

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 12, No. 1

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

January 2001



The History We Walk Through

By Suzanne Rhodenbaugh

If the streets in Tower Grove Heights (TGH) and the adjoining neighborhoods which together make up Tower Grove South (Arsenal to Chippewa, Grand to Kingshighway), had been named to reflect the waves of history which have happened here, Grand might be called Prairie, Spring might be called Osage, Gustine might be Des Noyes, Roger might be Sanguinette, and Oak Hill would certainly be Russell. Morgan Ford might be Coalfields and Fairview might be Clay. Tower Grove Avenue would surely be Shaw.

Henry Shaw, the entrepreneur and visionary who gave us both the Missouri Botanical Garden and Tower Grove Park, was an Englishman who came to St. Louis in 1819. According to Pat Adams, a Garden guide formerly with the Missouri Historical Society, Shaw used to ride out on his horse from downtown St. Louis to the city's far western boundary — Grand Boulevard — and look out over the prairie.

In a two hour walking tour on September 16, Adams led a group through some of the 19th century history of Tower Grove South. The walk began at Park headquarters and proceeded east on Arsenal, south on Oak Hill, east on Utah, north on Grand and west on Arsenal back to the Park office.

In these two hours we learned the streets we walk through every day were once prairie roamed by Osage and Missouri Indians. By the late 18th century, French development (under Spanish rule) of St. Louis, and specifically of what is now our own sweet “hood,” had led to the prairie getting a name: Prairie Des Noyes. By 1769 it was being farmed, European-style, in long strips 192 feet wide by 1 and 1/2 miles long.

A Charles Sanguinette became a big landowner in our area, who in 1805 sold a great deal of the land to William Russell. Between 1810 and 1820, William in turn sold much of it to his brother James Russell. And so began, it's hardly exaggeration to say, the Reign of Russell.

James Russell, a native of Virginia, married Lucy Bent, which is why we have a Bent Street just east of Morgan Ford. She was the daughter of Judge Silas Bent, who had been the surveyor for the

Louisiana Purchase. James and Lucy Bent Russell commenced to have children, some of whom they gave rather unfortunate names. One daughter, for example, was Russella Russell. She married a developer named George Ward Parker, which is why we have a Parker Street just south of McDonald. Another Russell daughter married a man whose last name was Roger, giving us, eventually, Roger Street.

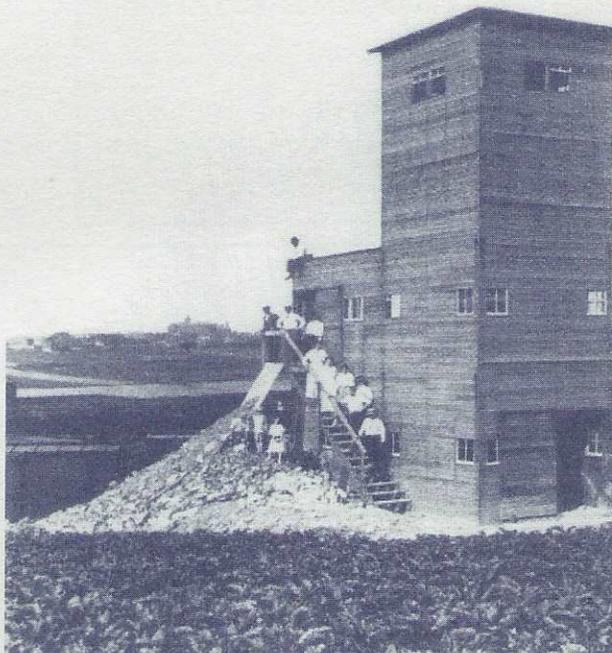
Trumbull Russell, a son of James and Lucy, married a woman with the surname Gustine, leading of course to what is now the western boundary of TGH. The famous cowboy artist Charles Russell was a grandson of James and Lucy. And so on: pretty much a Russell dynasty here in the 'hood in the 19th century.

And the Russells didn't just go forth and multiply, so to speak. They also intensively developed this land, first farming it, and establishing orchards and vineyards. They also built an estate on what was then a ridge, and called it Oak Hill. The house doesn't survive, but we know its approximate location was Wyoming between Bent and Oak Hill.

Then James Russell found, on what is now Tholozan between Morgan Ford and Oak Hill, coal on his land. From the 1840's on, he and others established coal mines with 35-45 feet deep shafts in about a half dozen sites in Tower Grove South. (As late as 1917, coal was still being mined here. During that year in World War I, the

Parker & Russell Mine was reopened at Gustine and McDonald.) Welsh, English, Scottish and Irish miners worked here. In 1870, the first school in the area opened for their children. The mining families lived in the area called The Alley, bounded by Kingshighway and Morgan Ford, Beck and Chippewa. The alley still exists between Beck and Chippewa, with a half dozen houses facing it, although apparently none are of 19th century vintage. (This land is just east of the large empty site where Famous-Barr was later: the famous “South Town Site” now so controversial with respect to whether a K-Mart or a more varied-use shopping district will be built there. Thus do the terms of history evolve: from hardscrabble

(Continued on page 10)



The frame shaft house was a familiar sight around the neighborhood. The structure housed the machinery that lifted miners from the underground workings.

The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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

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

Neighborhood Communic@tion

By Brian Marston
President-Elect, TGHNA

Information wants to be free. Help release it by joining the Tower Grove e-mail list, an un-moderated online mailing list that serves as an open forum to announce events and discuss issues affecting Tower Grove South and Tower Grove East. About 80 people are already subscribed to the list.

To sign up, send a message to lists@electroponics.com with the words "subscribe towergrove" in the body. Additional instructions will be e-mailed to you once you subscribe. Alternatively, you can subscribe to the list by filling out the form at www2.electroponics.com/maillists.html.

Once you subscribe to the list, you can send messages to towergrove@electroponics.com, and they'll be sent to all the other subscribers.

Jeff Wiegand at Electroponics, Inc. (www.electroponics.com) hosts the list for free. Jeff is developing a community Web site at www.south-grand.com.

For more information about the Tower Grove e-mail list, contact Brian Marston at webguy@fatdays.com or 772-5947.

