

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

August 27, 1994

Volume 7, Number 1

## GRAND THEATER

by Mary Schroeder

Here's some exciting and imminent news about a Grand extravaganza.

An event called Grand Theater is planned as an celebration of arts and multi-backgrounds. The evening should bring magic to the city. Grand's stores and restaurants will provide a luminous backdrop for drama, music, art, juggling, poetry, psychics, wrestlers, food, and drink. All this happens both on- and off-the-street, on sidewalk theaters, in mysterious corners, colorful shops, exotic restaurants, and bright windows.

To find out more information about the event look for posters (designed by artist/wrestling legend, Wayne St. Wayne). Or ask at various shops (for example, the people at the Haberdashery know a lot about the plans).

It's all scheduled for the evening of September 10. Some of the activities last from 6 PM to midnight, some from

midnight to 3 AM (music at South City Diner, is one).

Lots of artists have been working hard to get this all organized. Remember, it's called Grand Theater and is cosponsored by Intermission Magazine. It will make the night of September 10 exciting and unusual.

Mangia Italiano - Psychics, music, painting

CBGB - Music, psychic, pushme-pullyou

Haberdashery - Video, drums, clothes modeling, art

Mekong - Art opening, Drama, children's choir, window painting

Shelton-Davis - Art opening

Whiz-bam! B-movies and popcorn

SoHo - Art, jugglers

Faru - Jewelry display, tea, video, music

South City Diner - Art open-

ing, music

Watkins - 3-d Window display, art

Grand Books - Book signing, reception, Window display, sidewalk sale, flowers

Futon Xpress - Art, sidewalk sale

Paramount Drug - 3-d Window display

Mocabe's - Art opening music

Zips - Computer art demos, art opening

Cheap Trx - Art opening, music, psychic, leather-metal clothes

Bank park lot - Drums

Sidewalks all over - All kinds of stuff

Bank park lot - Polaroid camera

man, costumed people, flowers, balloons

New Dawn - face painting, bike demo, poets

### IN THIS ISSUE

In this anniversary issue of the Gazette, we start our seventh year by extending an invitation to any of our readers to become partners in our effort. We're looking for fresh voices who might enjoy seeing their words in print, and who are looking for a fun way to get involved.

In this issue, Mary Schroeder gives us a rundown on the "Grand Theater" event taking place on September 10 among our familiar stretch of stores and restaurants along Grand. Mary did double duty for us this issue, and brings us a glimpse of the new "Parkgate" development as well as other attractive new additions to the Grand business area: Mokabe's and Whiz Bam!

A "Lead Fact Sheet" provides information you should be aware of regarding the dangers of lead based paint: from the ways lead poisoning affects our body, to common symptoms of lead poisoning, to how to detect it. In an area consisting of predominantly old homes, it's an issue we all should be knowledgeable about.

In Coffee Break, Elizabeth Braznell provides comments on her life with Roger... that's her dog, not her husband.

Her husband, Jay, makes his own contribution in this issue, by explaining how you can keep your brass fixtures shining for years.

Ben Chu, curator of the Japanese Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden, describes ways by which we can attract birds to our landscape.

There's a lot more in this issue, so read on; and if you think of something you'd like to see covered in future issues, write to us. Or instead, write it up yourself and send it to us. We look forward to seeing some fresh contributors.



**The Tower Grove  
Heights Gazette**

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The Gazette/TGHNA 3203 S. Grand Blvd., Suite 103 St. Louis MO 63118

## LEAD POISONING FACT SHEET

### Did You Know?

No sex or race is found to be particularly susceptible to lead poisoning.

Children between the ages of 1 and 6 are most susceptible to lead poisoning (9 months to age 3 are the most at risk of permanent damage).

Children almost always get lead poisoning by eating paint or plaster containing lead.

Only two to three lead chips the size of a thumbnail eaten each week over a period of 10-12 weeks can cause lead poisoning.

Children breathe fumes, and breathe and eat ashes from painted wood used for heating, which can cause lead poisoning.

Lead poisoning affects:

**The brain**, causing mental retardation, seizure disorders and in severe cases, death.

**The blood**, causing anemia.

**The kidneys**, causing permanent damage which may produce problems

later in the child's life.

Symptoms of lead poisoning include:

Headaches, stomach cramps, irritability, loss of appetite, convulsions, coma and death.

Physicians may diagnose some of these earlier symptoms as a virus, or other mild illness, thus delaying treatment.

Treatment for children with lead poisoning is administered either on an outpatient basis or under hospitalization.

Lead paint was used in most houses built before 1950.

When houses deteriorate, the sweet tasting lead chips become accessible to small children.

Some children have been poisoned as many as 5 or 6 times.

A blood test is the only sure way to detect lead poisoning.

For further information contact: Lead Clinic, 634 N. Grand, Suite 500, at 658-1036.

