

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place



Volume 8, Number 6

June 28, 1997

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION: TEN REASONS TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

A couple of weeks ago, one of my neighbors rather pointedly asked me, "Why should I get involved in the neighborhood association? What has it done for me?" Though I love to talk--as a teacher, I do it for a living--I was caught completely speechless. Maybe it was from working all morning in the Operation Brightside blitz, but I was dumbfounded by the question. I guess I have always just assumed that the Association is important and never really analyzed my reasons for thinking so. But having had some time to reflect, I have come up with 10 reasons that make it worthwhile--at least for me-- to be active in the Association.

1. To find out what is happening in the neighborhood. The TGHNA is the best means I know of for hearing about new businesses coming into the neighborhood, what is going on with certain properties, what initiatives are coming from City Hall, etc. In short, it acts as a listening post for what is going on in our little corner of the world.

2. To maintain my property values. A strong neighborhood association is not only a powerful tool to market a community. It is a valuable asset for the community. A strong association means stability and vitality with real estate agents and buyers.

3. To make the neighborhood safer. In addition to facilitating programs like Neighborhood Crime Watch and Citizen Mobile Patrol, the neighborhood association is the ideal mechanism for getting to know your neighbors. A safe community is a community where residents know one another and watch out for each other's welfare.

4. To make the neighborhood cleaner. Neighborhoods with strong neighborhood associations tend to be cleaner neighborhoods. Not only do the associations organize special initiatives like the Operation Brightside blitz, they foster a sense of responsibility for the cleanliness of the whole neighborhood and not just one's own property.

5. To have a liason with City Hall. Aldermen, Neighborhood Stabilization Officers, Police Officers--even the mayor himself--cannot keep in contact with every citizen. But they can keep in contact with a neighborhood association. Alderman Vining and Barb Potts, our NSO, attend every TGHNA meeting. Residents in attendance hear what news each has to offer, as well as, have the opportunity to voice their ideas and views to them about what the City should be doing in the neighborhood.

6. To receive valuable reference material about the neighborhood. While the Gazette is available to the public for free in many stores on Grand and elsewhere, members receive their Gazettes directly in the mail (e-mail next?). In addition to the Gazette, TGHNA members receive "buzz books," listing resident phone numbers and other important local numbers, historical information about the neighborhood, and various research documents concerning real estate trends and the like.

7. To better make the neighborhood into a community. Tower Grove Heights like many city neighborhoods is composed of people of a wide variety of economic, racial, ethnic, and sexual preference backgrounds. Undoubtedly, diversity often results in tension. But it can also be a source of unity. By providing a forum for discussing concerns and devising solutions, a strong neighborhood association like TGHNA, can transform a disparate collection of individuals into a strong community with a common identity and purpose.

8. To give the neighborhood more control over its own destiny. By uniting the residents, the neighborhood association gives a community power--power to deal with city hall, power to respond to changes in the city, power to mold the neighborhood into whatever the residents want. A neighborhood without an institution to bring the residents together--such as a neighborhood association--is defenseless in the face of political decisions, development initiatives, and social changes.

9. To make the neighborhood a more interesting and fun place to live. A strong neighborhood association is constantly trying to find ways of enticing neighbors to interact. On our block, for example, TGHNA has been the vehicle to organize block parties, Holiday caroling, and National Night Out. (I bet people in Ladue don't have this much fun!!)

10. To make a personal difference in the neighborhood. Ultimately a neighborhood association or a neighborhood are only as strong as their members make them. They do not exist as independent entities with lives of their own. They are what their members choose to make them. If you care for your neighbors, if much of your life savings is tied up in your house, if you are concerned about your fellow tenants, if you see the neighborhood as a reflection of yourself--then you have no choice. You have an obligation to not only belong to your neighborhood association, but to **become active in it.**

Mark Abbott, President-Elect
Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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SLUCARE — There is a difference

