

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 13, No. 3

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

October 2002



## Fund-Raiser to Help TGH Neighbors

### \* Taste Of The South Side to Benefit TGH neighbors

People looking to sample wonderful appetizers from local restaurants and bid on unique auction items, will be at "A Taste of the South Side."

DeSales Community Housing Corporation will sponsor its 12<sup>th</sup> annual "Taste" on October 18 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Five Church Older Adult Center, 2832 Arsenal. The money raised from this event will support the work of DeSales Housing in the Fox Park and Tower Grove East neighborhoods.

Participants will be able to sample various appetizers from South Side restaurants while socializing with friends. This year, guests will be able to sample wonderful appetizers from Norton's, The Shanti, Hodaks, Joanie's Pizzeria, Johnnie's, Alexander's and other various South Side restaurants.

Event participants will also receive a treat with the various auction items. This year's auction include a variety of items such as hockey tickets, weekend getaways, family fun packages, gift certificates to some of St. Louis' finest restaurants, and unique one-of-a-kind portraits, prints and jewelry.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at the DeSales office, 2759 Russell Blvd.

### About DeSales

DeSales Community Housing corporation is a community-based non-profit organization formed in 1976 to serve the Fox Park and Tower Grove East neighborhoods in the City of St. Louis. Governed by a board of directors composed of residents, business people and property owners, and employing a full-time staff, DeSales promotes the ongoing growth of these neighborhoods as healthy, diverse urban communities with quality housing. Since its inception, the housing corporation has generated over \$40 million of investment within its service area.

Programs include: Housing development; technical assistance to individuals, builders, and property owners; homebuyer counseling; neighborhood marketing; community development; business assistance.

Housing Development: In 1992, DeSales made the

strategic decision to become a producer of housing within its service area. This decision was made in response to economic recession and tax law changes that had virtually halted new investment coming into DeSales' community. Since completing its first project in 1994, DeSales has developed or acquired 195 units of multi-family housing, both market rate and income qualified.

The housing corporation's 130-unit Compton Hill Apartments property constitutes the largest market-rate, community-owned apartment community in the St. Louis area. Through its DeSales Mutual Housing Association (MHA) affordable housing program, DeSales has developed 65 Low Income Housing Tax Credit units, generating \$7.5 million in investment and dramatically improving several formerly distressed blocks.

DeSales also develops single-family housing and assists others in doing so.

Technical Assistance: DeSales offers assistance to homebuyers and developers interested in living or investing in Tower Grove East and Fox Park. Services include property selection and acquisition, homebuyer counseling, financing and contractor referrals, and interface with city departments.

In 2000, DeSales launched its Matched Savings Program for residents of its DeSales MHA units. Based on the Individual Development Account model, this program matches the savings of low-income households on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to \$500 per year.

Community Organizing: DeSales assists the Fox Park and Tower Grove East neighborhoods in block unit organizing, safety, neighborhood planning, and beautification. In Fox Park, DeSales has been heavily involved in neighborhood planning through the Sustainable Neighborhoods Initiative. In Tower Grove East, the housing corporation has collaborated with the neighborhood association and Neighborhood Housing Services of St. Louis to put together a targeted investment strategy for the southern section of the neighborhood.

For more information about DeSales, call 776-5444 or visit [www.desaleshousing.com](http://www.desaleshousing.com).



# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

[www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com)

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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 [GazetteEditor@towergroveheights.com](mailto:GazetteEditor@towergroveheights.com).

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

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Suzanne has a strong belief and support in community development. She is a neighbor, homeowner, property developer and landlord. She is a past board member and current member of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association; a past board member of the Grand Oak Hill Community Corp.; and a member of Metropolis Saint Louis.

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# Incense And Imports brings fresh scents to South Grand

By Matt Fernandes

Sherman Valley has had a penchant for all things odoriferous since his mother became a florist as he grew up in Compton Heights.

