

HHIA Meeting:

January 28th, 2019

Roll call: Anna Baldwin, Beth Murphy, Stacy Ross, Lisa Bertke, Julie Orrick

New to the neighborhood? Natasha just moved here, 4100 block of Holly Hills. My name is Colleen. I moved here in Jan. 2018. I just thought I'd come and check this out. David and Paul own Kitchen House Coffee. We just opened near you in the Patch neighborhood. Appreciate the opportunity to speak to you...we are open 7 days a week. Doing light breakfast and lunch. Food, specialty coffee and tea. I see a few familiar faces in the audience, some of you have found us already. 7700 Ivory. Partnering with Stacked across the street on an event space.

Guest speakers:

Peggy from the St. Louis Chapter of Be Smart. I am so excited that you are all here. Kudos on getting out on this cold night. Kids, guns, and safety. That is the topic tonight. We are a chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense. My name is Kristen Ray. Thank you for coming tonight. We are happy to present the Be Smart message to you. I'm here as a parent, as a community advocate. The many senseless shootings of children in our schools made me feel that I had to do something. My focus is the Be Smart message which works to prevent kids from getting access to guns. WE all want our children to be safe, but there have been too many incidents where kids have not been safe from gun violence. First story is about Haley who lived in Pekin, IL. Loved riding her bike, celebrating her 9th birthday. They found a loaded gun and her cousin pointed it at her. Shot her in the throat. Spent four days in hospital and died on her 9th birthday. She would probably still be here today if that gun had been secured safely in her home. Local instances...5 year old found his father's hand gun and fatally shot his 7 year old brother. 2 year old found a gun and accidentally shot his father and killed his father. These poor kids are going to live with this trauma for the rest of their lives. American kids are 11 times more likely to die from gun violence than children in other developed countries. Nearly 300 children every year gain access to a loaded gun. Another 500 children use a gun to commit suicide. The US has the highest reported rate of unintentional gun deaths in the world. What do we do about this? The BE Smart program focuses on kids, guns, and safety. It is non-partisan, non-political. Just trying to have an open discussion on what we can do to stop these unintentional shootings. This can be a very emotional issue, we all have different perspectives. This is for everybody. I'm not here to talk about politics or policy. Laws and policies to curb gun violence are important but we are here to talk about actions that we can take to prevent gun violence.

The SMART framework is to help parents and children. If we are all smart together we can reduce gun deaths. S – Secure guns in your homes and vehicles. This is the single most important thing that anyone can do. Store the guns locked and unloaded, separate from the ammo. You can loop a cable lock through the gun chamber. 70% of children in gun owning households knew where the gun was stored and 36% had handled the gun. You may think it is hidden but they know how to get a hold of it. M – Modeling responsible behavior around guns. Before you bring a gun into the home, think about whether or not all adults in the home will take firearms training. Risk factors in the home: depression, family violence, cognitive challenges (grandparent with dementia). A few responsible gun behaviors; ALWAYS keep your gun pointed in a safe direction. Be sure of your target, keep finger off trigger until you are ready to fire. Do not rely on the gun as your only means of protection. The most recent research shows 4.6 mil kids live in homes with guns that are loaded and unlocked. When your child is visiting another home you have to be aware of the risks. A – Ask about unsecured guns in other people's homes. Don't be afraid to ask others if they have any guns in the home and if they are secured. It shouldn't be something that is difficult to talk about. This is a safety issue for my child. If you find out that guns are not being securely stored in the home, it doesn't have to be a confrontation. Suggest to move the play date to another location such as a park or your own home. In children under the age of 16 the presence is a more significant risk factor

for suicide than a psychiatric illness. Mental illness is often impulsive. The method matters here...firearms are the most lethal method of suicide. R – Recognize the risks of teen suicide. Some teens do exhibit signs of suicide: change in mood or behavior, talking about killing themselves, increased aggression, feeling ashamed, restless, etc. T – Over 2200 volunteers have been trained. Over 2600 events in 43 states. Also presented at conferences, PTA, Police Association Meetings, etc. T – Telling your peers about the Be Smart message. People that are close to you will listen to you...you do have influence. Volunteer to help spread this message...<http://besmartforkids.org/>

Thank you so much for your attention.

Kristen and I go out to spread this message. First time at a neighborhood association. I'm a firm believer in trying to get some feedback. Is the information you have here...is this enough for you to take that next step to tell someone about it? Would you rather have had less of a PowerPoint and more of a discussion?

A: The PowerPoint is good because I have worked 10 hours today and I don't want to talk.

