

THE GATE GAZETTE

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JOIN US!!!
 Gate District East
 NEIGHBORHOOD APPRECIATION NIGHT
 Tuesday, October 3, 2017 | 5:30-8PM
 Eads Park (Eads & California)

Join your neighbors for an evening of friendship and fellowship. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and have some fun. Food and entertainment will be provided.



***From the Association President,
Henry Gray...***

Hello Gate District East Friends & Neighbors!!! I hope everyone has had a great summer thus far. With the summer nearing the end, mostly all of the kids have gone back to school. Also, I hope all of those summer projects that were planned in your respective households were completed and turned out wonderfully as had been anticipated.

Well, it's been quite some time since our last newsletter. The GDEA has gone through quite a few organizational changes. These changes are due in part to the piqued interest within the Gate District perimeter. With that being said, many of our neighbors have taken advantage of this piqued interest and sold their homes. These actions show that we live in a great community with great neighbors. While losing half of our executive board due to the GDEA housing boom is not a great thing, it presented us with a great opportunity to work with some different neighbors.

I am happy to say that the Gate District East Association now has two new board members; Dan Iadevito (St. Vincent neighborhood representative) and Michael Thornton (Eads Park neighborhood representative). These two gentlemen hit the ground running and are doing great work to improve our community. So, when you see them out and about say hello and welcome them to the neighborhood. Also, keep in mind that we still have two additional vacancies on the board. Would you be willing to volunteer to help your

community?!? If so, drop us an email, call us or even knock on our door. :)

At our last meeting held on July 19th, we had record attendance. Coming up in a few months, I ask that we continue this surge in attendance with our Neighborhood Appreciation Night to get to know your neighbors. Without you, there would be no "Neighbor" in "Neighborhood" Appreciation Night. This year's event is being held on Tuesday, October 3rd. The event location will be Eads Park (Eads Ave. & California Ave.). Food and entertainment will be provided.

Feel free to email me about any questions you may have pertaining to any of the above topics or even new topics at gatedistrict@gmail.com. You may also access the Gate District East website at www.gatedistricteast.org. In addition to forwarding emails, we also try to post all neighborhood information on this site.

Regards,
Henry B Gray, Jr



Update from 6th Ward Alderwoman Christine Ingrassia...

Happy end of the summer, Gate District East. I hope you were all able to enjoy the season. While the Board of Aldermen is on break until the middle of September, there's still plenty of activity to keep you updated on within our community.

The Streets Department continues to work through the neighborhood each year, paving thoroughfares needing attention with ward capital funds I've allocated. Last year we undertook the task of Compton and this year we

tackled Park Avenue. To determine which streets get paved, I review Citizens' Service Bureau requests submitted by residents, the list the Streets Department gives to me with their priorities, as well as the notes I keep of constituents who reach out to me.

Many residents have reported issues with speeding and accidents along Compton, so another allocation of capital funds went towards a traffic study from Arsenal to Market. Some of you participated in meetings or the online survey we conducted on traffic calming, and, as you've likely already seen, some of the study recommendations from CBB Transportation Engineers and Planners suggested by you and based on review of data are currently being implemented. Painted bump-outs with concrete spheres will be going at the intersections of Lafayette, Russell, Shenandoah, Magnolia, and Arsenal. Additionally, we will be adding thermoplastic imprinted crosswalks, and updated ADA compliant ramps. I will work closely with the Streets Department and the St. Louis

Metropolitan Police to determine if our changes are increasing safety along the corridor.

I'm excited to pass along information about a new partnership between Hodgen Elementary and BJC HealthCare. St. Louis Children's Hospital is providing funding for a 5 year pilot program called Healthy Kids, Healthy Minds. The school will have a full time nurse, full time behavioral health professional, and a part time trauma informed care specialist embedded on site, working alongside faculty, staff, and students each day. I met with representatives from BJC's Center for Innovation to discuss preliminary information about the project. I will keep you posted as I learn more, as community engagement is a key part of the work being undertaken.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your representative at City Hall. Please feel free to reach out to me if I may be of service to you in any way. ingrassiac@stlouis-mo.gov or 314.622.3287.

