

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 32 No. 4

Winter 2021



100 NEEDIEST CASES - 2021

By Ellen Wilson

This is the 18th year of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association supporting families in need through the 100 Neediest Cases Program, and due to the ongoing state of the world, the need continues to be great. This year we are adopting three families instead of the normal two, to help as many families as we can. The referral center we use tends to support smaller families, so we are able to spread our generosity further.

If you would like to support a family, donate a new, unwrapped gift that fits one of the family members or general needs OR make a monetary donation through the TGHNA website, towergroveheights.com (follow the prompts for the 100 Neediest Cases Program to the donation link specific to this project). Checks made out to TGHNA are also welcome. All monetary donations will be used to buy gifts and help our adopted families pay for expenses. Drop your donations at the drop point and we will take care of the rest. **Please be sure to include your full name with your donation to be sure I can acknowledge your generosity or identify if you wish to remain anonymous.** All gifts will be wrapped and distributed to the families.

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Choose one (or more) of the following:

Family 1: Grandparents have taken in their teenage grandchildren to care for them while their grown children are unable to care for them. They are retired and struggling to teach them during virtual learning and manage these difficult times with teens. They are doing their best to raise respectful and loving children.

Grandmother (68): Size (10/12); shoes (10)

Grandfather (65): Size (XL 34/36); shoes (13)

Boy (16): Size (M); Shoes (men's 8.5)

Girl (16): Size (M 12); Shoes (9)

Girl (15): Size (M 10); Shoes (8.5)

Special Requests: King and twin bed sets; bath and dish towels; winter clothing; socks; sweatpants and jacket for boy; "Bubble" jacket for boy; new or gently used sewing machine for girl with sewing supplies; hair supply gift cards for other girl; PJs with feet for girls.

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The Gazette is a non-profit publication
published quarterly by the Tower Grove Heights
Neighborhood Association. For information
concerning advertising rates contact

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Your letters and comments are always
welcome at the Gazette.

Mail them to:

THE GAZETTE

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or email
gazette@towergroveheights.com

MEETINGS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our meetings
will be conducted via Zoom and live on the TGH
Facebook page. Everyone is welcome to tune in.

A Zoom invitation will be sent through
MailChimp and posted to the Tower Grove
Heights Neighborhood Assn.

Facebook page and Tower Grove Heights
Facebook Community Group or contact
info@towergroveheights.com

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Family 2: A widowed grandmother is raising her granddaughter. She was working full time, then part time, then was laid off due to downsizing from COVID. She worked for the company for 25 years prior and is now looking for another job. She has been living off savings and unemployment until something works out.

Grandmother (62): Size (L/XL-16); Shoes (7)

Granddaughter (13): Size (Adult M; pants 2); shoes (6.5)

Special Requests: home repair and update materials (best in gift certificate form); Grey/black blanket; pillows; kitchen cookware; coffee maker; winter clothing; blue, black, or white sweater; grey/black socks; blanket.

Family 3: Grandmother has raised granddaughter from birth when mother was not able to care for her. She has health issues and a growing girl makes her fixed income difficult to stretch.

Grandmother (63): Size (L-14-16); Shoes (8.5)

Granddaughter (8): Size (10-12); Shoes (4.5)

Special Requests: Queen size bed linen (blue); bath towels (pink); curtains and rugs (mix of blue, brown, green, or gold); furniture gift certificate; kitchen cookware; blender; scooter; helmet; jewelry; color/paint equipment; coloring books; and African American Barbie dolls for girl.

All families need the following:

Gift cards for any of the following: medicine; gas; food; cleaning supplies; personal hygiene products; or baby care products, if appropriate. Consider: Walgreens; Target; Walmart; Schnucks; Aldi; BP; or other related store.

Educational Items – age-appropriate books; family games; school supplies.

Cash – for gifts, utility bills, or other expenses which are paid directly by 100 Neediest Cases (checks or monetary donation through TGHNA).

There is always a need for volunteers to help wrap the gifts as well as wrapping materials such as paper, tape, ribbon, name tags, and bows. If you want to help wrap or just stop by to see the process, please contact me. Although, I realize this is can be a touchy subject, I will only allow fully vaccinated people into my home to protect both you and my family.

Due Date for Donations: December 18

Wrapping Party: December 19 at 10:00 a.m. at my house. (You must be fully vaccinated to participate in the wrapping party this year.)

Drop Point and Contact: Ellen Wilson, 3617 Juniata St., 314-221-8418
efwilson6@hotmail.com or 100neediest@towergroveheights.com



A Proposal For South Grand

by Barbara Gilchrist

Rachel Witt, Executive Director of the South Grand Community Improvement District (SGCID) and two representatives from the City's Zoning and Planning Departments made a presentation at the October meeting of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. The presentation was about a topic of interest to all of us who care about and patronize South Grand – establishing a special use district for the South Grand business district.