By Donna Branca

Tower Grove Heights has always been uniquely located in the heart of the city; near art, culture, fine dining and beautiful Tower Grove Park. We are also uniquely located near St. Louis University, St. Louis University Health Sciences Center and SLUCARE. What is SLUCARE? SLUCARE is a leading patient-centered, physician guided provider of health care services in the St. Louis region guided by judeo-christian values and dedicated to excellent service in the catholic jesuit tradition. The central purpose of SLUCARE is to support the mission of Saint Louis University by providing a setting for and financial support of health professions education and biomedical research. SLUCARE is the health services division of Saint Louis University. It combines under one management the faculty and physicians of Saint Louis University School of Medicine with Saint Louis University Hospital. SLUCARE is not a managed care organization. Unlike other health care institutions, SLUCARE is a single provider organization that serves both traditional and fee-for-service patients as well as members of managed care plans.

In 1995, the trustees of Saint Louis University set in motion one of the most significant changes in the university's long history of providing high-quality care when it established a single provider organization called SLUCARE. This came at a time when all of our nation's academic health centers were being challenged to be cost competitive while continuing to support the costs of important research and teaching new health care professionals.

(continued on page 4)



Upcoming Events

June

Whitaker Jazz Festival *June 25, July 2* Cool jazz on hot summer nights, under the stars at the Garden. Some of the best jazz in Missouri.

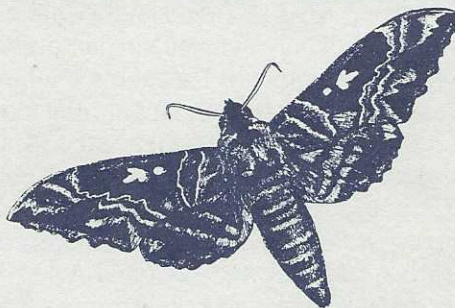
West County Daylily Society Show and Sale *June 29*

John Cody Exhibit: "Moths"
Through August 15

July

Garden Sampler: The Salsa Garden
July 23

Focuses on food plants grown in the Center for Home Gardening. Visitors will be able to sample food and drink, learn about the gardening aspects of salsa and listen to Latin jazz music.



Henry Shaw Cactus Society Show and Sale *July 19 - 27*

Featuring a wonderful array of cacti and succulents, including selections from the Garden's collection.

Henry Shaw's 197th Birthday Celebration *July 27*

Musicians and storytellers, the amazing maze, and Henry Shaw himself will be on hand for fun and entertainment. Celebrations at Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden.

Greater St. Louis Iris Society Sale
July 27

August

Greater St. Louis Daylily Society Sale *August 24*

Japanese Festival Exhibit *August 28 - September 4* Contemporary Japanese art, calligraphy, prints.

23rd. Annual Japanese Festival
August 30 - September 1 Japanese cultural activities including taiko (drumming), kabuki, bon odori festival dancing, bonsai demonstrations, martial arts, tea ceremonies, cooking and craft demonstrations, ikebana, contemporary clay works, karaoke, kimono fashions, zen lectures, children's activities, and more.



Missouri Botanical Garden

Call 577-9400 for prices and hours.

Meet Marsha Mueller President of Parkside South

By Erin O'Reilly

Marsha Mueller is the new president of Parkside South which is one of three neighborhood associations in this area. Its boundaries are Arsenal, Fyler, Kingshighway and Morganford. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm on the corner of Alfred and Hartford streets.

Marsha is a St. Louis native and has lived in the Parkside South area since 1983. She had her house up for sale two times over the years and since it didn't sell, she felt it was a message for her to stay in this area and get involved. She started getting actively involved two years ago and then became president. She states she has seen lots of changes in this area over the years with the main one being the heterogeneity of the residents and variety of lifestyles which is reflective of our country at large.

The Parkside South area is approximately 60% rental properties and 40% residential properties. Marsha has a goal to involve the landlords and homeowners in keeping the properties in good order and to choose good tenants. She recommends for landlords to utilize Grand Oak Hill apartment referral system and Apartment Search or other such organizations to help secure good tenants. She encourages residents to use the 241-COPS number to report criminal or nuisance activities.

