

Tower Grove Heights Supports 100 Neediest Cases – 2018

“Some Things Change, Some Things Don’t”

BY ELLEN
WILSON

This year’s support of families through the 100 Neediest Cases program was different in several ways, but was still a year with many south city families finding themselves in need of more than they could provide on their own. Often we get inundated with gifts, but this year we actually had to go shopping to round out the requests. Some years we get what is on the request list, this year we got many other items instead. We had always worked with the same support center, but this year we had to choose not one, but two, new centers. What always stays the same is the amazing outpouring of support from neighbors.

This year each family was gifted with \$225.00 in various store and grocery gift certificates as well as \$1,775.00 each to go toward utilities or rent to be paid directly through the 100 Neediest Cases Program.

Again this year, Gustine Market set up a donation jar in the store to help with the fundraising and they are dedicated to reaching more people each year for donations at the check-out.

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Have You Told Your Alley You Love It Lately?

By Andrew
Wanko
*Public Historian,
Missouri History
Museum*

You should. It keeps you looking good – hiding your trash, storing your car, and carrying the wires that power the light you might be reading this by. It sounds like a kind word to your alley could be overdue, so let’s take a look at how it got there in the first place.

A long time ago, way back in the early 1800s, St. Louis didn’t have anything like our alleys of today. There was no electric grid, no sewer system, no trash service, and obviously no cars, so who needed ‘em?! Most people walked everywhere in the compact city, and even if you could afford a horse, you probably kept it in a communal livery stable (basically a parking garage for horses). But by the mid-1800s, St. Louis was changing in two big ways. First, the city kept building outward as new residents showed up by the thousands, and second, more people owned private horse-drawn carriages, and they needed a spot close to home to keep their ride.

Developers and city officials took notice, and started adding a back access to new block developments. This narrow lane could collect all the stinky and noisy horses,

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This narrow lane could collect all the stinky and noisy horses, along with other increasingly common urban “unsightlies” like outhouses, ash pits, privy vaults, small personal wells, outbuilding workshops, and piles of junk and business debris. The birth of the alley!

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Have You Told Your Alley You Love It Lately?

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along with other increasingly common urban “unsightlies” like outhouses, ash pits, privy vaults, small personal wells, outbuilding workshops, and piles of junk and business debris. The birth of the alley!



By the turn of the 20th century, new neighborhoods were popping up quicker than ever, and alleys were a must-have. Those in the planning business – for instance, the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, who laid out Tower Grove Heights in 1881 – were very deliberate in their planning, drawing out grid-based lots with 10-20 foot wide alleys servicing every lot. By the early 1900s, when Tower Grove Heights’ middle class houses were popping up by the dozens, horse-drawn carriages were already well on their way out (people rode the streetcars that moved along Grand and Arsenal), but the idea of an alley “carriage house” as an essential companion to a respectable home was set. Residents would soon be parking horsepower instead of horses in there, and the rise of the automobile brought a new name for these types of structures – the French-inspired “garage.”

Alleys were crucial parts of cities, but in the years after World War II, alleys got a bad rap. They were increasingly associated with filth, crime, and decay (oh my!). The new ranch houses of the suburbs shoved all the alley stuff up

front and center – the garage was tacked onto the side of the house, the trash cans were set beside it, and the roadbed itself was transformed into the “driveway.” Alleys were an old man’s game, something your parents had.

But it’s about time alleys got redeemed. Alleys give us a great place for dumpsters, mazes of wiring, electrical transformers, and every once in a while, you even bump into a neighbor. You can get your work done back there, and it frees up the front of your house for a beautiful porch, patio, or garden. So join me in a toast, and let’s raise a glass – or maybe a trash bag – to

the alley, the underappreciated workhorse of our city!

YOU VS. THE MIGHTY TOMATO

By Peggy Hoelting Dreaming of juicy homegrown tomatoes? Remembering all the work you did with no results? Don’t give up yet. You can win at this game after all.

Under ideal growing conditions, I would grow only one variety of tomato: the almighty ‘Cherokee Purple’. Heirloom tomatoes are big (20 oz.), have a rich smoky flavor and a firm texture. On the downside, they are misshapen and susceptible to disease.

