

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place



February 25, 1995

Volume 7, Number 3⁴

Garden's New Research Building



Everyone is asking, waiting, and watching the southwest corner of Shaw and Vandeventer; the customers from World's Fair Donuts and Irv's Diner at the same intersection, all the neighbors, nearby neighborhoods - and countless commuters - watched as first the gas-station, then the old Polar Wave Ice & Fuel building came down - making way for the new research facility of the Missouri Botanical Garden and the revitalizing role it will play in its community and its city.

The new building will be a beautiful addition to the neighborhood of homes, schools and businesses all around the Garden. The handsome four-story facade of brick and glass, complete with green landscaping, will harmonize with and enhance the surrounding streets and serve as a model for new construction concerned with environmental issues. It will also establish a visual link to the Garden for visitors arriving from Kingshighway and Interstate 44. The proposed additional ramps from I-44 at Vandeventer will improve access to the Garden and neighborhood businesses as well.

City officials see the new facility as the southwestern anchor of a core of biotechnological businesses proposed for mid-town St. Louis; "anchors" providing the stimulus for attracting research companies to the area include St. Louis University Medical Center, Washington University

Medical Center, and the Garden. The Garden's world class botanical research is of global importance and demonstrates scientific leadership nationally and internationally. The city hopes to attract pharmaceutical companies, research firms, testing laboratories, medical manufacturing, supply, distribution and service companies to the area.

The Garden's new "green construction" (environmentally-conscious) is being designed by the Christner Partnership and Louis R. Saur and Associates, both of St. Louis, in consultation with the Croxton Collaborative of New York; elements of the design are still evolving so the date for new construction hasn't been set. However, as we can see, preliminary work is well underway!

The next time someone asks about the southwest corner of Shaw and Vandeventer, say they're going to build a major architectural landmark in St. Louis, a beautiful building and landscape -after all, its part of the Garden. You can say the money for it came **not** from taxes, but from gifts and pledges in the Garden's capital campaign, launched last fall. The new facility is for botanical research important to our whole earth with an herbarium containing nearly 5 million plant specimens - one of the largest and most important collections in the world. The top floor of the new building will house the Garden's

extensive Library, the world's most comprehensive botanical library.

The Missouri Botanical Garden was a gift to all people for all time from founder Henry Shaw. People can think of the new research building as a gift to the Garden, to the neighborhood, to St. Louis and to the world - from the many generous donors who are making this possible.

IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue of the Gazette Victoria Miles provides a preview of the planned research building of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Victoria also looks at what's coming up On Grand with the anticipated second installment of "The Grand Theatre". Don Hardin relates what one group of diligent neighbors did to nip problem tenants on their block, and Tom Booth reports on how the nuisance law is being used to combat similar problems in the Shaw neighborhood.

There are messages from your State Representative Pat Dougherty and Alderman Geraldine Osborn. Stephanie Gavin gives her insight about Woody Allen's recent film "Bullets Over Broadway" and Denise Roesler-Cunningham provides a checklist of things you can do for the upcoming "Spring Thing": preparing your yard and deck for the Spring thaw. There's a lot going on in your neighborhood, so read on.

The Tower Grove Heights

Gazette

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City Has New Crime Hot Line

(Reprinted from an article by Bill Bryan of the Post-Dispatch)

A new crime telephone hot line designed to make it easier for residents of St. Louis to report drug and gang activity and information about killings went in effect January 3rd, 1995.

The new number - 241 COPS (2677) - is a consolidation of three other numbers: the Get Tough Narcotic Hotline, the Gang Hotline and the Homicide Hotline.

The new hot line is a crime-fighting tool intended to create a stronger spirit of cooperation between the St. Louis Police Department and City residents, Police Chief Clarence Harmon said.

"We want to make it easier for the community to work with us," Harmon said. "Our motto is, 'Help us help you'. 'We're trying to be much more customer focused.'"

All calls to the hot line are non-traceable and confidential. "Callers can remain anonymous," Harmon said. "We know that the traceability in the 911 system is a sore spot among some people." (Police can determine the origin of incoming calls on 911).