The business section of the neighborhood is on Morganford and includes a grocery store, convenience store, 3 or 4 bars, a bicycle shop and costume shop, lawnmower repair, 2 car lots, a gas station, laundromat, commercial bakery, car wash and a day care among others.

Marsha feels that in order to be really vital to the area the businesses need to address the needs of the residents in order to attract their business. She looks forward to the Home Depot which is scheduled to be open 8/97 and hopes it will serve the residents well.

Marsha feels that the strengths of this community are a heightened sense of community, more activism and neighbors helping neighbors. She states "it pays to get involved in your neighborhood" and invites the residents to attend the meetings and get involved!

ADOPT-A-TREE

Henry Shaw transformed the almost treeless prairie which is now Tower Grove Park into a lush green area remarkable for its foliage. Tower Grove Park has a greater variety of trees and shrubs than any other urban park in the country.

More than 10,000 tree were planted during the park's early years. Shaw himself commented, "The finest and best trees adapted to the soil and climate of Missouri have been planted." Besides native trees, Shaw included species from all over the world.

This great legacy is in danger. There has been a slow decline in the trees as a result of pollution, disease and just plain aging.

You can help the trees in two ways:

1. Contribute money. No amount is too small. Send checks made out to AFLW Tree Fund to: Alliance for a Livable World, Tree Fund, P.O. Box 63350, St. Louis, MO 63163.
2. Help plant new trees in Tower Grove Park in the Spring of 1998. Write to the address above, and you will be notified about planting times in early Spring of next year.



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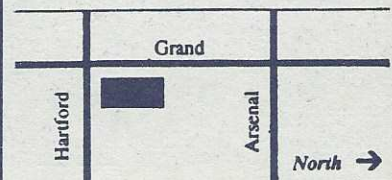
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(SLU continued from page 2)

SLUCARE is Saint Louis University's answer to that challenge. SLUCARE is a new business made up of Saint Louis University faculty and physicians called the University Medical Group. SLUCARE allows cost containment while maintaining quality of care. SLUCARE is a more attractive health care partner for health plans throughout the region. This is a critical step to further the mission of patient care, education, and research in a more competitive environment.

Excellent physicians, social workers, nurses, technicians and support staff as well as dedicated housekeeping, dietary and maintenance professionals, all work together to create an environment in which patient satisfaction scores are consistently over 90%.

In a health care environment crowded with complex responses to cost pressures, Saint Louis University Health Sciences Center has opted for simplicity in its creation of SLUCARE.

The new structure makes it easier for the Health Sciences Center to enter into agreements with outlying hospitals, to work out new forms of partnerships, and to participate in joint ventures. For example, SLUCARE might collaborate with insurance companies on packages of benefits. An insurance company would market the packages; SLUCARE would provide the services. Both would share the financial risks.

With its 303 staffed beds, Saint Louis University concentrates on the most serious patient needs and has one of the highest occupancy rates in the St. Louis area. A 1995 survey by the Association of Academic Medical Colleges ranked the hospital fifth among the nation's teaching hospitals in the overall acuteness of cases handled.

SLUCARE Health Letter offers pre-recorded messages on a wide variety and large number of health topics. Health Letter is easy to use from any push button phone 24 hours a day. Health Letter is a community service offered by SLUCARE.

Call the Health Letter service on a push button phone at 1-314-268-5333. From outside the St. Louis calling area, call 1-800-233-2705. Follow the instructions you are given over the phone and enter the Health Letter topic number when asked to do so.

There are over 400 Health Letter topics in our fully automated telephone information system. Each Health Letter is approximately two minutes long. All topics have been developed by health care professionals and approved by Saint Louis University Health Sciences Center physicians to insure that you are listening to the most up-to-date and medically sound information available. There is no charge for using health letter and you may call as often as you like.

Health Letter is an automated information service only and is not intended for emergency use or as a replacement for advice from your doctor. If you need additional information or would like a copy of the Health Letter brochure which lists all of the topics available for listening, call 314-268-5880.