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Tower Grove Park News

By John Karel,
Park Director

Recently, Tower Grove Park was presented with the proceeds from the second annual Starlight Runabout, a 5K Run/Walk held in the park. The presentation was made by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, a non-profit agency dedicated to urban reforestation of public lands. This timely donation of \$2900 comes on the heels of the severe August 17 storm that reeked havoc in Tower Grove Park. That donation will be used to acquire and plant more trees, in an effort to restore the park back to the way Henry Shaw planted it. The presentation ceremony also included the planting of a Southern Catalpa across from the park's office.

Forest ReLeaf and the Starlight Runabout Committee work together to help out Tower Grove Park whenever possible. Funds from next year's run will also go to the park.

Some of the new trees will be planted this coming spring, creating a little more shade for the people who walk in the park. Currently, Tower Grove Park has more than 300 varieties of trees and shrubs, totaling over 8500, making up the most diverse collection



of trees and shrubs in a public park in the United States.

Upcoming in the Park:

Tower Grove Park continues its year round program of live music in the park. The Saint Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series is now appearing monthly at the Piper Palm House. Word is out on this wonderful musical program, and we have really enjoyed seeing it grow into such a popular performance. The November and December concerts both played to capacity audiences.

The first two performances of 2001 are scheduled for 7p.m. on January 9th and February 6th. Plan on arriving early as seating is limited. You will not be disappointed.

Tower Grove Heights Apartment Referral Service

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association offers a free referral service to landlords in the neighborhood and prospective tenants. This successful service has been matching tenants with landlords for several years. To participate, landlords need to call 772-5982 to register their apartments. Jean Iezzi, the referral service coordinator, will ask several questions about the rental unit which will include name, phone, unit address, rent, deposits, size, air conditioning, garage, other amenities, etc. Upon completion of the questionnaire, Jean places the information on the list of available apartments in the neighborhood. When prospective tenants inquire about a place to live in Tower Grove Heights, the referral service tries to match the tenant to an apartment. If a match can be made, the landlord's phone number is given to the tenant and it's up to the tenant and landlord to connect. Jean Iezzi suggests that all landlords use an application to screen prospective tenants, and tenants should ask important questions of their future landlords.

Presently, there are not enough apartments in the referral system for the amount of tenants seeking apartments. If any landlords would like to participate in this free service, call 772-5982 to register.

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Neighborhood Economic Development News

By Jennifer Florida

South Side National Bank

I am sure most of you are wondering, "Hey, what's going on with South Side National Bank?" Representatives of the Grand & Gravois Coalition met on November 1st with St. Louis Development Corporation's Pat Bannister, Alderwoman Vining, and representatives of the State of Missouri's Economic Development Office to talk about redeveloping South Side National Bank. Pat Bannister is now our official point person. Money has been allocated for study of hard costs. Seidlund has been selected off of the City's short list to do the study. South Side National Bank would act as the developer. They are in the discovery stage, determining the scope of services and hard and fast development figures. The study will be completed in February.

Southtown Site (Kingshighway & Chippewa)

For those of you have not heard, K-Mart



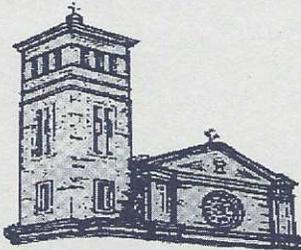
was denied a Conditional Use Permit to build a K-Mart at the famous Southtown Site. K-Mart and owners of the property, DDR, have appealed to the Board of Adjustment (BOA). The Southtown Coalition

is now presenting its testimony opposing K-Mart. The BOA Hearings are scheduled for December 20th, 2000, and January 3rd and January 31st, 2001, at 1:30 PM, City Hall, Room 208.

The Southtown Coalition is a grassroots community organization comprised of more than 25 neighborhood groups, churches, and business organizations. The Southtown Coalition is asking citizens of South St. Louis to attend the hearing in order to voice their concern for the relocation of K-Mart and to support the community planning process. Jeffrey Anderson Real Estate, Inc. would like to purchase the property and develop it in a manner that is consistent with the neighborhood's wishes by adding several new retail outlets not currently available in the City. Anderson Realty has developed in excess of 1 million square feet of retail including such stores as TJ Maxx, Organized Living, Cost Plus/World Market and Starbucks.

Once again, I thank everyone who has attended a forum, signed a petition, attended a hearing, planned a meeting, and/or made a phone call. Thank You.

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Help the Earth While Reducing Your Treks to the Alley: Recycle!

By Matthew Fernandes

Wondering how you can get one of those attractive, royal blue recycling bins that keep popping up around the neighborhood every Friday? The answer (plus a whirlwind tour of South St. Louis recycling options) follows.

SIGN UP NOW FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING!



Earth Circle Recycling, 664-1450, is who you should call if you want to enjoy the convenience of curbside recycling. There is an annual fee of \$24 for residents of Tower Grove Heights. (Our neighborhood happens to be included in the city's pilot recycling program, thus the lower rate.)

Each Friday, an Earth Circle truck will pick up your recyclables. In the blue bin, you can rinse and toss aluminum cans, steel food cans, glass bottles and numbers one and two plastic bottles and containers. Newspapers, paperboard, office paper, magazines, telephone books and other mixed paper should be stored in separate bags. Corrugated cardboard can be stacked next to the blue bin or under it in case of heavy winds. On rainy days, you can put your recyclables on your porch.

For those who would rather haul their recyclables themselves, recycle bins can be found at the following locations:

- Alley north of Roger & Parker (just a few blocks west of Tower Grove Heights): Aluminum cans, steel (tin) food cans, glass bottles #1 and #2 plastic bottles, newspaper.

- City of St. Louis/Operation Brightside Recycling Center, 1660 South Kingshighway. Mon – Sat, 9 - 5, 781-4556: Aluminum cans, steel (tin) food cans, glass bottles, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, paperboard, magazines, office paper, telephone books

Clothing, blankets, shoes, toys, dishes, furniture, appliances, household items, school supplies, etc., can be recycled by donating to:

- Goodwill, 4140 Forest Park, 371-6320
- Homeless Resource Bank, 1000 N. 19th Street, 231-1515
- Salvation Army, 3949 Forest Park, 535-0057
- Disabled American Veterans, 4236 Natural Bridge, 531-7454
- St. Vincent DePaul 531-2183
- Goodwill 631-1463
- Metro Ministries 534-1010

What about grocery bags?

