:

8 potholes

2 lights repaired/moved/replaced.

13 refuse containers replaced or repaired.

11 properties cited for code violations by building or health division.

1 traffic sign repaired.

1 graffiti removal project

Shell car requested in high speeding area (until speed hump can be installed)

-Q/A Several specific issues regarding trash removal in Tilles Park with the suggestion that a dumpster be added to the trash barrels currently in place, forestry work backlog, pothole repair, etc. She recommended that specific issues be submitted to CSB using the online portal (https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/citizens-service-bureau/) or communicated directly to your NIS.

* Marissa Owen, Community Engagement Librarian, St. Louis Public Library, Buder Branch

-Movement classes: Qigong at the Central Library are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays, Balance and Revitalize: Summer Series on Thursdays @ Machacek, and Senior Movement Classes @ Buder starting in July (1st and 3rd Wednesdays).

-Urban Homesteading Summer Series (June-August): Composting 101, Knitting, Chicken Tending

-Check out Events online at Buder and nearby SLPL branches @ <https://www.slpl.org/>.

* Donna Baringer, State Representative for the 82nd District.

-The 2024 legislative session ended on Friday, May 17th. The session ended with the fewest bills passed (17 bills) in the history of the MO General Assembly.

-Her last term ends when the next elected representative for 82nd District takes office. She feels that due to term limits the lobbyists wield most of the power at the state capitol because representatives with the most experience and seniority are termed out of service.

-She leaves with a main concern of a fiscal cliff that will come in 2 years after St. Louis exhausts the ARPA funds (must be spent by 2026). If legislation is approved that increases spending (Bill 727) we will not have the revenue to support increased spending after 2 years. We will rely on RAMS money to make up deficits. Money should be used to leverage new economic development for long term economic growth.

-Crime is up not down. Quality of life crimes must be reported to indicate this in the statistics.

-Changes in vehicle inspections requirements with 1 inspection/10 yrs. or 150K miles.

- The budget bill must be signed by the August deadline and some of it has already been signed, so she does not expect the governor to call a special session. They will hold a veto session on Sept. 11, 2024.

Teresa Heilich introduced our guest speakers from Metro.

* Melissa Webb, Director of Security, Media and Customer Service, Bi-State Development | Metro

- Missy served for 25 years in law enforcement before joining Metro so was well prepared to supervise the Secure Platform Project (SPP). The program is focused on shifting from reactionary to proactive security on Metro allowing monitors to deal with issues in real-time.

-SPP is multi-component security approach around open concept rail platforms:

* security cameras network of 2000 computers w/ firewall protection that allow continuous real-time visualization of activity on the platform and the area around platforms by the central monitoring team.
* Each platform has security fencing around and gates/turnstile entries.
* SPP releases monthly regional reports and invites riders to follow the progress and SPP is implemented. She also invited those interested to contact her about a tour of the central monitoring facility @ 3330 Spruce.
* Jessica Gershman, Asst. Executive Director of Planning, Bi-State Development | Metro

- Jessica spoke on the plan for the North-South Green Line Project and its timeline.

-The Northside-Southside Line (Green Line) is the only Federal-matched project (local match is 40-50% funded by ½ cent sales tax) Metro has done. The Green Line will connect the North and South regions of the city to the existing main East-West corridor.

* The addition of a North-South route to connect with East-West is important for economic growth in the region.
* Relevant to North Hampton/Tilles Park/Kingshighway Hills neighborhoods, the line would connect with 90 Hampton, 95 Kingshighway and 11 Chippewa bus routes.
* The Green Line will run North-South between Grand Blvd/Fairground Park to Chippewa along Jefferson Ave corridor. It will intersect with the East-West at Scott Ave/Ewing Yard.
* The Green Line Project is in the environmental studies phase in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The timeline for opening is 2027.
* Bi-State Development | Metro is in the public comment period and welcomes ideas from the public including optimal stop placements along the route.
* Teresa Heilich, announced June Social at the Golden Hoosier on June 24th at 5pm

- Adjourned meeting at 7:45.

**To be added to the general meeting agenda, please submit a request though the NHNA website: https://northamptonneighbors.com/**