



17th Ward Update

By Tina Pihl, 17th Ward Alderwoman

Dear Griffin Readers,

A lot has happened since I wrote to you last.

BOARD BILLS

On April 18 the Board of Alderpeople ended our 2021–2022 legislative session. I would like to highlight Board Bills 71, 72, 73 and 151, which authorized the creation of the Equitable Development Contribution, in which I initiated the \$1.8 million development contribution to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for affordable housing repair. Through the fund, \$900,000 will be allocated to the 17th Ward and \$900,000 to north of Delmar Boulevard. Applications should be available in September. If you know of anyone who is of low income and needs repairs on their home, have them contact me.

Another bill of note, BB 126, which I sponsored, renamed one block on the Washington University–BJC Medical campus from Children’s Place to Nash Way. Why is this board bill significant?

Dr. Helen Nash was a pioneer for women, Black Americans and medicine. She started her career at the former Homer G. Phillips Hospital, the only teaching hospital open to Black physicians in St. Louis. She became the only woman among the first Black physicians to join the staff of the Washington University School of Medicine. She helped reduce the infant mortality of premature babies by changing the practices and organization within the neonatal unit. Dr. Nash treated thousands of patients, primarily children, in her 40-plus year career.

DEVELOPMENT

A huge change in the CWE will be happening soon with the construction of the Albion West End at the corner of Lindell and Kingshighway by Koplars Properties and Albion Residential. It is set to be a 30-floor apartment building costing approximately \$130 million. This building will transform a corner that has been vacant for decades. It is the last piece of vacant property on this block. It’s notable that for a project of this size, it will be developed without a TIF or tax abatement — a first in St. Louis in many years. The location for this apartment building is at a prime location in the city, with views of Forest Park and the Arch.

Another first for the city is that a

large developer, Aptitude Development from New Jersey, will contribute \$250,000 to the City of St. Louis without receiving tax incentives — TIF, tax abatement or sales tax exemption. The funding will be directed to affordable housing preservation. Aptitude Development is very grateful for building in the city and is excited to create a strong and lasting partnership in St. Louis.

Aptitude plans to build student housing across the street from St. Louis University’s campus on Forest Park Avenue and Vandeventer. They will build 202 units of housing for 502 students. It will be seven stories tall, in which the first two stories will provide 266 spaces of parking.

This student housing is located in a very desirable location because it is near the university and is within the footprint of The City Foundry and Fresh Thyme Market.

PUBLIC HEALTH/COMMUNITY SAFETY

On April 30, State Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins (77th District), U.S. Congresswoman Cori Bush and I sponsored a community listening session in the 17th Ward for residents and care providers. This initiative grew out of a fentanyl tragedy in the ward and the crisis we have in St. Louis and the United States. The goal is to reduce drug-related deaths, address community safety issues related to substance-use disorder, and address substance-use disorders with the community and city at large. Through the findings we gathered at the listening sessions, a draft Harm

Reduction Plan will be created with a goal to also build a harm-reduction ecosystem map in partnership with the Clark-Fox Foundation. A second phase of research will look at harm reduction and substance-use disorder through system dynamics and organizational change. This is a big challenge, but the initiative can create successful shifts in strengthening public health and community safety.

Along with the Harm Reduction Initiative, I have launched the 17th Ward Community Public Safety Committee. Our kick-off meeting in mid-May was attended by the CWE, Botanical Heights and Forest Park Southeast and Neighborhood Security Initiative led by Jim Whyte. This initiative is being created because studies have shown that when citizens get involved with addressing the root

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News & Notes

On March 28, the St. Louis Preservation Board granted preliminary approval to a new apartment project on the site of the old **Reliance Automotive** facility, 490 N. Kingshighway Blvd. at McPherson.

Pier Property Groups proposes a five-story 118-unit apartment building to be built on top of the vacant two-story Reliance facility. The existing building will provide parking spaces for the apartments above. The project will include demolition of a nearby house on McPherson. The Flats at Forest Park project will cost about \$35 million, according to published reports. The CWEA's Development Committee supported the project.

Congrats to the **Piano Teachers' Round Table** of St. Louis, celebration their 100th anniversary this year. The professional group formed April 5, 1922 to raise the standard of piano teaching, to promote interests vital to piano teachers, to develop appreciation of music, to foster good fellowship in the music profession. The group met for many years at Grace Methodist Church at Kingshighway and Waterman. They wrapped up the 2021-22 season May 6 along with members of the **St. Louis Area Music Teachers Association** with a private tour of music-related art at the **St. Louis Art Museum**.

After last year's intense and powerful production of *King Lear*, the **St. Louis Shakespeare Festival** is presenting the comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing*, June 1 to 26 in Shakespeare Glen in Forest Park. Admission, as always, is free, but there are some reserved seating options. Visit <https://stlshakes.org/production/much-ado/> for details.

And in another corner of Forest Park, **The Muny** will present its 104th Summer Season. It kicks off with six-time Tony Award-winning *Chicago* (June 13-19), whose run was cut short last year, and closes with Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Aug. 12-18).

SCOUT From Page 17

from Lagoon Drive. Finally, probably least-known and yet with great outdoor seating, is Keagan's restaurant at the Highlands Golf Course off Clayton Avenue, right next to the clay tennis courts. This one is, of course, Scout-approved.

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causes of public safety, good results materialize (see *Times Magazine* article, 12/29/2021, about public safety.)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A civic engagement workshop was organized for 17th Ward residents at the April ward meeting. We discussed the history of the creation of the alderperson position, building of multiple city halls, current structure of local government, redistricting, and the passage and tracking of board bills. The attendees and I had a really engaged conversation about the history of the board of alders and learning about the life cycle of a board bill. In a future article I will talk about the ins-and-outs of passing legislation and board bills. This

workshop can be downloaded from my website at www.TinaSweetTPihl.com.

On Give STL Day, I spoke at City Greens Market on Manchester and Tower Grove avenues about food insecurity. This small nonprofit surpassed its fundraising goal and

raised \$12,104 for food access. The food co-op has a sliding membership scale depending on income.

Contact me at TinaSweetTPihl.com, at pihLt@St.Louis-MO.gov or (314) 301-9868.

Forging a path to Build ONE STL, Tina Sweet-T Pihl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

17TH WARD MEETING Second Wednesday 6:30-7:30 p.m. June 8 (see website)

OFFICE HOURS 5:30-7 p.m Tuesday, June 14 at Northwest Coffee, CWE

LUX LIVING Community Engagement Meeting 6:30 p.m. June 21 at Missouri Foundation for Health

Sign-up at www.TinaSweetTPihl.com for the 2021-22 Alder Annual Report available in June.

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SWEENEY TODD
THE DEMON BARBER
OF FLEET STREET
A Musical Thriller

Sondheim's Musical Masterpiece | **JULY 16 - 22**

LEGALLY BLONDE
THE MUSICAL

A Positively Good Time | **JULY 25 - 31**

The Color Purple

Love. Faith. Resilience. | **AUGUST 3 - 9**

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

A Mega-Fun Broadway Hit | **AUGUST 12 - 18**