**We had our peak attendance (70 residents) at the 7/24 North Hampton Neighbors Network (NNN) meeting (23 new residents). State Rep. Donna Baringer and Alderman Joe Vollmer gave brief updates on legislative session and ward projects, respectively. The owner and CEO of Diave Daye Care Center spoke to advocate for proposed zoning change at 5540 Fyler. We had two invited speakers: Michael Dauphin from the St. Louis Assessor’s Office and Fire Chief Dennis Jenckerson, Commissioner of the SLFD. The next general meeting will be held on August 28th at Police Officers Association Hall. Please email the NNN admin at** **admin@northamptonneighbors.com** **with any questions.**

**5/22 Northampton Neighbors Network meeting:**

* Grant Codak opened meeting and reviewed agenda. He thanks all who came out for June social.
* Joe Vollmer, Ward 5 alderman and Chair of Legislation and Rules Cmte (contact vollmerj@att.net; 314-609-5924):

-Major announcement was the passing of the BB 29, originally sponsored by Alderwoman Cara Spencer, establishes a municipal ordinance punishable by up to a $500 fine and 30 days in jail, or community service if a person is found to be openly displaying a firearm without a valid permit and excludes 14–16 year-olds from obtaining a permit. A companion bill requires that the police officer requesting to see permit will provide identification. The bill will pass if Mayor Tishaura Jones takes no action.

- Update on Southwest bridge project that will impact local residents. The project will require closing of the railroad overpass bridge at Columbia & Southwest for 1.5-2 years. No city money is being used for project (RR and Feds).

- Issue of 5540 Fyler proposed zoning change from A Single-Family Residential Dwelling District to F Neighborhood Commercial District. He will not support change unless the residents are in favor of the zoning change.

-Tilles capital projects. Activity on approved projects will occur no sooner than Spring 2024 or even Fall 2024. Joe Vollmer and Parks Commissioner Kim Haegele and perhaps a representative of NNN will need to meet to agree on projects and funding sources. Final proposed projects may need to be presented to Board of Alderman.

-Next Board of Alderman meeting is 9/14/23.

-Q/A (see video recording for details)

* State Representative 82nd District Donna Baringer quick legislative update:

-There is $200M in infrastructure work needed to shore up issues with water supply for the city of St. Louis. Water bill rates increases of 20% was approved to fund some of the upgrades. She also cites a number of federal infrastructure grants that are being sought to pay for upgrades to the system.

* Samuel Kippen Neighborhood Improvement Specialist (NIS) for The Hill, Southwest Garden, North Hampton, and Hamilton Heights

-The NIS serves as advocate for community betterment and has a broad range of duties and responsibilities (See full list of areas that the NIS can provide assistance to residents at https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/nis-purpose-duties.cfm#:~:text=Purpose,police%20and%20City%20

operating%20departments).

- Samuel Kippen’s contact is (314) 657-1377, email: KippenS@stlouis-mo.gov

* Results of Park Survey from Tilles Park Beautification and Improvement Cmte

- Grant Codak gave the results of the poll (85 respondents):

Long-term: 1. Pickleball courts

2. Playground resurfacing

Short-term: 1. Prairie drainage

2. Park beautification

-Elizabeth is applying for Neighbors Naturescaping 2023 grant through Brightside St. Louis which will provide funding up to $1500, which is budgeted for materials and plants in the proposal. The project site is Tilles Park and the project design is posted on the NNN website. The application will be submitted 1st week of Aug and funding will be announced in Sept in time for fall planting.

-Tara and Dave are conducting in-person and online surveys to assess urgent repair needs at Tilles Park. The survey is intended to identify play equipment that should be replaced because of age or because it poses an immediate hazard. To participate in the survey scan QR code on flyers distributed during meeting or visit bit.ly/TillesPlayground.

* 5540 Fyler Rezoning (A to F rezoning) proposal

-Grant explained that the board met with the applicant, Tenesha Bady, Owner and CEO Diave Daye Care Center, at the 7/10 planning meeting to learn about the business and to raise issues the board members expected would be of interest to residents near the 5540 Fyler property.