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## COFFEE BREAK

### It's a Dog's Life

By Elizabeth Braznell

Social life takes a turn for the worse when you're rehabbing. Most of our friends know that Jay and I are doing a gut rehab in our home while we're living in it, which is insane to begin with. So they're pretty understanding about knowing that their invitations aren't going to be reciprocated in the near future.

After all, who wants to come to dinner in construction zone? Paint fumes with the salad, plaster dust in the wine. Care for a side order of sawdust with your chicken cordon bleu?

The decor isn't conducive to elegant dining, either--a cramped card table set up in a room with no plaster on the walls. Flowers on the table saw in the living room. No thanks, our friends say. We'll wait until the scaffolding is out of the dining room.

Meanwhile, they are gracious about inviting us to their homes. But our social life has taken on a strange

dimension lately.

"Elizabeth, would you and Jay like to come to dinner next Saturday?" asked Maggie. "Oh, and bring Roger."

The phone rang. "Hey guys, can Roger come over to play with Rudy and Socks?" asked Jan.

We received a Passover card from Steve and Maggie. It was addressed to Jay, Elizabeth, and Roger.

Debbie and Tim come over. "Hi!" they say. "Can we take Roger to the park for a while?"

Barbara comes to visit Roger.

I go over to Dempsey's house, and Roger comes along. "Hi, Roger!" calls Dempsey.

Roger's the dog.

Granted, he's a great dog. But among our friends, he's a celebrity, and for the life of me I can't figure out why.

He's a wonderful guest when we go to visit. He pretends he's housebroken and doesn't snarf food off the counter-tops like he does at our house. He once ate half a box of raisin bran. Bran works on dogs just like it does

on people. During Passover, he ate a box of matzo. Matzo has the opposite effect. I didn't have to clean the lawn for four days. All we got when we asked, "Roger, you need to go outside?" was a baleful look.

We all have public behavior that generally is better than the way we behave in private. It's the reason we can live together in the crowded condition we call cities.

Which brings me, in a round about fashion, to trash. Summer's here, kids are playing outside, we're barbecuing and having parties. All this generates trash. Part of our public responsibility is to dispose of our trash properly, which means in the dumpsters. Beer cans and bottles don't belong in the street gutters. Kids should not leave candy wrappers and popsicle sticks on the sidewalks. And I don't let Roger recycle his dinner on your lawn, so I would appreciate it if your dog behaved similarly on my lawn.

Now that summer's in full swing, I'm waiting for an invitation to a pool party. Think Roger would look good in a Speedo?

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# THE REHABBER

## You've Got A Lot of Brass!

By Jay Rosloff

As an adjective, "brass" has connotations as diverse as "bold" or "tawdry." For the home owner, the material can be either a pain or a pleasure.

Brass is one of the copper-based alloy metals popular for the past three or four thousand years. It differs from its cousin, bronze, in that zinc largely replaces tin in the mix. Lead, arsenic, and other non-ferrous metals are also commonly added to the alloy. It is the proportion of the ingredients that results in brass' color and strength. I have it on good authority that over 50 formulations were popular around the turn of the century, so I won't go into much more detail regarding its make up. Just treat them all the same way for similar results.

Of course, as much that glitters is not gold, much that looks like brass really is plate over steel or zinc

pot-metal. A popular faux finish up through the 1930s was a simulation of antique copper. Streaks of copper were electric arc blasted onto steel hinges. Use a common kitchen magnet to check for steel under paint or plate. If steel is present, be warned that rust will follow.

While copper-based alloys don't rust, in the presence of oxygen, moisture and salts, they corrode. First they darken and then may develop green, blue, or even red crusts. Copper roofs and gutters can last over a century and look better every year. Salt-based water softeners can eat copper pipes and bronze plumbing fixtures right out of a home.

If you are not happy with the way your home's brass or bronze fixtures have darkened (patinated)--I prefer to pronounce it as "in" rather than "een"--stripping and repolishing is your alternative. There are numerous stripping and plating shops around, but unless I'm replacing a part and need to match color, I prefer to do it myself.

Remove the item and strip any paint, varnish, or lacquer with thinner. Use a wire wheel or steel brush only if a matte finish is desired. Polish with "King Midas" or a similar brand of polish if the corrosion is heavy. Use a product such as "Never Dull" if corrosion is light.

Wearing rubber gloves not only will keep your hands clean, it will keep your finger oils and salts off the metal.

The more you polish, the brighter the surface will become. Beware of harsh chemical strippers, as they may actually leach the zinc or tin out and leave the surface "coppery." After polishing, wash the piece in soap and warm water and blot dry.

If you wish to keep the metal shiny, you will want to lacquer the surface. Any good quality clear spray automotive lacquer will do.