Plastic grocery bags can be recycled at area Schnucks stores. Do not put any other type of plastic bags or wrap in the bins, because many are made from different plastic resins. Paper grocery bags can be cut up to mail or wrap packages, and to cover schoolbooks.

For the determined energy-saver, take reusable cloth shopping bags when you go to the store.

Bulky & B.O.A.T (Batteries Oil Appliances Tires) Item

It's against the law to throw the following "BOAT" items out with the trash:

- Batteries from motor vehicles (not household batteries).
- Oil from motor vehicles.
- Appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, ovens, etc.

- Tires from motor vehicles and trailers.

You can, however, recycle your BOAT items with the City! Place these items out for collection, along with your other BULKY trash, when the monthly bulk pick up is in your area. In Tower Grove Heights, pickups are done during the week of the third Monday of each month.

Why recycle?

The web site of the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/info/wast/reduction.html>) has a succinct explanation: "Recycling is one method of reducing our solid waste going to landfill. But it also encourages the markets for manufacturing to reuse materials in the manufacture of products. By using recycling materials, the manufacturing process uses less raw materials, less water, and less energy."

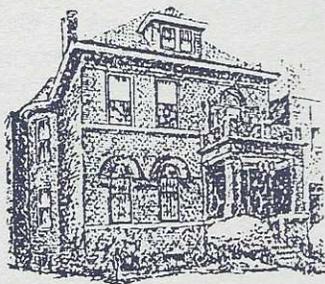
St. Louis' Operation Brightside provided the following figures:

- The average St. Louisan generates 2,660 pounds of trash each year.
- If St. Louisans recycled just newspapers, we could save the equivalent of 3,125,400 trees, 8,171,120 gallons of gasoline and 175,347 cubic feet of landfill space each year. We would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6,000 tons.
- Up to 80% of trash can and should be recycled.
- Your recycled bottles, cans, paper and other materials eventually become products such as carpeting, insulation, park benches, sleeping bags...even kitty litter!

In short, recycling is the least we can do to "pay back" the earth that sustains us! Just think about those melting polar ice caps the next time you reach for that wastebasket....

Not guilt-ridden yet? Well, with winter fast approaching, here's a practical reason for you to adopt a blue bin: Recycling means less garbage and less garbage means fewer trips through the frozen tundra of your back yard and out to the alley dumpsters!

(Information for much of this article came from the City of St. Louis Recycling webpage: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/index.htm>)



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It's Not a Garage

By Rich Iezzi

Is there anyone in Tower Grove Heights who hasn't noticed Tricia Heliker's latest project behind her home at 3802 Hartford? There USED to be a garage there but the new building is no garage. I kind of liked the old structure. It had large sliding doors on the alley and yard side enabling horses to walk through the garage as they pulled a buggy inside. It also stored my spare 500 pound radiator. As cool as the old garage was, Tricia just couldn't adapt it for her primary use — a place to express her talents with painted furniture.

For any of us who have known Tricia for awhile, we've gotten used to standing in her kitchen among her 100 bottles of paint colors and dissected furniture. Tricia had a dream, however, and caught a glimpse of a garage photo in a book from 1911, and her studio idea began. She contacted Paul Sansone, designer of Phil Duckwall's concrete garage behind 3826 Arsenal, and Paul created a 20' by 27' studio with a soaring roof line and arched doors and windows.

Tricia spent lots of time prowling the Webster Groves, Kirkwood, and Ladue neighborhoods to locate just the right color

and style roof shingles. As always, material and labor cost dictated lots of decisions, but Tricia managed to stick with the magnificent roof and window design.



Northern (top) and southern (bottom) views of Tricia Heliker's "un-garage."

When I asked about problems during construction, locating the old sewer line was number one. It was like a ceiling joist that disappears after you snap a chalk line over it to guide your drywall screws. The line was finally discovered just in time to have the work site turned into a mud pit by the June rains. Once the concrete cured and Tricia's brother Danny began the framing, things moved quickly.

Tricia let me take a peek at her new space while it was under construction. "What are those lines for?" I'd ask. "The kitchen," she'd say. "How about THOSE lines?" I'd inquire further. "Oh, that's for the central air," she'd explain. "What about all these?" inquiring still further on my part. "Well, that's for the bathroom, those handle the furnace, and the rest are for the water service," she itemized. I knew that this was no garage. Actually, the building will be named later after Tricia has applied her talent to some furniture and spends time getting to know the place. Right now it's either called 'L'atelier' (the artist studio) or 'my sanctuary.'

It has been suggested that her new space looks like a cottage, and Tricia likes the comparison. As a city girl, Tricia has always wanted a retreat — a beach house, maybe a cabin in the woods. But as a city girl, what better place to build your retreat than on the alley behind your house? You can still get away and since your retreat is only 30 feet from your house, you can bring all your fun stuff out there with you.

Speaking for her neighbors, we just got used to going around to the back and walking right into Tricia's back porch when we wanted to find her. I guess we'll just have to keep walking right past her back porch to find her now. I think she'll be spending most of her time in the 'studio.'



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Resident Profile -- Anna Katheryn Kilker

By Erin O'Reilly

Anna Katheryn Kilker is a TGHNA member who has lived in Tower Grove Heights since 1963 when she and her husband bought their home on Juniata street. Anna is originally from Indiana. She met her husband, John, in Omaha where they attended a University of Omaha English Literature class together. John noticed that Anna was able to keep up with the class notes because she knew shorthand and called her for a date (maybe he was too busy noticing her to keep his own notes). They became friends and after John returned to St. Louis, his hometown, he wrote and asked her to marry him. So, that is how Anna came to live in St. Louis!

After residing in apartments in the South St. Louis area for a few years, Anna and John decided they would buy a home in the area. They purchased a home on Juniata street in 1963 — Anna remembers that it was right before J.F.K. was assassinated. One of the main reasons for selecting the TGH area for their home was the proximity to Grand and Arsenal streets and the trolley cars, and later, buses that they utilized for transportation. Anna recalls taking the last ride on the trolley car on Grand on a Sunday in 1964. Another main reason they bought a home here is because the houses were well-built and “have character.”