A: The PP is good because it gets to the point because it gets to the point with facts and is non-confrontational.

There are a lot more people in your neighborhood...other ways it could be distributed?

A: The NSO Office could connect you with all of the NSO and NIS throughout the city.

A: Schools. St. Stephens is the Catholic School. St. Louis Public School system...Woodward and Woerner. Also the YMCA. Also the Scouts...girls and boys.

Please reach out if you know of places... BeSmartSTL@gmail.com

I'm doing this...if it saves one life it is worth it. Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Midtown Community Center. You could contact Archdiocese of ST. Louis.

Officer Wilson – Crime stats from Dec to Jan 25th. HH always has low numbers. Two robberies...one occurred 3900 Burgen. Young man, 21 years old, exited his vehicle, 4 young guys pointed a gun and asked for his cell phone. Got license plate, plate didn't come back registered to the car. Other robbery was a drug deal gone bad. I call the far end border of HH...over in 3700 Dewey. He went to make a purchase and didn't want to pay, so he shot the dealer and took the product. Aggravated assault on Bates. Burglary...lots of rehabs are a good opportunity for thieves. If you have a rehab or see something going on...if you're not sure call us. These burglars are real smart...they blend in. Vehicle thefts...one was a gun stolen from a vehicle. Take your firearms out of your vehicle at night. Don't carry a firearm with you to college. Keep the guns at home...if you can't take them to school or a building don't bring them. Firearm taken 3600 Wilmington. Got in the car, got the firearm. Loaded too. Vehicle thefts...don't warm them up. Simple assaults...domestic and a peace disturbance. Disorderly conduct...Family Dollar at Grand and Iron, unruly customer wouldn't leave. Other crimes are leaving the scene of an accident (car was hit).

What is larceny? Stealing an item from a vehicle.

Andrew Hernandez – Neighborhood Improvement Specialist for the 13th ward. Everyone knows what the Citizen's Service Bureau is, right? Place for you to report: trash not collected, neighbor's yard is overgrown, etc. It's been rather quiet, don't have too much to report. Working on some issues, some properties that are being addressed. With trash and stuff like that, 3800 Burgen, another on Holly Hills.

Q: When I spoke with Mayor Krewson I was told that we were supposed to be getting a solar powered camera for the alleys. To prevent dumpster diving. And I see that happen quiet often, especially people from Jeff Co and St. Louis Co. And I get out there I'm like hey! Just want my

neighborhood to be clean. Was told that these were ordered for the alleys. That's why the trash service fee went up, right? I've been patient...where is the money going?

A: That part I have nothing to do with. The Alderman can answer.

Q: What happened to our police dept? They don't give out tickets for illegally parked cars. Where is the money going?

A: Officer Wilson handed him his card. But the resident didn't want to snitch on neighbors.

A: Hernandez does send a postcard to those with expired temp tags to give them a warning.

Q: In the park going from Loughborough to the White House in the park...the manhole cover is broke. If you step on it, your foot will go all the way through it.

A: I will have them look into it.

Beth Murphy – Alley cameras...they are not put on every alley. It goes by complaint. When you see this illegal dumping, call CSB and give the address of the dumpster, then they may place a camera. They purchased 120 cameras and we have a very large alley system...they can move them around to problem areas. Trash Task Force...call CSB and ask that this complaint go to the TTF. I have called CSB 6 times...they came and they did clean up. But this happens so often...some of the apts near the home just throw everything out there. That's the landlord's responsibility. 6 times and 6 months...ask for the TTF. I've called them too. I can try and call them if you give me the address.

Comment: We have heard that it takes a few neighbors to call before they take action.

They have made quite a bit of arrests because of the cameras.

Comment: It's not so much illegal dumping...there are a lot of four families and two family...when they took away one of the dumpsters it really had an impact. I can try and see if there is room for another dumpster. Mainly on the Wilmington side of the alley. The problem with the dumpsters is they have to be someplace where they aren't in the way of the garage or gates. I always try to get it for you if you want another dumpster to see if there is room for another one.

Other updates...Walgreens finally repaired the fence down on Bates. They want to take the whole fence down. The people that work there do not want it cut down. Car repair place will apply for an occupation permit at Grand and Bates where Sound Solutions was. I have a list of 10 conditions for this business. If they are willing to meet the conditions she will sign it. Supposed to be a Mexican restaurant across the street from Chimichanga's. The grocery store right there...he bought what used to be a 7-11. He is going to put in a restaurant there.