Being careful not to touch the surface with bare hands, lay the piece on aluminum foil in a dust-free space. As you agitate the ball in the can of lacquer, warm the piece with a hair dryer to about 80 degrees. This drives off any moisture and prevents condensation when the cold spray hits the metal. Use a good heavy coat, not the three light coats recommended on the can. The process works best in low humidity.

Because the lacquer will develop microscopic cracks as the piece shrinks and swells with temperature changes, periodically apply a good grade of automotive wax. Not a polish or cleaner--they will strip the lacquer--but wax to seal the cracks and nicks.

The warm glow of brass hinges, door knobs, sash lifts, and other bits adds much to the charm of our old houses. A little maintenance will increase your enjoyment of these authentic pieces of your historic home.



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## PASS THE TORCH AND LIGHT THE PORCH

By Tricia Heliker

Residents of Tower Grove Heights are flipping their switches to make the neighborhood brighter and safer. Since the last report, percentages of porch lights lit has increased on 4 of the 7 streets in the Heights. Two remained the same and one street has less lights on than at last check. Arsenal had a 5% increase bringing it to 20% lit. Hartford, Humphrey, and Utah each had a 4% increase. Connecticut rose by 3%. Juniata and Wyoming stayed the same. Humphrey dropped by 4% so we'll be looking for those residents to flip their porch lights on and get back in the race to safer streets and homes. Hartford remains in the lead with 58% of the homes lit up. (Still room for improvement guys! This is my block too so let's shoot for 100%) Utah follows Hartford with 55%. Juniata is not far behind with 51%. Connecticut is now at 42% and Humphrey at 36%. Wyoming is holding at 26%. One more porch light left on from dusk to dawn is one more step towards keeping Tower Grove Heights a friendly and safe neighborhood. Won't you be the next to brighten your block?

## GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS

By Tom Booth

The Good Neighbor Award banquet will be held Sunday, October 16th, 5:00 p. m. at the Stupp Center in Tower Grove Park.

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association President Margie Meyer says the organization wants to show that the efforts of its residents are appreciated. She says, "We've had some nominations from people. We hope to honor people who have been good neighbors with an award and a dinner and ... make it just a fun thing for neighbors to get together and go to as a family. The reason we're doing it at the Stupp center is so kids will have room to run around." "It's naturally set up for it with the wood places for people to sit outside." She said the organizers hoped to have some music also, and added, "We'll try to make it as pleasant as possible." The banquet is expected to take place from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to see more information about the things being planned for the neighborhood association, in the gazette. I'm sure there are a lot of things being discussed at the executive board meetings that the residents would be interested in knowing about. These meetings determine the direction of the organization and knowing what's being planned would allow the membership an opportunity to express our views, and feel we have more to say about the direction of the organization.

**Anonymous**

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## RESIDENTIAL PROFILES

### Hartford Arms

By Stephanie Gavin

It was a welcome sight for everyone in the neighborhood when the building at Spring and Juniata, which was affectionately named the Hartford Arms, endured major reconstruction. Not only was a beautiful piece of architecture preserved, but now we have wonderful new residents sharing our community.

Tim and Debbie Akin were the first owners to move in last October. They are new to St. Louis and Tower Grove Heights (although Tim grew up in Murphysboro, IL not too far from the St. Louis area). Coming from Chicago, moving to Tower Grove Heights and the Hartford Arms was a compromise



for them. Debbie lived in Lincoln Park in Chicago; Tim lived in the suburbs. Once they were married (2 years ago), they lived together in Tim's condo in the suburbs, where Debbie "felt removed from everything." So when Tim's job with Informix Software was transferred to St. Louis, a compromise was definitely in order. Debbie wanted old, beautiful architecture; Tim wanted new. After looking in Webster Groves, Kirkwood, and University City, when the realtor showed Debbie Hartford Arms, "I knew immediately that I liked the space." The space is neutrally painted and carpeted for an even more open and airy feel to the home. Tim liked the newness, and the small yard. "Neither of us had ever done any gardening, and we wanted to try, but we wanted to start small." However, not knowing anything about the Tower Grove area, they were reluctant to immediately buy. "Our test was walking up to Grand to watch the people," says Tim. "Everyone we met was very encouraging and friendly."

And so, here they are. They haven't wasted any time getting to

know the many benefits of living in the neighborhood. "We like the ethnicity of the neighborhood," says Debbie. "It brings you back to reality. Everything is the same in the suburbs," says Tim. Tim enjoys jogging in Tower Grove Park and Debbie is learning to roller-blade there. Since they "love to eat," they frequent the many restaurants on Grand, as well as the Hill and Ted Drewes. Debbie enjoys shopping at Soulard Market for fresh flowers...and kittens! Her latest visit to the market brought home, Bubba, a young male kitten who must share the reign with Thumper, a large male cat who has been with Debbie for several years.