Although they used public transportation to get to their jobs, Anna remembers being able to shop for most all their necessities by foot in the neighborhood. The shops were interspersed around the neighborhood — usually on the corners — and were very accessible. She often shopped at the Cleaver Bakery at Spring and Wyoming. She remembers that it was a wonderful place with curved glass display cases and pedestal holders for the cakes. They were especially kind to the children of the neighborhood and would give her daughter, Paula, treats. They often frequented the Gustine Market, a family style grocery store, with the “best meat in the city.” The meat was cut to order for the buyer right in the store — Anna said you could get a filet mignon you wouldn't believe! Also, the grocer's son had a specially designed bike for delivering the groceries. At Mavrako's candy shop on Grand and Juniata streets, Johnny would get a 2 pound box of fine chocolates every year for Anna and Paula on special occasions. Another fine grocery store and

a drugstore was located on Spring street (where the condos are now) and later it was the neighborhood voting place.

Anna worked as a secretary for United Cerebral palsy at Grand and Magnolia, and later for the Jewish Federation of St. Louis at the old RR exchange building at Olive and 7th streets. Johnny was a civil engineer for the Corps of Engineers here in St. Louis. He would take the trolley to and from work and would read the daily newspaper on the trolley.

In 1960, they had a daughter, Paula, who is now married and has three children of her own. They live in South County and are able to see Anna regularly. Johnny passed away in 1993 of leukemia and Anna honored him by having two Magnolia trees planted in Tower Grove Park. Johnny jogged in the park on a regular basis and the family often used the park for recreational activities. The trees are thriving and have started to flower this year.

Anna enjoys reading and learning. Some time ago, she took a class at Washington U. taught by a woman from the Missouri Historical Society. She learned a lot about the history of the South St. Louis area. Anna enjoys her home and the surrounding area in Tower Grove Heights! She is a lovely lady who is a wealth of information and a fine conversationalist.

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church - An Old Neighbor

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church was organized in 1895. The members built their first frame church at the corner of Bent Avenue and Humphrey. After a fire destroyed the building in 1907, the small congregation bought a lot for a new church at the corner of Oak Hill and Connecticut. The church and chapel were built in four sections as money was raised; they finally were completed in 1919. In those days, corn fields made up the area around Arsenal, Hartford, and Oak Hill to Gustine. Congregants wore boots to church in order to negotiate the muddy streets. Church membership grew with the neighborhood, doubling between the years 1940 to 1945. In 1950, the church acquired the eleven-room house to its west for use as Sunday school classrooms. Three years later, construction began on an educational building that provided even more classroom space and linked the church to the house. Today, Oak Hill Presbyterian's congregation is spread throughout the metropolitan region. Since 1974, the church has rented out the house at 4115 Connecticut to the American Indian Center of Mid-America, an organization that provides social services to the local Native American community. (From *Where We Live — A Guide to St. Louis Communities*, Jim Fox, editor.)

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A Blast From the Past

By Don Hardin

My mother loves scarves, and she has quite a collection. This year, to add to her collection, I decided to visit The Vintage Haberdashery. Within minutes, I found a great old lilac lace scarf (probably from the 1950's (it has swans on it)).

The Haberdashery (3143 South Grand) is a unique and fun place. I spoke with the owner, Joile, who told me that they started out in Soulard 18

years ago. About 8 years ago they made the move to Grand Sound Grand. They are here to stay. They love the location, the clientele, and the upbeat atmosphere of our special shopping district.

A walk through the store is fun, with selections from the 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's and who knows when. For a that truly unique addition to your

wardrobe treat yourself to a blast from the past.



News from the New President

By Michael Renner
President, TGHNA

It's a new year and we have several new board members. Cheryl Jones now gets to enjoy her role as Past President while I take over as President. Under her leadership, the neighborhood association became a major player in the hot issues that faced us, namely the Arsenal median issue and destruction of the house on Hartford. Through all the tumultuous battles, Cheryl maintained a calm demeanor, always pursuing the path of reason and consensus building. We are fortunate to draw on her expertise as Past President.

New board members include treasurer Jodie Heliker and president-elect Brian Marston. Both are committed to making the TGHNA a strong and viable organization. Along with returning board members Diane Hurwitz (secretary) and Margaret Prichard (membership), it looks like we have another strong board. Also important to our success as an organization is the involvement of our committee chairs: Jill Nissen (block representatives), Tod Martin (Gazette), Jeffery Blunt (Fun & Fundraising), Robert Jones (Neighborhood Safety and Membership & Social), Joe Ogier and Andrew Habern (Physical Improvements) and Jeff Muse (Tenant committee). Combined with the numerous block captains and other volunteers, we have one of the most active and viable neighborhood associations in south city.

On one level, I envision our association continuing along these lines and maintaining our voice and presence in important developments. Last year we set a very ambitious agenda for fundraising and activities. Some were quite successful and we will continue with those, such as the Busch stadium concession stand. Others were not quite as profitable or successful but we learned our limits, which is what any good organization does. We know that our success hinges on the involvement of volunteers. As the board meets in January, we will develop a plan of events and present them at our February meeting for comment. And remember, there is always room for your involvement.



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- **Community Leader in Grand & Gravois Coalition for the redevelopment of South Side National Bank**
- **Community Leader in the Redevelopment of Gravois Plaza**
- **Southtown Coalition Leader**
- **Block Captain**
- **St. Pius Vth School Board**
- **Resident of South St. Louis City-16 years**
- **Married to Mark Florida -16 years. We have 4 children ages: 15, 13, 9 & 7. Our children are 5th generation city residents.**
- **Member of St. Paul UCC, Giles & Potomac**
- **Member TGH Neighborhood Association**



Jennifer Florida....a track record of leadership... service... & commitment to community.