We live in St. Louis, where the weather is unpredictable and certainly not ideal, especially for tomato plants. To ensure a successful crop of tomatoes, diversify! Plant a selection of heirloom and hybrid.



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YOU VS. THE MIGHTY TOMATO

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Hybrid tomatoes have been bred for uniform size and disease resistance. Decades of breeding have come at a cost, as some have lost their rich flavor.

But rest assured, there are several hybrids that have both superior qualities and great taste. 'Better Boy' is a large (12 oz.), high producer with delicious flavor and superior disease resistance. 'Fourth of July' is a small (4 oz.), heavy producing variety that tolerates all types of weather conditions. 'Sungold' is a cherry tomato, with a super sweet taste.

Once you have selected your varieties, planting them in the best location is important to their success. A raised bed provides excellent drainage and allows you to provide the perfect growing medium. A 6'x4'x12" bed houses six tomato plants (two 'Cherokee Purple' two 'Better Boy', one 'Fourth of July' and one 'Sungold'). Build your box in a sunny spot. Fill with 1/3 garden soil (not topsoil), 1/3 compost and 1/3 potting mix. You will need 24 cubic feet of material to fill the box. If you are buying bags that hold two cubic feet, you will need four bags of each. Dump the bags into the box alternating garden soil, potting mix and compost. Level off the top and water thoroughly.

Resist the temptation to plant too early. The air temperature may feel warm, but the soil may not be warm enough to give your plant a good start. Wait until May 1 or until the soil temperature is 60°, and the nighttime temperatures are 55° or higher.

A good root system is essential for healthy plants during hot, dry conditions. To insure a good root system, carefully trim the lower leaves along the stem and place your plant deep into the ground, burying part of the stem under the soil. Roots will develop along the stem, doubling your root system.

A large tomato cage is essential for a long season. The best cages are made from 5' tall welded wire with 4" holes. Cut wire into 78" sections to make a 24" diameter cage. Place one cage over each plant. Attach cages together with string, secure with 4' stakes on each end. As plants grow and stems reach through the cages, gently feed them back inside. Keep them growing up and off the ground. Water as needed at the ground level. Avoid getting the leaves wet.

For more information on caring for your tomato plants, check out my website: gardeneditstl.com. Follow these tips and before long you will be looking for my next article: "What Am I Going to Do with All These Tomatoes?"

Peggy Hoelting is a garden designer and consultant.



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THE MOST CARLESS PERSON I KNOW

By S.C. Truckey **F**or nearly 2 years I haven't paid personal property tax on a vehicle, been issued a parking ticket, been due for maintenance, had to renew a registration, or tossed and turned in the middle of the night during a storm, wondering if I rolled up my windows. I don't miss the boiling rage I felt when people ran red lights, cut me off on the highway, or were going 5 mph in a 35-mph zone.

For nearly two years I've been carless, relying solely on my bike, public transit, Uber, walking, and the thoughtfulness of friends.

When my relationship of six years ended, I got the apartment and he got the car. I worked from home, and still do, so I don't really have anywhere I need to go. I have a valid driver's license, a clean record, a handy parking pad, and an income that could support having a car, yet the desire to get another one simply isn't there.

A typical FAQ:

"But how do you get your groceries and toiletries?"

—I walk/bike to Local Harvest, Family Dollar, Ruler, and Jay's

"But what if it's cold or raining?"

—I dress appropriately.

"But what if you can't get what you want within talking distance?"

—I order it online or go find it when I do have access to a car.

Some people worry I don't get out of the 'hood enough, but the Grand 70 bus drops me right outside the Fox, and takes me very close to the Pulitzer/Contemporary Art Museum. The bike ride to The Muni

is a (mostly) flat 18 minutes. An Uber to the Tivoli is \$16, and I don't have to worry about parking. And a fun shuttle goes from a bar in Benton Park down to Cardinals games. My doctor is two miles away, my dentist is one mile (both on bus lines), and I satisfy my shoe addiction by buying online or shopping while I'm



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ORPHEUM CLEANERS – STILL A CROWN JEWEL

By Barbara
Gilchrist

More than ten years ago, John Papa wrote an article for the Gazette about Orpheum Cleaners. It was one in a series about “jewels” in our neighborhood. (Tower Grove Heights Gazette, Vol. 19, No. 4, Winter 2008) The article talks about how Nicholas Psaris, an immigrant, opened Orpheum Cleaners in Grandel Square and, later (1938), moved it to the corner of South Grand and Wyoming. The business thrived and was passed along to Nicholas’ son, Dennis, and then to grandchildren. By 2008, the business was managed by granddaughter, Laurie, with help from her sister, Cathy.