In addition to being an ideal location for so much entertainment, Tim and Debbie are centrally located for their jobs. Tim drives to Westport and Debbie goes to O'Fallon, Illinois where she works for Patricia Schmidt Interiors as a design artist. "I just graduated last June in Chicago from design school," she says, "so I'm starting my career here." Debbie anticipates decorating their home for a long time to come, as time and money allows. A major hobby for Tim is music, which was previously a career for him until he decided he wanted a "more normal lifestyle" in computers. He plays drums, and the acoustic and electric bass, but his most interesting instrument is the marimba. Looking like a large xylophone, it makes an impressive piece of furniture, as well as a beautiful, soothing melody in their high-ceilinged home.

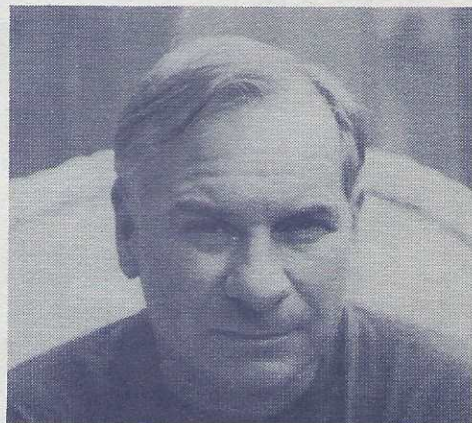
Tim's and Debbie's interests and enthusiasm appear to be infinite. Be sure and wave when you see them working on their flower garden, or strolling in the park, or eating outdoors on Grand. They are definitely taking full advantage of our great neighborhood.

Next door to Tim and Debbie, in the middle house, is Len Hayes. Walking into his home is a bit different. Rather than carpeting, Len opted for hardwood floors, and his walls are a soft, welcoming yellow, which compliments the beautiful dark green marble tile in his entryway and kitchen. Rather than a yard, which Len didn't want this time around, "I have the park a block away--it's like a yard!" he relaxes on a large fenced in patio off his dining room where he reads the paper and keeps his cat, Tommy, from jumping the fence.

A St. Louis resident for seven years now, Len looked for two years

before settling on his new home. He knew he wanted to be in the city after living in West County where he "had more house than I needed once the kids were gone...there are things to do here. Before I had to drive 40 minutes to get downtown. Now I can be there in 10 or 15." With a son who has lived in the south city area, and currently on Arsenal, he was interested in this area. "I knew he liked it," says Len. "People are more friendly in the city than the county. You meet more people here, and everyone is much more neighborhood-oriented."

As an employee of State Farm for 26 years, Len currently drives to a Hazelwood office. Even the drive to



work is better for him now, since he avoids Manchester. State Farm is opening a new office in the city, and he hopes to be able to transfer there. Originally from Danvers, Illinois, State Farm took Len to Maryland, West Virginia and eventually to St. Louis. "St. Louis is a very nice and friendly city," he says. "It reminds me a lot of Baltimore."

In his spare time, Len is an "avid handball player." He enjoys playing at Forest Park and the Hinder Club, located in the old Armory on 40. He also likes riding his bike in the park, and eating on the Hill. Having traveled a lot with State Farm through the years, Len is convinced that St. Louis is "about the most reasonable place to eat anywhere." His favorite? Mr. B's "their creamy Italian salad dressing is the best!" He enjoys sipping Mekong's lemonade, too. When time and money allow, Len likes to travel.

Obviously Len's two years of looking for a city home paid off for him. "I really like this area," says Len. "Everything is gradually improving--I hope it continues that way...This is it for me. I plan to be here a while."



Last issue we talked about setting goals when we invest. In determining our investment goal - safety, income or growth, it's vital to consider our own personality and temperament. Are we self-assured, comfortable in making our own decisions, or are we to be swayed by the opinions of others?

An individual who owns and operates his or her own business, regardless of size, is usually more comfortable in making an investment decision than someone whose major activities are confined to the management of a home. The business person makes investment decisions daily - how much inventory to hold, where and when to issue credit, and so on. So, making an investment decision, weighing the risk-reward and applying it to his or her situation is not entirely unfamiliar. He or she is more self-assured in the investment world.

On the other hand, there are those who will jump at the first suggestion of another, even though that person may not be as successful as they. Try to explain it? we can't - it's just human nature. Remember the old story of two people looking at a partially filled glass of water - one sees it as half full; the other, half empty? The optimist sees a stock that's dropped some in its market value as just correcting itself for a giant move forward - another buying opportunity. The pessimist sees the drop in price as the first step toward a total loss. So, you can see the one who's pessimistic might be uncomfortable with an aggressive growth stock which makes radical moves up and down. Thus, he or she should invest in something less risky.

