

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

Oct 93?



## GATEWAY TO SOUTH GRAND

By Stephanie Gavin

Dan Hill, owner of Botanicals on the Park, has grand plans for Parkgate, the new name of the building on the southeast corner of Grand and Arsenal. As the recent new owner of the building, along with partner, Doug Krauss, Dan plans for Parkgate "to paint a picture for the rest of the area--now it's a horrible eyesore." He believes that by making the building a major attraction, it will pose as "the gateway to South Grand" and bring in a larger number of shoppers and lookers to our area. Just six years ago Dan sat down with financiers to open his Botanicals on the Park flower and gift shop a little farther north than its current location on Grand (next to David's hair salon). "I just wanted to make enough money to pay my rent and within a couple of months we surpassed our goal." In 1989 he moved to his current location, increasing his retail space from 1200 square feet to 2500 square feet. "90% of our business use to be flowers, mostly over the phone, and about 10% was walk-ins for gifts, etc.," says Dan. Recently his business has shifted to 60% flowers and 40% gifts. The foot traffic

has increased a lot. "We get Anheuser Busch people--and tons of lawyers with offices around the area--at lunchtime. The good restaurants are drawing them in, and if you have neat window displays and merchandise, that draws them in." And increased business requires even more space--6000 more square feet to be exact. When Parkgate is complete, Botanicals on the Park will move to the corner part of the building (where the Kingsway use to be) and take up approximately 4250 square feet on the first floor, and 4250 on the second. Plans include a 20-foot atrium that will have an architectural stairway leading to retail space on the second floor. With a total 16,000 square feet, other plans for Parkgate include a 55-car, well-lit parking lot where the 5 properties behind Grand along Arsenal currently are. "We've been running business with only four meters in front. The parking lot will make a huge difference for us." And for the other retailers who Dan selects to share the building. "We want upscale retail, like Botanicals." Filling the available space is not a concern; several businesses and neighborhood people

have approached him already, but filling the space quickly is not as important as filling it with quality retailers. Office space will also be available on the second floor of the building.

Dan feels good about his contribution to an area that is booming. "This is a great neighborhood. I've lived here 12 years and I always knew it had potential to become a great area. And based on the 16 or more new businesses in the last year and a half, I think it could become the new Central West End." For people who own property in the area, the business boom is bound to help. "It's important that the business district does well and residential property keeps its value. It goes hand-in-hand," says Dan.

Plans for the Parkgate renovation should be complete by March of 1994. So in less than a year, there will be an official gateway to South Grand. "Nobody could be more excited than I am," says Dan. Maybe not, but there are probably some property and business owners around here who come close.

## IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue of the Gazette, we will, at last, include an article mentioned in last issue's "In This Issue", but which was removed late in the layout process: Stephanie Gavin's report on the grand plans for Botanical's expansion to "Parkgate" at the corner of Grand and Arsenal. State Representative Pat Dougherty's column covers a new state measure to create family courts, while Alderman Geraldine Osborn discusses the

city's Housing Task Force's report to Mayor Bosley. Mary Schroeder covers what lies in store on Grand for the holidays in "Grand Holidays". Ed Schroeder takes a look into the past and the coal mine that used to be at McDonald and Gustine, and shows us a 1917 article about it.

In our regular columns, Don Hardin asks John Karel, Director of Tower Grove Park about the plans for the south gate of the park near

Arsenal, in "Since You Asked". Lou Jenneman takes a look at SoHo in "On Grand"; and Tricia Heliker talks about how to select fabric for slipcovers in her "Inner Spaces" column. Terry Mayes tells what to look for in a repair shop, in "My Favorite Mechanic"; and Stephanie Gavin gives us a look at area residents Kate Johnson and Oliver Phillips, in her "Resident Profile".



## The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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## ON GRAND

By Lou Jenneman

SoHo - it brings to mind glittering lights, different life styles, and unique people. This name graces the new gift and curio shop open at the corner of Grand and Hartford. The building that long housed Hesselberg's, a 1940's vintage art deco pharmacy, provides a wonderful setting for the display of local, regional, and international items.

Phil Clark, owner and organizer has made good use of the original architecture incorporated in the building, using existing mirrors and glass shelves as display areas for selections of lamps, jewelry, hand dipped swiss candles, and soaps imported from Canada and Europe. The circular, cathedral type ceiling has been painted blue with clouds to give a light airy feeling as you enter. Drawers that once housed pills and powders are unmatched as a display area.

Important to Dr. Clark is providing the atmosphere that makes SoHo a most unique place to shop. Live orchid topiary graces one corner, some furniture and rugs are available. Collections of unusual glass and flatware, handmade rose pots and cards are just some of the eclectic articles available. Items throughout the store are "earth related" and environmentally correct. The packaging to be used for your purchases will be made of pressed and dried seaweed. As the owner of two additional shops in Alton, Dr. Clark makes buying trips to unusual places. A frequent turnover of items and exciting new ideas can be expected.

Do not pass up this addition to Grand South Grand. There is sure to be something for the person on your Christmas, birthday, or housewarming list at SoHo.

