**We had >36 attendees at the 2/26/24 North Hampton Neighbors Association (NHNA) meeting, which was held in the 3rd floor meeting room at Buder Library.\* We had a safety and crime update from Officer Karagiannis from the 2nd Patrol District 2. Nick Kimble from Donna Baringer’s office (State Representative for the 82nd District) gave a brief update on the MO State House and Senate legislative activities. Sam Kippen reviewed his role as Neighborhood Improvement Specialist for our area, and Tina Wong recruited volunteers for several spring cleanup/planting events at city parks. Our guest speaker was Aimee Dearsley, Chief Development Officer for Stray Rescue of St. Louis. Thanks to all who brought in donations for Stray Rescue. The next general meeting will be held on March 25th at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.**

**\*Due to water damage and HVAC updates at Buder, NHNA will be holding General and Executive Board meetings at alternate locations through July, 2024. When repairs at Buder are completed, we hope to resume meeting at that location.**

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

**2/26/24 Northampton Neighbors Network meeting:**

* Adam Jung opened the meeting at 6pm and reviewed the agenda items:

Officer Gus Karagiannis crime report

Sam Kippen, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist

Nick Kimble, Donna Baringer’s Office (MO State Representative, 82nd District)

SLPL Activities

Tina Wong, Tilles and City Greens Community Garden spring planting/cleanup events

Aimee Dearsley, Stray Rescue of St. Louis

* Officer Gus Karagiannis, SLMPD South Patrol Station, Second District Community Outreach Officer. (Contact phone 314-444-0161, gkaragiannis@slmpd.org)

-Gus sends out weekly crime reports via email. Encouraged those interested to sign up for the weekly update.

-Crime trends and arrests for last month:

Assaults: 2 domestic incidents and security guard assaulted at Walgreens

Burglaries: 2 residences (1 vacant residence and 1 occupied)

Thefts: increase in license plate thefts, package thefts and firearms from residence

Car thefts involving Kias/Hyundai are down by 50% due to anti-theft update and use of the steering wheel locking devices like the club.

-Highlighted issues:

Marijuana shops have hardened their business sites in response to break-ins when newly established. They are currently not being targeted for burglaries.

Consistent/recurring suspicious activity at business locations or residences should be reported (with details) to the non-emergency number (314-241-1212).

Street racing, speeding and other moving violations are not being enforced due to manpower shortages and because they are occurring in the overnight hours. Initiative proposed by Cara Spencer to boot violators caught on camera is under consideration by the Board of Aldermen.

-Hiring and Staffing updates:

Leadership changes: Major Dace is on medical leave and Latricia Allen is acting Major.

11 officers are graduating at the end of the current term.

 -For detailed Q/A please see the video recording of the meeting.

- For weekly crime alerts, email request to Gus Karagiannis, community outreach officer/2nd district at gkaragiannis@slmpd.org.

* Sam Kippen, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist for Hamilton Heights, North Hampton, Southwest Garden, The Hill, and Tower Grove East (314-657-1377, kippens@stlouis-mo.gov)

-Sam reviewed his role dealing with quality-of-life issues for the neighborhood: potholes, street lighting, street signage, garbage/dumpsters, graffiti, abandoned buildings,

abandoned cars.

-The NST team does not handle emergencies—always direct emergencies to 911. If you suspect ongoing (non-emergency) criminal activity at a location, he encourages people to file reports with the SLMPD through the non-emergency line (314-231-1212).

-These “calls for service” reports about problem properties provide cause for the city to open a file on “problem properties” and initiate contact with resident/owner.

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

-2024 legislative session (began 1/7/24) highlights.

-House is working on childcare tax credits for parents and employers to address childcare shortages. Senate could take up any, all or none.