For more information about SLUCARE, call the SLUCARE center at 268-5880.

In closing, these final facts speak for themselves: Saint Louis University is one of only three Catholic universities awarded research II status from the Carnegie Institute. More than \$117 Million in improvements have been made in the past 5 years. The average undergraduate ACT score has risen to 25.3 and test scores in the professional and graduate schools are above the national average. Our hospital, with one of the highest occupancy rates in the area, provided more than \$11 Million in charity care in the last fiscal year. The University is nearing its \$200 Million campaign goal the most ambitious in its history. Faculty, students and staff contributed more! than 218,000 hours of community service last year.

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Barb Potts on...

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood

Barb's topic for this edition of the Gazette is community mediation. Sanctioned by Police Captain Richardson of the Third District, the South Side Women's Center has developed a program of community mediation. This program uses neighborhood residents who are trained in mediation to facilitate mediation in neighborhood disputes.

**South Side Women's Center
has developed a program of
community mediation.**

The training consists of half day sessions. Components of the training include "Honing Listening Skills", "Improving Listening Skills", "Practicing Skills in Roleplays", and "Developing Resolutions to Neighborhood Disputes".

Referrals for the program come from the Police Department and other resources in the community. Examples of "disputes" include dogs barking and other nuisance disputes. From the mediation comes a contractual agreement between the parties involved and a solution is mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Barb has been trained and encourages those interested in this unique training to contact the South Side Women's Center at 776-6727 to register for the training.

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to register for the training**



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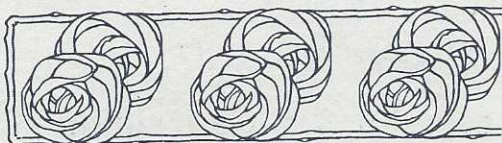
TAKE ME HOME

If you have been considering adding to your family by adopting a pet, consider the City of St. Louis Animal Regulation Center's adoption program. The cost for adopting a cat or dog is \$28 which includes shots, registration and a microchip identifier.

You will find a large selection of animals to choose from, and they are all in desperate need of a good home. In return, they will give you companionship, protection and lots of chuckles.

The Animal Regulation Center is located at 2120 Gasconade. Take Chippewa East to Broadway. Turn right on Broadway and go four blocks to Gasconade. Make a left onto Gasconade and the Center will be on the right.

The Center has extended their hours until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 353-5838.



TGHNA PERSONALS

DESPERATELY SEEKING SOLICITOR

Eager, fun-loving, hardworking neighborhood association (NA) seeking giving legal type (attorney (A)). Object: NA and A spending a little time together (one meeting a year), NA submissively and thankfully learning from A.

Call Don at 772-9151 if you are ready for a fulfilling adventure.



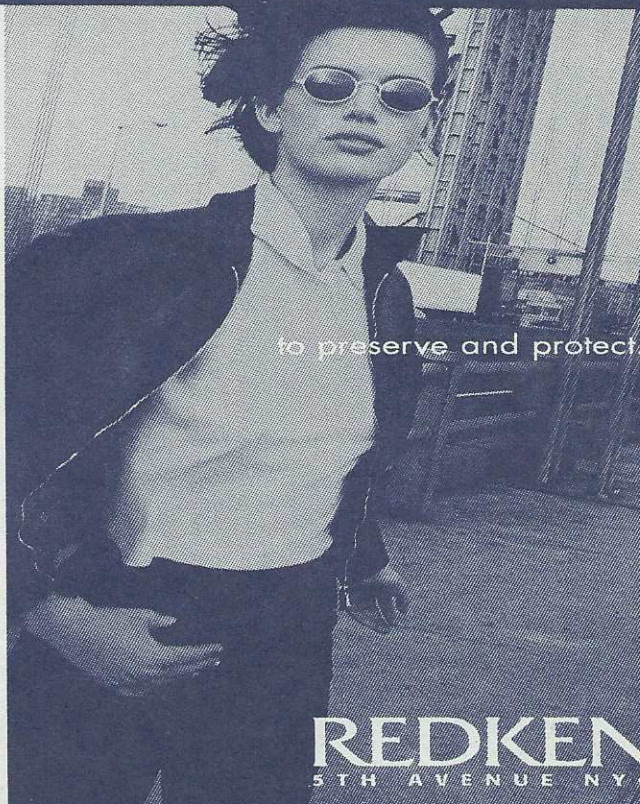
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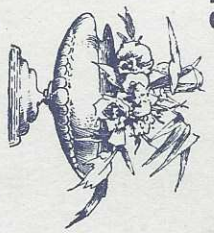