Fast forward nine years to June, 2017, and Laurie Psaris was ready to sell the business. Chris and Dana Sherman, who own the building that houses Orpheum Cleaners and own the Gelateria del Leone, decided this was an opportunity they wanted to take on along with their cousin, Michelle Sheeley. Michelle now manages the business and employs one person who fills the role of “presser” and has 30 years of experience in the cleaner business. The new owners decided to keep the name because of its long history in the neighborhood.

I interviewed Michelle recently to find out her background and her vision for carrying on this now 80+ year-old business. Michelle started sewing when she was ten, sewing doll clothes under the tutelage of her mother. She moved on to Halloween costumes and prom dresses for herself and friends. When she was older, Michelle went to fashion school and soon surpassed her mother’s skills. She made her own bridal gown.

After finishing her school program, Michelle went to work at a costume company, but kept a side business of special orders. This side business grew and grew. She was working in a bridal shop doing alterations when her cousin, Dana Sherman, called about Orpheum Cleaners. It seemed like a wonderful opportunity to continue and build her sewing business, her first love, and to be her own boss. And, as Michelle told me, she “can sew anything” whether it is making repairs or alterations to existing garments or custom orders for new items.

Now that she co-owns the Orpheum Cleaners, she has learned

**When she was older,
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the dry cleaner side of the business, and is grateful for her employee’s experience. She made the decision to do all of the garment cleaning and preparation in-house; Laurie Psaris had sent this work out for many years. The business also includes wedding gown cleaning and preservation services. And, she continues to offer all of her sewing services. If you walk by the place, you will often see her in the front window, seated behind a sewing machine.

Michelle describes the business as a “boutique” cleaners which means the prices may be higher than other places, but each piece receives special attention. Customer service is a high priority.

I asked Michelle how the business is doing and if she likes being on South Grand. She said the business is growing. (Three customers came in during the short time I was there.) She also said they have a nice mix of customers, and not all are from the immediate neighborhood. She enjoys the mix of people in the neighborhood as well.

The mantle of a wonderful neighborhood jewel has been picked up by a new family and they intend to continue the motto of the previous owners: “Quality is higher than price.” Her final words were “Come give us a try.”

THE MOST CARLESS PERSON I KNOW

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traveling. I also have friends who are happy to pick me up, and some very special friends let me use their cars when they’re out of town, allowing me to do far-out errands or visit my parents across the river.

People have asked if I know how much money I’ve saved since not having a car. But that has never been my motivation, or even a consideration. It’s more about practicality and the ease of using what’s available. Yes, some days I really, really miss having a car. Some days I feel isolated. Some days I want to just hop in the car and drive. But not having a car has made me more resourceful. It has made me more patient. It has made me more intentional and my priorities more meaningful.

Most importantly, it has made me feel more connected to my neighborhood and more reliant on its resources. All within walking distance, we have a library, a post office, a dry cleaner, numerous coffee shops, handfuls of restaurants, a ping-pong bar, gift shops, an urgent care, a bookstore, barbers, and a flower shop, among others. If you’re going to go carless, South Grand is the place to do it.

S.C. Truckey lived in TGH before moving north to Shaw just over two years ago. She can still be seen housesitting in TGH, biking down Spring, and picking up her favorite libations at Gustine Market.





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CUPID'S ARROW

By Tricia Heliker **T**ower Grove Heights couples share their stories of how they met. Proof that the arrow does not necessarily fly in a straight line.

Couple #1 For this particular couple, Cupid sent out a sharp arrow and got this relationship on the fast track. In 1976 a Catholic singles alumni club met at Saleem's Restaurant located on what is now Jay's parking lot on Grand. That January meeting took these two from love at first sight to marriage in a mere seven months. Engaged at Balaban's in March and married at St. Francis DeSales in August, 43 years later this couple are proof Cupid got it right.