Find Gate District East resources on Facebook...

Search: **Gate District East** to keep up on GDE news and events and communicate with your neighbors, and **NSO Dena Hibbard** to see posts from our 6th Ward NSO.



Keep in touch with the Gate District...

Send your email to: gatedistricteast@gmail.com to be added to our email list.

Visit www.gatedistricteast.org for full meeting minutes and other neighborhood resources.



Update from 19th Ward Alderwoman Marlene Davis...

Dear Residents:

We have had a good summer with many recreational opportunities for our youth. Residential development continues around Terry Park. Vatterot is currently building two new homes.

The SLU/SSM Development first project is a \$550 million new hospital, that will break ground August 31st.

The City of St. Louis has a number of major issues under consideration at this time that includes selecting a new Police Chief, management of Airport, plan and purpose for allocating tax incentives, and long term planning for the general budget.

Crime is a major concern for not only the City of St. Louis but this Region. Studies say the best way to reduce crime is neighborhood organizing. I am a strong advocate for block captains and networking. I have asked the Urban League to assist us in establishing Block Units and I will pay the first annual fee of \$25 for each block established.

If there is a need to contact me, please feel free to call or text me at 314-680-9168 or davisma@stlouis-mo.gov.

Alderwoman Marlene Davis 19th Ward

Gate District Association Meeting
July 19, 2017
By Theresa Hebron, Secretary

Opening Business: President's Report and Treasurer's Report

GDEA President Henry Gray thanked neighbors for attending and introduced the newest neighborhood rep Louis Hannegan who is representing Lafayette Terrace. Henry described the duties of the VP and treasurer for anyone considering running for either position. Henry explained that the treasurer is responsible for signing the checks. The bookkeeper is responsible for cutting the checks, but she cannot sign the checks. This check and balance effectively safeguards against fraud. The VP primarily assists the president and is responsible for managing the annual Neighborhood Appreciation Night.

Guest Speakers

Michael Brockman said the objective of St. Louis City Recycles is to increase recycling in Saint Louis City by educating residents on the benefits of recycling. The City saves \$18.00 in refuse costs per ton of recyclables and recycling creates jobs. Although the City collected 50,000 tons of recyclables in 2016, fifty percent of the items tossed into trash dumpsters were recyclables. There are approximately 130,000 alley dumpsters and 20,000 rollout carts throughout the City. The Board of Aldermen is debating a proposal to increase the monthly refuse fee from \$11.00 to \$14.00 per unit. There are six categories for recyclables: paper, flattened cardboard, plastic bottles/containers, glass bottles/jars, metal food/beverage cans and food/beverage cartons. Mr. Brockman reminded neighbors to flatten cardboard boxes to conserve space in the dumpsters. He also said that plastic bags are not recyclables as they clog up the sorters. Neighbors who want to recycle plastic bags should take them to the major grocery stores: Schnucks, Shop n' Save and Dierbergs. Additional information about recycling is available at www.stlcityrecycles.com.

Neighborhood Organization Reports

Sixth Ward Neighborhood Stabilization

Officer Dena Hibbard said that due to City budget constraints that only one neighborhood stabilization officer could attend neighborhood meetings. However, Dena said that she and Kurt Tarkington share information about activities common to both wards. Dena encouraged neighbors to view her Facebook page for information pertaining to recycling, nuisance property etc. NSOs can access records of both state and city agencies that are not readily available to residents. She is able to use this information to assist residents in resolving some problems. Additionally, the NSOs have access to crime statistics. Dena

explained that a 'problem property' becomes a 'nuisance property' when residents make two calls to police within one month about nuisance behavior at a particular property. Property Court can board up the 'nuisance property' for one year if the owner is guilty of nuisance behavior. The owner must continue to pay property taxes and other fees on the property without having the use of it. Dena said that some of the properties involved in the drug trade at St. Vincent and California are on the nuisance property list. Several neighbors complained about the operation of Air B&Bs on their street. Dena encouraged neighbors to call the police about the properties in order to place them on the nuisance property list. However, Air B&Bs are a legislative problem that the Board of Aldermen should address.

