

## **Wydown Forest Meeting Minutes April 21, 2016**

All neighbors were invited to the Center of Clayton on April 21, 2016 for a neighborhood meeting. The following is a summary of what took place at the meeting:

### **Welcome:**

Thank you to Sheila Gephardt and Missy McCormick for compiling a new neighborhood directory!

Thank you to our diligent neighborhood trustees: Mary DeBenedetti, Joe Satorius, and Salim Rangwala

Thank you to Maureen and Joe Satorius for organizing the neighborhood block parties. **The next block party will be from 4:00 – 6:00pm on Sunday, May 1.** It is a Fiesta Theme and a potluck. Drinks will be provided.

Thank you to our excellent Board Secretary, Lynne Roney, who could not be here tonight.

Thank you to our communications expert and Board Treasurer, Missy McCormick, who will be joining us later.

### **MSD Sewer Improvement**

Our first presenter was Beth Quindry who represented the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District. She talked about a sewer improvement project in our neighborhood. Beth explained the main purpose of the improvement project is to

1. prevent basement back ups and
2. reduce the amount of sewer overflow

The plan is to reduce storm water that is going in to the sewer system from private laterals and to increase the waste water sewer capacity. Sanitary sewers are designed to carry wastewater from homes to treatment plants. Stormwater that is allowed to enter this system can overload it causing untreated sewage to back up in to basements.

Houses in our neighborhood have been identified if there is stormwater draining from the house to the public sewer line instead of the stormwater line. Many of you may have already received letters. MSD will hire licensed plumbers to remove the improper stormwater connections at no charge to homeowners. Property owners would be notified when work will occur and what to expect. Property owners must give their OK for this work to happen. For more information about this go to

[www.projectclearSTL.org](http://www.projectclearSTL.org)

The Design Phase for this project will occur in Fall, 2016 and the Construction Phase in early 2017. The street repaving will not occur until the MSD work is completed.

## **Clayton Police Update**

Corporal Korey Golycynski and Chief of Police Kevin Murphy spoke at the meeting about upcoming events and police activity in Clayton over the past year. Here are the highlights of their talk:

Firearm Surrender- a firearm may be picked up at your home or dropped at the police station. No questions asked

Safety Locks for guns are offered by the Clayton Police at no charge to residents.

Spring is a common time for lawn mower and bike thefts. Please keep them locked away. You are encouraged to take a picture of your bike's serial number in case it is stolen, it can be ID'd by the serial number.

If you see any suspicious activity please report it

There is a Crime Blotter on the Community Service website that lists recent criminal activity

There have been a rash of fraudulent activities to be on the look out for: Workers posing as Ameren employees with fake IDs, Microsoft calls trying to get access to your computer, and the IRS claiming you owe money.

On April 30, 2016 you may drop off unused prescription drugs at the Center of Clayton

On Sunday, November 6, 2016 the Clayton Police support a Half Marathon, 5K, and Youth ½ mile fun run that benefits Special Olympics. The course will be run through Clayton and Forest Park.

From Chief Of Police Kevin Murphy:

Over the past year there have been 9 incidences in Clayton: 2 burglaries, 3 thefts, 2 auto thefts, 2 minor assaults. In light of perceived spike in crime in the area, this has not been the case in Clayton.

There has been a significant problem with valuables being left in cars and cars left unlocked. The "soft cost" is \$450 per incident when police are directed to a crime such as a car theft.

Criminals have used Metro Link to come in to the area

In regard to the recent shooting near the Wash U campus on Forsyth, they feel this was not a random event and they hope to ID a suspect shortly. They are working diligently on this case.

### **Alderman Update from Ira Berkowitz and Cynthia Garnholz:**

The following are some highlights of topics mentioned during the meeting:

There will no longer be a mulch pile. The city has contracted with a company that will deliver mulch at a reduced price.

“Free Little Libraries” will be coming to certain areas (Boxes on a pole in which you may add books you’ve read or take one to read!) the locations are in the DeMunn Park area, Wydown Park, and Hanley Park.

Peno’s, the new restaurant near Wydown and Westwood will be having live music one Sunday night per month between May and September.

Billy Jean’s will be a new restaurant opening in the Fro Yo location on Wydown.

There is new development planned for the corner of Wydown and Hanley that is currently a parking lot. Whatever goes there eventually must maintain the same number of parking spaces that are there now.

Centene is developing the property at Hanley and Forsyth. No plans have been finalized. There has been some discussion of a luxury hotel, but that is not certain.

No decision has been made about the Maryland school property yet.

Three apartment buildings are slated for construction in Clayton;  
229 unit building next to the Brown Shoe Company  
121 unit building at the former Il Vicino site  
250 unit building at the corner of Meramec and Bonhomme

The Center of Clayton is 20 years old and in need of infrastructure rehabilitation. A capital improvement is going to be needed. More to come on that.

Barry Wehmuller has donated a significant sum to develop a water featured entrance on the north side of Shaw Park.

Neighbors voiced strong concern about the recent increase in restaurant activity on Wydown and what that might mean for increased parking in Wydown Forest. In addition, patrons may sit outside at tables until midnight on weekends which may create a noise problem for surrounding neighbors. A 10:00pm curfew for patrons to be sitting outside was voted down by the Board of Alderman. This issue was

presented near the end of the meeting and will be addressed again by the neighborhood board.

One other neighborhood concern that was mentioned is the speed at which cars travel through the neighborhood. Neighbors are asked to slow down! There are many kids and walkers in our neighborhood and it is a real safety issue. If this continues or there is suspicion that there are cars from outside the neighborhood speeding on our streets, it is recommended that license plates numbers be obtained to report to the police.

### **Neighborhood Board Vacancies**

The Board is looking to fill vacancies including the President and Vice President positions. Lori Elliott will be rotating off as President and there is currently no Vice President. Lynne Roney indicated she will stay on as secretary, but is also fine to let someone else take this position. Missy McCormick would like to have someone take over the Communication role and while she is willing to stay on as treasurer, she is happy to give someone else a turn too. Please notify a board member (listed in your directory) if you would like to be a part of the neighborhood board.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.