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# GRAND HOLIDAYS

## CITY SIDE- WALKS... BUSY SIDEWALKS

by Mary K. Schroeder

We can't keep this news under our hat. There will be exciting things happening on South Grand November 13. They signal the start of the holiday shopping season for 1993. November 13 may seem early to think about the holidays, but Grand South Grand has so many good things going on this year. No wonder it can't be held back any longer. Up and down the street there will be outstanding events as well as the usual Grand South Grand entertainments. Lighting displays will brighten things and carollers may be around throughout this shopping season. Even Santa will be out the 13th (and other Saturdays) for children. Come, take a look at it all, and take special notice on Nov. 13 of Grand Books, Cheap TRX, and Botanicals.

### All Right, All WRITE!!!

Shawn Scott, owner of **Grand Books** (3200 S. Grand) has put together another multi-author book signing for the afternoon of Nov. 13. Grand Books carries wonderful literary gifts, and those signed by well-known St. Louis authors are extra special! Here are just a few authors who have promised to be there: John Lutz (Thicker Than Blood Single White Female), Louis Daniel Brodsky (Gleam in the Eye Falling from Heaven), Elaine Viets (audios Urban Affairs Censored Viets), Jean Marie Smith & Dennis Saunders (St Louis in Your Pocket), Bill McClellan (Evidence of Murder), Jim Dailey (Scoring Millions), Peter Hernon (Under the Influence), Alan Steele (Rude Astronauts), Tony Hitt (Effective Telephone Skills), and Jim Heine writing as Edward Henry (A Song for Creation). Artist Mark Asinger will be there, too, with greeting cards. Drop by between 1 & 3 PM, even more surprises are planned for this event.

Grand Books stocks many colorful children's books. Other gift items are always available, too. You can find greeting cards, notecards created by local artists, prints and postcards of St. Louis scenes, and shelves of a variety of 1994 calendars.

Come to Grand Books and see the huge inventory newly displayed in their larger location - the corner of Grand and Wyoming. There are lots of books in stock right now, over 2,000, with 650 current titles. You can order books, even if they are not presently in the shop. (Usually, it only takes 2 to 4 working days for special orders to be delivered.) Grand Books gives a 20% discount on New York Times Best Seller List books.

### Beau-tanicals

Dan Hill, owner of **Botanicals on the Park** (3012 S. Grand), is hosting their Holiday Open House. What a holiday party - this will put you in the mood for shopping! It takes place all weekend, with hours on Saturday, 9 - 5, and special hours Sunday, 11 - 4. The store is not normally open on Sundays, but will be during the holiday shopping season.

Three times more than the normal amount of lovely, classic pieces will be displayed during the special party. Talk about great stuff - cards, frames, plants, furniture, candles, jewelry, collectibles...! Upside-down Christmas trees will be hanging again, and this year the trees have a new feature. I'll leave what it is as a surprise. Live music will entertain the crowds. (Last year 3000 people attended the open house - at various times over the weekend, of course). This is a festivity you don't want to miss.

### TRX's Treats

**Cheap TRX**, (3211 S. Grand) our local "neat-o-rama" is planning special music that day, and will stock lots of unusual gifts all during the holidays. This is definitely the place to go for just the right present for the person who (up until now) has everything. Not only will you find the avant garde and extraordinary, but your purchases are gift wrapped free.

A new space opens soon at Cheap TRX - lower level collectibles. As with the other parts of the store, this one should be something to experience.

### Holiday Zip!

It will help you to be aware of another South Grand business during this season, **Zip Neighborhood Business Center**, 3203 S. Grand. All sorts of services are available there regularly: faxing, mailboxes, keys, notary, greeting cards, copying, business cards, rubber stamps, banners, signs, resumes, H&R Block, flags, printing, and passport pictures. (Soon the store will be larger, have large size copiers, and computer rental.)

At this time of year Zip is especially helpful because of their shipping, mailing and even gift wrapping assistance.

You don't need to ship a package for Zip's to wrap it in decorative paper and ribbons - that's a time saver. Ship to friends and relatives close to home or round the world. If you have to mail at the last minute, things can still arrive on time using Zip's varied delivery services. Mail cards and packages even when the post office is closed. (Hours 9 AM - 6 PM, Mon. - Sat.). If you have lots of friends and a large family - bulk mail is available. You could be the first to fax high tech Holiday greetings to your friends! Then after the holiday, get those party pictures developed at Zip's.

### Generally Grand

Plenty of shopping variety on S. Grand, makes it the place to buy all your presents. Here are a few store-gift ideas, and restaurants where you can eat during pauses in your shopping spree:

Faru - imports, clothes, jewelry, beads...  
SoHo - gifts  
Vintage Haberdashery - antique clothes  
Futon Xpress - unusual home accessories  
Star Video - gift certificates  
Mekong Restaurant - gift certificates  
Dickmann's Bakery - pastries  
South City Diner - gift certificates  
Mangia Restaurant - Italian - pasta treats  
Kinko's - make your own calendar  
Streetside Records - tapes, cd's  
Paramount Drugs - holiday cures  
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Shelton's Hair Salon - gift certificates  
Picadilly Antiques - beautiful things  
Tan My Restaurant - gift certificates  
Shenandoah Coffee - gourmet foods  
David's Hair Salon - gift certificates  
Golf Shop - golf gear, etc.  
Pet Clinic - pet care  
Tower Grove Voice and Piano  
Winter House - b&b gift certificates  
Shoe Warehouse - shoes  
Brod Dugan - painter, rehabber gifts  
Schnucks - gift certificates  
Grand South Grand  
- everything for the holidays.





## ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS APPROACHING

As the Gazette goes to press, the nominee for President Elect of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association has yet to be selected. The President Elect will assist the incoming President this year, and take office in November of 1994. The other three nominees for office at this time are: Michelle Kerr for Secretary, Diane Hurwitz for Assistant Secretary, and Don Detsch for Treasurer. Keep in mind these are just the nominees the association is presenting. Association members can vote for whomever they like. At the upcoming November election, 4 seats are to be selected: Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and President Elect. Margie Meyer, the current President Elect will begin her term as President following the elections. The association is actively encouraging residents to become involved, and urges anyone interested to seek office.

Margie hopes to make participation in the association more accessi-

ble for all of its members. One change she suggests is to replace block captains with block committees. She hopes that this will remedy a situation where too much is being asked of individual block captains; and will invite participation from more residents.

She also suggests that when activities are proposed, a committee of five interested persons is formed before being pursued. This "litmus test" will insure that the proposal has the real support of the membership, and that the activity will be a group process, which is most often easier and more enjoyable.

Margie hopes that with your participation, the association can be a means of sharing information and activities to create a better neighborhood.



## OPEN FORUM

Tricia Heliker

Approximately 50 residents met with two representatives from the Department of Public Safety regarding housing inspections in Tower Grove Heights. Frank R. Oswald, Program Director of the Housing Conservation District, and Patricia L. Young, Building Inspection Supervisor, fielded questions for two hours on August 10, at First Divine Science Church on Wyoming.

A variety of questions and concerns were raised, but the main complaint raised was that of inconsistency in the inspection of homes and in the enforcement of regulations. In theory the discrepancies should not occur according to Ms. Young. According to the stories related by the residents, discrepancy abounds. Both parties left the meeting with a better understanding of the other's frustrations.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD RECOGNITION

By Rich Iezzi

When you walk or drive around our neighborhood, don't you just love the way some houses or properties seem to jump off the street because they're so beautiful? The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association appreciates all the time and money it takes to keep our residences sparkling and will begin to recognize those owners and residents for their efforts.

PRIDE IN PLACE awards will be given out by the neighborhood association to owners and residents who have made exterior improvements which delight the eyes of other residents and visitors to our area. The recipients will be invited to the November General Meeting to receive their awards. "We want to pat people on the back for their endeavors," says Jean Iezzi, chairperson of the Promotional/Marketing Committee.

"There are so many people in Tower Grove Heights who have given us their best and it shows. We want them to know they're appreciated."

The awards will cover a variety of exterior achievements including new paint, porches or decks, landscaping or just that overall southside spotlessness day after day. Keep up the good work out there. We're enjoying the view.



## SINCE YOU ASKED

By Don Hardin

What are the plans for the gate on the south side of Tower Grove Park near Arsenal?

John Karel, Director of Tower Grove Park: "This gateway is undergoing complete renovation. The stone and mortar are being repaired. It had seriously deteriorated, to the point of being dangerous. We are also contacting several ironsmiths to repair the beautiful ironwork. The

area will be relandscaped to enhance, not hide, this perfect example of Gothic architecture."

"The landscaping along the path leading from the gateway has been redesigned to create a more open feel. You can now see the urn at the end of the pathway. We plan to update the benches along the pathway also."

"This renovation was financed by a fund raising concert give by Dave Brubeck at Sheldon's Hall. The concert was a great success, and suffi-

cient funds were raised to renovate the Kingshighway gate and the roof of the Stables."

"The gate was constructed in 1870, making it one of the oldest gateways in the park. The workers who constructed it nicknamed it the Cemetery Gate, because of its style."

We, in Tower Grove Heights, like to call it the Tower Grove Heights Gate.



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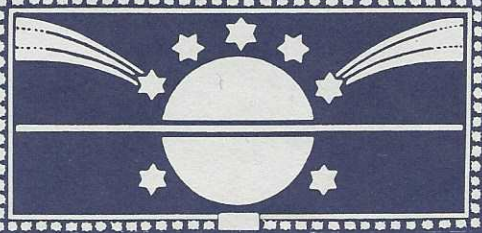
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# INNER SPACES

Tricia Heliker

As promised, a few words about fabric suitable for slipcovers and how to select it. Walking cold into a fabric store is not the way to start. Being confronted with bolt after bolt of fabric in an astonishing array of colors and patterns can be very intimidating even for those who "know exactly" what they want. A stack of swatch books can be equally as confusing. A little preliminary research can narrow the choices and move you through the selection process more quickly. Having an idea of what you want the finished product to look like is very helpful. Communicating that idea to a salesperson or an interior designer is the trick. Therefore, cut pictures from magazines that are similar to the pattern, the style, and the color you are striving to achieve. Think about how much wear the slipcovers will receive as this will have some bearing on the fiber content of your selection. How well the piece resists fading will be a factor if it receives direct sunlight. Will the fabric be in close proximity to food and drink? Next consider any other patterns and colors in the room. If possible,

carry samples of these with you when you are shopping. Paint chips are useful to match wall color. An arm protector or a pillow from a couch or chair works for coordinating. If you don't have a swatch from your drapes, match them to a paint chip and take that with you. If all this seems too troublesome, consult an interior designer who will bring the fabric swatches to your home and offer her expertise in making the selection.