Third District Community Outreach

Officer Patrick Clancy distributed a handout comparing crime statistics for June 15 – July 12 for the years of 2016 and 2017 for Police District 3, which includes the Gate District East. Total larceny crimes numbered eight in 2016 and increased to 13 in 2017 and total property crime numbered 12 in 2016 and increased to 15 in 2017. During 6/15 – 7/12, there were two domestic crimes, two vehicle thefts (one vehicle recovered) and 22 larceny crimes scattered throughout the neighborhoods.

Clancy urged neighbors to contact the police when they see someone suspicious in the neighborhood. Clancy cited a recent incident when a neighbor noticed a suspicious person (during the day) loitering around another neighbor's house. He later saw that person coming out of the house with some objects. Officer Clancy said that no one should be loitering around the neighborhood during the day. Clancy stated that Air B&Bs are also becoming a problem in the Fox Park area of the 6th Ward. The 3 cameras, previously positioned at Park and S. Jefferson, are in other areas of the City. Sargent Carl Cunningham was using the cameras to monitor gang-activity in that area. Clancy said that ordinary police officers are not directly involved in the hiring process for the new chief of police. Therefore, he could not answer questions about the ongoing search. According to Officer Clancy, fireworks were a bigger problem this year due to dry weather conditions. He encouraged neighbors to be persistent in contacting police about fireworks, especially those that continue until the early-morning hours. Ask to speak with a supervisor if no officers respond to request for assistance.

Alderwomen Reports

19th Ward Ald. Marlene Davis reported that shooting in the 19th Ward is the highest in four years. She felt that parents are responsible for their children's actions and if held liable it would result in better parenting. The BOA is considering a proposal to

increase the monthly refuse fee from \$11.00 to \$14.00 per month. If refuse user fees are not increased the only other option is to contract out refuse collection to a private contractor. The committee meets only twice a year but Davis thinks that weekly meetings would allow better management of the City's budget. The BOA recently introduced a 'non-profit tax' on non-profit organizations in the City. She believes that the City can safely trim two-million dollars from its budget before taxing non-profit organizations. Davis said that she would be willing to fund some of the 50/50 sidewalk projects for 6th Ward residents if Alderwoman Ingrassia was unable to do so. Finally, Davis encouraged residents to attend the Urban League National Convention from July 26 – 30, 2017.

Neighborhood Representatives Report

Lafayette Terrace Rep Louis Hannegan introduced himself to neighbors and said that he was settling into Saint Louis and looking forward to getting to know his neighbors and working with the GDEA. Neighbors approved the nomination of Louis Hannegan to be the new rep for Lafayette Terrace.

Eads Park Rep Michael Thornton

encouraged the association to get involved with Hodgen Elementary School and he promised to assist with any community efforts. Michael reminded residents to contact the police if they see any suspicious activities/persons in their neighborhood. He is also working on replacing the torn neighborhood banners throughout the Gate District.

St. Vincent Park Rep Dan Iadevito

said that he walked the neighborhood and gave out flyers about the upcoming general meeting. He contacted the Citizen's Bureau and asked for another recycling bin in his alley. There is only a single recycling bin, which is insufficient for all the users. Dan also wants to re-start the neighborhood newsletter The Gate Gazette.

Announcements

A neighbor employed with Better Family Life said that the organization would again be sponsoring an amnesty program August 9-16th, for persons with outstanding warrants for County residents, including Creve Coeur. Saint Louis City is not participating this year.

The Gate Gazette

Dan Iadevito

Editor

314-313-0842

Submit stories and feedback to:

dci09@att.net