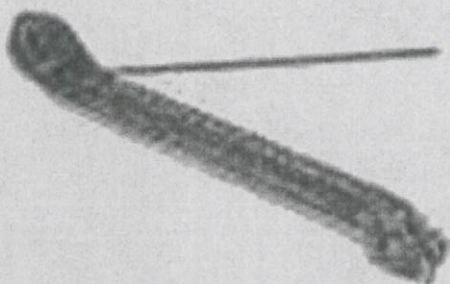
"Aromatherapy is my main interest," said Valley, who owns the shop Incense And Imports on Grand near Humphrey. He began making his own incense after getting burned out from the mass produced incense he was using.

"I noticed headaches," he said, adding that the fragrances were commonly off.

"The petuli smelled like burning trees."

Valley honed his craft and began selling incense at markets such as the Soulard Farmers Market. He opened Incense And Imports in January of this year. Using

his skill as a union carpenter, he rehabbed the space and set up the shop, which also offers soaps, jewelry, tapestries, oils, glassware and gifts.



"We're pretty much incense brokers for St. Louis," said Valley, noting that he imports incense from Ireland, India, Nepal, Tibet, Hawaii, France and a large amount from Japan. Regarding his homemade incense, though,

Valley is unabashedly proud.

"It's our family tradition that has kept us noticed as having the best quality incense in St. Louis."

Valley plans to remain at the same location for a long time and hopes that the business district continues to improve. He believes the strip will "in five years be one of the best loops for shopping" in the region.

To bring in more tourists, though, he has two main suggestions: more parking and more security. Also, Valley wishes South Grand was mentioned in the tourist brochures commonly found at airports and visitor's bureaus.

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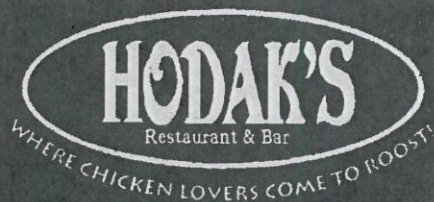
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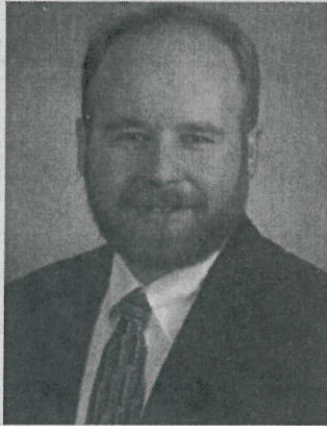
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# A Note from Representative Mike Daus

Dear Neighbors,

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly explain three of the



issues you will be voting on in the November election. The first is constitutional amendment #1. If passed Amendment number 1 would allow the City of St. Louis to revise their current charter. One of the results that could occur with passage of this measure would be to turn some of our currently elected county offices into appointed positions. Proponents argue that this would make city government more efficient. Opponents argue that it disenfranchises voters because it may remove their ability to elect these positions.

Amendment number 3 deals with term limits in the Missouri Legislature. It only affects those members sworn into office for the first time after December 5, 2002. This amendment would exclude any service of less than one half of one term in the calculation of term limits. Simply put, those

representatives elected in special elections after December 5, 2002 who may be limited to serving 7 years or less in the Missouri House would, in the future, be allowed to serve a total of 9 years.

Amendment number 4 would allow city-owned electric and gas utilities to contract with one another. Proponents say this amendment, if passed, would help reduce energy costs and help Missouri become less dependant on other states for electricity. There is no known opposition to this amendment. The measure also provides potential savings to the state.

On a side note, many of you have contacted me regarding stolen stickers on your license

plates. This will be one of many issues that city delegation will be working hard on to resolve in the 2003 session. There are several different avenues we are currently evaluating to resolve the problem we are faced with today.

As always, it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to serve you. If you have questions or comments about State Government or you would like me to stop by an event you are having please call my Jefferson City office at (573)751-6736 or my cell phone at 322-7785

Sincerely, Your Representative

Mike Daus



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# Report from the Capitol

## Dougherty tackled the heat

By Sen. Pat Dougherty

JEFFERSON CITY - Over the summer, as temperatures rose to dangerous levels throughout Missouri, heat-related fatalities and illnesses continued to increase. Sen. Pat Dougherty called on the Public Service Commission (PSC) to immediately begin rule-making procedures to establish a "Hot Weather Emergency Rule."