The weight of the fabric is critical in slipcovers. Heavy fabrics with a nap or pile are often too bulky to seam smoothly. Fabrics such as brocades and tapestries are really better suited for upholstery. However, some of the lighter weight corduroys and velvets give a slip-



cover a rich look with interesting texture. Cotton is by far the most common fabric used for slipcovers and for good reason. It holds its shape well, can be cleaned effectively, feels good to the touch, is durable, and breathes well. It also comes in a variety of colors and patterns and can be shaped easily into gathers and pleats. Some of the cotton fabrics suitable for slipcovers are: polished cotton, chintz, poplin, corduroy, ticking, broadcloth, canvas, duck, sailcloth, denim, velveteens and damask. Linen is another possibility but be prepared for wrinkling. Wool flannel has a soft finish and comes in rich warm colors that make for a cozy look and feel. Another possibility is bed sheets. Because they do not have much body they should be quilted first. Some advantages of bed linens are that they offer abundant yardage for the price as well as a variety of beautiful patterns. It is also possible to incorporate some of the ruffles, borders, and welting that is already attached. Be sure to use sheets of 100% cotton with a 200 thread count. All this considered, pick the fabric that calls to you. Just because it is the right color, weight, and suits the piece doesn't mean you will be happy with it. So let your heart have the last word.

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# ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ My Favorite Mechanic ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

By Terry Mayes

Good day, good evening or whichever it may be for you when you read this article. I hope all of my readers out there have been using my articles. Because, if not, some of you folks will be a lot poorer, not just moneywise, but, also poorer in knowledge!

There are many times being a good mechanic entails being able to tell friends and neighbors what garages to use when they're having car trouble. I just can't stand to see good people get ripped off because of a simple lack of knowledge on

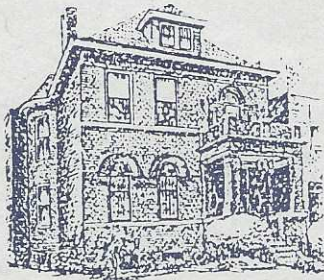
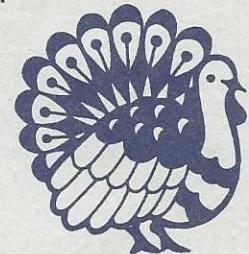
where to go in times of auto trouble. Just because a mechanic has an ASE certified patch on his arm, doesn't mean you won't get ripped off. Before you get any work done, make sure you call around for estimates at least two or three garages in different areas of the city or county. I think you'll be surprised at the difference in prices at different garages. If someone wants to charge you for an estimate, just leave and don't go back! You'll thank me later.

Always read an estimate, etc., before you sign it. These papers can be very confusing and what you're

signing may not be an estimate. It may very well be a contract to do labor and put all kinds of parts on your car that are unnecessary.

How many times have you heard a friend or neighbor say, "My garage did \$400.00 worth of work on my car and it still has the same problem as before."? As a mechanic, I hear it constantly. The best medicine against rip offs just happens to be you! Slow down and pay close attention to what your mechanic is saying. If you don't understand, ask him to show you the problem on the vehicle. If he or she won't do that, take your car to a different mechanic.

I sincerely hope this information helps someone out there in the neighborhood. Remember to check your antifreeze, hoses, and belts before winter hits and have that cooling system flushed if necessary. Drive Safely!



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# A MESSAGE FROM REP. PAT DOUGHERTY

## Family Courts Created For Domestic Cases

In an effort to improve the manner in which domestic cases are handled in the judicial system, the legislature approved a measure which was then signed into law that will create family courts.

The courts will hear cases specifically involving members of the same family unit, such as those currently under the juvenile and domestic court systems. Family courts will have jurisdiction in cases of divorce, child support action, adoption, juvenile proceedings, adult abuse, guardianship of minors, paternity suits and certain tort and criminal actions.

The concept of family court is designed to help families resolve domestic disputes more quickly and in a manner that more adequately addresses their problems.

Under the current system, it is possible for one domestic dispute case to be heard by several different judges. The new law will prevent multiple legal forums for the same family by providing that one judge, with expertise in the area of family law, hear the case.

The legislation will allow circuit and associate circuit judges to appoint family court commissioners. In addition, the bill specifies that current juvenile commissioners be made family court commissioners.

Under the measure, there will be no additional court costs for abuse cases or those that currently have no cost. In other cases, offenders will be required to pay an additional fee of \$30 which will be deposited in a Family Services and Justice Fund to be used for family court services and personnel.

For additional information call Pat Dougherty at 772-1948.

# Police Beat

## Police Appreciation Picnic

By Ed Schroeder

It was a beautiful fall Sunday afternoon - October third - at the Stupp Center in Tower Grove Park. The smell of BBQ'ed brats and hot dogs filled the crisp autumn air. A perfect day to celebrate the Annual Third District Police Appreciation Picnic. This is an annual event hosted by the district's neighborhood groups and businesses for the police officers and their families. It's a way for us to say "well done" to the people who put their lives on the line for us every day of the year protecting our property and our rights.

The officers were awarded attendance prizes, their children were given toys. Everyone enjoyed music, carriage bike rides, and plenty of food and beverages. We met with a number of officers and their families and friends. Local political figures also attended (NO SPEECHES).

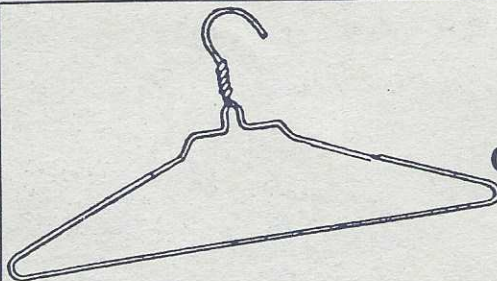
Everyone had a picnic! Thanks again to all who helped make it possible. You know who you are.