As you likely know, what many of us call “South Grand” runs along both sides of Grand Boulevard from Salon St. Louis, just north of Arsenal, to Carpenter Library and St. Pius Church to the south. It picks up Navin's BBQ and MoKaBe's east and west of Grand on Arsenal. In addition to the many restaurants and shops, there are many small businesses tucked away on upper levels of the buildings.

South Grand is zoned by the City of St. Louis as an “H” business district. This designation is described in Municipal Code § 26.48.010, with the regulations of such a district in § 26.48.020. If you look up these sections, you will see that zoning districts start with the letter “A” (single family) and continue to “H,” each district incorporating the uses from the prior letters. This means that South Grand has the broadest allowance for dwellings and businesses. You will also see that there are few regulations imposed on the types or physical attributes of businesses in Zone “H.” So, for example, a milk distributing and bottling plant or a livery stable would be allowed.

Keep in mind that the SGCID has no authority to enforce or modify the zoning rules. Its purpose is to encourage and support businesses and events consistent with the identity of the area. As noted on their website, South Grand is

the hub of the St. Louis International Community. Home to rich cultural events, convenient services and flourishing shops, South Grand is an affordable, safe and fun place to play, work and live.

Where else in the city can you find a vegetarian-friendly café, an award-winning Vietnamese restaurant, a hip gin bar and a neighborhood pharmacy all in the same block?

About three years ago, Rachel's concerns about the SGCID's inability to encourage and protect what has been created on South Grand were heightened by residents' complaints about the number of electronics stores and a business that had moved in and erected neon signs that, while within City limitations, were much larger than any other. Her primary concerns were and are signage, attractive store fronts, walkability, and maintaining the identity of the district. She met with her Board and with City officials and created a committee to receive

feedback from business owners and residents. A solution was suggested by the Zoning Department: the creation of a special use district pursuant to City Ordinance 66941. The “H” zoning designation will remain, but the additional overlay of a special use district will provide the SGCID more control to prohibit curb cuts and drive-thru businesses, maintain the diversity of businesses, limit the size and nature of signage, prohibit liquor licenses beyond 1:00 a.m. and preserve a family-friendly district.

The process the SGCID must follow begins with informing neighborhood residents, property owners, and businesses, and allowing time for input and feedback. Rachel has attended neighborhood association meetings in each of the three impacted neighborhoods: Tower Grove Heights, Tower Grove South and Tower Grove East. An open house is planned to be in Ritz Park on November 6. The proposal is then submitted to the City's Planning Commission which will hold a public meeting. If the Planning Commission approves the proposal, it goes to the Board of Aldermen where multiple hearings will be held before it can be signed into law. Both Megan Green, 15th Ward Alderperson, and Annie Rice, 8th Ward Alderperson, have indicated support for the proposal.

If you have questions or feedback, attend the Planning Commission meeting (watch for notices) or contact Rachel Witt at rachel@southgrand.org.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Patrick Weber

We are frequently told this time of year that the holidays should be an opportunity to slow down and reflect upon the past year and set our sights on our plans for the next.

Right, who has time for that?!

One of my biggest take-aways from my role as President of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association this past year has been the chance to write these columns – to force myself to take time out, sit down, think through and (somehow) articulate what I appreciate most about living and working in Tower Grove Heights. We all have our favorite aspects of living in this neighborhood: the location, near South Grand and Tower Grove Park, the sense of community, and/or the history, architecture, and walkability.

This past fall provided two opportunities to celebrate all that makes Tower Grove Heights such a fantastic community. On September 10, the Neighborhood Association was joined by members of the 2nd District of the St Louis Metropolitan Police Department and members of the family of fallen Officer Bohannon in dedicating a memorial plaque at a bench in Tower Grove Park. So generous was the outpouring of support from our residents, from others in the city and around the region that we were able to double the amount for the memorial, which was provided to the Officer Bohannon Foundation that will support families of fallen officers.

Two weeks later saw the return of our biannual neighborhood-wide block party, Party in the Heights. Despite all that was going on that weekend, a great crowd turned out for the always-favorite kids' bike parade, live music and to meet and spend time with friends and neighbors. Special thanks to our own Gustine Market,

which provided drinks and snacks for the party.

The block party also afforded us the perfect opportunity to recognize two of Tower Grove Heights' "giants," John Papa and Pat Edwards, with the 2021 Neighborhood Hero Award. From John's two terms as President of this organization to his stint as the Good Humor Man at the 30th Anniversary Block Party, from Pat's countless hours spent volunteering for Block Parties and Autumn Fests to her efforts organizing the Officer Bohannon Memorial, "JP" and Pat epitomize the spirit of generosity in Tower Grove Heights.

