

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 11, No. 6

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

November 2000



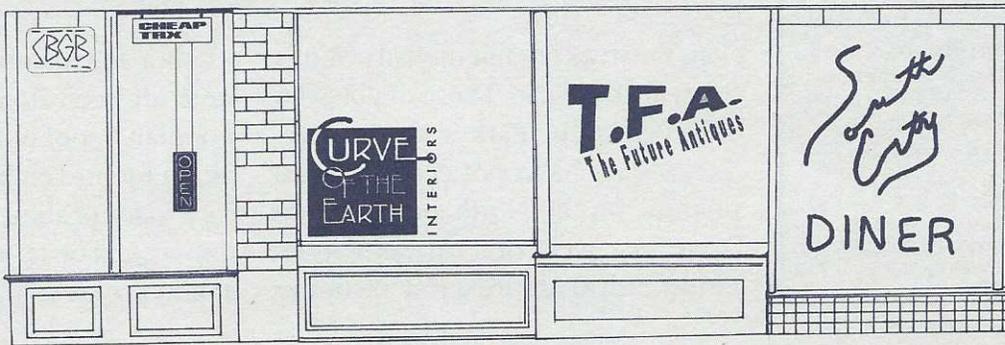
Christmas Window Shopping on Grand South Grand

By Don Hardin

“The eyes are the windows of the soul.” So, windows may give a hint to the soul of a building. Grand South Grand has some beautiful windows. Christmas shopping for me always starts as a scouting expedition (window shopping).

Cheap TRX is a great place to get something strange and wonderful for that person(s) who has everything. Futon Express’ has a lot more than futons – lamps, furniture, etc. I have solved the problem of what to get my son at T.F.A. for several years now. Goodies

from the 50’s, 60’s, 70’s and all sorts of retro gifts. For that someone special on your list, Curve of the Earth has an endless array of tasteful and unusual gift ideas. What can you say about Botanicals on the Park? If you can’t find a knockout gift here, you’re just not looking.



All the great places on Grand South Grand that I checked with offer gift certificates. Perfect, if you want to have your intended target participate in their

own gift selection. South City Diner, Shelton Davis Salon, Le Petit Paris, and CBGB have come to my rescue in the past and will again this year.

Letter from the President

By Cheryl Jones
President, TGHNA

I want to thank all of you for your contribution to my personal growth. Representing this neighborhood has proven to be one of the most challenging and fulfilling experiences of my life.

I had dreams of a year full of fun and fundraising. We had that, along with a few nightmares and people raising Cane. I knew that finding time to go to meetings twice a month would be difficult. I never thought that I would be the one trying to convince others to attend extra meetings that I had arranged. (“Oh, c’mon, we really need you to be there.”) I saw us as one neighborhood. I forgot that there are over 1000 opinions in that one neighborhood and that they would all have my phone number and address!

And even though it could not have been more different than I expected, I would not change anything, with the exception of some of the people who “worked” on the Arsenal Traffic Task

force with me. I have learned to exercise more patience, restraint and courage than I ever knew that I could. I have learned to withstand public criticism. And I have practiced hanging on when no resolution is in sight. Each of these things has helped me in my personal and professional life.

Thank you all for helping me to grow and for entrusting me with such a precious responsibility. I know that you have not always agreed with my actions and my methods. Still, I have always felt supported. I am sure you will provide the same support and trust to Michael Renner, who takes office in January.

It is true that when I agreed to serve as president I did not fully understand the scope of the job. It has been fun and at the same time rigorous and demanding. I have been sometimes unsure as to whether I should thank or slap the person who nominated me. But in quiet moments I am overwhelmed by the greatness of this community and feel humble and proud all at once that my name has been associated with it in such a public way.

The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette. Mail them to: The Gazette/TGHNA, 3735 Connecticut, St. Louis, MO 63116 or email tod.a.martin@worldnet.att.net.

TGHNA General Meetings are held at 7:15PM on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except Dec) at the First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming.

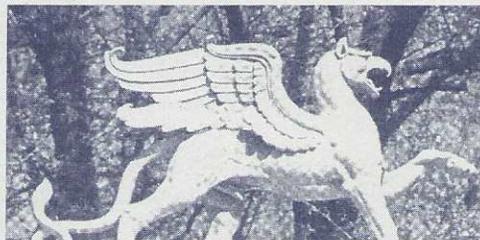
Tower Grove Park News

By John Karel,
Park Director

Now is a wonderful time of year to take a stroll through the Park and observe the beauty of the changing seasons. The sassafras trees seem to be especially beautiful this year. We intend to plant more of these and other Missouri natives in the next few years. How-

ever, the trees are not the only things changing this year. Those of you who have visited the Park in the last few weeks may have noticed a natural sinkhole on the North side of Main Drive just west of Cypress Circle. This natural depression is being

turned into a woodland pool thanks to the efforts of Webster Groves Nature Society, Soil Conservation Services, and the Missouri Department of Conservation, all of whom have been working together to provide a bird habitat not presently available in



the Park. This pool will have gently sloping banks, which will enable many birds to use the pool for water.