"The sooner the PSC acts, the better chance we have of saving vulnerable citizens from heat-related fatalities," Dougherty said. "The single most important role of state government is to provide for the health and well-being of its citizens, especially children and the elderly, which account for more than 80 percent of all heat-related fatalities."

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) issued a hot weather advisory, cautioning citizens to protect themselves and their families from dangerous heat indexes.

"The problem is that many people simply don't have that option," Dougherty said. "If they're homebound and don't have utility service because they can't pay the bill, they have no choice but to suffer."

DHSS reported eight heat-related deaths in Missouri, and 162 heat-related illnesses by August of this year. Last year's death count totaled 42 by summer's end. The St. Louis area accounted for the majority of reported heat-related illnesses and deaths.

"The PSC has a 'cold weather emergency rule' that prevents utility

companies from disconnecting residential services during below-freezing conditions, so there is an obvious need for a 'hot weather emergency rule,'" Dougherty said. "The statistics prove that extreme summer heat causes more deaths than the winter cold."

Reports show that cities get hotter than their surrounding suburbs because of heat absorbed into roads and rooftops, which can become 50 to 70 degrees higher than air temperatures. This "island effect" can cause a 10-degree increase in air temperatures.

"According to the Department of Health, 267 people have died from the heat within the last decade," Dougherty said, "but we don't know how high that number really is because countless heat-related deaths go unreported."

Dougherty is proposing legislation to provide that during June, July and August, a person's cooling-related residential utility service cannot be disconnected if the customer makes arrangements to pay the delinquent bill at a later date, or becomes eligible for assistance from a federal, state or local cooling payment fund. The


legislation would also require utility companies to prorate residential monthly charges according to their monthly income, thus protecting those living on fixed incomes or receiving state assistance.

"Just last summer during June, July and August, nearly 35,000 Missourians were subject to involuntary disconnects for non-payment," Dougherty said. "For those susceptible to heat-induced illness or death, we're subjecting them to inhumane conditions."

Dougherty pointed out the sense of urgency as actual temperatures climb beyond the 100-degree mark and dangerous heat indexes climbed even higher.

"Too many Missourians are dying because of the heat, and many people are suffering right now," Dougherty said. "I will initiate a cooperative effort between the PSC, the utility companies and the General Assembly, so that we can implement a plan that saves lives."

Sen. Dougherty can be reached at (314) 504-3669 or (314) 646-8008



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# Room Service: Meal Deliveries Helps Local Seniors

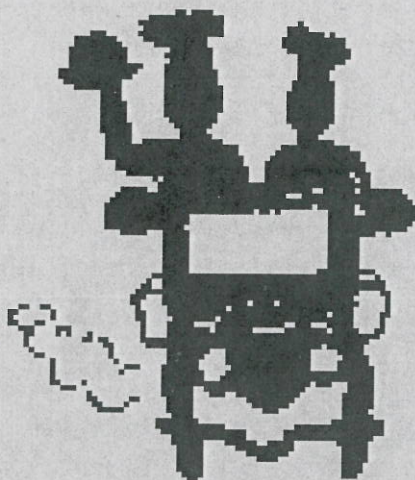
By Matt Fernandes

For decades now, the Grand-Oak Hill Senior Center has provided a vital service to the community: delivering daily meals to seniors and disabled throughout Tower Grove South.

According to Judy Moore, who coordinates the program for the center, the program has existed since the 1970s. Currently, about 100 people take advantage of the program. They are not charged for the meals, but are asked to make whatever contribution they can afford.

Additionally, the center serves daily meals on site. Food is provided by Finningers Catering. Volunteer

drivers' medical and criminal backgrounds



are screened before they are put to work.

"We put them through their paces first," said Moore.