People are urged to continue using 911 for all police related calls not dealing with drugs gangs or information on homicides.

Lt. Anton Wagner, commander of the narcotics-vice division, said a hot line is a valuable aid for police. "We received about 5,000 hot-line calls involving narcotics in 1994, and about 30 percent of those calls resulted in arrests," he said.

The hot line will be staffed Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to midnight. The remaining hours will be covered by a voice mail system.



Missouri Botanical Garden

4344 Shaw Boulevard - St. Louis

Call Our Event HotLine 24-Hours a Day at 577-9400

On Grand...with Victoria Cusumano Miles

Spring comes - as a vague sensing at first, like hearing a familiar voice in the next room but being unable to connect it with a face. The makings of spring are already in the works! Deep in the soil, bulbs planted in gardens this winter now wait for the sun to warm the earth, beckoning bright blossoms of the long awaited season.

Crews in the park spent the winter months getting the deadwood out, planting new saplings, and making repairs to roads and pathways. We can look forward once again to plenty of picnics, events and lots of happy traffic throughout the neighborhood, at the Garden, and in Tower Grove Park - with folks everywhere,

on foot, on bikes and skates! Softballs, kites, frisbees and live music will fill the air!

On South Grand, spring is in the works too! Shopkeepers recovering from a successful holiday season stock their stores with things for spring in lighter, brighter colors for the lighter and brighter (& most welcome) days ahead. Those white chairs and tables will be back on the sidewalks where hot teas and cappuccinos evolve into iced drinks to be lingered over through lazy afternoons.

The Grand Theater, our neighborhood's living theater, is planning their next event to be held on March 24 with performance/art installations from

Arsenal to Utah. Mostly indoors, due to winter's precarious retirement in St. Louis, the March Grand Theater event will provide something for everyone including premiere openings featuring the works of more than a dozen new artists! There will be live music and dance, poetry and story-telling, **magic** and mystique - and you know what?...the whole concept of The Grand Theater is that we're ALL players; that's the idea, whether performing or participating simply as a spectator, we are all part of it. The stage? - our neighborhood, of course, though it's really *everywhere* we are, all the time. It's the very kind of attitude that make *Life So. Grand* to me.

RECYCLING INFORMATION

By Donald Hardin

With the sad demise of Helping Hands Recycling, I quickly asked around for alternative recycling options. Friend, neighbor, and block captain Bill Wright told me about a close by recycling center at the firehouse on the corner of Magnolia and Alhambra (one block east of Grand). Behind the firehouse are two blue dumpsters. Below is a list of acceptable recyclables that can be taken to the firehouse.

HAPPY RECYCLING!!

ALUMINUM CANS

- Rinse Out
- Crush if Possible

STEEL (TIN) FOOD CANS

- Rinse Out
- Flatten if Possible
- Remove Labels

GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS

- Rinse Out
- Remove Lids and Rings
- Labels Can Be Left On
- No Lightbulbs, No Window Glass, No Pyrex Dishes, No Drinking Glasses

PLASTIC BOTTLES AND JUGS

- Rinse Out
- Remove Lids
- Flatten to Save Space
- No Motor Oil or Cooking Oil Containers, No Antifreeze Containers, No Margarine Tubs
- No Cottage Cheese, Yogurt or Plastic Peanut Butter Jars

NEWS PAPER ONLY

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The Spring Thing

by Denise Roesler-Cunningham

Any morning, now, it's going to happen in the Heights.

You'll emerge from under your cozy down comforter with a smile on your face. Why? Because you'll remember what the weathercaster predicted last night: winter will wane and spring will, well, spring this weekend.

You'll throw back the covers and decide it's time to unveil the yard's shroud of winter debris and dead leaves. Time to dust the cobwebs from the patio furniture. Time to haul out the container planters and see how the perennials fared during their winter sleep. Time to test-fire the barbecue grill.

This is the weekend you'll have the spring thing.

Check the Deck

Why not enjoy your first cup of coffee on the deck or patio this morning? This way, you can survey the yard, enjoy the southerly breeze and assess the job ahead.