Labor and materials for this project have all been donated. This small woodland pool will be a pleasant location for bird enthusiasts and casual Park visitors alike. We invite you to stop by and observe this transformation in progress.

Holiday Journeys



*Victorian Christmas Ornament Exhibition**

Tower Grove House
Opens Nov. 18, 12 to 4 p.m.
Through Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*"A Victorian Holiday" Flower Show**

Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Holiday Wreath Exhibit

Nov. 22 - to Jan. 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Garden Gate Shop Holiday Sale

Dec. 8 - 10

*Tower Grove House Holiday Luncheons**

Nov. 28, 29, Dec. 11 & 14, noon
Reservations: 577-5150

*Carols in the Garden**

Dec. 7 & 8, 5 to 9 p.m.

*Tower Grove House Candlelight Tours**

Dec. 7 & 8, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Reservations: 577-5150

*Madrigal Dinner**

Dec. 16, 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Reservations: 577-5125

Chanukah: Festival of Lights

Dec. 17, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kwanzaa: Festival of the First Fruits

Dec. 30, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Dining on South Grand

Restaurant Review - Gulf Coast Café
By Tim & Deb Akin

The Gulf Coast Café fills a void in the restaurant scene on Grand Avenue. The café specializes in seafood and does it very well. It is located in the space formerly occupied by Pho Grand. Owner and chef Sadik Kukic has remodeled the space into a comfortable and appealing environment that reminds me of a café in Europe. Although the restaurant is small, the service is fast and efficient yet friendly and relaxed. We have never had to wait long for a table even when it was very busy.

We have tried several of the appetizers and recommend them highly. The Shrimp Basilico and Shrimp Scampi are sure things for shrimp lovers. Debbie loves scallops and enjoys the Scallops Breval. I even tried the Italian Style Steamed Mussels. It was the first time I actually enjoyed mussels. They were tender with a flavorful garlic white wine and parsley sauce.



An entrée includes salad or the soup of the day. During our last visit the soup of the day was Fish soup. It had a tomato base with small pieces of several varieties of fish. I love fish so it was no surprise that I enjoyed it. As with all of the fish and seafood dishes at the Café the soup was not "fishy." If Fish

soup doesn't sound appealing to you, I would recommend trying this soup if it is available on your next visit.

We have not tried all of the entrees on the menu but we can recommend a few. If you love the taste and texture of shellfish without lots of sauces and spices covering up the flavor I would recommend the Shellfish Algarve. It has a little of each shellfish sautéed in olive oil with a hint of crushed red pepper served over angel hair pasta. The Grilled Salmon Philip is the best fish on the menu. It is grilled and topped with crab and hollandaise sauce. Finally, for those who would rather eat something that hasn't lived in the ocean (at least not in recorded history), the Sirloin Strip Steak got rave reviews from our neighbor Jay.

The Gulf Coast Café is at 3191 South Grand Blvd. They are open Monday-Thursday 11am-10pm, Friday-Saturday 11am-11pm and Closed Sunday. Call 314.664.3940 for more information.

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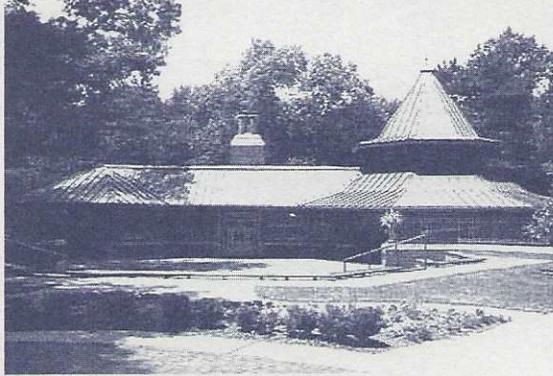
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Treasures of Tower Grove Park

The Stupp Center
By Don Hardin

Although the Stupp Center and Memorial Garden is the newest addition to Tower Grove Park, it was designed by its donors and the architectural firm of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum to continue the park's traditional service to its surrounding community and its tradition of distinguished architecture in the midst of a carefully created urban forest.

Since the beginning – it opened on 16 December 1982 – the principal mission of the Stupp Center has been to serve as a sort of air-conditioned extension of the nearby Sons of Rest Pavilion. The latter pavilion takes its name from its popularity with older visitors to the park. The air-conditioned Stupp Center continues that mission. Built thanks to a generous gift from Louise Stupp and matching funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior, it is home to a series of planned activities for our community's seniors, as well



as a popular site for weddings and rehearsal dinners, club meetings, and corporate meetings – it averages over 10,000 visitors a year!

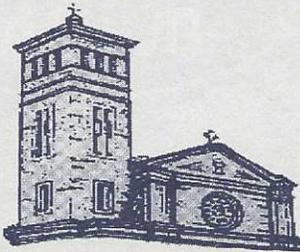
From the outside, the visitor first notices the two-tiered hexagonal roof of the center's north end – a late twentieth century quotation in standing-seam metal of two of the park's best loved summer-houses, the Turkish Pavilion and the Music Stand. In contrast to its metal roof, the walls of the L-shaped brick Stupp Center were designed to nestle – almost disappear – into their wooded setting.