The center is part of a larger network, the St. Louis Agency on Aging, which coordinates meal deliveries throughout the region.

In addition to meal deliveries, the Grand Oak Hill Senior Center

offers van rides for people's medical, recreational or any other transportation needs.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering in the program, call 865-5530, extension 2.



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## News & Notes

The controversial plan to convert the old South City YMCA on South Grand has gone by the wayside. After some homeowners protested, calling the architectural design out of character with the neighborhood, the YMCA decided to sell the building to a private citizen, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The new owner plans use the property as a combination house and car storage facility.

\* \* \*

Have you noticed the mosaic tile designs covering the three stainless-steel electrical boxes along the Grand business district? This is the work of Laurie Marrs, who was hired by the Grand South Grand business district to beautify the boxes. The group used \$5,000 in federal funds for the project.

The works feature white doves. Marrs, who was featured in the Post-Dispatch recently, previously lived in upstate New York. In the recent past, she worked with Bob Casilly laying mosaic tile designs at the City Museum.

\* \* \*

The new Gravois Plaza Shop-n-Save is scheduled to open on November 13.

## On Parenting: Difficult Departures

By Kathryn Zellich

Executive Director, Cornerstone Center for Early Learning

*"Good-bye . . . I'm leaving you."*

Could any message be more devastating? Imagine the pain, fear, and sorrow that would surge through you if the person you loved most uttered those words.

Yet nearly every day—in grocery stores, in parks, at the mall—parents tell dawdling children, "Good-bye. I'm leaving you." Almost invariably, the child snaps to attention and runs after the parent, demonstrating a degree of compliance that seemed unattainable only seconds before. That's the reason adults employ this strategy so often: It works. You might change your tune, too, if the central figure in your emotional life were suddenly dashing out the door.

But, for all its seeming effectiveness, there are three primary reasons why parents should avoid resorting to this strategy, no matter how tempting it might seem.

First of all, it's inauthentic. Parents who threaten to leave without their children don't mean it. They mean they're tired, or busy, or late, or any combination of the above. They mean that, for a variety of reasons children can't yet comprehend, they're at the end of that proverbial rope. They mean that if they don't get instantaneous cooperation, they may fly apart. But children—even cranky or defiant ones—deserve parents who behave in an authentic, straightforward way. It's much better to say, simply, "It's time to leave. I need you to come right now."

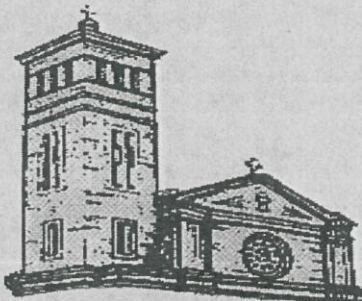
Secondly, telling children that they're being left behind is dishonest. The adult isn't leaving without the little person, no matter how tempting that might seem at trying moments. Some clever children figure this out and call their parents' bluff.

Then, of course, after exiting with great drama, the hapless mother or father has to slink back in and re-open negotiations, at great loss of credibility. To avoid public humiliation, the adult should give an honest message, "Staying is not a choice. If you can't walk out the door now, I can carry you." Parents should never plead, offer second chances, or bribe a child.

Finally, the phrase "I'm leaving you" is destructive to the parent/child bond. This threat breaches the implicit contract between the nurturer and the "nurtured", suggesting that the adult has no enduring commitment to caregiving. If a parent could contemplate leaving a child because they have differing ideas about how much time in the toy section is sufficient, then that child might easily imagine abandonment resulting from any of the three million classic mistakes kids make as they figure out how the world works. Since children must learn to trust in order to be emotionally secure and successful, rather than bringing out the big guns, parents can demonstrate a little empathy: "I know you'd like to stay longer. Maybe we can next time."

The total message sounds something like this. "It's time to go. I can tell you're disappointed, but we have to leave now. If you can't walk, I can carry you." This calm, matter-of-fact statement allows both adult and child a chance to exit with their dignity—and their relationship—intact.