Couple #2 Having recently ended a relationship, she was interested in making new friends and reached out to an old friend from college she had not spoken to in years. The friend invited her to a gathering of his group at a local pub. He was part of that group and was immediately captivated by her poise, her leather jacket, and her smile as she approached the group. There was no denying "he was in for it." He calculated the timing of an introduction so as not to come off as creepy or too eager. A few short conversations validated his instincts. Intelligent, witty, with a sense of humor-she was indeed special! Over the next six weeks he stayed in touch but kept it casual, giving her space when he recognized she needed it. "Interested but not desperate," was how she phrased it. She was taking her time while getting used to being single again. Then her college friend invited her to dinner and she agreed to go. It was then he informed her his friend was coming too. Yes, that friend! A short time into this dinner for three, the college friend excused himself. Was Cupid using this guy or was this guy Cupid? This was the middle of March and it still took until May 8th for them to officially start dating.



Couple #3 Before the internet, there was a company called Great Expectations that provided videotaped introductions as a mechanism for dating. This required perusing photo albums, which included brief biographies, in the office of this company. Upon request you would be allowed to view the taped interview of someone you found intriguing. If you were willing to pursue it further, you requested a meeting with this person. That person was contacted and they followed the same procedure before agreeing to a meeting. Once both parties were willing, phone numbers were provided. In the case of this couple, he spotted her first and requested the review. She responded by coming to the office to watch his video. The very first question of his interview was, "Are you completely happy with your social life?" His jaundiced, sarcastic reply was, "If I were happy with it, I wouldn't be here!" She stopped the tape! That was enough for her to know she was ready to meet this guy. Wedding bells followed approximately two years later. The move to Tower Grove Heights came some years after that.

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Tower Grove Heights Supports 100 Neediest Cases – 2018

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Wrapping and labeling the gifts was harder than usual this year as we had several kids close in age. Family #1 received an enormous supply of diapers along with books, super cute boots, a shape sorter toy, crib linens, bath toys and supplies, a big stuffed bear, a pull-behind red wagon, books, clothes, laundry detergent, hand and body lotion, air freshener, and a beautiful throw blanket and gift basket for Mom. Family #2 received a coffee pot, bed linen with several comforters, stuffed animals for each child, Slinkys, family games, winter gear, dresses and sweaters, drawing and coloring supplies, Hot Wheels cars, Legos, Elf on a Shelf, laundry detergent, hand and body lotion, air freshener, and a beautiful gift basket.

Each year this project is supported by the TGHNA Board and each and every neighbor. This year past President, Vicky Dean and the Board helped to select our families, provided financial support for the flyers, and provided space in the Gazette. Rick Stein, TGHNA Treasurer, kept the money straight, and Rich Iezzi helped to keep the deadline of the Gazette and provided space for the articles.

The flyers are always the hardest part of this project so I am grateful to those who help to get them delivered. This year Vicky Dean, Rich Iezzi, Nigel Holloway, Barbara Gilchrist, Debra Knox Deiermann, Andrea Thein, Sharon Angle, Jan Shirk, Pat Edwards, Jim McClaren, and the Tower Grove Heights Block Captains helped get them on your doorstep.

Wrapping the presents has become a nice system, but having help is what makes it fun. This year, Anne Orcutt, Sandy Pritt, Jan Shirk, and Shannon Heffernan organized everything and made the gifts look beautiful. This year, Anne and Mac Orcutt donated the use of their truck so we got everything to two different centers with no problem.

As always thank you and have a great year!!!

On a sadder note, we lost a neighbor and a long-term volunteer for this project at the end of the year. Pauline Ashton, helped start the program when she was on the Board, helped to wrap every year, and helped deliver presents to the centers. She was always a spark that got us talking about important issues regarding those in need as well as just about everything else. She could make me laugh and think at the same time and I will miss her lovely accent and her shock over our crazy American ways. I miss you already Pauline, I know you are getting everything in order wherever you are.