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CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

July 1997

1	2	3	4	5
<p>2:00pm Science Fact/ Fiction Grades 2-5 Carpenter Lib.</p> <p>7:30pm Block Rep. Meeting 3879 Wyoming</p>	<p>Pre-school Storytime Ages 2-6 Carpenter Lib.</p> <p>7:30pm Whitaker Jazz Festival The Garden FREE</p>	<p>9:30pm Children's Concert Stupp Center</p>		<p>7:00am Walk in the Garden Free Admission (every saturday)</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30pm Band Concert Tower Grove Park</p>	<p>8</p> <p>2:00pm Science Fact/ Fiction Grades 2-5 Carpenter Lib.</p> <p>7:30pm Block Rep. Meeting 3879 Wyoming</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Walk in the Garden Free Admission (every Wed.) 10:00am Pre-school Storytime Ages 2-6 Carpenter Lib.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30am Children's Concert Stupp</p>
<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>7:30pm Band Concert Tower Grove Park</p>	<p>15</p> <p>2:00pm Fly me to the moon Grades 1-5 Carpenter Lib.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Walk in the Garden Free Admission (every Wed.)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30am Children's Concert Stupp</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00pm Book Discussion Carpenter Lib. (adults) 7:30pm Band Concert Tower Grove Park</p>	<p>22</p> <p>2:00pm Eggstra Eggciting Experiments Carpenter Lib.</p> <p>7:15pm General Meeting, First Devine Science Church</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Walk in the Garden Free Admission (every Wed.) 10:00am Pre-school Storytime Ages 2-6 Carpenter Lib.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30am Children's Concert Stupp</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Henry Shaw's Birthday The Garden Iris Society Sale The Garden</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Children's Concert Stupp 7:30pm Band Concert Tower Grove Park</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30pm Science Fiction Film Festival Carpenter Lib.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Walk in the Garden Free Admission (every Wed.) 10:00am Pre-school Storytime Ages 2-6 Carpenter Lib</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30am Children's Concert Stupp</p>
			<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>7:00am Walk in the Garden Free Admission (every saturday)</p> <p>8:00am Neighborhood Yard Sale</p>
			<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00am Walk in the Garden Free Admission (every saturday) 10:30am Rendezvous- 1840 all ages Carpenter Lib.</p>
	<p>Fair St. Louis</p>		<p>Fair St. Louis</p>	
				

A MESSAGE FROM REP. PAT DOUGHERTY

NEW NUISANCE POWERS GIVEN TO CITIES

The House and Senate passed and sent to the Governor a bill designed to give new authority to cities to improve the effectiveness of nuisance ordinances. The bill should put more teeth in forcing reluctant property owners to keep their property in good condition.

The bill permits cities to enact ordinances to reduce conditions on property which constitute a nuisance. The ordinances may state that if the owner does not remove the nuisance within seven days of the notice, the building commissioner or a designated officer may have the condition eliminated, and that the cost related to eliminating the nuisance by the city will be added to the annual real estate tax bill for that property.