The view from within the Stupp Center is of the park itself. The windows of its octagonal great room bring the

park – especially the Memorial garden with its eagle fountain – inside.

A continuation of the Tower Grove Park tradition of public sculpture, the bronze eagle which takes flight from the red granite pillar in the fountain is the work of sculptor Walter Hauk.

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We Live on Utah *and* Potomac

By Rich Iezzi

It's easy to spot Norm Henenberg and Mary Jane Cannon's house at 3667 Utah. The house is aflame with beautiful vintage colors that highlight the front porch while the ubiquitous dumpster is parked in front. Here's another story of "private money" being invested on our Tower Grove Heights.



Norm and Mary Jane purchased 3667 Utah in 1992 and are only the third owners of a home originally built by the Stupp family. After working on the house during nights and weekends, Norm decided that it was time to hit the gas. This usually means ripping the house apart, living in plaster dust and coming home every night to a house with its' insides exposed (is that why they call it "gut" rehab?).

Norm and Mary Jane had a plan "B." They already owned some rental houses and decided to invest locally while avoiding the "living with rehab" oxymoron by moving into their own rental house. From their temporary Potomac location, they don't have to

dust the plaster off plates before they use them, and it's easier to get perspective of the Utah project.

The Utah restoration involves every room on every floor including the reconditioning of the basement stone walls and a new garage. Although most of the work is contracted, Norm is able to drop by enough to run things. Throughout my conversation with the owners, the words "original" and "vintage" kept popping up. Norm and Mary Jane love the turn of the century features but also know that central air helps make a house a home.

The radiators were retained for heating and their vintage look but an independent zoned cooling system was added. I noticed a huge cast iron tub on the third floor that will be pressed into service again. Norm told me he

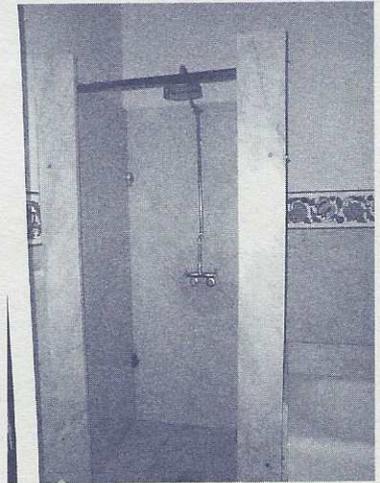


could still see the marks on the stairs from when the tub was originally dragged up to the third floor. The third floor bathroom features a beautiful heartwood pine door mounted as a slider that will open onto a floor of tiles crafted in the original style of the house.



A third floor exercise room is also planned to occupy much of the remaining space.

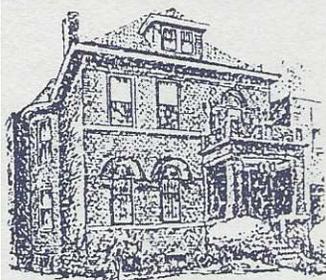
The second floor has many bedrooms featuring fireplaces with beautiful mantles. The original mirrors have been re-silvered and the mantle woodwork is being cleaned just enough to highlight the natural patina. The fireplaces have been returned to their original gas. The second floor bathroom is huge and must have two tons of original marble. The marble shower re-



minds me of something you'd see in the Lemp Mansion and the tile floor will be faithful to the original design with a turn of the century look.

Not to be left out, the kitchen displays a beautiful floor of quartersawn oak and will enjoy lots of use — Norm wants to spend his former rehab hours cooking.

The house will be spectacular when it's completed, and I bet Norm and Mary Jane didn't miss crunching around on that plaster one little bit.



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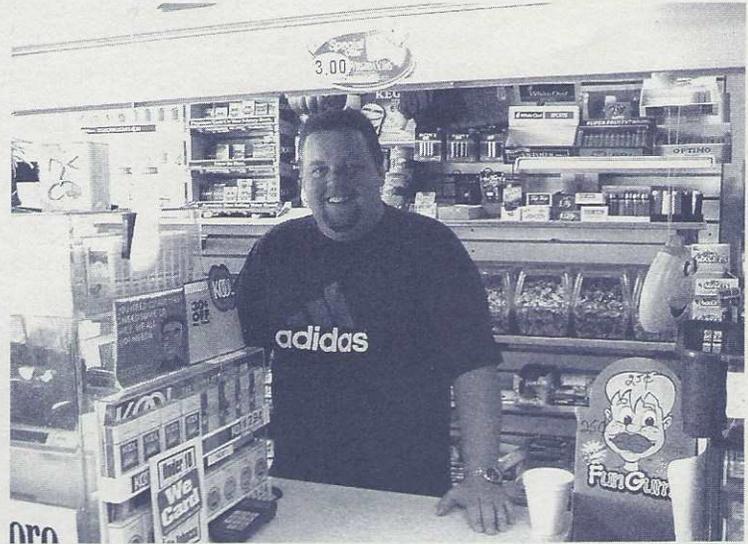
The Gustine Market