2018 Donors – Whether you dropped off wrapping material, a check, purchased gifts, helped with logistics, or just said thanks, I am so grateful to everyone who contributed in any way.

Anonymous

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ABANDONED PROPERTY AT 3619 HUMPHREY - UPDATE

After 30 years of neighborhood concern and frustration over the conditions existing at 3619 Humphrey, Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association voted to send a letter to the owner asking that he correct the problems or face a lawsuit pursuant to a recent amendment to a Missouri state statute. The City of St. Louis has also cited the property for multiple violations of the City's housing code.



The letter was sent and the TGHNA subsequently received a response from the owner's lawyer expressing his client's intention to bring the property up to building code standards. The owner was observed at the property in January and a second-floor broken window has been repaired.



Our goal is for the property to be brought into compliance with the City's housing code and maintained. We will continue to monitor the situation. A lawsuit is still an option.

Ryan Barry---TGHT's Safety Committee



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2018 TGHNA NEIGHBORHOOD HERO: SUSIE GUDERMUTH

By Rich
lezzi

Susie Gudermuth was recognized as the 2018 TGHNA Neighborhood Hero for helping to save our neighborhood from massive deterioration. If ever there was a neighborhood that needed saving in the 1970s, it was ours.

Susie was discovered after some early neighborhood urban pioneers talked about “a woman who was doing work on Utah.” My wife, Jean, and I spotted Susie raking leaves on Utah and found her enthusiasm infectious.

Since that day in 1978, Susie has not only saved Utah but also tamed McDonald when no other buyers were interested.

Susie was always a different kind of investor. She’d often spend more on the curb appeal of her buildings than a lot of us spent on our entire rehab. When banks were reluctant to make loans because of depressed appraisal values, Susie worked tirelessly to convince lenders to make loans to new home buyers.

But I think her biggest contribution was single-handedly saving S. Spring. Susie either bought or was the general contractor on the “Hartford Arms,” the American Legion and the “bakery building.” Some of these buildings were so bad that people crossed the street to avoid them. Some of the owners of these properties were so bad that lawyers wouldn’t represent them. When others were running from our problem properties, Susie was buying them. It would take an entire meeting to talk about all the activities Susie has been involved in, from being president of TGHNA to organizing alley clean-ups.

Susie is pretty much the same person today that she’s been over the last forty years when she was often mistaken for a bag lady while picking up trash. Forty years later, she’s still picking up trash and talking up our neighborhood, always encouraging others to buy in the Heights.

Thanks, Susie, for all the work you’ve done and all the fun we’ve had over the last 40 years



HOW THE ALDI QUARTER BUILDS COMMUNITY

By Greta
Reitenbach

Ever shop at Aldi? If so, you’re in luck! The German grocery store, Aldi, is relocating from its current location on South Grand to right around the corner in Gravois Plaza. They plan to move into a portion of the old Shop ’n Save by March 14, according to manager “Z.” This new facility will be almost 27,000 square feet, double that of the current store. The other part of the store will remain available for rent.

This grocery store also has an interesting history. Aldi began as a small supermarket in 1913 northern Germany, run by mother of two boys. When she passed away, her sons, Karl and Theo Albrecht, inherited the business. They ran it peacefully for 20 years, opening nearly 300 more locations across Germany. In 1962, they renamed the store Aldi, a contraction of Albrecht and Diskont (discount). At that time there was a dispute over whether or not to sell cigarettes. The two brothers split the stores and renamed them Aldi Nord and Aldi Süd, meaning Aldi North and Aldi South. Eventually, the companies grew. Aldi Nord turned into Trader Joe’s, and Aldi Süd turned into the Aldi we know today.



This simple but effective solution results in some very impressive exchanges between customers.

If you haven’t been to Aldi, it is more than just groceries. Most of you probably know that Aldi requires a quarter to unlock their carts. This is intended to make people return their carts to the entrance of the store, eliminating the need for a staff member to do it. This simple but effective solution results in some very impressive exchanges between customers. Many people leaving will give their cart to another shopper without the intent of getting a quarter in return. The Aldi quarter is a simple way for someone to do some good in their day, even if it only cost them 25 cents. “Z,” the current manager, says that he sees people pass their cart on “all the time.” He even said that if somebody’s card is declined and they don’t have cash, there is always another customer who will offer to pay for the groceries. If that isn’t community, I don’t know what is.