The following is the actual language of the bill:

Section 1.1. The governing body of any city, town or village, or any county having a charter form of government, or any county of the first classification that contains part of a city with a population of at least three hundred thousand inhabitant, may enact ordinances to provide for the abatement of a condition of any lot or land that has the presence of debris of any kind including, but not limited to, weed cuttings, cut and fallen trees and shrubs, overgrown vegetation and noxious weeds which are seven inches or more in height, rubbish and trash, lumber not piled or stacked twelve inches off the ground, rock or bricks, tin, steel, parts of derelict cars or trucks, broken furniture, and flammable material which may endanger public safety or any material which is unhealthy or unsafe and declared to be a public nuisance.

2. Any ordinance authorized by this section may provide that if the owner fails to begin removing the nuisance within a specific time which shall not be longer than seven days of receiving notice that the nuisance has been ordered removed, or upon failure to pursue the removal of such nuisance without unnecessary delay, the building commissioner or designated officer shall cause the condition which constitutes the nuisance to be removed. If the building commissioner or designated officer causes such condition to be removed or abated, the cost of such removal shall be certified to the city clerk or officer in charge of finance who shall cause the certified cost to be included in a special tax bill or added to the annual real estate tax bill, at the city collector or other official's option, for the property and the certified cost shall be collected by the city collector or other official collecting taxes in the same manner and procedure for collecting real estate taxes. If the certified cost is not paid, the tax bill shall be considered delinquent, and the collection of the delinquent bill shall be governed by the laws governing delinquent and back taxes. The tax bill from the date of its issuance shall be deemed a personal debt against the owner and shall also be a lien on the property until paid.

If you have any questions on issues the legislature is facing, please call my office at 573-751-3599.

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LEATHER 103: COLOR FINISH & CLEANING

By Jenny Young

Hello faithful readers! Finally we are going to talk about color finishes in leather! Let's just cut to the meat of the matter. In finishing a hide with color, the goal is to minimize surface blemishes without losing the leather look. (just like makeup to cover freckles). Finishing gives a required degree of gloss, softness, mouldability, and "good" surface feel which makes the leather resist abrasions, wet and dry rubs, and normal wear from everyday use -- so the leather has excellent durability. And because of that, the leather surface can be cleaned and polished during use. Surface coated leathers also have some resistance to heat and sunlight. Coloring is only the dye (or pigment) of the finishing process film forming materials such as acrylic resins, nitro-cellulose lacquers, and polyurethane lacquers are the top coating that usually finish leathers. The color is underneath.

After the initial dye process, for some leathers subsequent coats of color are applied by spray guns, with the leather passing underneath a number of rotating guns while being moved on a conveyer belt. Hides are sometimes milled or "dry drummed" for further softening as well as being passed over heated rollers to polish the hide and give the surface grain the smooth "slip" that we are accustomed to when we feel leather. Sometimes a darker dye color is applied to the hide to bring out the grain pattern, and then a contract color is rubbed on, then washed off to achieve a light and dark effect. (Industry terms the look as "sauvage") You'd be pleasantly surprised at all the colors that are available today! Tanneries do listen to trends as well as develop newer dye formulas to meet up with current household and wear standards... so the sky's the limit for color!

Now let's address cleaning. Never use any items marked "mink oil", "the tannery", (spray product from the 70's) or "saddle soap", or soap and water -- all the above will clog the pores of the leather or dry it out!! Use only cleaners specified from the place of purchase -- any other cleaning agent will render a warranty for clothing items and footwear are formulated with harsher chemicals. Your sofa never goes out of doors, does it?

A good quality leather just needs warm water on a soft cloth to remove residual finger oils and dust. Correct cleaners are usually manufactured with the tanneries, so it is a neutral PH balanced product that works with the leather, not against it. Any questions? Just ask me!

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3882 HARTFORD STREET \$79,900

9 ROOMS. 4 BEDROOMS.

Drenched in Sunlight and Natural Wood. New Kitchen with Custom Oak Cabinetry, Dishwasher and wainscoting. Newer Bath on 2nd flr. Lots of Natural wood, stained glass. French doors of dining room leads to sunporch. French doors of master bdrm leads to sunroom/sitting area. Lots of updates!