Trees being taken down on Bates...it looked like a clear cutting. It's the ash borer. Back in 2016 we spoke about it here, it's been on TV. I brought all the city website info. They did not tell us when they were going to come down otherwise we would have given a heads up. All the stumps will be taken out and new trees will be planted immediately. I asked if they could be 20 feet tall and they said no. 4 different species. Hopefully plant them this session. The Alderman pay for those with their ward capital, I will sink as much into it as I can. They already started planting them on Bates. I raised heck with Forestry...I said you left one tree on Bates so they could hang me in effigy.

Q: it scares me to replant immediately. When I lived I Vegas I had a home with a bad tree. To put another tree...the ground was bad. They should know better...just want you to be aware.

Also, they were talking about the private contracts were cutting down healthy trees...

A: They looked healthy but they were really infested. Others because of age or being by the other trees...

Q: Some of them looked really healthy like they were trying to meet a quota.

A: No, there was no quota. The arborists looked at them all.

Q: Lot of talk online about choosing trees...

A: Yes, I think you can ask for a tree.

Q: They put a lot of runs in my yard...please call CSB and have them fix it.

Someone said they didn't clean up as much...I don't think they are finished yet. If you want to call for a specific tree, if they have it, perhaps they would put that in for you.

Q: Hopefully no sweet gum trees. No!!!!

I did request all trees to be canopy trees, that's what we want. I requested that they all be planted now...the city plants now.

Q: What about the bridge? The bridge is gonna get fixed...they will start this spring.

Q: Three weeks ago....three times in one day someone turned the wrong way onto Holly Hills from Grand. Could we add something to prevent bottleneck there at the Y entrance, Grand Dr and Holly Hills?

We are doing improvements along Grand Dr there through the park...

Q: Can we get a speed bump on Holly Hill Blvd?

A: No, it's an emergency thoroughfare. No speed humps on snow routes or bus routes.

Q: I don't live on a snow route...why can't I have a speed hump?

A: I usually do a speed study first...and ask the traffic comm if it warrants a speed bump. If he says no, then request the residents to gather signatures.

Q: I live on Bates, they redid the gas lines, dug up big chunks of the road and replaced it with concrete.

A: we are working on that, Smart Cities initiative. It's a problem all over the city. We are putting ordinances in place where if a utility comes out, then all other utilities have to do their work at the same time. We have to use our ward capital fund to repair this...why do it three times? We just need to get all of these changes at the same time.

Sarah Martin – Smart Cities Initiative above. Give me your block...I have been in touch with the foreman in our area.

Working on a prevailing wage bill. If you are a developer and getting an incentive then you have to pay the prevailing wage to your coworkers. Beth is a cosponsor. It's fair for our area contractors...you are going to have higher overhead than someone in a rural county. Prevailing wage triggers a lot of other good percentages...minority and women. On the health committee, Chairman Arnowitz has brought forth several different grants to fight the opioid crisis. Programs with the county and the entire region. Some are federal, some are state. We all know that drugs increase homelessness, gun violence, a litany of problems. Kitchen House Coffee was another update, and they were here. Please check them out. Elwood and Broadway, old Biker Bar. Carondelet Comm Betterment Federation getting more grant money and working with the Lemay Housing partnership to make improvements for senior homes. A lot more money coming in. Helps seniors stay in their homes and keeps our houses looking great. Loughborough and 55...the worst is the carpet out there instead of a sidewalk. Had a meeting in Jeff City last week with the liaison from MoDot. Rep Butz and some other folks Brooks Goedeker have been planning a clean up. Campaign signs are a problem...lots of illegal campaign signs. If they're in the right of way and you know they don't belong there...pick them up and toss them. Thurs 6pm Ward meeting at MJs 6312 S. Grand.

Pres of Board of Alderman meet the candidates event. You can have a beer at that meeting, hopefully that will increase turnout.

Q: Rash of broken windows at Grand and Holly Hills.

A: they think it is a group of kids.

Q: Talked a lot last year about the Intrada property. Any updates?

A: It's booked up...it is full. It is seniors and the Epworth Center has a supv program for kids that have aged out of foster care. I heard the building was sold? There might have been a transfer to the Intrada Mgmt co.

Remind everyone to please renew your Holly Hills membership. If you are interested in going green, let us know and we will deliver the newsletter by email.

March 25th next meeting

Q: How hard is it to get a sign put up? Stop sign or turn right. As you come out of Schnucks to go through the park, those in the right turn lane go straight. Can they add a right-turn lane only sign?

A: We will reach out to DESCOCO about the right-turn only sign.