Personally, I have seen many people give another customer their cart. Sometimes I will even pass on my quarter if I see somebody going into the store as I am leaving, or if somebody is having trouble. If you are ever at Aldi, consider making someone’s day a little brighter by passing on your cart.

CUPID'S ARROW

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Couple #4 This couple met as bridesmaid and groomsman in a mutual friend's wedding in Innsbrook, MO. They were both starting out in their careers. She took the opportunity to visit family in Hong Kong and ended up taking a job there. He was busy establishing his practice here, so this was truly a long distance relationship for some time. They took turns making the trip to see each other until he proposed to her in Hong Kong. She relocated back to St. Louis where they still reside.

Couple #5 This couple met on the last day of classes in their Freshman year at Boston College. She knew of him because he played the guitar at local spots, but he did not know her. She passed his dorm room that day while running a last minute errand to drop off her linens at the laundry service. She stopped to say hello when she saw him clearing out his room. They talked briefly and when he mentioned he was going home to St. Louis, she told him a couple of her siblings were planning to visit her great aunt who also lived there. He said, "You should come too. Call me if you do." She did not make the trip but she encouraged her sister to give him a call and say hello from her. Turns out he did not make the connection and told her sister he didn't know who she was talking about. When she saw him on campus her sophomore year she brought it up to him. They laughed about the incident and parted because they both had a class to attend. Turns out they saw each other again a few minutes later on the second floor of McGuinn Hall, having come from both ends of the building to a class they had both registered to take. Three classes a week for one term was enough to spark a romance.

To be continued in next edition.

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SETTING THE STAGE TO LOVE THE HOME YOU'RE WITH

By Abigail Miller

Homes seem to be flying off the shelves these days. Perusing these beautifully staged homes with their well curated accent pieces and lack of clutter can easily lead to home-envy, leaving you scrutinizing the "well-loved" home you're already in. Thankfully, there are some folks in the neighborhood that are here to help. Rachel Moll and Sara Taylor are the creative force behind Hawthorn Home Staging, a staging company with a knack for flaunting the charm of city homes. And, while they wouldn't advise actually living in a staged home (per Sara's personal experience), they recently shared suggestions for using staging strategies to rekindle the home-ance ...

- **Define Your Space:** The first thing the Hawthorn Home team does with a new project is walk the house room by room and define the functions of the space. The only furniture that goes in a room serves those functions. Walk through your house and consider how you use rooms, how you want to use rooms, and what you need to make the room function as it should. Keep your eye out for what Sara describes as "too much function in one room."

- **The Right Light & Height:** Staging a home means drawing attention to beautiful details (and, distracting from the not-so-beautiful). To this end, the light bulbs in each room should be similar types and wattage to create cohesion. As for art, it should be hung at eye-level for the average person, which apparently is around 57-60 inches. (If you're lucky enough to have ceilings over eight feet, go a touch higher.)

- **Update Your Art:** It's easy to leave well enough alone when it comes to wall decor, which means old pictures stay up forever. Revisit the

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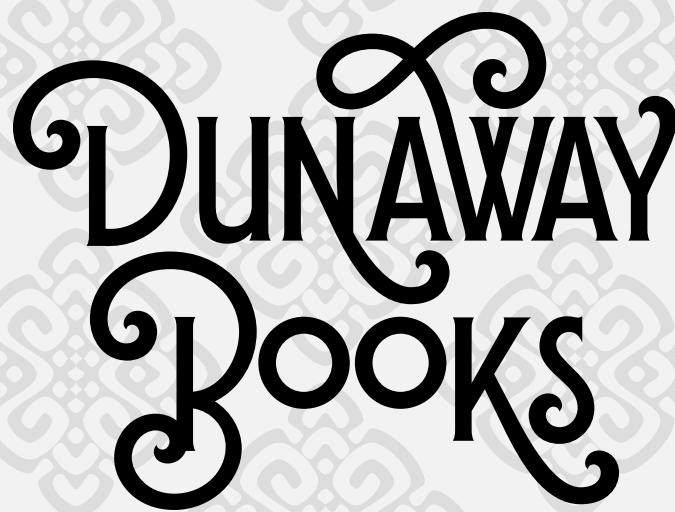
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Special thanks to Vicky Dean for serving as our past president, Barbara Gilchrist completing her three-year presidential commitment and Debra Knox Deiermann for her many years as secretary