Be sure to wear good shoes if you're traversing a wooden deck. According to Med Darnell of American Classic Deck & Fence Co., you could step on a few surprises left by Mother Nature. A common spring find on your wooden deck is exposed nail and screw heads. Darnell says to reset these with a hammer, even the screws. If you must replace nails or screws, he recommends using any of the following: ringshank, zinc-coated or gold-coated. It's wise to use one of these products because untreated metal products will damage a wood deck over time, leaving rust stains and rotted wood in their wake.

To fix boards that are worn, warped or rotten, Darnell says to cut out the bad wood between the support joists and lay in a new piece. He insists on buying wood that's been stored inside, because it will be drier (more static) than lumber stored outside, and he suggests buying No. 1 grade lumber. If you're in a financial jam, you could buy No. 2 grade, but Darnell says not to fall below this standard.

Figure on a staining session in two to six weeks to apply wood preservative to the new wood decking. Darnell says CWF, Thompson's or Penta brands are good products. He recommends that you apply a wood preservative to the entire deck every late summer or early fall and no less than every 18 months.

Have a Seat

You walked that first cup of coffee around the deck, so enjoy the second cup seated. Oh, wait. All the patio furniture is under wrap and safely stored in the basement. Well, drag it out, unwrap it and have a seat!

Joe Forshaw of Forshaw of St. Louis offers the following suggestions for readying patio furniture for the season:

1. Wipe down resin furniture.
2. Give cushions a good cleaning. Specific cleaners are available or you could use a mild detergent.
3. Check iron furniture for rust. Knock off rust with a wire brush and use Rustoleum or other similar paint to touch up the area.

Hint: Use car wax on your metal furniture to protect it from the elements.

4. Have a supply of large towels on hand if you sunbathe. Forshaw notes that suntan oil is one thing that really trashes any kind of patio furniture. He says you can use Formula 409, a mild bleach solution, or other household cleaners to get oils off.

5. Keep oak and other leaves off your furniture year-round, Forshaw warns. As these leaves decompose they leave tough-to-remove stains.

Pleasurable Perennials

You've nursed that second cup of coffee long enough. You decide that you need plants, now, this weekend, to go with the nice weather, and you know that the only plants available this early are perennials.

"The earlier you plant perennials, the more roots they develop and the better they flower," according to Doug Gilberg of Gilberg Perennial Farms.

All the garden containers are missing, though, so it's another trip to the

basement. A little more lifting and carting.

Gilberg says that a perennial's fate depends on how well it was mulched or healed in the previous fall. This applies to container gardens as well. To ready these for spring, Gilberg says to put the container in place, remove the mulch and dead foliage, then fertilize. You can use a liquid fertilizer all season long or apply a time-release fertilizer once in early spring.

Any ornamental grasses in your yard should be burned, Gilberg suggests, because this improves their growth. Of course, you'll want to have the garden hose ready and be certain that no flammable objects are nearby.

Fire Up the Grill

Speaking of flames, something barbecued sounds great for lunch. All this work around the yard has made you famished!

Steve Wilson at the Alternative Grill and Fireside Shoppe says it's easy to tune up the grill for the season. You need to check and clean the burner and venturi tube, keeping a lookout for spider webs and nests.

He suggests doing away with lava rock, because it's porous and soaks up grease, which could lead to an uncontrollable fire and scorched food. Instead, Wilson suggests using ceramic pyramid-shaped briquettes or a ceramic slab that smokes meats as they barbecue.

If your barbecue is located near a pool, Wilson says to keep it covered when not in use. The increased humidity causes the finish to oxidize, leaving it with a white cast. You can apply cooking oil to help retain the exterior color or repaint the exterior only with a high-temperature stove paint. Do not paint the interior, Wilson warns, because the paint can flake and fall into food. Unappetizing and unhealthy.

You look at your watch. Where has the day gone? When you have the spring thing, strange things happen. You made headway today and that's all that matters. Tomorrow, if you're not too sore from today's toils, you'll make it to the hardware store for those lumber supplies and the nursery for new perennials. Right now, you're ready for more spring reverie. Sweet dreams.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Goals and Objectives

Let's wind up our discussion of investment goals by considering what emphasis should be placed on the advice of your broker, financial planner, consultant or whomever you look to with some degree of confidence.