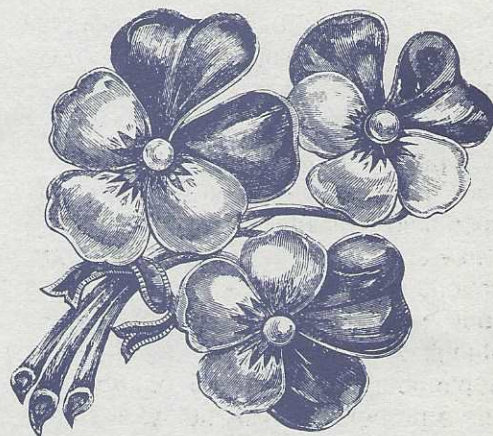
Also important is how much time one has to devote to investments. Investment situations are constantly

changing, and the investor must be aware of these changes and be ready and willing to react. If your time is limited and your investment must lay unattended for long periods, perhaps professional management is the answer. In any case, you can see the necessity of considering your personality before establishing an investment program.

## Investment Term of the Week

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Article provided by Tom Borich, Investment Representative, for Edward D. Jones & Co.



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# POLICE BEAT

by Edward Schroeder

July's meeting was held on July 14, 1994 at St. Margaret of Scotland Church Basement, 3854 Flad at South 39th Street. Shaw neighborhood hosted the meeting.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Chuck Poe at 7:07 PM. The session opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no treasurer's nor secretary's report.

Officer John Ruzicka had available copies of the minutes of the June meeting to give to any attendees who desired one.

Chuck introduced Missouri Representative Pat Dougherty. Pat spoke of upcoming legislation for Missouri lawmakers. Effective September first, anyone convicted of a felony in Missouri would be required to serve 85% of their sentences in jail. Also effective September first, you will be able to sue a property owner/landlord in small claims court, (where you serve as

your own lawyer) if he/she allows property to be in (or remain in) a deteriorating condition. You can do the same thing if the resident at the property allows clutter on the property. Such things as abandoned automobiles, appliances, etc. are considered clutter. If you own property within a reasonable distance from a parcel of property which is alleged to be a nuisance, you may bring a nuisance suit against the offending property owner. The petitioner can sue for the amount of damage to the value of his property.

John Ruzicka stated that the Safety Fair will be held on October 2nd. The Third District Public Affairs Committee is looking for help from any of the 31 neighborhood organizations for the Fair and other community/police activities. Needed are such things as gift certificates, for Officer-of-the-month awards. Right now, we need a place to host our September eighth meeting. To find out more

about helping out, or to offer help, call Officer Ruzicka at 444-0169.

Captain Robert Zambo spoke of why it sometimes takes a long time for an officer to respond to your 911 call. The veteran officers are retiring, rookie officers are quitting, and taking better paying jobs in the county after they serve a year or two in the city. And newer officers need to pick up more on-the-job "street smarts" to be able to handle more calls more quickly. So right now, officer are answering priority calls first, but Capt. Zambo told us to have patience, officers will answer all calls. He also talked about juvenile problems. If a police officer picks up a juvenile for curfew violation and takes him/her to the station, the parents are contacted and asked to come to the station and pickup their child. Since the child can't be held overnight, when parents don't show up, the officer has to take the juvenile home at the end of his/her shift.

The Main Speaker for the Meeting was Colonel Robert Haar, the newest member of the Board of Police Commissioners. He spoke about being raised at Cherokee and California. His parents still live there. Col. Haar is a practicing lawyer and lives in the Shaw Neighborhood on Flora Place. (At the present time, three members of Board of Police Commissioners live in the Third District.) Col. Haar told us how committed he is to the city. A question and answer session followed his speech.

Geraldine Osborn spoke of the need for more jails, and told us that a bond issue/tax increase is the only way to finance these projects. Federal and state governments do not have the money to build them.

The meeting ended at 9:10 P.M.

The next meeting will be held on August 11th, at 7:00 P.M. It will be held at St. Marcus Church, 2102 Russell.

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by Mary Schroeder

A celebration of building on Grand Boulevard centers around the completion of the building at the corner of Arsenal and Grand - Parkgate. After what seemed like forever - forever that workmen had been climbing and crawling all over gutted buildings. But now, believe it or not, work is almost complete. We will soon be seeing shoppers and stores instead of construction workers and rubble.

Here are some of the details on what the neighborhood can expect to find on this exciting spot when work is finished.

Of course, Botanicals on the Park will be the focal point of Parkgate. They will move from their present location to the northern half of the new building. There the store will fill two levels. In general, Botanicals will have more of the wonderful stuff that's already in the shop. That, plus lots of new merchandise to fill the greatly enlarged space. That means more gifts, artistic pieces, cards, jewelry, and flower arrangements. Botanicals will also increase the amount of furniture accent pieces that are in stock.

They've even built private consultation rooms where you can discuss your customized floral needs for weddings and parties.