For the latest neighborhood news and events; receive a Welcome Packet; contact your Block Captain; join TGHNA; nominate a neighbor for the Matt-the-Cat Award; read our bylaws, meeting minutes or past issues of the Gazette; and much more, please visit: www.towergroveheights.com

STAY CONNECTED:

Tower Grove Heights notification list via MailChimp - contact:

secretary@towergroveheights.com

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TGHNA SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Ryan Barry The Tower Grove Heights Safety Committee held a fundraiser for public safety last November. The "Pizza for Cameras" event at Blackthorn Pub took in just over \$7,000

– exceeding our goal and expectations. It was a great event to meet neighbors and discuss ways to improve safety in the neighborhood. After meeting with SLMPD in January, we finalized our camera selections. These cameras will be installed on homes on Gustine and Spring so that they can be focused on intersections. Home owners will connect the cameras to their wi-fi and be asked to provide video recordings to the police upon request. A cadet from the police department has agreed to help install the cameras, which will include a solar panel for power. We will start installing the cameras in February or shortly thereafter. Any funds left after the intersection cameras are in place will be used for more cameras at other locations within the neighborhood.

Whether or not cameras directly deter crime is debatable, but we do know they can help provide information to the police and prosecution after a crime has been committed.





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SETTING THE STAGE TO LOVE THE HOME YOU'RE WITH

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artwork that's hanging around and see if any are ready for donation to SLAM. A great way to replace them is with vintage photos and maps of the area, such as images from the 1875 Pictorial Survey of St. Louis (available free for download online!)

- **Decorate with White:** Before you fill that empty space, consider leaving it as is. Staged homes are calming because of the simplicity. A Hawthorn Home rule of thumb is that "every room should have intentional places that feel like white space."

- **Know Your Reset:** Home staging is essentially a reset for a house. "Yes," Sara explains, "things have to be functional, but you can reset them." Determine your default for each room, including where everything is easily stored, so that the whole family knows where things go at the end of the day.

- **Get Ideas:** It's no secret that when there's an open house in the neighborhood, at least half the foot traffic is from neighbors getting a peek. One of the best ways to get ideas for your house is stealing learning from others. There's also plenty of inspiration online. Check out nearby home listings on Zillow, the "Your Old House" Facebook Group, or home staging sites (like Hawthorn Home's) to see city and historic homes in all their glory.

Ultimately, staging is about creating a space that people want to be in, most importantly – you! The good news is you can do this in the home you already have, without the hassle of putting everything you own into cardboard boxes.

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Email me your real estate questions at: DeborahErvin@att.net

Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights during 2018

Type	Address	Sold Price	Year Built
Res	3836 Arsenal	\$440,000	1910
Res	3726 Arsenal	\$465,000	1906
Res	3826 Arsenal	\$604,900	1904
Res	3845 Connecticut	\$259,000	—
Res	3806 Connecticut	\$301,000	1907
Res	3654 Connecticut	\$314,000	1906
Res	3732 Connecticut	\$335,000	1905
Res	3884 Connecticut	\$346,000	1908
Res	3837 Connecticut	\$460,000	1906
Res	3644 Hartford	\$224,900	1904
Res	3730 Hartford	\$225,000	1903
Res	3806 Hartford	\$252,000	1897
Res	3704 Hartford	\$299,900	1901
Res	3869 Hartford	\$322,000	1902
Res	3818 Hartford	\$340,000	1898
Res	3829 Humphrey	\$315,000	1908
Res	3718 Humphrey	\$355,000	1905
Res	3710 Humphrey	\$347,000	1905
Res	3701 Juniata	\$125,000	1904
Res	3879 Juniata	\$277,000	1902
Res	3816 Juniata	\$300,000	1904
Res	3831 Juniata	\$300,000	1901
Condo	3869 Wyoming	\$150,000	1906
Res	3835 Wyoming	\$166,250	1905
Res	3804 Wyoming	\$235,000	1908
Condo	3800 Wyoming	\$275,000	1908
Res	3860 Wyoming	\$275,000	1907
Res	3725 Wyoming	\$290,000	1910
Res	3718 Wyoming	\$375,000	1911
Res	3670 Wyoming	\$385,900	1905
Res	3892 S. Utah Pl.	\$393,000	1908
Res	3809 N. Utah Pl.	\$490,000	1908
Res	3667 N. Utah Pl.	\$525,000	1907