With most people, next to their faith in God, their family and their health, the most important thing to them is their finances. Finances are definitely an important part of our lives.

Doesn't it make sense, then, to be selective in accepting advice on your investments as you'd be with other important decisions in your life? Yet, so many of us are "sold" an investment without understanding exactly what it is, its risk or its return. We take the word of someone that it's a good investment--that it'll make money. So, we invest.

Regardless of whom we choose as an adviser, that individual should meet certain requirements. First of all, are we reasonably assured that he or she is honest and has our best interests at heart? Has he or she

seriously attempted to determine what we want our investment to achieve or has our adviser tried to sell us a bill of goods? What are his or her credentials? Any profession is delighted to discuss educational background, graduate study, specialized training and registration. Ask for references. Investigate your financial adviser as you would investigate your physician or attorney. It'll be time well spent.

Once you've established confidence, be candid. Remember, the information you give is held in absolute confidence.

In summary, when selecting an investment--for safety, income or growth--you must seriously weigh your personality, current position in life, future needs and advice of a professional.. Plan it out!

Investment Term of the Week

Investment Counsel - One whose principal business consists of acting as investment adviser. A substantial part of an investment counsel's business consists of rendering supervisory services.

Article provided by Tom Borich, investment representative, for Edward D. Jones & Co.

THE PROBLEM...

THE SOLUTION

By Don Hardin

The problem is everywhere, from Ladue to Lafayette Square, from Town and Country to Tower Grove Heights. The problem is drugs.

When drug sales are occurring in your neighborhood, the effects are profound. The drug dealers are often drug users themselves. Their behavior is sure to bring violence and an unending list of criminal activity to your front door. The customers of the drug dealers are an even bigger threat to the safety and quality of life in your neighborhood. They need money (lots of it) to support their habit, and that causes a dramatic rise in robbery and assault to your once peaceful and safe neighborhood.

What can you do? The worst thing you can do is *nothing!!!* If you ignore these small fires, then your entire neighborhood will burn to the ground.

Let me tell you what some diligent neighbors did to put out a fire on their block. When they saw suspicious activity on their block, they found out who the landlord of the building was and called them. They told the landlord what was happening and told him that every time they saw a car pull up and honk at this obvious drug house, every time they saw any kind of drug deal going on...they were going to call him...and that's just what they did. The landlord soon got tired of getting an avalanche of calls at all hours of the night and evicted the tenants. The drugs dealers were gone.

If we're all vigilant, the word will get out that Tower Grove Heights is not a good place to set up a drug house.

When you see drug activity, act immediately. Call the landlord of the building or call 241-COPS (see article in this issue). It's everyone's responsibility to keep Tower Grove Heights the great place to live that it is.

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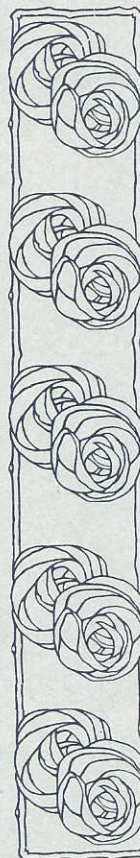
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FROM the CAPITOL ... by Representative Pat Dougherty

The 1995 session is well underway and while most of the new legislation is still in the developmental stage, the House is moving quickly to work on Juvenile Justice system overhaul. Much of the work has been researched during the fall. I was co-chair of an interim committee to make recommendations on revising our juvenile justice system.

Our work focused in four areas: Administrative/ Systematic revisions; Juvenile Code changes; Prevention issues; and funding of the 45 juvenile/family courts. From the outset we established three citizen advisory panels to study and make recommendations on the three main areas. The fourth, financing, is still under study. These panels helped the committee understand some of the changes going on in the system and made

recommendations for changes. Most of the recommendations will be formed into bills and introduced in the House this month.

By now the House has begun to address the first of these three areas - the Juvenile Code. This biggest focus of these legislation is addressing the number of younger and more violent teenagers and how ultimately to punish/treat them. We will be working to open up the records of many juveniles as well as to increase parental accountability.