By Patty Schneider,
Treasurer, TGHNA

A childhood rite of passage is the first time you are old enough to walk to the corner store by yourself. I still remember the first time I went to the store by myself; I was about five years old. Before I walked those three long blocks to Mueller's Grocery, my mother gave me a dollar for the carrots she needed, as well as, a reminder not to accept a ride from a stranger. As I walked home with those carrots, eating the penny candy I bought with the change, I felt like a big kid. What a sense of freedom to go to the store and buy candy (and carrots). That corner store in my hometown has gone the way of the dinosaur. I wonder if this is a dying rite of passage. The

Tower Grove Heights neighborhood is lucky enough to have the Gustine Market. It is a store that sells all the basic necessities as well as penny candy.

Jeff Benne, the proprietor of the Gustine Market, runs the store with two other employees. Many a time, on the way home or to work, I have stopped by to purchase items needed from milk to cat food to deodorant. Jeff and his staff greet you with a smile. It is great to live in a neighborhood where you know the people running the businesses. After school, the neighborhood children practice their newly-learned math skills, trying to purchase as much candy as they can with the coins in their



Jeff Benne, Owner of the Gustine Market

pockets. I have to admit I am a fan of Laffy Taffy and LemonHead candy as well.

Jeff has made a commitment to this neighborhood in buying the building that the Gustine Market has occupied for years. In addition, he and his wife are raising their three children in the Grand South Grand neighborhood. He has owned the business for five years, and the market has undergone transformation in those five years with more in store. Some of the noticeable changes are the return of the windows and the new door. In the spirit of all new building owners, there is a plan for renovation. A new floor is to be laid before Christmas. He also plans to reopen the deli and make fresh sandwiches. Did you know that he currently makes large party sub sandwiches? Last weekend, a 12 foot sandwich kept a wedding party fed and merry. If you're interested in placing an order, he can be reached at 772-5003. Jeff also has plans to rehab the apartment over the store.

The next time you are in need of a couple items, stop by the Gustine Market. Say "hi" to Jeff or Sandy. Try one of the Deli sandwiches. You'll be glad you did.



Gustine Market, 3150 Gustine



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Neighborhood Economic Development News

By Jennifer Florida

Southtown Site/Kingshighway & Chippewa

Scheduled hearings have been set before the Board of Adjustment to consider DDR's appeal of the Board of Public Service's denial of a conditional use permit to build a Big K at the Southtown site.

August 23: A crowd of more than 150 people filled the chairs in Hearing Room 208 of City Hall. DDR and K-Mart presented their case to the Board of Adjustment. The next hearing date was set for September 27. DDR/K-Mart would continue to argue their case on this date.

September 27: About 100 people fidgeted in their chairs for almost 45 minutes, waiting for all the members of the Board of Adjustment to arrive. When the hearing finally began, it quickly stalled when both sides became entangled in arguments over legal representation.

The lawyer for DDR/K-Mart, Bill Kuehling, objected to the appointed legal representative of the Board of Adjustment. Steve Gregali, Alderman in the 14th Ward, then objected to Bill Kuehling representing DDR/K-Mart. Gregali stated that Kuehling represents the city in other matters and that this might constitute a conflict of interest.

Enter John Koch, the Zoning Administrator who recommended that the Board of Public Service deny DDR's request for a conditional use permit. Koch voiced his objection. He stated that the hearing should not continue until legal representation was provided to him and the Board of Public Service. All sides agreed to seek an opinion about these matters from the Missouri Bar.

In the meantime, the Southtown Coalition is continuing to collect letters from neighborhood residents who oppose building a K-Mart at the site, working to solidify alternative development, and exploring the use of eminent domain to gain control of the site. **Next BOA Hearing: November 8, 2000, 1:30 PM, City Hall, Room 208.**

South Side National Bank

At a meeting in the Mayor's office on August 31, Mayor Harmon, Tom Teschner, (President and CEO of South Side National Bank) and representatives of SLDC (St. Louis Development Corporation) agreed to work together to redevelop the South Side National Bank building. An agreement was reached to identify a company to complete a detailed analysis of the cost of redevelopment. (The original feasibility study only investigated broad estimates of costs). This more detailed study is not expected to be completed until November.

Meanwhile back at the bank... Even as South Side National Bank pledged to work with the Grand & Gravois Coalition, it continued to pursue other options. On **August 29**, SSNB asked the Board of Public Service (John Koch hears arguments again!) to grant a conditional use permit to build a Walgreens with a drive-in at the corner of Grand and Gravois. Of course, to do this, the SSNB building would have to be demolished. At this time, Mr. Koch has not made a recommendation to the Board of Public Service.

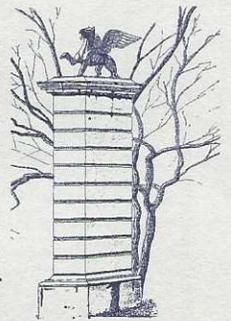
Latest breaking good news...