Yes, I want to help elect Jennifer Florida in the Democratic Primary March 6.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Sign me up for the following volunteer jobs:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host a small coffee/tea | <input type="checkbox"/> Put a sign in my yard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver campaign literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Work at Polls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stuff Envelopes | <input type="checkbox"/> Make phone calls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donate to Jennifer's Campaign | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 other \$ _____ |

Citizens to Elect Jennifer Florida
3883 Hartford St., St. Louis, MO 63116

Paid for by Citizens to Elect Jennifer Florida, Opal Jones Treasurer, 773-4634, Ross Hammond, Campaign Manager

To help Jennifer, please contact us at 776-2890 or visit our web site <http://hometown.aol.com/electjennflorida/my-homepage/election.html> E-Mail us at ElectJennFlorida@aol.com

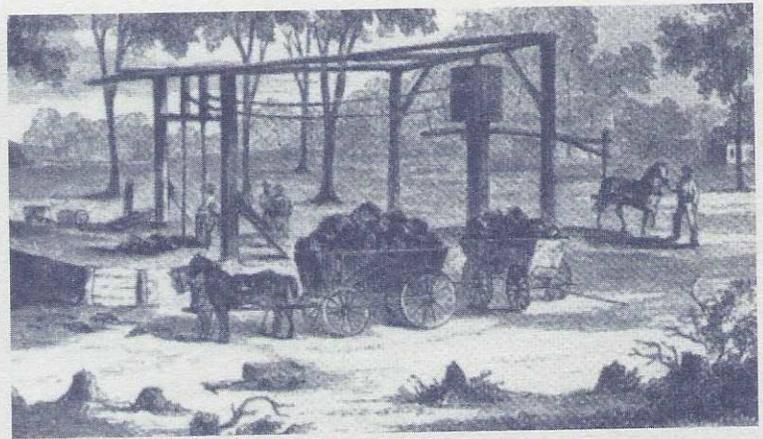
(Continued from page 1)

survival by some of the poorest early immigrants, to what mix of shopping we want today.)

The bounty on the land's surface, and the "black gold" underneath it, were not the end, though, of what our land had to offer, and what the Russells would do with it, for a Russell son then discovered "Cheltenham clay" here. Clay mining was then undertaken, with some mines 80-117 feet deep, and brick-making, then brick manufacturing. This clay was found to have an especially effective fire-proofing element, so that it came to be used not only for building the famous St. Louis brick houses, but also for glass and coke furnaces. Our clay produced, guide Pat Adams said, "the finest brick in the world." By 1895, with machines now, three billion bricks a year were being made.

Through most of this 19th century and that era's thriving Russell family "rule" here, the neighborhood was relatively unpopulated. An

1883 map, Adams says, shows only six to ten houses in Tower Grove South. (Perhaps the mining families' cottages literally "didn't count"?) But late in that century several changes spurred development. One was the building of a Grand overpass (near where the Metrolink is now) over the east-west rail lines. Another was the development of the Park, Compton, Tower Grove and Vandeventer trolley lines. (In 1888, the Tower Grove Park office opened where it still is today, at the south-central entrance to the Park. There, horse or mule-drawn trolleys turned around to make the trip back to the city.)



Coal mining on Gravois Road, c. 1855.

A third factor that led to making our neighborhood was the beginning of mortgage financing. Previously, people had to save a tidy sum, and then buy a house outright, meaning home ownership was out of reach for the overwhelming majority. Then, short-term financing began to develop, but still entailed paying off a house within about five years. Around 1904-1905, however — the period in which most of our homes were built — Mercantile Trust began to offer what we now think of as mortgages, and by 1910 one-half the houses in TGH had mortgages.

TGH, our little slice of Tower Grove South, was originally owned by the McDonald family. Later a lot of it came into the hands of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company (which accounts for us having Connecticut and Hartford Streets and also Humphrey — Humphrey was the company's president).

TGH was developed as a subdivision would be today. (We sanctimonious city-dwellers should note: this was once the 'burbs!) And it had more stringent deed restrictions than the rest of Tower Grove South. These were not racial or religious or ethnic — not uncommon at the turn of the century — but rather architectural. Houses had to be brick, and two to two and one-half stories; and multi-family structures (in that era of owner-occupancy) were encouraged. In fact the Arsenal Street portion of TGH was planned to be primarily houses of two families or more, apparently because it faced the trolley lines.

What some perceive today as a tension between TGH and the rest of Tower Grove South is thus somewhat based in history, in how our neighborhood came to be. What's more, even in the old days, Utah Place was more restrictive than the rest of TGH. Each home there, for example, had to be individually designed by an architect — no Gilded Age tract houses for Utah Place!

(Continued on next page)



Oak Hill, home of the Russell Family, neighbors of Henry Shaw on the South; the artist Charles Marion Russell grew up here.

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Everyone***



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Dining on South Grand

Restaurant Review - Al Smith's Feasting Fox
By Tim & Deb Akin

There are many fine restaurants in the area that surrounds our neighborhood. However, few of them have stronger ties to the history of South St. Louis than Al Smith's Feasting Fox. The restaurant was built in 1913 by Anheuser-Busch, Inc. and was called Busch's Gretchen Inn. Prohibition was looming during that time and Adolphus Busch wanted to show that beer could be served in an atmosphere suitable to the entire family.

The history of the building and its owners, both past and present, is very interesting. The back of the menu contains a short account of the many trials and tribulations of this corner of South St. Louis. It also recounts the extraordinary efforts of the Dutchtown South Neighborhood Association to save the building from being destroyed. But all of the efforts to save the building would have been fruitless without Susan and Martin Luepker, the current proprietors.

When you look at the building as it stands today, it is hard to image the amount of work and commitment required to restore and re-furnish it. Sue described the terrible condition of the building before they began the restoration and it was hard to believe anyone would take on that kind of challenge. Fortunately for Dutchtown and the surrounding neighborhoods, Sue and Marty completed the restoration and have been open for business

for over 5 years. I won't try to recount any more history here. Instead, I encourage you to go to the "Fox," enjoy dinner and/or a drink in the lounge, read the history and then talk to Sue and Marty if you still have questions.

Speaking of dinner ... we have eaten at the "Fox" on several occasions. On a recent visit with another couple we started with the Sausage Sampler and Fried Pickles. The sampler was very good. Our friends lived in Germany for several years and rated the sausage very highly. The fried pick-

les are not on the menu. They are delicious but don't count on getting them if the kitchen is busy. Try to go early or on a weeknight if you want to try them. They are proof that you can fry just about anything and it will taste good.