As many of the long-time residents of the Heights will know, every Holiday Season the Neighborhood Association "adopts" families from the 100 Neediest Cases program in the hopes of providing a brighter holiday season for families in the St. Louis area. Last year we raised a record amount and are supporting three families again this year. More information about the families, their specific needs and how to contribute can be found in the article in the *Gazette* and in the flyer.

As I close out my term as President of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve in this role this past year and, my favorite part of this job, to meet and get to know so many of you. I would especially like to thank the Board Members, Committee Chairs, committee members, and all those who volunteer throughout the year. Making this organization run takes a lot of effort from many, much of which takes place behind the scenes, and is motivated only by love for the place where we live. I, for one, cannot wait to see what the Heights can do next.

All the best for the holiday season and for a safe and prosperous 2022!

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Our “Other” Neighborhood Bar

By Rich Iezzi

When I refer to our neighborhood bar, everyone in Tower Grove Heights knows it's the Blackthorn, located right in the geographic center of the Heights. There's another neighborhood bar just east of us at Arsenal and Arkansas. It's Riley's Pub owned by Bill and Paulette Kapes, longtime Tower Grove Heights residents.

Bill and Paulette bought their house on Hartford in 1979. “We lived in the county but loved the architecture of the city,” Bill revealed.

Back in 2000, the building at Arsenal and Arkansas (Riley's present location) contained a bar named Newman's and a donut shop. The owners were retiring and wanted to sell. Bill worked as a part-time bartender and said he was “bitten by the bar bug.” When I asked Bill for Paulette's reaction to the purchase, he hesitated, then added, “She thought it was risky. A risky business.” My wife, Jean, and I remember Paulette making the pizzas in the early days.

The building was owned by the same family for years and showed its age. It not only had the ubiquitous “dropped ceiling” that often accompanied old buildings but also featured interlocking acoustical tiles. Nice. Today, Riley's has an incredible tin ceiling that looks original – because it is. “When we took down the old dropped ceiling, we had to remove the tobacco stains from the tin ceiling and paint it copper but otherwise it was in perfect condition,” Bill explained.

Riley's is filled with antiques and interesting looking things that were acquired after the building was purchased. “We'd go driving around, looking for things,” said Bill. The beautiful pocket doors that were made into booths are from a local garage sale. “They were \$20 each,” Bill beamed. It took five years to transform the building into a single business and bring everything up to speed including the removal of plexiglass from all the exterior windows. Riley's opened in 2005.

Years ago, I used to go there when I sang in a nearby church choir. We'd all end up in the back room at Riley's for pizza and beer after choir practice. It was fun to be singing in church one minute, then drinking our brains out the next but that was before the 2011 smoking ban and the bar was really, *really* smokey.

Bill was concerned that he'd lose business when smoking was banned. To comply with the ban, smokers were required to stand outside. “That didn't last long because it was winter and people hated standing in the cold,” Bill recounted. People adjusted and business returned to normal.

Jean and I came back to Riley's after the smoke had cleared but it didn't go well. We sat in a booth, fuming that no one had waited on us. When I went to the bar to ask what the heck, **the secret was revealed**. Riley's has only one bartender/server. You go to the bar for everything. Bill said they wanted to cut costs and this seemed like a good idea. They also didn't have to worry about the “staff” not showing up during COVID when one person did the job.

COVID was hard on Riley's. I remember Bill telling me that his \$300 cable bill didn't stop when they were closed. Riley's did a post on Facebook announcing a free “drain the kegs” invitation when the beer in the basement neared expiration. “People showed up, handed us their growler and we'd fill them until we ran dry,” Bill remembers.

COVID also did a good thing. Last summer, Riley's added a back patio offering outside seating. “We needed more space to spread out with COVID,” Bill told me.

Riley's truly is a neighborhood bar. They have great pizza, good conversation and our family uses their back room to celebrate our grandkids' birthday parties. Often, owner Bill joins us in

our booth for a chat and sometimes a shot of Jameson whisky mysteriously appears on our table. Bill is always prescribing “a shot of Vitamin J.”

When I asked my favorite bartender, Annie Waeltermann, about Riley's, she explained, “It's the neighborhood bar. We're “Cheers.”

One thing, though. If you sit at the bar, don't make a ruckus during “Wheel of Fortune” or “Jeopardy.” Those bar people play for keeps.