Don't let that new grand staircase between the two levels fool you, the people at Botanicals on the Park intend to keep their neighborly feeling, (after all, people who work in the store all live locally.) They will continue to stress the personal touch and customer services that they have been known for in the past. Be ready for Botanical's open house on November 12 and 13 (There should be more information on that in the next Gazette, because lots will be happening all over Grand.)

The new and renovated building will also feature a private parking lot with an elevator to the second floor. For shopping convenience, the alley will be blocked and made into a walkway from the parking lot beside the building. Professional offices will be located on the second floor. On ground level, upscale retail shops will grace Grand and Arsenal and look across the boulevard to Tower Grove Park.

# ON GRAND

Almost all of the building's space has already been leased, but some may still be available. Watch for a real "Grand" Opening in late September or early October.

Another new spot has already opened at Grand and Arsenal. It's located on the corner diagonally across from Botanicals on the Park. The neighborhood's newest cafe is Mokabe's, a coffee house with delicious, unusual coffees and teas. It's set with artistic, avant garde decor. You can sit and sip your coffee at tables inside, or lounge outside, taking in the view of Tower Grove Park's Stupp Center with its fountain, and gardens.

Speaking of views, the view on Grand is very European these days. Patios and outdoor cafes dot the boulevard sidewalks. These are all wonderful! And I especially like the large patio at Cafe de Manila. What a great place to spend a little time on a Friday or Saturday evening (that's when the patio's open), chatting and sipping a cool drink. They even serve appetizers - those great Lumpia de Manila or chips and homemade salsa, among other things.

Two new stores are opening in our neighborhood. There's Whiz Bam! at 3206 Grand. A store that's decorated in a vibrant, fun 50's style - the sort of place where you can watch a TV that's in an oven. At Whiz Bam! you can both rent and buy (even special order) hard to find videos. They have over 1000 titles available, with an extensive selection of foreign, cult, gay & lesbian, silent, rare classics and experimental videos. Besides the videos, you can find magazines for non-mainstream entertainment, and movie T-shirts. Hours currently are 12-9 Mon-Tues, 12 - 10 Fri-Sat, and 12-7 Sun.

Then there's Books & Co. Look for the classy southwest style window. It is next door to the Post Office, and will stock rare books, pottery, and antiques.

And our long-standing bookstore, Grand Books at the corner of

Wyoming and Grand has a new service. Using a computer network, Grand Book's owner, Shawn Scott can literally look the world over for any special book you are seeking. This expands the book ordering service he

already has. Drop by the shop or call Shawn at 664-5511 to get more information. Also, Grand books will have the pre-Christmas booksigning on November 12 and 13. ("Stay tuned" to the Gazette for later details.)

## SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The September meeting of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association will take place on September 19. At the time of this Gazette issue, the topic of the meeting had not been decided, but organization President-elect Jean Iezzi said upcoming topics on the organization's agenda include "Investing in the Neighborhood", and on another night, a report on all the business development that's happening on Grand.

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# MEET YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN - Veda Lynn

By Marilyn Abbott

The moniker "long-time resident" definitely applies to Veda Lynn. She has lived in the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood for 53 years. After Veda's marriage to Jim Lynn in 1941, he joined the service and she traveled around the country with him. By the time Jim was sent overseas, Veda was pregnant with their first child so she returned to St. Louis and took up residence with Jim's mother. Fifty years later, Veda and Jim still live in that house in the 3800 block of Utah Place.

Veda has seen many changes in the neighborhood, but she describes most of that as due to a cycle of young people moving in, raising their families, and retiring. When her daughter was born, Veda says she was the only child on the street. All of the residents were older people who had moved in when the houses were new. After the war, lots of young families moved in and soon her children had many playmates. Those children have all gone now, but as Veda says, another generation has discovered Tower Grove Heights as a great place for kids to grow up.

The Lynns raised three children in their Utah Place home. All three children now live in St. Louis though



they have lived as far away as Australia. Veda and Jim have seven grandchildren, two of whom are outstanding athletes. One of the grandsons who just returned from Australia, played on a field hockey team that won a silver medal in the recent Olympic Festival. He has now been recruited for the U.S. field hockey team and has begun practicing with them in preparation for the 1996 Olympic Games. Another grandson is a baseball star for Kirkwood High School.

One of the things that Veda likes about Tower Grove Heights is that

there are so many things within walking distance. When her children were young it was the church, the school, the library, dancing lessons, shopping, etc. Now she and Jim still enjoy walking to church and to the shops and restaurants on Grand. Veda also enjoys all of the friendly people she has met in the neighborhood. Her only real pet peeve is with people who litter the streets and who don't move their cars on street cleaning days.