The second area revolves around the inner workings of the juvenile system. We are trying to push for a system that is more integrated so that the courts, the division of youth services, family services, and mental health work more closely together in

dealing with juveniles.

The prevention area is focused on trying to help our young people not wind up in the juvenile justice system. The main thrust is local investment in our youth to help them succeed and to help them avoid the corrupt influences of gangs, drugs, and violence.

Juvenile court financing is an area where we are awaiting information. We have forty-five juvenile/family courts. We are determining what each court needs to deal with a teenager the first time he/she gets into trouble - the forth, fifth, or sixth time, before we really get serious.

This has been a very brief synopsis of a much more complicated series of topics. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City or call me at 1-314-751-3599.

HISTORIAN TO SPEAK ON TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS

Dr. Mark Abbott, Assistant Professor of History and Chair of the Department of Urban Specializations at Harris-Stowe State College, will speak on

the history of Tower Grove Heights as part of the Friends of Tower Grove Park 1995 Lecture Series on Sunday, March 5th.

Having recently begun work on a book about the neighborhood, Professor Abbott will discuss the early days

of Tower Grove Heights and its development from 1904 to roughly 1915. The Friends of Tower Grove Park Lecture Series is free and open to the public at 2 p.m. in the Stupp Center, near Grand and Arsenal in Tower Grove Park. For more information, call 771-2679.

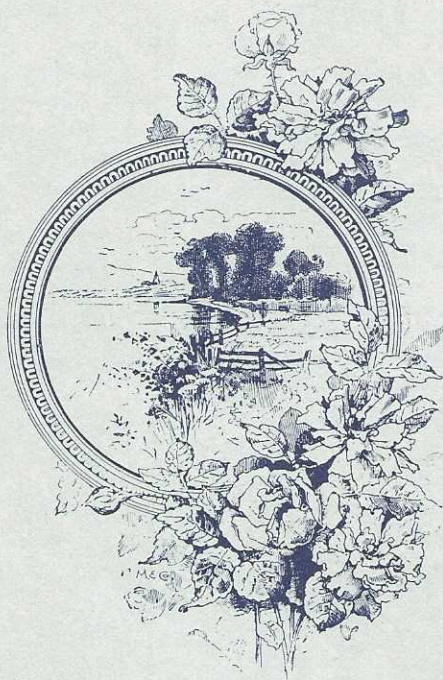
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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ALDERMAN

By Geradine Osborn

Looking back, it seems to me that one of the wisest decisions that St. Louis voters have made was the approval in August of 1993 of a one-half cent sales tax increase for capital improvements. As cosponsor of the bill which placed this question on the ballot, I successfully argued for the inclusion in the bill of language which provides for the allocation of the revenue from this sales tax to specific purposes.

Fifty percent of the revenue from this tax is allocated to a Ward Capital Improvements Account and then allocated in equal amounts to twenty eight sub-accounts, one for each ward in the City. This additional revenue has permitted the expansion of several programs which have already helped hundreds of residents of our ward.

For years I have encouraged ward residents to take advantage of the 50/50 sidewalk program.

The maintenance and repair of the public sidewalk is legally the

responsibility of the property owner. Under the 50/50 sidewalk program, the City hires a contractor to repair or replace a deteriorated sidewalk and the property owner is billed for only half of the cost. In the past, this program has been offered only to owners of residential property having four or fewer units. Now I am able to offer this same program to owners of commercial property and residential property having more than four units. I should emphasize that the 50/50 sidewalk program is not "an entitlement program." No one has a legal right to demand inclusion in the program.

Sidewalk repairs are still the legal responsibility of the property owner. The 50/50 sidewalk program is offered subject to the availability of funds allocated for this purpose and the availability of City inspectors and private contractors who implement the program.

Please contact me if you wish to have your property placed on the list for sidewalk repairs under this program. Also, please advise me of the addresses if there are dangerous, badly deteriorated sidewalks in your neighborhood. The Department of

Streets will issue citations to the property owners and give them the option of having the sidewalks repaired themselves or signing up for the 50/50 sidewalk program.