We tried a special called Cajun Pork Chops and found those to be wonderful. The Chicken with Spinach and Pistachio was also a surprise hit. The Wienerschnitzel was excellent if you want a little taste of Germany. Seafood, pasta, soups and salads are also available on the menu. Although the "Fox" is not a haven for vegetarians, a special entrée prepared to your liking is available.

Al Smith's Feasting Fox Restaurant and Pub is located at 4200 South Grand. They are open Tuesday - Sunday for lunch and dinner. A brunch is available on Sunday. Call 352-3500 for more information. The "Fox" is a treasure that we don't want to lose. Add it to your list of places to frequent in South St. Louis.



Al Smith's Feasting Fox



Pat Adams led the September 16th Tower Grove South tour. (Photo courtesy of Tom Rhodenbaugh.)

The neighborhood in that era, before most houses had refrigeration, was full of little corner groceries where people shopped daily. And Grand was as busy as it is now, going through its evolution of uses, some of which past ones are still visible, if you look closely. (The King and I Restaurant, for example, still shows above the entrance the faint sign for "Tower Grove Bank," which was built in 1911.)

This is the history we walk through. And beneath what is visible or seen as a palimpsest, there is more history under our feet, in the caves and tunnels of the coal mines and clay pits, whose entrances are sealed to us.

These few square miles, then, have seen every major wave of American history, even the industrial revolution in miniature. Europeans and Africans were the first to people this land after the indigenous tribal peoples; today immigrants from the continents of Asia, South America and Europe, primarily, are further changing it. All of us are stewards of it.

* * *

(Note: Mark Abbott, an historian and TGH resident, helped Pat Adams prepare for the tour; he also reviewed this article for accuracy.)

Pat Adams suggests interested residents look into two books available in some public libraries, though both are out of print: Old Gravois Coal Diggin's by Mary Boyer, published in the 1950's; and Pictorial History of St. Louis, published in 1975. Other sources may be found at the Missouri Historical Society and at the Mercantile Library at University of Missouri-St. Louis.



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YMCA Announces Renovation of Landmark South Side Building

The YMCA of Greater St. Louis has big plans for the South Side branch. At the end of September, the YMCA of Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Board of Directors approved moving the association's corporate offices from the second floor of the Downtown YMCA branch into the space currently occupied by the South Side Family YMCA.

"This move is a positive one for both the community and the YMCA," says Larry Alvey, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater St. Louis. "Our decision to move the offices into the South Side building and the development of the new South City Family YMCA strengthens our presence in this community."

Mayor Clarence Harmon also is excited about the YMCA's decision to relocate its offices to the South Side facility. "I welcome the YMCA's decision to renovate its building on South Grand. This development and the construction of the beautiful, new YMCA facility near Sublette Park confirm the YMCA's commitment to the residents of South City," says Harmon. "It's also another positive indication that businesses and organizations continue to have faith in the city's ability to renew itself."

Renovations to the South Side Building

The building, which has stood at 2232 South Grand since 1936, will require significant renovations before the corporate offices move into the building. Plans include tearing down nearly half the building and using the remaining area for office space for 40 staff members. The current gymnasium will be converted into the association training center where the YMCA will train employees from its 20 St. Louis branches in areas such as customer service and technology.

The building, a landmark in the community, is important to the history of South City and the YMCA in St. Louis. The YMCA has not named an architect or contractor for the project yet, but plans to keep the original architectural character of the building and restore as much of its interior and exterior as possible.

The New South City Branch

The YMCA opened its new South City Family YMCA on December 9 on the southeast corner of Arsenal and Sublette Avenue.

The new facility is located two-and-one-half miles away from the original site and is along the same bus line. The new 42,000 square foot building is more than double the size of the South Side YMCA and offers new programs and activities to more than 3,000 members. The new facility has been made possible through the funds raised in the YMCA Vision 2000 Capital Campaign.

Proposed Timeline

- * December 1: South Side Family YMCA begins transition to new South City Family YMCA
- * December 9: New South City Family YMCA celebrates grand opening
- * January 2001: Construction begins on South Side building
- * Summer 2001: Corporate offices move into renovated South Side building

About the YMCA of Greater St. Louis

Founded in 1853, the YMCA of Greater St. Louis is a not-for-profit, charitable organization dedicated to building strong kids, strong families, and strong communities. This year over 7,150 YMCA volunteers and 2,600 dedicated staff will serve 499,000 participants through programs such as child care, health enhancement, youth sports, Teen Leaders Clubs, and Family Fun Nights. The YMCA of Greater St. Louis has 20 branches and more than 450 program sites all over the St. Louis area.

St. Louis PrideFest 2001 Theme Chosen

Pride St. Louis, Inc. has chosen the empowering phrase 'Embrace Diversity' as its theme for PrideFest 2001. Choosing this theme places St. Louis PrideFest in unity with the world-wide Pride theme adopted at the most recent InterPride Conference in Atlanta.



"This simple yet powerful combination of words brings to mind how successful our community can be when we truly recognize that valuing differences can only make us stronger," said Pride St. Louis Director of Public Relations Rolf E. Rathmann. Organizers hope that 'Embrace Diversity' will spark community words into action, as each of their previous themes have done.

PrideFest 2001 will be held on Saturday, June 23, and Sunday, June 24, 2001, in Tower Grove Park. For more information, contact (314) 772-8888 or www.pridesaintlouis.com.

Pride St. Louis, Inc. is a tax-exempt educational and charitable organization dedicated to increasing the awareness of the general public of the presence of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered individuals in the community in an effort to eliminate prejudice and achieve harmony. Donations to Pride St. Louis, Inc. are deductible as charitable contributions.