Walgreens notified Alderwoman Marge Vining they are no longer interested in the SSNB site! Recent Walgreens press releases support this statement.

Gravois Plaza

K-Mart officially closed on August 23. According to Brian Neltner, a representative of Kimco (the company who owns Gravois Plaza), there is a proposal to demolish K-Mart, reconfigure the plaza in an ell-shape and have a major grocery store chain as the anchor store. The redevelopment plan is designed so that the current businesses will not have to be shut down during the redevelopment.

Thanks very much to all who attended public meetings and forums, signed letters and attended hearings. Thanks to Ruth Ehresman, who provided the heart of this text.



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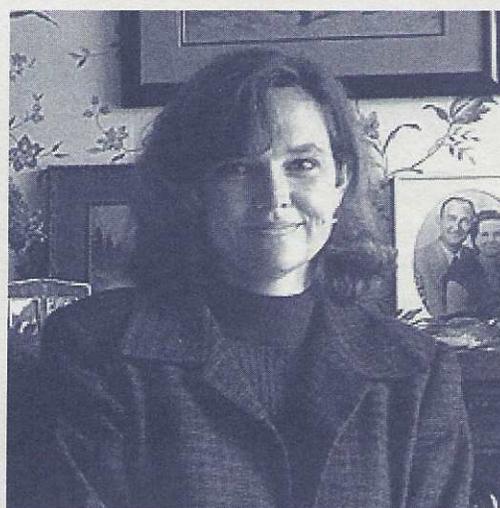
Jennifer Florida

15th Ward Alderwoman

Building an even better neighborhoodtogether.

*I have been involved in community work for the last few years...through the church, through C-4(Churches Committed to Community Concerns) & Coalition work for the redevelopment of South Side National Bank & Gravois Plaza. I want to be your representative to the Board of Alderman to **work full time** at making the 15th Ward a great place to live, shop and do business. I intend to **build** relationships, **increase** communication, **continue** investment, **work** with businesses and commercial districts, **build a united 15th Ward.***

- Resident of South St. Louis City-16 years
- Married to Mark Florida -16 years. We have 4 children ages: 15, 13, 9 & 7. Our children are 5th generation city residents.
- Block Captain
- Churches Committed to Community Concerns 1997 to present/C-4 President's Award 2000
- St. Pius Vth School Board
- C-4 Leader in Grand & Gravois Coalition for the redevelopment of South Side National Bank
- C-4 Leader in the Redevelopment of Gravois Plaza
- Member of St. Paul UCC, Giles & Potomac
- Member TGH Neighborhood Association
- 1983 Graduate, Illinois State University



Jennifer Florida....a track record of leadership... service...

As your alderwoman I intend to:

- Build relationships with Third District Police Department, city agencies, local businesses and our neighborhood associations. I will meet regularly with Neighborhood Association Presidents. I will continue to work with the Block Captains and our NSO. Build a united Tower Grove South.
- Increase communication by sponsoring a newsletter that would go out to all of our residents. It would highlight what I am doing as your alderwoman and what is happening in our neighborhoods as well as our beautiful Tower Grove Park.
- Strengthen the Grand Oak Hill Housing Task Force by giving the Task Force the responsibility of reviewing/choosing housing development proposals in cooperation with Tower Grove South Management Corporation.
- Create a process/task force in which neighborhoods are able to communicate their capital improvement needs.

For Our Future

- Through a community based planning process, create and begin implementing a five-year plan.
- In cooperation with existing businesses, continue efforts of implementing redevelopment plans for our commercial districts: Gravois, Morganford & South Grand.
- I will work very hard to support private and public investment in our housing stock.
- I will work to increase owner occupied residents in our neighborhoods where there are few owner occupied properties.
- Support the efforts of Community Court/ Housing Court. The maintenance of our beautiful buildings is important to the safety and economic welfare of our neighborhoods.

As your alderwoman, I will listen to your ideas and your hopes for our ward. I will represent you.

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Editor's Note: The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association does not endorse candidates for political office. This is a paid advertisement.

Getting Help from the Citizen's Service Bureau

By Jill Nissen
Chair, Block Captains

When you see a problem happening on your block, haven't you ever wondered why no one else seems to be bothered by it? How can no one else notice what's happening? In fact, people living near you are probably affected by the same problem and are probably troubled by it. Problems such as car honking, trash accumulation, stray dogs, derelict buildings, loud radios, broken sidewalks, or even suspected drug sales, can all contribute to a diminished quality of life in our neighborhood. Too often, we fail to complain about problems because we don't know whom to call; or else, we feel our complaints will go unanswered.

The problems that affect our neighborhood are the responsibility of the Citizen's Service Bureau. The Bureau should be contacted when registering complaints regarding City services or neighborhood concerns. They are available Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at **314-622-4800**. When calling CSB, try to provide the exact address of the property in question. If you're unsure whether your problem falls within their scope, just go ahead and call them. They will route complaints and concerns to the appropriate city agency, such as the health department, or buildings department or street department. CSB says some complaints receive responses more quickly than others because of the nature of the problem cited. The health department may need to act more quickly on a problem than the street department, while the building department may need to go through

the courts to resolve a problem.