PRESIDENTS LETTER

By Ann Stanley

About a month ago, the Gazette editor reminded me that, as the “new” President of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, I needed to write an article for the Spring 2019 issue. “Write something ‘inspirational’” he said. Or maybe he said “aspirational.” Either way, writing is not my forté and I confess to having a ghostwriter wordsmith for the last article I wrote for the Gazette.

For those who don’t know much about me, I am not only the new president, I am also relatively new to the neighborhood. I moved to Tower Grove Heights a little over four years ago and only began attending meetings on a regular basis in 2017. I know what you are thinking: “Wow! from newbie to president in two years. What’s her secret?!”

Neighborhood involvement is not a new thing for me. I grew up in St. Louis but I lived away for 35 years. During that time, I lived in small rural towns in Indiana and large metropolises like Toronto, Canada and Washington, DC. Moving around didn’t come with ready-made friendships so the best way I found to meet people was to attend neighborhood events and volunteer. I’m happy to say that there are plenty of both activities in Tower Grove Heights.

On the event side, the Board recently voted for the return of a Neighborhood Block Party which will be similar to the event we had in 2017 but without the 30th Anniversary celebration. The Board also approved having a Trivia Night in late April – so start flexing that gray matter.

The Social Committee will continue to host Heights Nights for residents to gather and mingle at local businesses and restaurants. We also hope to do a few pop-up events, ping-pong nights, game nights, a flea market, and maybe even a barbecue or a doughnut-palooza. If you have an activity or event to suggest, please do.

For neighborhood meetings, we’ve planned some interesting topics. In January we got an update about the homeless and panhandling situation along South Grand from St. Patrick Center and Rachel Witt (Executive Director, South Grand CID). In February we invited Judge Jimmy Edwards, the new Director of Public Safety for the City. Coming up in March, resident Nigel Holloway has put together a panel of local professionals to talk about home design and rehab. April is up for grabs at the moment but we are looking into something green and earthy. For our May meeting, we have invited representatives from Better Together to give us an update on their newly released report. Please feel free to suggest topics or speakers for future meetings.

If you find our events and meetings fun and interesting, then you will really enjoy volunteering. TGHNA has several standing committees and ways to get involved: Social, Communication, Safety, and Block Captains – all listed on our web page and accepting new members. Volunteers are also needed for Trivia Night, the Block Party and for the neighborhood booth at Tower Grove Pride. Contact me at president@towergroveheights.com if you want to know how to get involved.

A bit beyond our boundaries, Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association supports the South Grand Cultural Alliance which is always in need of volunteers to help with the many activities and events held along Grand. If giving back in a social way appeals to you, there is the Roosevelt High School Community Council and a new Community Council that is being planned for Fanning Middle School. In past years our neighborhood has been an active sponsor of the United Way’s 100 Neediest Cases and we welcome volunteers to support this holiday tradition.

If you are more of an observer and occasional doer, consider supporting our organization by becoming a new member or renewing your current membership. Neighborhoods are dynamic environments in which residents cycle in and out of being active and engaged. We welcome everyone’s presence in the neighborhood but, if you aspire to meet others or to be President of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, please volunteer!

Tower Grove Heights NEEDS YOU!

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association can only be YOUR association if you join. With your participation, TGHNA will be a reflection of what YOU want the Heights to become. So please don’t delay in joining or rejoining.

- To find out what is happening in the neighborhood
- To make the Heights a cleaner and safer place
- To have a liaison with City Hall and other agencies
- To better protect our property values
- To make TGH a more interesting, fun place to live

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