**We had a well-attended (48 residents) North Hampton Neighbors Network (NNN) meeting on 5/22 at the Police Officers Association Hall. We had several invited speakers: Marissa Owen from Buder Library, State Reps. Donna Baringer and Peter Merideth, and Kevin McKinney, Executive Director of SLACO. The June NNN meeting will be a social gathering at the Golden Hoosier on 6/26 at 6pm and we will resume general meetings on July 24th at Police Officers Association Hall. Please email the NNN admin at** **admin@northamptonneighbors.com** **with questions or to request speaking time at the next general meeting.**

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

* Adam Jung opened meeting and reviewed agenda
* Joe Vollmer, Ward 5 alderman and Chair of Legislation and Rules Cmte (contact vollmerj@att.net; 314-609-5924):

-Discussed the turnover in the Circuit Attorney’s office. Kim Gardener resigned on May 18th and Gabe Gore has been appointed as interim CA to be sworn in at end of May. He is an experienced prosecutor and administrator so will make progress clearing back cases. However, he is not likely to stay long term.

- Annual budget is in Ways & Means Cmte and will be submitted July1. Specific items include more funds budgeted for new hires (esp for SLMPD) but some has been used for overtime pay and some positions have been eliminated. Ward capital funds will be ~825K. Not all projects submitted through alderman require 100% support from those funds (eg. parks projects require 25% alderman input)

-To address low voter turnout there is proposal to move spring elections to summer.

-BB 29 Initiative to amend conceal and carry gun laws to require permit in St. Louis using loophole in MO law.

* Police Captain (acting) Lt. Dan Zurick for District 2 gave crime report:

-Still seeing high rate of auto thefts crimes but he highlighted the spike in thefts of vehicles left running from gas stations in recent days. Catalytic converted thefts are down.

-Policy is no chase for property crimes so prevention and vigilance and reporting is approach

-Reduce risk of being approached don’t sit parked in parking lot (on phone or sitting in car)

-Harden the targets by locking cars, parking under lights, using steering wheel locks (eg. Clubs). and keeping an eye on your neighbors

-Morale in SLMPD may improve with in person warrant applications reinstated (1 day after CA resignation) and as Chief Tracy begins to meet with rank and file officers and with community.

* Liz Dasenbrock co-chair of Tilles Park Beautification and Improvement Cmte.

-She discussed the Tilles Park project poll with top projects (long- and short-term categories) to be voted on. Long-term:

Pickleball court upgrade (Letter from Mike Chapin, pickleball association president, advocating for pickleball as popular activity and the need for updated courts in the city)

Racquetball court upgrade (Lindsey Evans spoke on racquetball courts needed upgrades and lack of available courts in the surrounding neighborhoods)

Hockey Rink upgrade

Dog Park

Playground resurfacing and usability upgrade

 Short-term:

 Prairie drainage

 Tree maintenance

 Pavilion lighting improvement

 Trashcan additions

 New bulletin board and signage

 Park beautification

-Thanks to the 25 participants of the May 13th clean up and planting event. With help from volunteers and Brightside StL Blitz Blooms program we mulched trees, cleared brush and cut invasive honeysuckle and planted 400 flower seedlings in beds around the park.

* Grant Codak, IT and webmaster for NNN reviewed online poll at <https://northamptonneighbors.com/park-projects>.

-He reviewed the polls items and instructed how to vote online on phones. For those who want to vote at home the website will be sent over social media. Paper copies of the poll were also provided by request.

-Poll will close on May 29th and result will be announced via email.

* Jane Rain, Fall Social Planning Cmte., discussed the September Social

-Social will be held outdoors at Tilles Park on Sept. 23rd.

-Event is still at the planning stages but is to be a family-friendly event with games and other social activities, music (DJ and live music)

-To volunteer for planning cmte contact Jane Rain (ajanerain@gmail.com)

Hosted speakers introduced by Adam Jung:

* Kevin McKinney, Executive Director of St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) SLACO (<https://slaco-mo.org/>) has 39 member neighborhood associations (St. Louis recognizes 79 neighborhoods) with representatives of those NA serving on committees and/or volunteering in cmte activities. The 8 member Executive Board meets monthly on 2nd Monday and general meetings are held quarterly with a representative (or alternate) of each NA in attendance. Kevin highlighted SLACO’s ongoing programs:

-“Neighborhoods United for Change” which brings people from different neighborhoods together to exchange ideas about project collaboration and problem solving

-45th SLACO anniversary event to be held on Nov. 4th (tickets will be announced)

-Regional neighborhood conference to be held on Sept. 9th 7am-1pm and will include speakers, workshops and vendors.

* Marissa Owen, Community Engagement Librarian, Buder Library highlighted the 2023 summer program and services available at the library (https://www.slpl.org/locations/5/):

-June 23-24 Health resources fair will offer free screenings

-Summer “Show Me St. Louis” series of programs focused on unique St. Louis history, neighborhoods, culture and will co-host a St. Louis themed trivia night at Salt and Smoke on Aug. 10th.

-Kids summer reading program starts June 1st.

-Other services at the library include passport photos, free notary services, $5 monthly printing credit, computer/software education workshops.

* Donna Baringer (State Rep. for 82nd District) summarized the legislative process in the state house and her role on the fiscal committee:

-This year had the fewest number of bills passed. See her website for summary of session and her newsletter (https://house.mo.gov/MemberDetails.aspx?district=082&year=2023)

-Many pieces of legislation do not make it to the floor for debate or vote but pieces may end up in omnibus bills.

-Key influence often comes through her role on the fiscal committee. This committee reviews bills with expenditures >250K -- items that require additional vetting are sent back to the floor.

-Other priority areas were texting while driving penalties and changing how personal property taxes on vehicles are paid.

* Peter Merideth (State Rep. for 80th District) emphasized the bipartisan governing majority passing most of the bills passed during this legislative year.

-Budget was the best that MO has had in years due to federal infusion of money and increase revenue due to inflation. Budget included increases (inflation increases) for teachers and state workers and higher education.

-He highlighted some areas designated for 1 time funding:

40M in public safety

 5M public safety

 5M child care for 1st responders

 10M public transit (across state)

 Funding of I-70 expansion (adding 3rd lane across state)—no federal dollars

 Funding for establishing broadband in rural or underserved areas

-For more details on the bills passed during this session visit his website <https://house.mo.gov/MemberDetails.aspx?year=2023&district=080> or contact him directly to discuss budget legislation or questions about taxes.

* Dr. Cook introduced himself and his new direct primary care group (membership based), The Progress Medical Center, located in Hampton Village, will be opening on June 26th.
* Teresa announced June social June 26th at 6pm at the Golden Hoosier on the patio. Attendees will buy their own food and drinks.

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