3637 CONNECTICUT STREET \$127,500

11 ROOM. 4 BEDROOMS

Absolutely stunning natural woodwork and architectural detail throughout this home. Eleven pocket doors. Four striking fireplaces with ceramic tile detail, leaded glass cabinetry and unique & exquisite natural wood mantels. Newer bath on second floor. Lots of updates. Simply spacious & stunning!

3636 ARSENAL STREET \$69,900

2-FAMILY. 6/3/1 UP. 5/2/1 DOWN.

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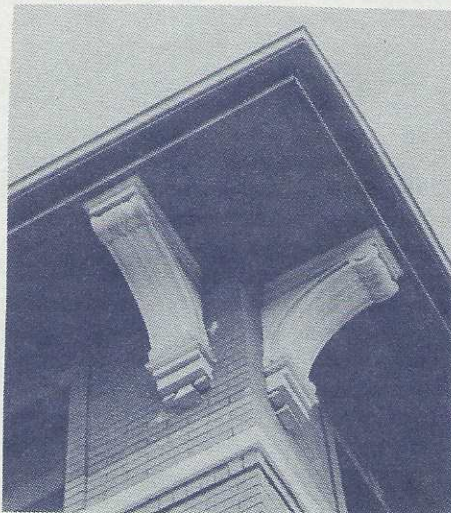
Call Today For A Free Updated Evaluation of Your Property.

ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES

These beautifully carved cornices decorate one the Neighborhood's favorite businesses.

Here are some hints: They have great pizza, the owner's wife is a former block captain and the owner is a former member of the executive board of the Association.

The Black Thorn



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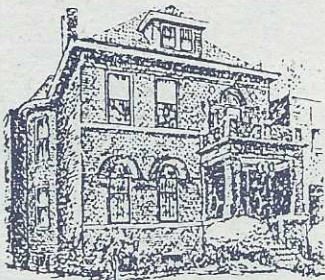
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Don't Worry, Be Healthy

Compiled by Tom Booth

Quick quiz. Everyone uses them in preparing a variety of dishes. They are a member of the lily family, a cousin to garlic, and one of the oldest vegetables. What are they? Onions. And although everyone eats them, few realize their positive health characteristics: the ability to fight infections, lower blood pressure and cholesterol, alleviate asthma, and reduce the risk of developing heart disease.

Among onion's most powerful health-promoting properties are its anti-cancer capabilities. Garlic and onions may also block the formation of nitrosamines, carcinogenic compounds created in the digestive tract. Epidemiological studies have shown that people who eat lots of garlic and onions have a lower risk of stomach cancer, probably by virtue of garlic's action in blocking nitrosamine formation."

The results of one recent study that support this theory. In this case-control trial, a reduced risk for stomach cancer was linked to onion consumption.

These results were obtained from the Netherlands Cohort Study on diet and cancer. The findings demonstrated that the people who consumed more than one-half an onion per day were 50 percent less likely to develop stomach cancer than those who ate no onions daily. These results also held true for those with a history of stomach disorders.

Studies by the National Cancer Institute have shown that onions may inhibit the growth of cancer cells, especially cells of the gastrointestinal tract and leukemia cells, possibly by virtue of their quantities of flavonoids, including quercetin (which is NOT destroyed by cooking or freezing), and their content of coumarin and ellagic acid." (NOTE: white onions do not contain quercetin).

So if onions are so good for you, why do they make you cry? Well, actually the reason onions make you cry is because the fumes they give off when you peel them have ammonia in them. For those who would like to avoid the crying part, it's suggested that holding an onion under cold water while peeling it prevents the fumes from rising and causing tears. But any way you peel them, I think I'm going to enjoy my onions a little bit more now that I know how good they really are for you.