One way of assuring that your complaint receives notice is to ask your neighbors to contact CSB themselves to register a similar complaint. It's a proactive means of solving a problem, and helps CSB recognize the severity of the nuisance. Complaint calls to CSB help them create documentation on problem properties, problem landlords, etc. CSB suggests that whenever you make a call to the police to report a nuisance that you follow up with a call to CSB. On a monthly basis, the CSB Nui-

sance Committee reviews the number of complaints received about a single address and checks the police records to assess how many calls police received for the same address. The high number of calls about a single address helps them justify action on their part. The CSB then works to identify the best resolution to the problem at hand.

So next time you see something that really needs to stop, or to be fixed, or to be done on a regular basis, call the Citizen's Service Bureau. Then ask your neighbors to call, too!

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Why You Should Join Your TGHNA

By Michael Renner
President-Elect, TGHNA

When my wife Meg and I moved into the Heights nearly two years ago, we knew the area was something special. We knew this home was a long-term investment, not simply a stepping stone to some other house. Within just a few weeks of moving in we met neighbors, many of whom preceded us by only a year or two. But the message was clear from everyone: If you haven't joined the neighborhood association, do so.

The price was right—cheap—even if all the benefits were unclear. After all, I am a dues-paying member of lots of organizations just because I believe in what they stand for. When we went to our first meeting, we were impressed by the level of involvement of residents. That many of our new neighbors and friends were there made it even more enjoyable. I remember listening to everything presented with open ears and excitement. I learned so much about our new neighborhood in just a few meetings. Our neighborhood stabilization officer attended and kept us up to date on important issues like crime, housing upkeep and political issues. Guest speakers exposed us to services or issues that affected our neighborhood. Even our state representative showed up. I was a sponge, soaking

up everything I could about this area. Even though you don't have to be a member to attend our monthly meetings, I was glad we joined.

But that was the easy part. We paid our dues, went to a few meetings and received this excellent newsletter. In this culture of "what's in it for me," the true value of joining the association is much more intangible, I think. Neighborhoods thrive solely by the sweat and commitment of their residents. And it's

an arbitrary point. Frankly, I haven't a clue as to what it actually means, but I put it in the context of the neighborhood in which we live. We are the set of points—the residents—that surround the specific point—the physical neighborhood. To take this ungainly analogy a step further, we each have a point from which we choose to operate. Some desire to take leadership roles. Others are comfortable with helping out in many of our fundraising func-



not easy. We all know of strong neighborhoods and weak ones. Each of us could point to a different piece that makes it strong: a church, a school, a business community, an alderman, an active neighborhood association. Those sparkplugs that drive the engine can do nothing without involved, committed residents.

There is a mathematical theory called the "neighborhood of a point" in which there are a set of points surrounding a specific point, each of which is at a distance from the specific point less than

tions like running a concession stand at Busch stadium or working at the annual plant and garage sales. Some organize our annual garden and Christmas lighting awards or the annual Operation Brightside cleanup effort. Others use their skills to sell ads and publish the high-quality newsletter you're reading now. Still others fold newsletters, lick stamps or deliver stuff to your door.

In other words, there's room for every level of involvement you feel you can give. But becoming a member of this neighborhood association is the starting point. That sole action alone shows a level of commitment missing from most neighborhoods. A new book out—"Bowling Alone in America"—says that civic involvement in local groups has decreased substantially over the past few decades. It may be the nature of the times that we have myriad demands and choices that fill up our after-work time. We live our lives, fix our old houses and maybe know a neighbor or two. But there must be time for sustaining the neighborhood in which we do all those things. Join now. Don't make one us call you.

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Kids' Writing Contest!

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (TGHNA) and its *Gazette* would like to see writing by the children and teens in our area...

Eligibility:

Kids in grades 4-12 who live in Tower Grove Heights, whether in public, private or home school, or kids who attend one of our neighborhood schools. (Tower Grove Heights is made up of the streets bounded by Grand on the east and Gustine on the west, Arsenal on the north and Utah on the south.) Maximum age: 18. (Kids younger than those in 4th grade may also enter, but their writing will be judged with the group in grades 4 & 5.)

What kind of writing:

Stories and essays, any length, any subject. Kids stumped for a topic might write about some part of the neighborhood's history, or interview a neighbor, grandparent or friend who's lived in the neighborhood a long time or grew up here. Or, kids may imagine: Halloween in the Heights, Christmas at Home, Summertime in Tower Grove Park, or etc.!

Format:

Print neatly on lined paper, skipping every other line; OR, print or type, double-spaced, on a computer or typewriter. For more than one page, staple the pages together. On the first page, put:

Name & Grade

Parent or Guardian's Name

Phone Number & Address

More than one story or essay may be submitted. Give each one a title!

Judging:

Stories and essays will be reviewed by grade groupings 4-5, 6-8, 9-12.