I would also urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to have a tree planted in front of your property (in the area between the curb and the sidewalk). These trees are provided free by the City. We only ask that you water the tree until it gets large enough to survive on its own. Tree-lined streets contribute to the beauty of our neighborhood and the value of our property.

One of the most attractive blocks in our neighborhood, the 3900 block of Connecticut, is lined with tall, beautiful shade trees because a former resident, Mrs. Walter G. (Mary Jo) Klosterman, cared enough for her neighborhood to go up and down the block urging her neighbors to have trees planted. Other block captains are also doing this. We are all indebted to Mrs. Klosterman and to them for their concern and diligence.

Please join them in making sure that your block become tree lined.

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NUISANCE LAW

as it Applies to Problem Properties



**Southside Youth
Service Youth Fair
FREE - at the Missouri
Botanical Garden**

by Victoria Miles

The Southside Youth Service coalition and the Missouri Botanical Garden are co-sponsoring a city-wide youth fair at Missouri Botanical Garden, Friday and Saturday, March 3 & 4, 1995, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission to the Youth Fair is free.

More than 60 organizations have been invited to attend; these groups are dedicated to helping and protecting youth from the perils that are inherited in the city; such as, violence, drugs, diminishing and underutilized health services, sparse training for entry level or advance level jobs; cultural, social, and after school and summer activities. There is no charge for any of the above and is free to all youth and their families.

For more information, contact Dr. Thomas D. Goshen, Southside Youth Service Coalition, 2800 Olive, Suite 16-N, St. Louis, MO 63103, 534-6348. Located at 4344 Shaw Boulevard, the Missouri Botanical Garden is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

Neighborhoods have always had to deal with problem properties, but now a tool has begun to be used which may prove effective in resolving those problems.

In the Shaw area, a small claims court suit has been filed against the owner of an apartment building because his tenants were perceived to be a nuisance problem for the neighborhood. This is a new tact against problem properties which may prove to be an effective tool to combat a very frustrating situation.

Eric Roth, attorney for the residents who filed the suit, explains that the basis of the suit argues that if a problem property damages the value of neighboring properties, then neighbors can file suit in small claims court, and receive damages up to \$2,500 per petitioner.

A recently enacted state law allows residents to bring suit in small claims court against the owners of property that under the definitions of the statute constitute a nuisance. The nuisance factor relates to the aesthetic condition of the building.

But in order to do that you have to give proof that the value of your building has been damaged. This would require that you offer documentation from an expert in real estate that the market value of your property has been brought down a defined amount.

The basis of the Shaw area suit is that residents can sue the owner of a problem property if he fails to manage the property properly, and as a result, interferes with the residents ability to enjoy their own property. The property could be a nuisance if its tenants behave in a menacing manner to the people living around them or if they engage in criminal activities.

This approach seeks to enjoin the

owner of the property from using it until he has remedied the situation; and seeks money damages for the neighbor's having to endure the situation. This is not unlike personal injury suits seeking compensation for pain and suffering.

Roth emphasizes that residents only took action after 2 years of concerted effort and offers of constructive assistance for the property owner.

Roth said "Everybody had done what they needed to do, working with aldermen, the housing authority, the Conserve officer, the police department, the neighborhood association, and St. Margaret's housing corporation, and the owner failed to remedy the situation".

Roth said the residents immediately assumed that hiring a lawyer was out of the question but

"actually there are many lawyers like me who feel that it's part of their professional responsibility to undertake matters without compensation for civic improvements, and would be glad to take something like that".

He added that "working pro bono for the good of the public is something lawyers should do, and most lawyers do do".

Roth envisions an ad hoc committee of lawyers that would serve as a clearing house for requests from neighborhood organizations for legal assistance. The lawyers could help not only with nuisance suits but also in dealing with municipal authorities or helping pave the way for constructive improvement programs.

Roth believes "this might be a way to institutionalize a happy connection between lawyers living in the community and their neighbors".

**..the owner
failed to
remedy the
situation.**

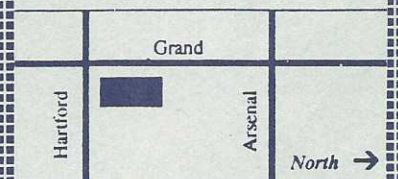


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TIPS FOR GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN

To keep your grade school children safe from abduction, keep the following tips in mind:

- Always tell your parents where you will be.