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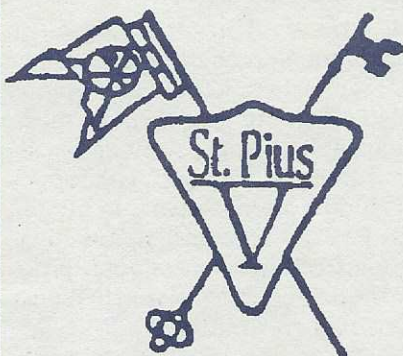
full-time kindergarten

limited tuition assistance

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COOKIES FOR COPS

We depend on our persons in blue. Let's be sure that they can depend on the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association for **COOKIES!**

Say thanks to our police (persons) by continuing this longstanding Tower Grove Heights tradition. If you have signed up to take part in Cookies for Cops, Jenny Young will be giving you a reminder call just before collection days.

Collection Dates:

Independence Day (not the movie)
July 4

Just because it's August Day

August 16

Labor Day

September 1

Halloween

October 31

Thanksgiving

November 27

Christmas

December 25

Call Jenny at 776-2137 for additional information.



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From the Desk of Alderman Marge Vining

Problem properties can drive everyone in a neighborhood crazy! A new approach to fighting neighborhood nuisances, passed by the Board of Aldermen, provides two effective means of dealing with them:



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In the first method of enforcement, whenever the Police Department issues three summonses within any sixty day period for violations of peace disturbance, lewd or lascivious behavior, maintaining a house of prostitution, noise, or the use of a firearm, the Health Commissioner shall declare the property a public nuisance.

Under the City Charter, the Health Commissioner is responsible for abating nuisances within the City. The owner and occupants of the property will receive a letter after each police summons is issued, notifying them that if the illegal activity continues the property will be subject to a closure order for a period ranging from thirty days to one year. If the Health Commissioner declares the property to be a nuisance, a hearing will be conducted allowing all parties to present evidence as to whether the problems at the property have been corrected. If the hearing officer finds that the activity at the property is still a nuisance problem for the neighborhood, the officer can order any appropriate steps to end the nuisance, including the closing of the property for a period ranging from thirty days to a year.

The second method of enforcement under Board Bill #54 is a procedure by which the residents who live within 300 feet of a problem property can sign a petition which alleges that the activities occurring at the property constitute a nuisance. If a majority of the residents or registered voters within a 300 foot radius sign the petition, then the health Commissioner will immediately set a date for a hearing and notify the owner and occupants of the problem property to appear.

At this hearing, all parties will be allowed to present evidence. If the hearing officer finds that the activity is in fact a nuisance to the neighborhood, the officer will order it abated by any appropriate means. This can include closing the property in a similar fashion to the first enforcement method.

This ordinance will create an atmosphere in which city residents will be able to work closely with the Police Department and other City departments to identify and end nuisance activity in our neighborhoods. These problem properties affect all of us. I am committed to developing new legislative tools to support the many valuable efforts being made by the residents of our neighborhoods to eliminate such conditions.

**TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

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President Elect: Mark Abbott
Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
Asst. Secretary: Jodie Heliker
Treasurer: Suzanne Golemb
Past President: Joe Thele

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Block Representative: Marcia Recks

Fun and Fundraising:

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Prom. & Marketing: Susie Gudermuth

Publications: Don Hardin

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3800 Arsenal

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Fredric Rissover (3850)

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3800 Hartford

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Chris Cleeland

3600/3700 Juniata

Sara Langan (3639)

Fran Armstrong

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3600/3700 Connecticut

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Bill/Noel Shamletter

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3800 Utah Place

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FREE! FREE!

Walking is good for you, and so are beauty and sunshine. With you on their mind, the **Missouri Botanical Garden** opens their gates at 7 am on Wednesdays and Saturdays for everyone and especially for walkers. Garden admission is free on these days to St. Louis City and County residents until noon.

The Garden doesn't have information on how many miles it is from here to there, but if you just plan on walking for one hour, and measure the ground you can cover in that time frame somewhere else, you can relax and enjoy your time in the loveliest spot in St. Louis. Take time to smell the roses.

Breakfast is available for purchase in the Gardenvue Restaurant, Ridgway Center.

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YOU SCREAM,
WE ALL SCREAM FOR.....
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(the REAL one on Grand). See ya there!!

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Tower Grove Heights Gazette
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