Neighborhood Associations who supported this event - Forest Park Southeast - Dutchtown - St. Margaret's Housing - Tower Grove Heights - Soulard - Tower Grove East - Grand Oak Hill Community Center - Compton Heights - Compton Hill Reservoir Square Assn. - Shaw - McKinley Fox - Southwest Neighborhood - Benton Park - Park-

side South - Benton Park West - Neighbors of Lafayette Towne - Grand South Grand Business Assn. - Marine Ville - LaSalle Park - Neighborhood Pride - DeSales Park - Fox Park - John Karel and Tower Grove Park.

Local businesses who contributed - Shaw Camera Shop - The Bug Shop - Custom Works Golf Clubs - Baskin & Robbins - Shenandoah Coffee Company - the Nelson and Becker Family - Sam's Deli and BBQ - National Food Store - Bus Stop Liquor - David's Design Salon - Kuna Meat - Book Nook - Grand Vacuum Repair - Rudy's G & S Service - Boatman's Bank - the Leible Family - Jim Dugan Floral - Martie Aboussie - Anheuser Busch - Failoni Consultants Real Est. - Star Video - Savings of America - Sidney Street Cafe - River-City Pub - Frazers in Benton Park - Schnucks - King and I Restaurant - Mangia Italiano - Paramount Drugs - Botanicals on the Park - St. Louis Ballroom - Braswell's - El Rio Grande Restaurant - Faru - Amaco - South City Diner - Cheap TRX - Grand Books - Commerce Bank - Dickmann's Bakery - Orpheum Cleaners - Streetside Records - Soulard Norton's Cafe - Hard Shell Cafe

**The next third district public affairs meeting will be held November 11, 1993 at Police Headquarters at Tucker and Clark at 7:30. Hope to see you all there.**



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## A MESSAGE FROM GERALDINE OSBORN

A 21 member Housing Task Force recently submitted its final report to Mayor Bosley. This report has some value as a starting point for discussion but I would hate to see it used as a blueprint for the city's housing policies. The recommendations of this Task Force were predetermined, to some extent, when the members of the Task Force were appointed. This Task Force included a number of representatives of various special interest groups. I do not mean to suggest that special interest groups are evil or that they should not be heard. All of us belong to special interest groups such as veterans, senior citizens, property owners, teachers, etc. The interests of these groups are legitimate but they do not always coincide with the public interest.. In a representative democracy we try to establish public policy by listening to and balancing the various interests which wish to be heard.

The Housing Task Force includes representatives of a number of organizations, both for-profit and not-

for-profit, which are involved in the development, sale and rental of low-income housing: organizations such as ACORN, SLACO, Adequate Housing for Missourians and the Regional Housing Alliance. Obviously these special interest groups would like to have their agendas and their programs incorporated into the city's housing policy and/or funded by the city.

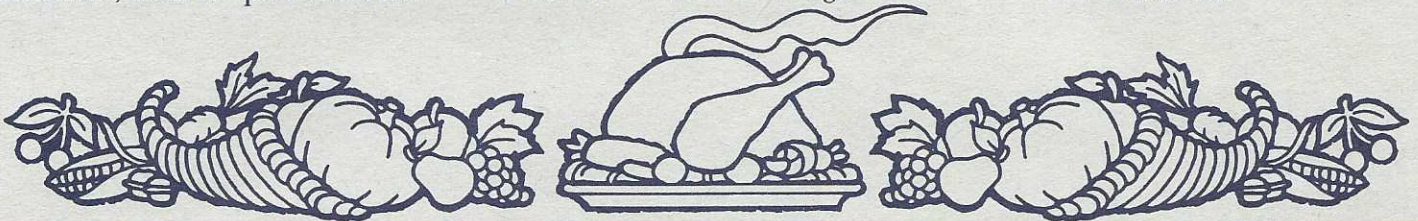
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that...housing  
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individual problems  
and needs of the  
individual wards  
and neighborhoods."***

I do not criticize these special interest groups for pursuing their ideological and financial interests. However, we need to recognize that

there are many other interests which were not represented on this Task Force. The report of this Task Force might have been very different if the Task Force had included more adequate representation of St. Louis homeowners and neighborhood organizations. The City administration and the Board of Aldermen are now faced with the task of developing a City housing policy which represents and protects the interests of all St. Louisans and all St. Louis neighborhoods.

As Chairman of the Aldermanic Committee on Housing and Urban Development I will make every effort to see that the City's housing policy provides, first, a fair distribution of funds and resources among all of the City's wards and neighborhoods and, second, housing programs that are responsive to the individual problems and needs of the various wards and neighborhoods.