- Travel in groups or with a buddy. There is safety in numbers.

- If you see someone hanging around the schoolyard, go back into the school and tell an adult. To be able to give a good description, try to remember as much information as you can.

- If you see someone hanging around the park, tell your parents.

- Do not travel in areas that are dark and vacant.

- Do not accept job offers, rides, or gifts from a stranger or someone you don't know well.

- If a person you know asks you to go with him/her, do not go unless you first get permission from your parents, and let the person know that your parents have given permission.

- Do not take dares to go into rough or poorly lit areas.

- It is not fun to run away from

home. There is nothing so terrible that you cannot tell someone you trust.

- Do not answer the door when you are home alone.

- Do not tell people you are home alone.

- If someone keeps calling or trying to get in, call the police at once.

- If people in cars ask directions, step back and tell the people that you do not know, and walk quickly away. Adults should not be asking children for directions.

- If someone touches you in a way that feels bad, say "NO" and tell. It is your body and nobody has a right to touch you in a way that feels bad. TELL and keep telling until somebody believes you. Remember, YOU did nothing wrong.

- If people promise you a TV or modeling career, tell your parents and let them check out the agency for you.

- If scared or frightened, go to a safe house. Your parents can tell you which house is safe and/or you may see a Block Parent sign in the window showing that the people can help you.

HORTICULTURAL CORNER

Think Spring!

To quote a famous philosopher and poet, "Hi-de-ho, neighbor!" The year has gone out in a blaze of color and now we are beset with the drabness of winter. But, take heart gardeners the beauty of spring is just outside your door.

This is the time of year when our mailboxes are overflowing with all those glorious plant and seed catalogs. If they aren't, maybe they should be.

When those catalogs start pouring in take some time to look them over, reflect on the performance of this year's garden and start making plans for next year's garden. Every year hundreds of new plants are being introduced into the industry. These new plants allow gardeners to be innovative and creative in their landscapes.

If, while you're snuggled up with your catalogs, you come up with questions that need to be answered or have an interest in learning more about a specific topic write them down and send them to me at 3822 Connecticut and I'll try to write about them in future columns.

Have a great holiday and think spring.

Benjamin N. Chu is a Horticultural Supervisor and the Curator of the Japanese Garden at Missouri Botanical Garden.



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We are looking for individuals who can help in any one of a variety of ways: write an article, take 2 or 3 photos for an issue, take part in our folding party which lasts 3 hours every two months, or simply call with an idea for an article.

If you would like to be a member of the Gazette staff, contact your block captain or call Don at 772-9151.

MOVIE REVIEW



"Bullets Over Broadway"

Directed by Woody Allen

By Stephanie Gavin

As a loyal Woody Allen fan, I always go to his movies expecting humor, interesting characters, and a moral theme of sorts. I got what I expected in "Bullets Over Broadway." I believe it is Woody Allen at his best since "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

The movie, set during Prohibition era New York, has a pretty simple plot; a young playwright (John Cusack) gets a chance to make it big when the production of his play is completely financed. However, the financial backer is the leader of the mafia. And of course there's a catch. He must cast the girlfriend of the mob leader in a prominent role. And she turns out to be an inexperienced, untalented young lady played by Jennifer Tilly. Tilly is completely convinc-

ing as the ignorant, irritating bimbo who may ruin the playwright's big break.

Dianne Wiest, in a performance refreshingly different from her stuttering, insecure characters of her Allen films past, plays an aging, drinking Broadway star who is cast in the leading role. "Bullets Over Broadway" is worth seeing if only for Wiest's memorable, hilarious "Don't Speak" line used throughout the movie.

An excellent supporting cast, including Mary-Louise Parker, Tracey Ullman, and Rob Reiner, all perform Woody Allen's tradition of eccentric characters to the hilt. But the real star of the show is the bodyguard of the mobster's girlfriend, played by Chazz Palminteri. As Pearl's bodyguard, Cheech must attend all rehearsals, and help Pearl memorize her lines. Eventually he begins to make blunt suggestions for dramatic changes and suddenly the play takes off, as does the movie.