Veda says she likes to be a block captain because she is interested in people and she likes to know her neighbors. She also enjoys hearing all the neighborhood news at the block captain meetings. "I guess I'm just

nosy," she says. In a more serious vein, she feels

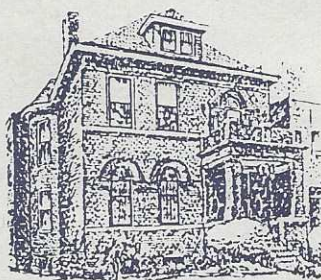
that as a block captain she has an important role to play in keeping the neighborhood nice. One of the projects that Veda has been involved in recently is welcoming some of the new Vietnamese residents to the neighborhood. Through her church, she has been working with them to adapt to their new homes here in Tower Grove Heights.

One bit of advice that Veda offers to all of us is that we should familiarize ourselves with our city ordinances, especially the so-called "nuisance laws", and to work with the police and our ConServ officer to make sure that Tower Grove Heights remains just as nice as it has been for 53 years.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next Tower Grove Heights pot luck dinner is scheduled for Sunday, October 16, 1994. Your block captains will keep you posted with more details as the date approaches.

Pot luck dinners provide a wonderful atmosphere to meet new neighbors, catch up on the latest news, and try lots of great dishes. We hope to see everyone there.



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# HORTICULTURAL CORNER

## IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

By Ben Chu

Birds fill our world with song and delight us with their colorful flight. Their nests are an architectural wonderment. For gardeners their presence is a boon in the battle against insect pests.

Attracting birds to the landscape can be quite simple, provided four survival elements are present: food, water, protective cover and a suitable place to raise young.

Food is crucial to encouraging birds to visit the landscape. A diverse planting of trees, shrubs and other plants provide an environment that supplies birds with 3 key food groups: berries and other soft fruits, seeds and nuts and insects.

Viburnums, elderberries, serviceberries, euonymus, dogwoods, Japanese maples, crabapples, hawthorn, cherry and plum are all good small trees and shrubs that supply soft fruits throughout the year. Annuals like amaranthus, marigolds, sunflower and zinnias mixed with

perennials such as black-eyed susan, butterfly flower, coreopsis, purple cone flowers, statice and many species of grasses make for an excellent source of seeds that provide birds with high energy fat and protein.

As nestlings, virtually all land birds rely heavily on insects as a source of concentrated protein for early deve-

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**"You don't have a garden just for yourself. You have to share it."**

---

Augusta & Carter

lopment. Many native plants are a good source of insects and the plants are widely available. To establish the landscape as a bird garden it is often necessary to sacrifice the plants to insects so that birds will be encouraged to visit. Pesticides must be avoided at all costs.

ded at all costs.

Birds require a reliable source of fresh, clean water to bathe in and to drink. Water may be presented in a variety of ways from trash can lids or ceramic saucers to commercial bird baths that are available in a variety of sizes, shapes and materials. Sighting the water source in the landscape is essential to its usefulness. Water must be located in an open space so that water logged birds do not fall victim to hiding predators. Cleanliness is also an important factor in the attractiveness of water. Bird baths must be emptied, cleaned and refilled frequently and checked daily during hot weather.

A well-planted landscape provides a ready source of food for birds. But, these same plants serve as protective cover and a place for birds to raise their young. Many deciduous trees and shrubs can provide refuge for birds, but, by far the plant group that provides the best of both worlds are the evergreen trees and shrubs. Pines, yews, junipers and hollies all provide dense year-round foliage and food.

Arrange plants so that the grouping borders an open lawn area. Planted borders give birds resting or feeding in the open areas a safe haven. In the natural landscape plants grow in layers depending on the particular need of each plant for sun or shade. Shade tolerant shrubs, annuals and wildflowers are best placed under the taller plants in order to replicate a natural landscape. Mix deciduous plants with evergreen plants to offer a variety of food and ample places for nest building.

Follow these basic guidelines to start off on a very educational and worthwhile endeavor of bird watching and sharing the landscape with our feathered friends. For more information about supplemental feeding and birdhouse designs please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Benjamin N. Chu is a horticulture supervisor and the curator of the Japanese Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

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## SINCE YOU ASKED

By Don Hardin

Well OK, maybe you didn't ask, but here goes a list of my favorite architectural treasures in Tower Grove Heights.

### ARSENAL

The house in the 3600/3700 block of Arsenal with all the amazing brick and carving details (3634).

The house at 3850 Arsenal (what a turret).

### HARTFORD

The house in the 3600/3700 block of Hartford. White front, very ornate, and a beautiful front door with oval beveled glass.

The house at the corner of Hartford and Spring (3801). Another remarkable turret.

### JUNIATA

The house in the 3600/3700 block of Juniata with pink and maroon trim (great porch).

The house at 3819 Juniata. This house is one of the most unusual in Tower Grove Heights.

### CONNECTICUT

The house in the 3600/3700 block of Connecticut with the great side yard (beautiful renovation job).

The house in the 3800 block of Connecticut with the great gray and white porch.

### WYOMING

The black wrought iron street light ( 5 lights) in the 3600/3700 block of Wyoming.