Judges will be Tod Martin, *Gazette* Editor, Meg Renner, and Suzanne Rhodenbaugh. (None of the judges has school-age children.)

We will look for liveliness, originality, good organization, correct use of grammar and spelling.

Mail to:

Kids' Writing Contest, TGHNA
3735 Connecticut Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63116

OR

Drop off at:
3734 Arsenal
(Put through mail slot.)

Deadline: December 15, 2000.

Winners will be published in the *Tower Grove Heights Gazette*, receive \$25, and be recognized at the January 2001 TGHNA meeting.

Good Luck!

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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Sunday School 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am

Civic Organization with an Edge

By Brian Marston

Metropolis St. Louis is an independent not-for-profit organization working to create and promote an environment in the city of St. Louis that attracts and retains young people. Begun as a conversation in March of 1997, Metropolis has grown into a movement with more than 1,300 dues-paying members. All of its many projects are initiated, planned and carried out by volunteers in true grassroots fashion. In short, Metropolis is a civic organization with an edge.

At the heart of the organization are five action-oriented project groups: leadership, living environment, perception, policy and social events. No matter what aspect of city revitalization you're interested in, there's a place for you in Metropolis. The group works hard and plays hard. Ongoing Metropolis projects include an alliance with Bryan Hill Elementary School in the College Hill neighborhood, neighborhood cleanup blitzes called The Wash, a monthly visit to a worship service in the city called The Pew, a weekly downtown pub crawl called The Walk, a program called Welcome to St. Louis to personally introduce newcomers to St. Louis, tours highlighting the architecture and history of different parts of the city, a Buy City! campaign to support local businesses, lobbying for home rule in the city of St. Louis, and leadership training seminars offered through the Metropolis Forum.

Metropolis has a strong presence in Tower Grove Heights. Three out of the six people who have served as Metropolis president lived in the neighborhood during their term (Dave Drebes,

Brian Marston, and the current president, Amanda Doyle).

All Metropolis events and meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend. See the group's Web site at www.mstl.org or call 206-3246 for a current calendar of events. A great way to find out about upcoming projects and

volunteer opportunities is to attend Metropolis' general meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM. You can contact Metropolis' membership chair, Brian Marston, at 772-5947 or webguy@fatdays.com for more information.

Everyone is welcome to join Metropolis. It doesn't matter where you live, how old you are or where you went to high school. To become a member, send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address and a \$15 check to:

Metropolis St. Louis
P.O. Box 8735
St. Louis, MO 63101

You'll receive a one-year subscription to Metropolis' monthly newsletter and a membership card that will entitle you to discounts at more than 30 city businesses. The \$15 (almost) covers the group's per-member operating expenses (postage, printing, database administration, insurance, etc.). Since Metropolis is a 501(c)(3) corporation, the membership fee and any additional donation you'd like to make are tax deductible.

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Preserving our Schools as Sanctuaries

Report from the Capitol
By Representative Pat Dougherty

a military training pilot program for middle school students; changes to school violence reporting methods; and additional requirements for school district safety coordinators.

If you would like a copy of this bill or any other bill, please feel free to contact my capitol office at 573-751-3599 or e-mail me at pdougher@services.state.mo.us.

Our schools have been in need to always be places of learning and to be safe for our children. Last year an Interim House Committee on School Violence was formed to take a closer look at where our schools excel and where they could use help. This committee was building on the foundation we created in 1996 with the passage of the Safe Schools Act. That piece of legislation put into place the integrated system of communications that assists our school officials, juvenile officers and law enforcement agents in dealing with troubled young people. It also created stricter penalties for school violence and establishing alternative education programs for students in need of help. Senate Bill 944, which was passed this year, enhances our efforts to preserve Missouri schools as safe havens for our young people. One of the provisions of the bill focuses on increasing safety not only in the school, but in the areas surrounding our school facilities as well. It extends the prohibition on possession of firearms or controlled substances to apply to the school playground or parking lot, school bus, or any school activity on or off the property. SB944 also provides us with a number of additional safeguards including:

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

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Questions? Call Tod Martin, Gazette Editor, at (314) 771-6292



Cardinal Flowers, Cloudless Sulfurs and the Weed Police



By Rick Clinebell

Hummingbirds are one of the really nifty things in the natural world, and we have them here in Tower Grove Heights. One of their favorite plants is cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), which blooms in late summer and into October with flowers of the most vivid scarlet. Many flowers pollinated by birds throughout the world are red, and this is thought to be associated with the fact that bees do not see the color red well, as instead of red as their third primary color, they see ultraviolet (bee purple). To attract hummers, I have blasted the front yard with cardinal flowers and it is always a delight to see them patronizing our little hummingbird deli.

Also visiting the cardinal flowers is one of our most impressive butterflies, the large cloudless sulfur, which is bright yellow and quite handsome. These butterflies are summer residents of Missouri, choosing to fly southeastward in the fall to winter in the Southeast. Any critters that have the good sense to spend the winter in Florida have my hearty approval.