- Ms. Bady reviewed the daycare operations: MOA accreditation, age-range of children (6wk-12 years), student/child # (50-90), hours of operation (6am – midnight), child pick-up/drop off schedule (peaks 6-7:30 am and 5-6:30 pm), pick-up/drop-off location (Premier Charter), building size (A 6600 ft2) and B (4000 ft2), parking lot location (east of building) and parking spots (30), privacy fences will be between building and houses behind the business and partially in front of building.

-Building plans were submitted to the city and approved for current zoning.

-Drainage survey conducted by St. Louis MSD and a retaining wall has been included in plans in accordance with their recommendations.

-Issues of concern raised by residents: The business owner has not contracted a traffic study to assess the issue of increased traffic on Fyler. Residents assume traffic would increase the number of cars during busy hours and worsen the congestion problem on Fyler in the Hampton to Kingshighway corridor. The residents immediately bordering the property will have a privacy fence up against their backyards—Ms. Bady could not provide details of the exact offset from their properties. Residents in the area are concerned that once the site is rezoned any business will be able to use the site.

-Points raised in support raised by residents: business will beautify the neighborhood through planned garden projects, new successful business is good for the neighborhood, local option to residents for daycare, 21% of residents 25-34 have kids in NNN neighborhood

-Grant directed people to the online poll (<https://northamptonneighbors.com/diave-daye-daycare-1>) to vote and explain their support/opposition to the proposal.

Hosted speakers introduced by Grant Codak:

* Michael Dauphin, Assessor for the city of St. Louis (originally appointed in 2018)

-His office handles assessments of personal property and real property.

-Real estate property value re-assessments are conducted alternate years. Latest valuations rose 11% (residential) and 4% (business). Increases in property value can be due to market changes and actual changes to property (e.g. structural additions to dwelling, adding a garage) based on permit record.

-The concern of residents is the higher assessments are accompanied by higher property taxes

-SB 190 proposes that property owners ≥62 may have their property taxes capped – frozen at 2023 levels. He stated that it will not affect future property value assessment. His criticism of the bill is that the administrative details are not well-defined. Individual counties must each adopt the bill, approve it and then write the rules. Property owners <62 will not be taxed at a higher rate to make up for the lost tax revenue; there are currently no plans to identify sources of funding to make up for reduced tax revenues.

- For senior or low income resident in need of property tax help St. Louis Real Estate Tax Assistance (RETAF) program provides financial assistance to owner-occupant homeowners who are at imminent risk of a tax foreclosure.

* Fire Chief Dennis Jenckerson, Commissioner of the SLFD (https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/fire/profiles/Bio-for-Dennis-Jenkerson.cfm):

-Chief cited a revenue stream through the federal government that eliminates the need to raise money through bond initiatives. This funding source enables the dept to upgrade/replace 1/3 of their apparatus each 3 year funding cycle.

-Staffing shortages have been an issue. The department is down 50 firefighters, 15 captains, 3 battalion chiefs. The SLFD is actively recruiting.

-The department is proactive in efforts to reduce elevated cancer risks among firefighters (3x above national avgs) purchases high efficiency extractors to remove carcinogens from gear

-SLFD has adopted a computer aided dispatch system called VIPER to improve the routing of emergency calls. He seeks to integrate the SLMPD and SLFD in the use of this system to improved routing efficiency and take pressure off of the dispatchers

-He addressed issues with the existing 911 system, which is still the central hub for connecting/dispatching fire, police, and EMS. He advises that if you are put on hold stay on the line because each time you call you are put in the back of the queue.

-Q/A (see video recording for more details)

* Teresa Heilich discussed elections: nominations in August, September candidates announced and members pay dues (required for voting), October election (January, new board members take office)
* Grant announced August meeting (Aug 28th) with special guest speaker Police Commissioner Robert Tracy.

**To be added to the general meeting agenda, please contact Tina Wong** **tinaawong@gmail.com**