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## Parking Study

The issue of Grand South Grand parking was discussed at the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood meeting on September 24, 2002. Following is a brief summary.

### **Tower Grove Heights LONG TERM Solution**

The Commerce Bank plans indicate that they will not be utilizing all of their current parking. We want to focus on converting the property that remains after the Commerce Bank redevelopment project into a landscaped well light parking lot. The residents with houses surrounding the bank, bought with the existing parking lot. Their home values will increase with the creation of an attractive parking area. With attractive signage, visitors will have ample parking when visiting the north end of the business district.

We want to focus on using the existing areas and having the city buy Commerce's lot seems a wonderful solution to the parking crunch. Keep the character of our neighborhood. A suggestion is to have a public area with street vendors.

The parking lot that is next to Cheap Trix could be improved into an attractive lot. With signage and meters it could be used by visitors. Currently it is an eyesore.

Buy Phillips and again make an attractive surface lot.

Other NEW Ideas:

- Public hearings for no-parking zones.

- Encourage use of off-street parking by area residents.

This could be by use of matching grants towards construction or repair of parking pads, garage doors, etc.

- Get a developer who is willing to give discounts if we get a certain number of residents who want to build quality garages. Sign up people who are interested.

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# Tower Grove South Coalition Stregnthens the 'Hood

By Judy Moore

Program Coordinator, Grand Oak Hill

The TGS coalition is a neighborhood based group of people who live and/or work in TGS. Our mission is to promote the establishment and maintenance of positive connections within the TGS community in order to foster the healthy, social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development of its residents.

Essentially, this means we have come together to share resources by directly supporting each others' programs and to develop new programs as the needs of the community dictate. We share expertise, medical support, transportation, facility space, program ideas, volunteers and any other resources as they become apparent.

Currently we are involved in getting multiple playgrounds installed in the community, planning a neighborhood wide transportation system and developing substance abuse programs aimed at our neighborhood youth. Another arm of the Tower Grove South Coalition is working on strategies to help clean up the neighborhood, especially the alleys.

These strategies include an anti-littering campaign, alley-cleanup teams, recycling initiative and educational campaign to improve awareness of what is acceptable behavior regarding trash and the use of dumpsters.

The coalition is made up of residents, block captains, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, St. John's Lutheran, parish nurses from St. Paul and Holy Family, Fanning Community School, Mann School, La Clinica, The Help Center and Grand Oak Hill Community

Corporation. We invite parents, residents, churches and organizations to join us in the conversation and neighborhood effort.

Call Judy Moore at 865-5530 or Pastor Bob Keller at 772-4772 for more information.

## The passion is growing.

There are now 3 Botanicals on the Park stores in the St. Louis area.

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## TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

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Monthly meetings 7:15 PM on 4th Tuesday, First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming St.

President: Brian Marston  
President Elect: Robin Vannoy  
Past President: Michael Renner  
Secretary: Diane Hurwitz  
Asst. Secretary: Margaret Prichard  
Treasurer: Jodie Heliker  
NSO: Joe Thele, 773-0664

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Fun & Fundraising: Vacant  
Gazette: Matthew Fernandes  
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Neighborhood Improvement & Safety: Joe Ogier and Andrew Habern  
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Veda Lynn  
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## Contribute to the Gazette!

Call 773-4985 to contribute (story ideas, tips, comments...)

Please remember the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association when you are making donations this year. 100% of your donation to TGHNA is tax deductible and the money will be used to improve the neighborhood. If you would like to donate, send a check made out to "TGHNA" to Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, 3735 Connecticut St., St. Louis, MO, 63116 or call Michael Renner at 773-2527.

### Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, October 22 and Tuesday, November 26  
First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming St.

### Tower Grove Heights Needs You!

If you have not been mailed a copy of this Gazette, you are not a member. Join today and you will be mailed *all 6 issues* of the Gazette. Membership dues raise more funds for the neighborhood than any other activity. Please show your support for your association and your neighborhood by joining today!

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