Geraldine (Gerry) Osborn  
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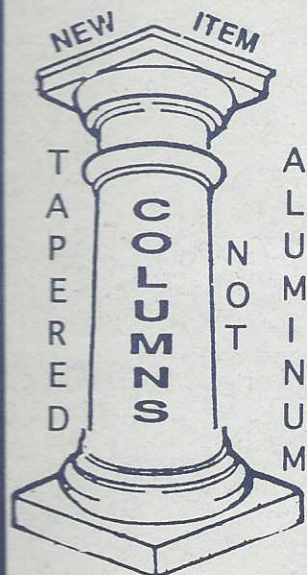
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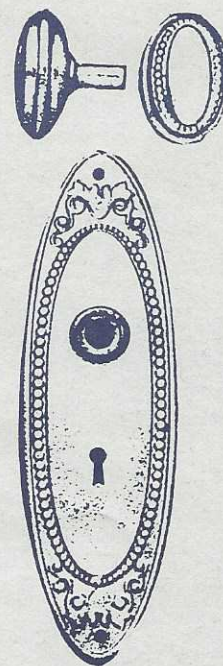
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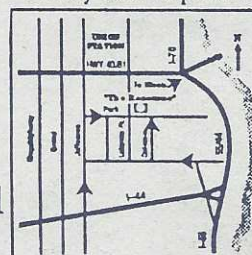
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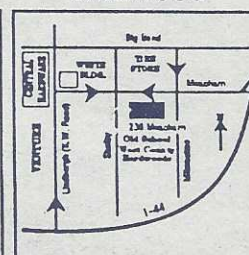
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Ed Schroeder

In 1805, William Russell, one of this areas early landowners, purchased a 432 acre land tract about 4 miles south of the town of St. Louis. This area was called Oak Hill and it had as its boundaries such present-day streets as Gustine, Arsenal, Kingshighway, and Chippewa.

A few years later, James Russell, William's brother, acquired the tract. As years passed, it became a beautiful farm with orchards, vineyards, hayfields, cattle pastures and gardens around the homestead. After a while, James contemplated selling his property and almost closed the deal, but reconsidered after he took a stroll one day after a heavy rain. He changed his mind after he noticed an exposed vein of coal near

what is now the intersection of Tholozan and Morganford.

There also was a coal mine located at the Russell property at Morganford and Arsenal. The Russells did well, with orchards and farming above ground, and coal mining under it. The family sold coal in St. Louis, beginning about 1820, and continued until 1887, when those coal deposits were exhausted.

Now where did I get the idea there was a coal mine at McDonald and Gustine? I now have the answer. Kathryn Kilker (our own local historian of the 3800 block of Juniata) shared with me a letter she received from James Shaw (of the Shaw Marble and Tile Co.) The letter telling of neighborhood boys digging a cave on top of the rise near the north west corner of

McDonald and Gustine. They struck a vein of coal which nearby residents used to warm their households for the winter.

The Shaw family home was located at 3829 McDonald, (two doors east of my home) where as a toddler, I played with James B Dutton (son of Irene Shaw Dutton and nephew of James and Walter Shaw). I too, called them Uncle Jim and Uncle Walter. The uncles entertained us children with stories about the neighborhood when they were boys. That is where I heard the story of the coal mine. Jimmy Dutton and I were close friends for 17 years. Then the family moved from the neighborhood in 1950.



Kathryn Kilker handed me a newspaper clipping dated October 4th 1917, from the "Missouri Republican".

## Southwest St. Louis Residents Work Abandoned Coal Mine and Solve Winter Fuel Problem

*Men and Women Dig in Six-Foot Vein Near Gustine and McDonald Avenues - Property Owned by Parker-Russell Company Has Not Been Operated for 20 Years.*

By operating an abandoned coal field in the southwest part of St. Louis residents in that section have laid in a supply of fuel for the winter and have struck a telling blow at the high cost of living.

A vacant lot near Gustine and McDonald Avenues is supplying the coal. There is a vein about six feet in depth, and from this vein men and women have been digging coal for more than a week.

Yesterday half a dozen men armed with crowbars, shovels and picks were found unearthing the coal. It is of an inferior grade, but it will burn, and that's the principal item, the embryo miners say.

The property is owned by the Parker Russell Mining and Manufacturing Company, which abandoned the field about 20 years ago.

When informed that coal was being taken off their property, L. Parker, president of the company, said he was not aware of the operations. He said he was not alarmed, because it was a poor grade and would be hard to sell.

"About 20 years ago," he said, "we worked the field and supplied almost the whole city of St. Louis with coal, but finally abandoned the property because we thought we had exhausted the mine."

No coal has been sold by the diggers. J.W. Wilson 3872 Fairview avenue, a night watchman, spent yesterday at work digging coal.

"If you have a helper," Wilson said, "a person can dig about 75 bushels in a day."

Thanks again Kathryn

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## ATM SAFETY

by Don Hardin

The automated teller machine (ATM) has changed our lives. I can't remember how it was before they came along. With minimum effort, we can obtain cash, make deposits, make loan payments, transfer cash from one account to another, and check out that all important balance.

But, an ATM can also be a crime waiting to happen. For your own protection, be alert when using an ATM. As you approach, look around the area for suspicious individuals or places that could provide a hiding place. Be alert in the daytime, but after dark use an ATM that is well lit and highly visible. After dark it is best to use an ATM that is indoors (Schnucks is open 24hrs). It may cost you a service charge to use an ATM other than the one outside your bank, but of course the added safety of choosing a safer location is worth it.

If your institution lets you select your personal identification number (PIN), don't use your address, telephone number, or birth date. If you lose your wallet, the criminal will have all that information. These are the first numbers they will try when they get their hands on your ATM card



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## A VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

### The Private Eye

by Fredrick Rissover

*The Theater of Justice*

In mid-September I had two adventures which seemed unrelated until I reflected on them.