"Bullets Over Broadway" is full of interesting sets and costumes of 1920's New York. And the dialogue between Allen's characters is as rich as ever. What I found most interesting in the movie was the message that artists create their own moral universes. "Bullets Over Broadway" is an example of a gifted artist still able to produce great work despite the negative publicity of his moral character in recent months. It deserves to be judged on the creative work alone, and not by the moral universe in which Woody Allen chooses to live in his private life.

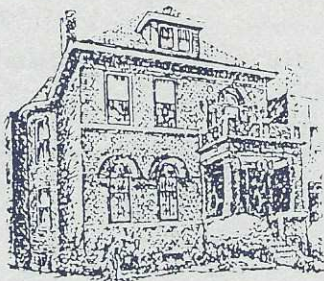
"Bullets Over Broadway" will be available soon at your video store.

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PROGRESSIVE PARTY

by Don Hardin

Saturday, February 11th, was marked on many calendars on the 3800 block of Hartford. This was the date of the annual Progressive Cocktail Party. Twenty-eight friends and neighbors braved the biting cold to take part in this February tradition.

The first stop was at the home of Rick and Don where cocktails and light snacks were served. The favorite "brew" offered was the MONSOON (a tasty run concoction brought by Chris and Pat).

...A PUNCH WITH A PUNCH.

Stop number two was the home of Frank and Jenny. Among the many appetizers where spicy chicken wings and crab dip.

The home of Tom and Jan was the third stop. Mark's potato skins were my favorite; along with a punch with a punch.

The final stop was the home of Tim and Debbie (Hartford Arms) for coffee and desserts. "Death by Chocolate" (thanks Tricia) was one of the favorites here.

Good friends and neighbors, both old and new, had a great evening feeding the mind, soul, and body.

A progressive party is a perfect way to have fun and at the same time meet new neighbors and make new friends. Plan one on your block. I guarantee it will become a favorite fun tradition for you and your neighbors.

YOUR FAVORITE MECHANIC

Backfiring

By Terry Mayes

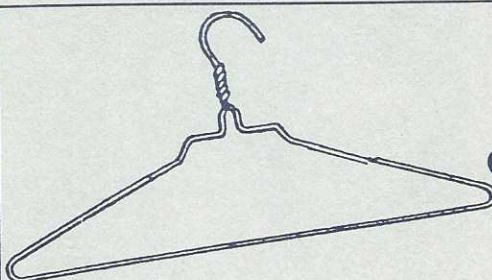
This happens to both carbureted and throttle body fuel-injected vehicles. Wet weather affects spark plug wires and distributor cap areas the most. If your car backfires and the motor quits, there are a couple of simple things to do. First, open the engine compartment and locate the distributor. The distributor is round, about 10-12 inches in circumference, with wires protruding from it.

Alright now, using a straight slot screwdriver, locate the attaching screws for the cap. Push down on them and turn counter-clockwise. Most cars have two screws but, some other types of cars have four and some have spring clips. Once you have loosened these clips or screws, pull up on and remove the cap. Do not pull any wires loose. By the way, the screws or clips won't fall out or off. Now, just simply take a napkin or dry cloth and wipe out any moisture inside

the cap. If you did not find any moisture, put the cap back on the same way it came off and consult a mechanic. Remember what you had to do to get the cap off and do the opposite to replace it. It's also possible that the carburetor vapor-locked. If that happened, simply remove the air cleaner and put a clothes pin in it to hold open the carburetor butterfly (the flap inside the round bowl). Be careful not to lose the air cleaner nut or nuts, whichever the case may be. They may be hard to replace.

Attach the clothes pin to the wall of the carburetor so it doesn't fall inside the carburetor. This will allow more air mixture to reach the cylinder, and hopefully allow the car to start. On throttlebody fuel injected motors, which don't have a butterfly on the top, this will not be necessary, since this type of motor won't vapor-lock.

And lastly, remember, don't allow your teenage son or daughter to drive, and keep the streets safe.



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