The second floor balcony garden at 3817 Wyoming.

### HUMPHREY

The beautifully ornate architecture of the house in the 3600/3700 block of Humphrey (orange trim).

The several porches in the 3800 block of Humphrey with ornate tile roofs.

### UTAH

In the 3600/3700 block of Utah, the house with a red tile roof on the house and on the side entry porch.

The remarkable wrought iron fence at the corner of Utah and Gustine.

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# MY FAVORITE MECHANIC

## *Changing Your Headlights*

By Terry Mayes

Well, in this day and age, some of these can be a royal pain in the rear. Your newer headlights basically plug in similar to the bulbs in the rear of the car. Refer to your owners' manual to see which type you have. Many new cars have what are called torx head screws. Not all, but some. Don't fret. You can buy two standard torx screwdrivers for about \$1.00 each, at your local discount auto parts store.

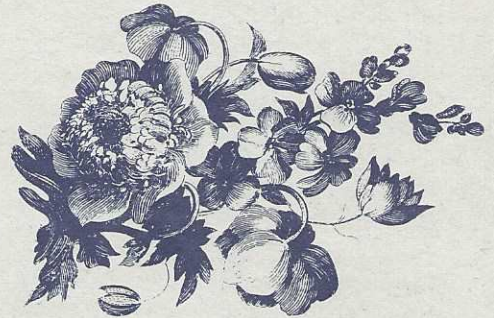
Now getting back to your basic headlights, it's simple. First remove the headlight ring. If you have fold down headlights (commonly called "hideaway headlights") there still should be a headlight ring of some type of remove. Usually, there are no more than four screws on either type. Once you've removed the ring or cover on round headlights, there will be another ring, usually with three screws. But wait, just loosen

them and turn the ring on the round type. They are usually phillips head screws.

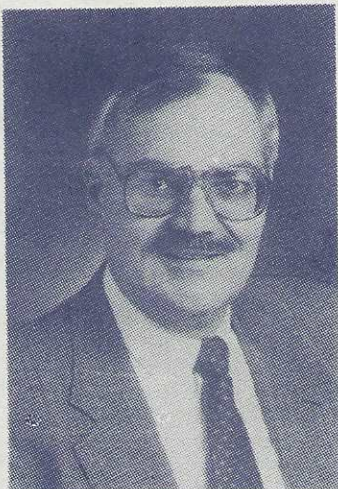
OK, now you need to know what type of headlight you have. Well your owner's manual will tell you, but if you bought a used car they may have been changed to a different type. Look on your other headlight just opposite the burnt out one. Along the top or bottom edge, it should read "halogen" or just possibly have numbers on it. Buy the exact same numbers. Now, different brand names may have slightly different numbers but should tell you what other brands interchange with that particular brand on the box. So, take the old part with you.

Even when that person in the parts store hands you a box, stop, and open the dumb box just to make sure it's the same. Go to the same place for everything. Get to know your parts man. This man will save you a lot of time once you get to know him. Take your pick of whom

you want to deal with, don't let them pick you. You're paying for that, right? You'll know after about the third time you see him or her. They'll probably call you by name or know what kind of car you're driving. If not, they probably don't care or you don't go there often enough, which means you're not taking care of your car well enough. Get to know your car or vehicle. Get out there and look under that hood now and again even though you may not know what you're looking at. It's very possible you may see something that doesn't look right. In that case, get someone who does know, but know and trust whom you're talking to.



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Michele Kerr (3636)  
**3800 Utah Place**  
Susie Gudermuth (3834)  
Veda Lynn (3855)

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

**By Elizabeth Braznell**

Tuesday, August 2, found the 3600/3700 block of Hartford and the 3800 block of Juniata celebrating National Night Out. Upper Hartford closed the street and residents shared ice cream and soda. Kids careened up and down the street on their bikes, rejoicing at not having to worry about cars. A squirt-gun war helped cool them off while their parents chatted. Marilyn Abbott said gossip was the main adult event!

Lower Juniata closed the street for volleyball for adults; street hockey, bicycle decorating, and sidewalk chalk drawing for the kids; and grilled hot dogs (thanks to Tod Flak) and pot luck for all. Music from the Swing Era

and adults alike.

National Night Out is a time to tell criminals that we demand safe streets *all* the time. It's a great way to meet your neighbors, renew acquaintances, and get to know the people on your block. Next year, I hope *every* block in Tower Grove Heights celebrates National Night Out.

And this is a great time to remind you to leave your porch lights on all night long. Criminals hate light and will move to a home that isn't brightly lit. It costs less than four cents a night to keep a 60-watt bulb burning for eight hours. That's a cheap way to protect your house. So let's light up the Heights!



Tower Grove Heights Gazette  
3203 South Grand Blvd., Suite 103  
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kept toes tapping while clowns painted faces and made balloon hats for the kids