The first began with a drive north on Grand Boulevard to I-44 and a turn west to Webster Groves. There, in the Loretto-Hilton Theatre on the campus of Webster U., I saw the first production in this year's season of the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. The show was the premiere of **Young Rube**, a musical play which the Rep helped to develop.

The Rube of the title is Rube Goldberg (1883-1970), the cartoonist whose name became synonymous with fantastic gadgets that achieve simple tasks though astonishingly complicated means. The fanciful new show, with lots of songs, showed how Rube developed some of his cartoon characters and gadgets and how he freed himself from the influences of his conventional father.

The script by John Pielmeir (who wrote **Agnes of God**) was based on a play by George W. George, Rube Goldberg's younger son. The music and lyrics were by Matthew Selman. The whole production, as directed by Susan Gregg, had the feeling of a Rube Goldberg contrivance as puns and jokes abounded, songs tumbled into other songs, and eleven performers portrayed a total of forty characters, human and cartoon, with great talent and energy.

It was a fine production of a pretty good show. I think **Young Rube** would be better if some of the music was more memorable and the business about Rube's father was not quite so heavy handed. But I enjoyed by night at the theatre.

My second adventure, actually concurrent with the first, was being empaneled for jury service. For that, I took the Grand bus to the MetroLink station, travelled the Link to Kiel, and walked to the Civil Court. Because I usually drive to work in the county, I enjoyed my contrasting three days of being an

urban commuter on the bus and light rail in a metropolitan city.

Even though I was at the Civil Court building (that fascinating edifice surmounted by Greet columns and an Egyptian pyramid), I was called for a criminal trial and assigned to a sixty-member panel from which a twelve-member jury was chosen. I didn't make the jury, but my experience as a prospective juror allowed me to observe the theatrics of our judicial system, including its Rube Goldberg qualities.

For two days, the attorneys for the state and the defense questioned the panel about its experiences and attitudes and feelings, a procedure most of us thought could have been greatly abbreviated by simply administering a written questionnaire to the panel before the personal questioning began. Between question periods, we waited, we went to lunch, we waited, we went home and came back, and we waited. A Rube Goldberg procedure, indeed.

At one point, the defense attorney asked the prospective jurors if they could be objective in their evaluation of testimony by police officers. One panelist replied that she might give the police more credence that other witnesses because she had been raised to respect authority figures such as police officers and lawyers. "You were taught to respect lawyers?" asked the attorney in disbelief. The courtroom filled with laughter.

The panelists swapped stories and jokes in the lounge and halls to pass the time. Finally, the entire panel was called into the courtroom by the sheriff's deputy. Before everyone was fully settled and aware of what was happening, the deputy began to call the numbers of the panelists who, at last, had been chosen to be jurors. The courtroom grew silent.

One by one, the jurors filled the jury box. Now they looked solemn as they sat facing the defendant. They were about to engage in a serious drama involving charges, testimonies, exhibits, questioning, cross-examining, and declaiming, all presided over by a black-robed director. The jury would decide how the play should end. The theatre of justice was in session.



## RECYCLING MADE EASY

Curbside recycling is finally available in the city. Helping Hands Recycling Center, Inc. is a privately owned not for profit company that is operating throughout the city and in some outlying municipalities. For a minimal cost of \$2.50 per month, Helping Hands will pick up one 39 gallon plastic trash bag weekly filled with recyclable items.

Director Vincent Martin states that their current work force includes approximately 50% handicapped employees with the eventual goal of at least 75%.

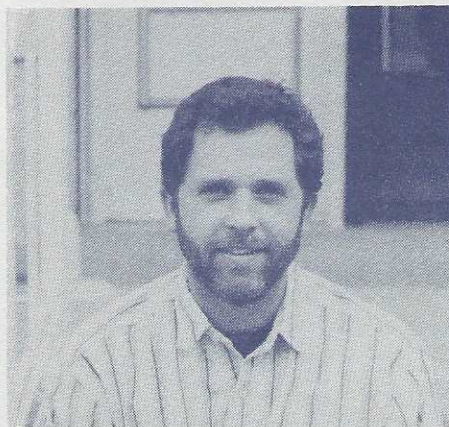
They currently have about 2600 customers and are adding several new areas soon.

Billing is quarterly and must be prepaid. Each customer will receive 16 stickers. This sticker is attached to the bag when it is placed on the front porch or steps for the weekly pickup. If one bag weekly is not meeting your needs, you may purchase 26 additional stickers for \$5.00 for one additional bag per week.

Plastic, glass, aluminum, steel, tin, newsprint, and corrugated cardboard are just some of the items this group will accept. They will take

## MEET THE PRESS *By Tricia Heliker*

Tom Booth has been on the Gazette staff since it's inception. He served first as Assistant Editor and is currently the Data Base Manager. Tom is a native of St. Louis and for those who must know, he attended St. Gabriel's Grade School. Ten