- Senate is working on changes to the initiative petition process. Under the plan instead of 1 person, 1 vote, every vote would count two ways. The first way would be statewide, where passage would require a majority of all votes cast. The second way would be within the voter’s congressional district, where it would need a majority along with a majority in four other districts. Based on past voter patterns, new rules using congressional districts for the concurrent majority requirement means as few as 23% of voters could defeat a measure that under the old process has overwhelming support. (i.e. half the vote in four of the state’s eight congressional districts. (Source: Missouri Independent, Feb. 13, 2024).

- Property tax freeze for senior citizens who are residents of the city would save the portion of the tax that goes to the city. Applications will be sent out by the City of St. Louis to qualifying residents.

* Marissa Owen, St. Louis Public Library, Buder Branch community engagement librarian

- Marissa updated the remodeling at Buder, including basement repairs due to water damage, lighting replacement, and HVAC replacement that will close each floor for 1 month starting with 3rd floor in February.

-The repairs will affect the spring/summer activities usually held at the library. Buder will not be hosting children’s events until repairs are finished and there will be no early voting in April at Buder.

-She recommended that people check events calendars at other SLPL branches.

 -There will be “Buder in Bloom” event at Buder elementary school (5319 Lansdowne

St. Louis, MO 63109) that will include presenters and yoga.

-AARP tax preparation appointments may still be available at Central library or through the Elks.

* Tina Wong, Tilles Park update

- New playground equipment update. Parks Commissioner Kim Haegele is working with contractors with input from Joe Vollmer and the neighborhood association on the plan for new playground equipment in Tilles Park.

-The spring Tilles Park cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th 10am – noon. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up at the meeting and families are welcome as there are many kid-friendly clean-up jobs.

-Another volunteer opportunity at the City Greens Community Garden in Mid-town (4467 Hunt Ave. St. Louis, MO 63110) is scheduled for Saturday, March 16th at 10-noon. The community garden grows vegetables to support the neighborhood food pantry. This event will involve spring vegetable planting (e.g. carrots, cabbage, onions, lettuce).

* Aimee Dearsley, Chief Development Officer, and Donna Laughman, Rescue specialist/volunteer, Stray Rescue of St. Louis ( https://www.strayrescue.org/)

- Stray Rescue of St. Louis is a private no kill shelter.

-They have a unique model of operation in that they seek out injured animals and pull animals from high kill shelters for care at their facility or in foster care.

-They handle about 3000/cases per year and rely on citizens reporting of abused or neglected animals. They typically have 500 animals in foster and 100 animals in the shelter at any time.

-They have outgrown their location on Pine and are beginning development of their $20M facility in Dutchtown, which they hope to complete in 3-5 years. The goal of the new facility is to not only expand their clinical and housing capacity but to increase their capacity to provide low or no cost veterinary and educational services to the community which would enable more households to care for animals.

-Volunteer opportunities include a wide range of activities, such as fostering, dog walking, fund raising, laundry, “rovernight” stays and hiking trips. Visit the “how to help” tab on the website (https://www.strayrescue.org/))

-Aimee fielded questions about media outreach, fostering and donating. For detailed Q/A please see the video recording of the meeting.

* Justin Thurman, updates on business/zoning change requests

- MSZ auto sales: the petitioner failed to present details requested by zoning plan examiner therefore zoning change at the 3720 Hampton Ave. location was denied.

-Diave Daye Childcare Center: The Board of Adjustment heard comments from 11 residents about the requested zoning variance (3 in support, 8 opposed) for the 5540 Fyler site at their Dec., 20th meeting. The board granted the zoning variance to the petitioners. There are no other options for public comment/action. The SPOT company, which occupies the adjacent property, has contacted the Diave Daye CEO with an offer to buy the property.

- Proposed creation of a Zoning and Development committee to monitor Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustments posted agendas.

* Adam Jung, final announcements

- The next NHNA general meeting will be held at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 3600 Hampton Ave, St. Louis, MO 63109.

- Our special guest speaker at the March General Meeting is St. Louis Circuit Attorney, Gabriel Gore.

- Adjourned meeting at 7:30.

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