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South City Family YMCA
a branch of the YMCA of Greater St. Louis
3150 Sublette -- St. Louis, MO

Call 865-3500
for more
information

The Poet of Tower Grove Heights

By Michael Renner
President, TGHNA

When Suzanne Rhodenbaugh, of the 3700 block of Arsenal, decided to devote herself full-time to writing poetry and essays, chances are she never dreamed it would take over 16 years to have her first book of poetry published. It's something all writers — serious and otherwise — face everyday: endless submissions and, what seems to be even more rejections from publishers. Rhodenbaugh says she lost track of how many times she submitted her manuscript, "Lick of Sense." When she submitted the manuscript last year for a poetry competition, she had decided that it was the last time she would try to get it published. The competition was the prestigious Marianne Moore Poetry Prize offered by the literary publishing house Helicon Nine Editions of Kansas City. She submitted the manuscript and forgot all about it.

It's said that love comes to us when we are least looking for it. So too, I suppose, does success. Her act of rote submission yielded the motherlode for all poets — winning the competition and having the manuscript published by a respected literary house. While most writers toil to turn their ideas, ruminations and visions into cogent sentences, few worry about recognition; it's just understood that most of us will never achieve mass appeal. And even though poetry is decimal dust in the world of publishing finances and profit, having a manuscript published is indeed "a big deal."

As a young girl growing up in Tampa, FL, Suzanne was always writing, publishing her first poem while in high school. Judging by what I know of her now, I suspect she was always a questioning, precocious child. She received her bachelor's degree in English but then went to the University of Michigan to receive her master's degree in Public Health. It was while working for the United Mine Workers Health and Retirement Fund that she met her husband, Tom Rhodenbaugh. Tom was organizing for the Mine Workers Union in Johnstown, PA, when they met in 1971. He relates that she became more active in her writing after they got married and she stayed home to raise their two children from Tom's previous marriage. The couple moved to the Heights from Richmond, VA, in 1999 when Tom took the job as director of the St. Louis Regional Jobs Initiative, operated by the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council.

Suzanne attended Vermont College in the early 1980s and received her master's of Fine Arts degree in Writing. She's taught at the University of Connecticut and other academic institutions. Along the way, Suzanne established herself as a published poet and essayist, with works appearing in such prestigious literary journals as the Michigan Quarterly Review, The American Scholar, Salmagundi and the Hudson Review. She was even gar-



nered an honorable mention in the book "Best of American Essays of 2000." Her latest work appears in the Fall 2000 issue of Boulevard, published by St. Louis University. When she published her third chapbook, a pamphlet of poetry published by small literary presses, the distinguished poet Molly Peacock wrote in the preface, "Sass and wit rarely come in the same package, but here they are in Suzanne Rhodenbaugh's poetry. Her poetry thrives on the paradox of raw energy and logical refinement, a union that lets her invert the world and examine it at the same time." Peacock concludes by saying that as she read through the poems submitted for the Painted Bride Quarterly chapbook contest held in 1997, "it was Rhodenbaugh's (poems) I was drawn to again and again. It is a testament to (her) persistence and the special nature of her gift:

fireworks that stay in the sky."

But to hear Suzanne read her work is where the true beauty and rhythm of her work is exposed. At a reading held last year at Duff's, as part of the River Styx poetry series, I first heard Suzanne convey her words in her own voice. It was a witty and wry poem relating the experiences of a family vacation. It's when I first heard her southern drawl emerge. The cadence of her voice and the pacing of her phrasing were as captivating as any southern storyteller I had ever heard.

Like her poetry, her essays are highly personal, intelligent and far-reaching. "Catherine MacKinnon, May I Speak?" from the Michigan Quarterly Review is a critique of the feminist's essay on sexuality. "One Heart's Cannon" from The American Scholar is a personal essay on the meaning and use of poetry to her life: "I used the poems in my personal canon to live." "Illegitimacy and Stigma: Living with the Burn," again from the Michigan Quarterly Review, is a scathing argument against the controversial political scientist Charles Murray and his Wall Street Journal article, "The Coming White Underclass," published in 1993. It's here that we get glimpses of Suzanne's then current life, her past and a brief history of Tom's work on behalf of poor communities throughout the country.

I think it's her essay, "The Neighborhood That Came True," in the American Literary Journal, that clarified for me Suzanne's undying commitment to the neighborhoods in which she has lived. It's a beautiful memory of her time spent in Takoma Park, MD, just outside Washington, DC.

In addition to involving herself in Tower Grove Heights neighborhood issues, Suzanne continues to write and serves as a reviewer of poetry and fiction manuscripts for the St. Louis-based literary journal River Styx.

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Fiery Skippers and the Brimstone of the Weed Police

By Rick Clinebell

At last report, we had had our adventure with the city Dept. of Public Health regarding the potential for the backyard prairie garden harboring rats (which it doesn't). When that had settled, along came the Dept. of Urban Forestry, who cited us for having vegetation taller than six feet. Both notices stated that they were responding to a "complaint." In the first case, the native wildflowers were sighted by a city employee, not a resident, and in the second case, we just trimmed down the plants to below six feet. Evidently, this sufficed, as we didn't hear from them again, though it was a bit inconvenient to trim the foliage in the three days we were allowed to do so, much to the disappointment, I'm sure, of the flock of wild goldfinches which were feasting on the seeds of the ten foot tall annual sunflowers.

In general, the feeling I am left with is how nice it would be to have one of those tall wooden fences so that nobody, including city employees, could look in and see the backyard. On the other hand, this is a bit sad, as the wildflower gardens do bring a bit of pleasure to many residents of the Heights, although I am sure there are some who think them atrocious.

There is actually a national society, with a chapter in St. Louis, which was founded primarily to teach people with wildflower gardens how to protect those gardens from urban governments. This sounds to me like too much of a hassle for someone who already takes medication for high blood pressure! And so the tall stuff is largely coming out next spring. We will leave a tall perennial border and

replant with lower things, including some of the stuff we had seven years ago before the prairie got out of control — things like tomato and pepper plants, marigolds and zinnias. Amen.

I hope the fiery skippers still come. One of my projects last summer was traveling all over the state collecting specimens of skippers, Missouri's largest group of butterflies. While the car was in the shop for a few days during Indian Summer, I collected a bit in the backyard, and this is where the bulk of the fiery skippers I found last year turned up. I also hope that the monarchs will still come, that the great spangled fritillaries will still come, and the tiger swallowtails, and the giant cloudless sulfurs, and all the rest.



