



**Princeton Heights Neighborhood Association General Meeting
Thurs. September 3, 2026**

1. Call to Order

2. Special Guest: Kim Bernstein, Valor Villages

- a. Valor Villages assists people experiencing homelessness or crisis, providing food, clothing, hygiene supplies and other basic necessities.
- b. Volunteers help connect individuals with housing, benefits, identification, medical and mental-health services.
- c. The organization works with police, the city and other community organizations and is partnering with St. Lucy's on food preparation and distribution.
- d. Donations and volunteers are welcome.

3. Alderman Tom Oldenburg

- a. Moonlight Ramble
 - i. Concerns were raised about traffic, road closures and communication. Better advance notice and intersection management are needed for future events.
- b. Spire construction
 - i. Construction is moving west. Residents should report unsafe conditions, blocked access or poor restoration.
- c. Rams settlement
 - i. Approximately \$255 million is expected for St. Louis, including funding for tornado recovery, neighborhood development, infrastructure and water improvements.
- d. Discussion included smoke-shop legislation and proposed data-center regulations, including concerns about water, utilities, renewable energy and neighborhood impacts.



4. Special Guest: Niraj Patel, Director of Public Utilities and Water Commissioner

- a. The city's water system has significant aging infrastructure and a water-main failure rate more than twice the national average.
 - i. Water-rate increases are intended to stabilize the system over the next six to seven years.
 - ii. Approximately \$40 million in Rams settlement funds will be used to leverage additional federal and state funding.
 - iii. The city hopes to replace approximately 130 miles of water mains over 10 years, prioritizing those in the worst condition.
 - iv. Several Princeton Heights locations have experienced repeated breaks and are among the areas of concern. Major work is likely at least a year away due to planning, engineering and contracting.
- b. Water-affordability assistance is available for qualifying residents.
- c. Lead service-line replacement remains a long-term issue, with potential costs of approximately \$10,000–\$15,000 per property. Free lead testing is available.

5. Representative Nick Kimble, 82nd House District

- a. Amendments 4 and 5 were defeated; the initiative-petition process remains in place.
- b. Discussion included congressional redistricting, downtown St. Louis economic-development legislation, data-center regulation, renewable energy and energy costs.
- c. A traffic study was discussed regarding speeding and crashes on Chippewa.
- d. Legislative coffee hours
 - i. Scheduled for September 26, 9–11 a.m., at Espresso Yourself.
 - ii. A future Princeton Heights coffee hour is planned.

6. PHNA Announcements

- a. Annual neighborhood yard sale
 - i. Approximately 20 homes registered; addresses, a map and QR-code signs are being prepared.
- b. September Happy Hour



- i. September 17 at JJ Twigs, with the outdoor patio available if weather permits.
- c. Annual elections
 - i. Nominations in October and election in November.
 - ii. Members are encouraged to consider joining the board, particularly those with communications, marketing, or financial skills.

7. Community Updates

- a. Christian Saller was thanked for his work as Neighborhood Improvement Specialist before moving on to his promotion with the Board of Public Service.
- b. Karen Clifford is the new Neighborhood Improvement Specialist and primary city contact for neighborhood concerns.
 - i. Residents should report both problems and positive experiences with city services.
 - ii. Her personal cell phone number is 314-489-2078
- c. Future I-55 construction at Loughborough and Weber will eventually affect access while the overpass and railroad bridge are rebuilt.
 - i. Work could begin in 2027 or 2028; the schedule remains uncertain.
- d. Arsenal/Macklind construction, concrete and fencing work were also discussed.
- e. Residents should report poor restoration following utility construction.
- f. Police staffing and paternity leave were briefly discussed.
- g. The city is working to address the situation at Schnucks (Gravois/Hampton) by connecting those involved with housing and other services.
- h. National Night Out in St. Louis is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6. Neighborhood groups are encouraged to participate and obtain necessary permits.