



## **Fighting for YOU and Our Businesses!**

Ward 2 Alderwomen ST. ANN

**Amy Poelker**

**If you need a voice? Just call.....**

**Amy 314-517-2378**

St Ann has been moving in the right direction for the last 3+ years now.

### **How can we help make a difference?**

A strong Neighborhood Watch that does more than just put up signs, good point LH.

**<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Ann-Neighborhood-Watch/328857780487893>**

With **674** members and rising...our program is making great strides in our community. It meets the last Thursday of each month, 7-8pm at City Hall. To be a member all you have to do is report things that don't look right to the pd, 314-427-8000 option # 1.

This link below, you can meet the man behind the difference in our community today vs 3+ yrs ago.

**<http://ritenourlive.org/2183/krhs/st-ann-chief-jimenez-sits-down-with-krhs-host-marcus-jordan/>**

a KRHS INTERVIEW (**RITENOUR RADIO**) and find out what differences he has made since his election.

### **Community Involvement:**

In today's society, we are all busier than ever making it more difficult to get involved. However with a little effort and working together we can make our community even better.

There are various reasons and everyone is affected somehow but as society as a whole has evolved, these changes began to take place.

In the 60's we had the one car, homemaker, family dinner, Sunday was family day and everyone knew their neighbor type era. Communities were close knit.

#### **Many changes have occurred over the years.....**

Today as a result of an evolving society our stores are open 7 days a week, many of our jobs these days are **24/7** creating a need to fill 3 different shifts vs the 1 of yesteryear (some have always been- like: police, fire, hospitals, and gas stations but most were not).

Many families/singles work 2-3 jobs to keep up with the family's basic needs: food, shelter and clothing.

**This has caused many families to not be able to find time for each other more or less the evolving environment around them and their civic/community/school/neighbor needs.**



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In my lifetime, I have experienced 52 yrs of watching the world around me, the younger of today...only have their so many years 1,5,10,15,20,25,30 etc of watching this world develop. Many do not understand how we got to where we are today. When I was in high school, I did not think history mattered much, but it turns out it's probably our most important subject. History is where we learn how our society has evolved since the beginning of time and explains the whys of this happening, giving us a better understanding of who we are.

Our country much unlike many others was founded and settled from a need to get away from over regulation of a government that over taxed it's people to sustain itself and even went as far as telling it's people what religion they were allowed to follow. For much of this reason our founding fathers, who fought to free us from this type of rule created the Constitution of the United States of America. Did they have all the answers back then, NO- how could they?, but they created a strong base to work from based on - their many years of experience.

### **The question at hand for society is how do we grow thru this next stage?**

We are a nation of laws. We are brought up to believe that no one is above the law. So by human nature when we view these laws as not happening, we naturally feel wronged and the need to fight for what we feel is right, to make things work again for our ever changing society.

People have basic needs seen here: <http://eqi.org/needs.htm>

Somehow we have to get back to working together as a community. Caring about each other, our schools, our seniors, our neighbors, our children... <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/assessment/assessing-community-needs-and-resources/describe-the-community/main>

### **Here are a few ideas we have come up with as a board of alderman.**

**A Beautification Committee-** Neighbors helping Neighbors-Residents who work towards a common goal of a well maintained community thru a series of ideas one of the most important being helping the seniors and unable to maintain their properties thru yard and small home maintenance projects. Always looking for more volunteers...

**An Animal Shelter-** here again another group of residents who work toward helping their neighbors learn more about animal care and work toward their goal of finding every adoptable animal their forever family. Bringing the community together to work towards a common cause. They also are always



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looking for volunteers and foster families for their animals. This group is totally Volunteer Run and operates totally separate from the city minus the shelter space. Find out more at: [www.sapamo.org](http://www.sapamo.org)  
**Neighborhood Watch** -details above, with the addition of social media today information sharing can go a long way to protect a community and build relationships that we do not have time in our daily lives, so busy, to do in person all the time. Listen to the Chiefs interview linked above, it took a high school student to ask all the tough questions but it gives you an idea on where our community is moving towards the future and you can decide if St. Ann made the right choice for Chief...the good thing about having an elected chief vs an appointed one—Keeping his job depends on us the citizens and how we feel he is doing in his job..vs..an appointed chief by a mayor or city administrator, here their job depends on typically only one person's view on how well they are doing. People tend to please who they must in employment to maintain their employment, it's basic. Did you hear about the **National Night Out** Event? **Over 500+ were in attendance.**

**St. Ann Business Association-** still working its way off the ground, a group of residents who work towards bringing in businesses and bringing the city and its businesses closer together to work towards a common goal in the success of both the business and the cities growth.

We continue to look for ways to bring our residents together. Ex.- The Car Show, Bud Sports in Vatterot fields, Fall Festival in Schaeffer Park, Glow in Dark Golf, Trivia Nights, hopefully an upcoming BBQ Event next year and of course Food Trucks Events. Our 1st Food Truck Event saw over **2500 in attendance** and **sold out all 7 trucks**. Thank You SABA for getting the 1st one done.

### **Boards before ours put together A:**

**Parks Board-** residents who work to give citizen input on park maintenance and community projects to bring us citizens together to get to know each other, like St. Ann Days and Parade and Concerts in the Park, etc.

**Police Commissioners:** a group of 10 residents, who oversee the Police Department and maintain a system of checks and balances throughout the community. This is group is also responsible for a number of community charity actions thru the police dept. like Bikes for kids, St Ann Helpers which works with the Ritenour School District to get basic needs to families in need, in the community during the holidays so they can enjoy them as well. To name a few...

**Planning and Zoning Committee-** this group of residents along with the Director of this Dept, determine and recommend to the board of alderman changes and businesses brought into the community.

**Board of Adjustment-** this group of residents over ride the Board of Alderman in determinations thru need that a particular ordinance or situation needs to be changed or altered in a specific situation. They



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are a residents final defense say if you want to put up a fence that does not meet the ordinance standards, etc.

Many **Facebook groups** have developed in the last few years that have contributed to people being able to get their questions out there, for answers or just philosophical debate. This has worked to bring us closer together as well, just at the Food Truck Event I had someone come to me and say Hi, I am \_\_\_\_ from that Facebook conversation about...

Keep an eye on 'The Rock Road Reporter', 'I grew up or had friends in St Ann, Mo', 'Life in St Ann, Mo', 'Save the St Ann Quik Trip', 'Ritenour Moms', 'St Ann becoming the next great city'

Check em out be heard and **always vote** it's where you get to have the most say in how things happen.  
If I have forgotten any group, sorry did not mean to.

### **As a Community we can do this...TOGETHER**

Do I know all the answers...**NO**...that is where I will leave this discussion open to ideas?

**From You.....**