**We had ~35 attendees at the August NHNA General meeting. Officer Karagiannis from the 2nd Patrol District 2 provided a safety/crime update and our Neighborhood Improvement Specialist, Shanieka Jackson, gave a detailed report on job requests resolved by the NSD. Marissa Owens gave a brief update on upcoming Buder library activities followed by our guest speaker Det. Sgt. Robert Muffler. More food donations came in for the Gethsemane Little Free Food Pantry. Based on the state of the pantry (usually empty) this is a much-needed activity for our group. We will continue to collect items at regular meetings and at future social events. The next NHNA General meeting will be held on September 23rd at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.**

**Please email the NHNA admin at** [**admin@northamptonneighbors.com**](mailto:admin@northamptonneighbors.com) **with any questions.**

**8/26/24 Northampton Neighbors Network meeting:**

* Jane Rain opens the meeting at 6:05 pm with the meeting agenda and a few announcements:

-Elections for Board Officers will be held in October with nominations open now through the Sept meeting. Nominations can be submitted via email or through the online nomination form.

-Nominees will speak at the September meeting

-National Night Out, a national community-building campaign to promote police-community partnerships, is on the 1st Tuesday of October. Please let us know if you are holding a block party so we can promote it on the website. Also, Officer Gus Karagiannis will be working NNO and will stop by your block.

* Officer Gus Karagiannis, SLMPD South Patrol Station, 2nd District Community Outreach Officer (Contact: 314-444-0161, [gkaragiannis@slmpd.org](mailto:gkaragiannis@slmpd.org)) highlighted a few issues and presented crime/arrest details for the last 30 days.

-Highlighted issues:

-Please report porch thefts and include ring camera footage.

- Crisis intervention unit (CRU) program provides an on-scene response to individuals experiencing an active mental health, substance use, or trauma-related crisis. A CRU team comprised of a police officer and a behavioral health specialist aims to de-escalate the situation and connect individuals to appropriate services SLMPD has 3 CRU behavioral specialists (down from 10) for the entire city 1/patrol station. Each station serves 2 districts. For more information on the CRU program operated by the Behavioral Health Response visit the website @ <https://bhrstl.com/>

-A major arrest was made with the help of University City police of a suspect in the string of car break-ins in July. The suspect is providing information of accomplices.

-Crime details past 30 days:

27 car break-ins (see above), 3 larcenies (package theft), 4 theft at business (Dominoes and Walgreens), 3 residential burglaries (2 garages, 1 apt), 4 car thefts, 1 domestic assault, theft of copper gutters from residence

-Q/A Shell car placements are based on an uptick in crime in a particular area. It is most effective in curbing moving violations. Understaffing at SLMPD results in prioritizing violent crimes with fewer resources available for traffic/speeding violations.

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

* Shanieka Jackson, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist for Northampton, Southampton, Old North St. Louis, Hyde Park. Contact: (314) 901-3065, [jacksonshan@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:jacksonshan@stlouis-mo.gov)

-Reviewed the role of the NIS in identifying and reporting quality of life issues in her assigned neighborhoods. NIS agents work with police or other city services to address problems and are assigned special projects and attend monthly nuisance meetings to review city-wide trends.

-City Services Bureau is understaffed. Shanieka encouraged anyone interested in working for the Neighborhood Stabilization Division of the Public Safety Department to visit the city website for information (https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/index.cfm).

-Issue details for last 4 weeks:

40 potholes, 44 trash pickup, 13 abandoned vehicles, 14 tree inspection, 32 refuse containers replaced or repaired, 24 bulk items, 15 debris blocking street or alley, 11 damaged signs, 7 reports of overgrown weeds.

-Specific issues can 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

-Fall adult activities and education series highlights including the Fall Series: Cozy & Crafty: Knit for Need, Balance and Revitalize: Autumn Series and Exploring Your Family History @ SLPL (See details at <https://www.slpl.org/>).

-Lego @ Buder Event on Oct 5th 1-4 pm. First 200 people will receive free minifigs.

-Early voting at Buder will start 2 weeks before election day. Check the library website for hours. Voting times do not necessarily overlap with library hours.

-If interested pick up event flyers or check the SLPL website <https://www.slpl.org/locations/5/>.

Jane Rain introduced our guest speaker Det. Sgt. Robert Muffler from the SLMPD Cybercrimes Investigation Unit.

* Det. Sgt. Robert Muffler has worked for 36 years in the fraud and cybercrimes division working general fraud cases. He has worked for the past 10 years exclusively in child exploitation which currently has 1096 active cases.

-Most of the financial fraud that they investigate involve phishing scams involving large sums via companies to vendors and originating overseas.

-Tips for personal protection from financial frauds:

* Use your bank issued debit card only at the bank ATM that issued it. Use your credit card for purchases since these offer more protection against unauthorized users.
* Activate fraud alert and renew credit freeze annually with the major credit reporting companies (Experian, Equifax and Transunion). Monitor your credit through these companies (1 free/year/company)
* Watch your mail for notifications of denied credit which may indicate applications submitted using your name.
* Give no information over the phone even if the caller identifies as your bank
* Don’t use the same password for multiple accounts, change your passwords frequently, and use 2-factor authentication when available
* Regularly monitor your credit card accounts for unauthorized purchases. After 30 days you will be responsible for the charges.
* He does not recommend purchasing services (e.g. Lifelock, McAfee) to remove information from dark web
* Any transactions originating on the internet from unknown parties that request payment via wire transfer or paypal/friends and family transfers are fraudulent.
* If/when you are a victim report the crime to local law enforcement
* For more information the SLMPD has several information and tips on its website <https://slmpd.org/fraud/> and <https://slmpd.org/internet-safety/> under the dropdown “Inside SLMPD”

* Jane Rain announced the Tilles Park cleanup on October 12th 9am – 11:30 and asked for volunteers.

- Adjourned meeting at 7:05.

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