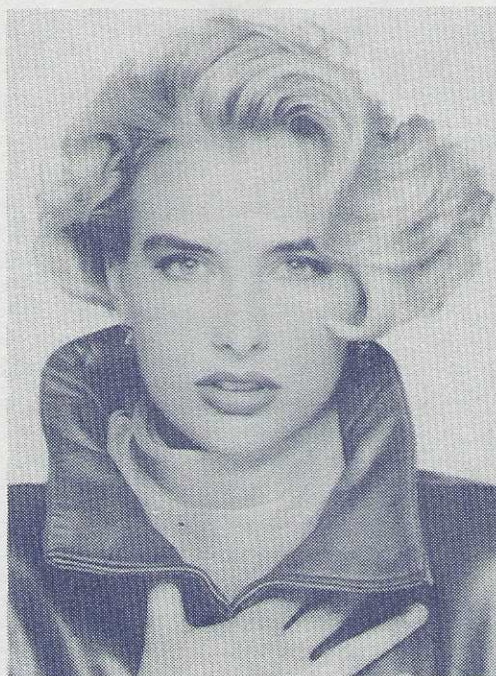
years ago he settled on Hartford with his wife, Jan, and their array of pets. (Current count: 1 cat, 2 dogs, 2 horses.) Two years ago their family increased by one with a daughter who has her daddy right where she wants him. When Tom isn't walking the dogs, strolling Kasey to the Bread Co., or working diligently on the Gazette, he is producing corporate market and training tapes. His shoots run the gamut from macabre to magnificent as suggested by the examples Tom gave. Imagine an all day cadaver shoot! Now imagine two weeks in Paris, France on assignment. If you don't recognize Tom from the picture, it's the beard. He says he's growing it to keep him warm in cold weather. Whatever the reason, it's fitting for a founding father of the Gazette.



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# RESIDENTIAL PROFILE

By Stephanie Gavin

Kate Johnson and Oliver Phillips, although residents of the neighborhood on Wyoming, are actually far from home. Natives of England, they met in St. Louis in 1988 when they were both attending Washington University on Fulbright scholarships. Only 25 British students are awarded the scholarship to various universities each year. Kate and Oliver were the only two who went to Wash U. They didn't know each

other when they arrived, and now they've been married for over three years! It's a small world!



As the scholarships verify, Kate and Oliver are a very talented couple; Kate's an artist and Oliver is a

botanist. They have found success in St. Louis and are "torn between families and career" when asked if they'll stay long in the U.S., according to Kate. "Actually we're bound to spend two years back in Britain by the beginning of 1995," Oliver says, apparently a contingency of the Fulbrights they received.

Living in Tower Grove Heights neighborhood has helped Kate and Oliver feel more at home in St. Louis. "It's rare in St. Louis to have a neighborhood where you can walk. Cities are decentralized here (U.S.). We've found a place closer to what we're used to," says Kate. She also has her art studio in the area... close enough to walk to from her home on Wyoming. And since Oliver works at Missouri Botanical Gardens, it's a convenient place for them both. And although they've only been in the area for a few months, the convenience of location is not the only plus they're enjoying. "People are friendly and culturally diverse here. There were mostly just students where we were before," says Kate.

Kate's success as an artist is taking her farther than she can walk. Currently she has an exhibition of a series of her sculpture paintings in a Chicago gallery. One of the works, "Narcissus," is a three dimensional painting of wax, composite gold leaf and oil on canvas. It is truly a stunning work of art. Ten of her paintings are on view at the gallery in Chicago until October 23rd. Kate has also had her art on display in Savannah, Georgia; Bemus Point, New York; Galesburg, Illinois; Tambopata, Peru (while Oliver was on location doing research); as well as in numerous locations in the ST. Louis area in the last couple of years. Her sculpture paintings will be back in St. Louis in early November. If you would like to see her beautiful work, she allows tours of her studio with appointments. You can contact the Gazette for her studio phone number and address.

Talking with Oliver and Kate was a great pleasure. Full of life, experiences and optimism, they represent ideally what they appreciate about the neighborhood. They are two culturally diverse young people who have made themselves at home away from home.



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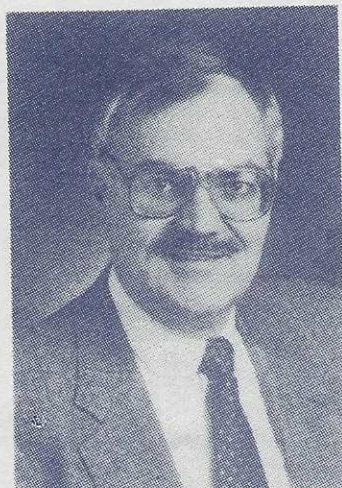
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## A BRIGHT IDEA

By Don Hardin

Happy Halloween from the staff of the Tower Grove Heights Gazette. Halloween is here! There will be ghosts and goblins and bumps in the night.

Be sure to turn on your porchlight to welcome the trick or treaters that will be haunting the Heights.

AND - be sure to leave your porchlight on every night to keep the Heights the great place to live that it is.

Criminals don't want to be seen. Lighting up the Heights is the least expensive and most effective thing that you can do to keep our neighborhood safe.

Imagine your street and every in the Heights with every porchlight on every nights - then work to make it a reality.



## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION WANTS YOU

Most of you are familiar with the neighborhood's favorite annual event, **Holiday in the Heights**. Who could forget the luminaria brightening the way of the carolers, and Santa and his elves Ho Ho Ho-ing around the neighborhood.

So its time again to plan what **Holiday in the Heights** will become this year. And we need your input!

The planning party (and I do mean party. In this case, the planning is half of the fun!) is at the Divine Science Church at 3617 Wyoming on Tuesday, November 2 at 7pm. Do try and make it - each person makes it that much better.

If you can't make it but have some ideas or other input, please call me Margie Meyer at 776-8388. I'm looking forward to seeing you!

Tower Grove Heights Gazette  
 3203 South Grand Blvd., Suite 103  
 St. Louis, Missouri 63118

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