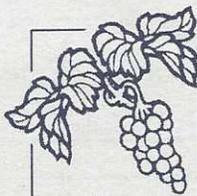
Meanwhile, in the backyard, the autumn goldfinches are feasting on the bounty of annual sunflower seeds which they find on the ten foot stalks of this festive plant, which also prompted a visit from the **weed police**. Somehow, these city employees have the idea that prairie plants are a haven for Norway rats, and thus a threat to God, flag and country, not to mention the safety and health of the citizenry. This is not true; however, an untoward encounter with the weed police can lead to a fine of \$500.

Near as I can determine, they are concerned with the height of foliage, and so am I, since my housemate has been grumbling for years that he's getting tired of not being able to get out

to the dumpster to carry out the garbage without a machete to clear the eight-foot tall prairie vegetation flopped over the sidewalk in the back. My only defense is that when I began this madness I didn't have anybody to help (warn) me about what I was in for. In truth, many of the species I have planted, though beautiful, do not stay put and behave themselves. For instance, a plant called "golden glow" was planted as a single clump along the fence about five years ago, and it only took it three years to fill the yard. Hey guys, I just wanted one clump of golden glow, not a solid mass of them from the back of the house to the alley!

Fortunately, my new job as nurseryman for the Riverfront Trail carries with it the responsibility of planting large areas of the Trail to native wetland and prairie wildflowers, and so our population explosion of golden glow has a home to go to. And so it goes for a dozen other species that I have planted here and that have, rather like the last of the wild prairie buffalo, broken down the fences, taken over the neighborhood

and were last seen galloping up Grand Avenue and headed toward the freeway. So I told the weed police we were moving the tall stuff out to the City's newest park, and trying to tame down the Hartford Street prairie to a lower profile affair by using less aggressive, lower profile species. Hopefully this will be accomplished by the time they get around to checking us out next time. The moral of the story: there are some native plants that were meant to blow in the wind and grow tall and stately in the landscape scale of the great outdoors, but in a small city yard, they stand out like a sore thumb, rather than contribute to the overall landscape harmony of the neighborhood. Rather, native plant enthusiasts should use lower profile species that don't flop over and invite visits from the weed police. My only defense is that I didn't have anybody to help me seven years ago when I set out to have native plants and butterflies and hummingbirds in Tower Grove Heights.



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Resident Profile – Denise Machaj

By Erin O'Reilly

Denise Machaj is the pharmacist who owns and operates the Medicine Shoppe at the corner of Hartford and Grand. She took over what was Byron Michelson's Paramount Pharmacy when he retired recently. She decided to move the pharmacy one block to the old Hesselberg's Pharmacy building, which had been empty for some time. This building has that old-fashioned "pharmaceutical look" that just seems to beckon those in need of prescription drugs. The outside façade is made of Vitralite which is imported from Italy. Denise was sad that the inside décor couldn't have been saved, but it is clean and modern looking now.

Denise is originally from Dyer, a suburb of Chicago. She came to St. Louis in 1988 to attend the College of Pharmacy. She returned to the Chicago area in 1994 to work for Walgreen's, but she missed the intimacy and "neighborly feeling" of St. Louis and moved back after one year. She continued to work for Walgreen's for a total of three years but became disillusioned with the big-business atmosphere of the chain store and left to work with Byron at Paramount. Denise flourished in the small/independent business atmosphere that allowed her to have the freedom to counsel and educate clients about their prescriptions. With the competition from the chain pharmacies, Denise decided to go with the Medicine Shoppe franchise when Byron retired and she bought the pharmacy. Medicine Shoppe is headquartered in St. Louis and has pharmacies around the world. Being with a franchise but independently owned allows for greater buying power, access to af-

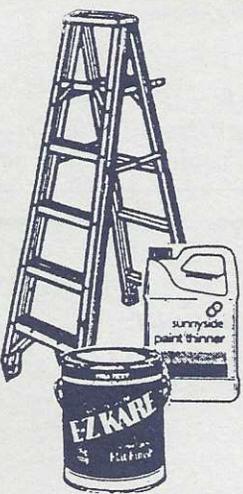
fordable insurance coverage, and marketing assistance; but independent control of stock and service issues. Most of Byron's staff moved with Denise and she enjoys their experience and loyalty! Almost all of the same services remain: the pharmaceuticals, delivery, unit-dose

do periodic blood pressure and diabetes screenings for the public.

Denise and her staff all live in the surrounding area also. Denise lives in a two family flat in Fox Park. Her brother, who also works for her, lives in the other flat. She has two dogs and a cat. Her cat was recently diagnosed with diabetes and Denise has to give her insulin shots (she states that her pharmacy dispenses medications for pets as well!). She stays very busy with her work at the pharmacy, which is open 6 days a week, but she has time for some volunteer work at the Tower Grove Manor for the senior citizens. She also has a relationship with the International Institute of St. Louis to provide the refugees with needed medicine. She likes being a pharmacist because she is able to help people and educate them about their medicines. When she has time, Denise also enjoys going hiking and camping.



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