A wildflower garden is a tremendous amount of work. But the situation is much worse for the wildflowers than for the wildflower gardener. Everywhere, the last wild populations of many species have already been destroyed, not only near the city but also throughout the continent, by the various activities of mankind. And along with them, the many species of butterflies, native bees, birds and other wildlife that depend on them have been affected. We are already six generations into the time where most Missourians have never seen a native prairie, which once covered fully half of the state.

Call for Nominations for Good Neighbor Awards

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association will be honoring residents at its February meeting who have been "Good Neighbors" during the last year. If you know Heights residents who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to be a good neighbor (this might involve shoveling sidewalks, keeping a beautiful yard, working to improve the neighborhood in any way, etc.), then please nominate them so they can be recognized by the whole neighborhood. To nominate one or more of your neighbors, simply include the information below on a sheet of paper and mail it by February 9th to TGHNA, 3735 Connecticut, St. Louis, MO 63116.

- Name of Nominee
- Address of Nominee
- Reason for nomination
- Your name and phone number (optional -- in case we need to contact you for more information)

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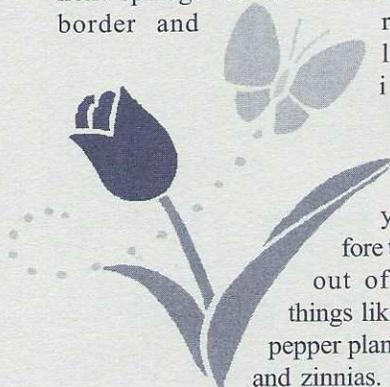
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Odds & Ends

> Congratulations to the winners of the TGHNA Holiday Lighting Competition. Winners will be recognized at the January 23rd TGHNA meeting. The winners are: Best Overall — 3617 Hartford; Best Outdoor Tree — 3711 Utah.

> Mark your calendars: The Grand South Grand House Tour will be held on April 15th and 16th. Look for more information in the next issue of the Gazette.

> Did you see the TGHNA Holiday Cards? They had an old photograph (late 1800's/early 1900's) of a snowy Tower Grove Park with a horse and buggy passing by the Turkish Pavilion. We received such a positive response to the cards, that we will be repeating the fundraiser next year. *We are in need of photographs or artwork depicting Winter or the Holidays in Tower Grove Heights or Tower Grove Park.* So, as the fresh snow falls, head out and capture images that show off our area. Once you have photos or artwork that would be suitable for a Holiday Card, contact us at 771-6292. We'll need to start making the cards by October 1st. Good Luck!



Interested in advertising in the Tower Grove Heights Gazette?

If you are interested in advertising, call Tod Martin at 771-6292 or write to tod.a.martin@att.net for information on rates and layout planning.

The Tower Grove Heights Gazette editorial staff reserves the right to reject any advertisement considered to be inconsistent with the purpose and goals of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association.

In Honor of President's Day – The Presidents Of TGHNA

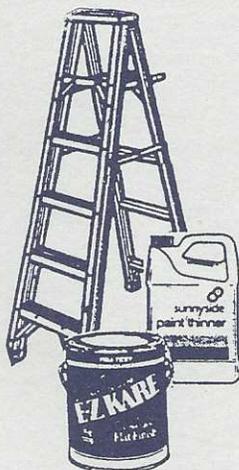
By Don Hardin

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NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

Monthly meetings 7:15 PM on 4th
Tuesday, First Church of Divine Science,
3617 Wyoming
President: Michael Renner
President Elect: Brian Marston
Past President: Cheryl Jones
Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
Asst. Secretary: Margaret Prichard
Treasurer: Jodie Heliker

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Block Representatives: Jill Nissen
Fun & Fundraising: Jeffrey Blunt
Gazette: Tod Martin
Membership & Social: Robert Jones
Neighborhood Safety: Robert Jones
Physical Improvements: Joe Ogier and
Andrew Haberern
Tenant Committee: Jeff Muse

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- 3600/3700 Arsenal**
Margaret Prichard
- 3800 Arsenal**
Elliott Blevins
Fredric Rissover
- 3600/3700 Hartford**
Bobbie Ohmer
Sue Stefanski
- 3800 Hartford**
Jennifer Florida
Joe Thele
- 3600/3700 Juniata**
Jane Cochran
Jill Nissen
Robin Vannoy
- 3800 Juniata**
Lucinda McNary
- 3600/3700 Connecticut**
Linda Schweighofer
- 3800 Connecticut**
Chris Howard
David Nothmann
- 3600/3700 Wyoming**
Bob Walker
- 3800 Wyoming**
Linda Fick
- 3600/3700 Humphrey**
Sue Clavin
- 3800 Humphrey**
Susan Huck
Erin L. O'Reilly
- 3600/3700 Utah Place**
Mary Duggan
- 3800 Utah Place**
Veda Lynn

February is Membership Renewal Month!

We have recently changed our membership renewal process. Beginning this year, all memberships will be renewed annually in February. **So, please fill out the form below and return it with your check to our office or bring it to our next monthly meeting.** You can also renew by filling out a form at one of our monthly meetings (January 23rd and February 27th, 7:15p.m., First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming). If you have already sent in a renewal check, don't worry, it will be credited to your account. If you have any questions, you can contact Margaret Prichard, our membership secretary, at 664-0373.

Upcoming Meetings: Tuesday, January 23, and Tuesday, February 27.

Both meetings will be at 7:15p.m. at the First Church of Divine Science at 3617 Wyoming. Everyone is welcome to attend. Pat Adams will speak about the history of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood at our January meeting.

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!

Memberships are as follows, please check ONE:

- Individual (1 vote) \$7/yr
- Family (2 votes) \$12/yr
- Renaissance (1 vote) \$20/yr (Includes a set of TGH note cards)
- Business (1 vote) \$25/yr (Includes 10% discount on Gazette Ad for 6 issues)

Please PRINT.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Return this form and your check to your block representative or mail to Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, 3735 Connecticut, St. Louis, MO 63116.

Please check ONE:

- Yes, include me in the 2001 Neighborhood Buzz Book.
- No, do not include me in the 2001 Neighborhood Buzz Book.



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