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An Open Letter To Our Friends And Neighbors In Tower Grove Heights

The plaque presented to Patricia and me was certainly unexpected and undeserved. In our many years of residence in Tower Grove Heights we were privileged to meet and befriend so many wonderful people. Each and every one of you demonstrated kindness and generosity that we had never experienced elsewhere. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Many years ago, I read a book (*The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint Exupery) which changed me - the thrust of the story explains what is important in life is what is simple (often invisible). Thank you all for personifying the message in that story.

John Papa
Pat Edwards

Let's hope this virus will abate and we can get together soon!

Suggestions for Dealing with Abandoned, Derelict or Illegally Parked Vehicles

By Katie Wolf, NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Let's talk about abandoned cars and when and where to report them. There have been a number of questions lately on this topic. There are numerous scenarios to encounter and many different responses. I hope this article helps get you to the best solution when you encounter a vehicle on your block/alley that needs some attention.

There are four departments that work with abandoned, illegally parked, or derelict vehicles: SLMPD, Parking Enforcement, Streets Department and the Building Division.

There are also three contact numbers/avenues to get assistance: Citizens' Service Bureau (314-622-4800), Police Non-Emergency number (314-231-1212), and me (wolfk@stlouis-mo.gov).

Here are the reasons why you would call the Police Non-Emergency number for a vehicle:

- Parking in the alley or blocking of the alley by private or commercial vehicles
- Parking in a way that blocks sidewalk
- If you think that a parked car may have been stolen and abandoned



When you call CSB, they will ask you for a summary of the situation and route your information to either Parking Enforcement, Streets Department, or the Building Division. I recommend calling instead of tweeting because the representative can ask you questions and get the request to the correct department, assuring the best response. Please have the address of the vehicle, its description and the plate number, if possible.

If the car is on the street, the Service Request will go to Parking Enforcement (for ticketing) or Streets (for tagging

to tow). Vehicles that are unlicensed, sitting for more than five days in a space (be kind with this), or inoperable can be ticketed (Parking Enforcement). If these vehicles are hazardous (leaking fluids, sharp edges, getting picked apart by scavengers), they can be tagged and towed by the Streets Department. The CSB operator and the responders will work together to the right solution.

Now let's talk about vehicles that are on private property (residential or commercial). If there is a derelict or abandoned vehicle on your property, you can donate it or have a junkyard haul it away. You can also sign a release to have the vehicle towed by the City. For instance, sometimes a former tenant leaves a car on their formerly rented parking pad and continued pleas to move it go unanswered. You can get that release from me or call CSB and they should be able to send you one and get the vehicle removed.



Vehicles parked on private property cannot be derelict or hazardous. Vehicles must be parked on paved surfaces and must be licensed and registered. Vehicles that do not comply with these rules can be reported to the Building Division through CSB. The correct citation would be Building Division Exterior: Open Storage.

Of course, neighbors have had great luck asking neighbors about the owner of a vehicle, and getting that vehicle moved if needed. But for times when that information is not available, or when improper parking becomes a habit, I hope this article helps you know where to turn for help.



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REAL ESTATE NEWS

Email your real estate questions to jfloridastl@gmail.com

Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights this quarter

Street	Listed At	Days on Market	Sold Price
3709 Hartford St	\$335,000	33	\$325,000
3822 Wyoming St	\$349,900	65	\$325,000
3724 Humphrey St	\$325,000	8	\$338,000
3859 Juniata	\$335,000	6	\$350,000
3877 Hartford St	\$309,900	4	\$361,000
3708 Hartford St	\$350,000	6	\$420,000
3810 Humphrey St	\$429,000	5	\$456,000
3716 Hartford St	\$425,000	3	\$460,000
3844 Humphrey	\$475,000	29	\$475,000
3869 Connecticut	\$495,000	4	\$530,000
3893 Utah	\$499,900	5	\$550,000
3801 Utah Pl	\$550,000	65	\$560,000
3618 Arsenal St	\$549,900	7	\$615,000
3800 Wyoming A	\$324,900		\$325,000

E-mail questions to jfloridastl@gmail.com
3 properties under contract and 5 pending sales



NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

By Barbara Gilchrist

Wow! How did it get to be December already? The end of every year means many things – colder weather, parties, gift buying and giving, feasts with family and friends, colorful light displays, and property taxes. In Tower Grove Heights, it also brings an opportunity to make donations to families in need.

We have been warned about supply chain disruptions and delivery delays in the context of when and what we may buy for holiday gifts. Fortunately, we have several shops within walking distance on South Grand. If you buy gifts from one of these, you will not have to worry about whether your order will be cancelled or whether the item will be delivered in time. (Of course, if you have to mail gifts, you do need to get them into the mail sooner than in previous years.) Gift cards to one or more of the many restaurants on South Grand are also wonderful ideas for those on your list for whom you have no idea what to buy.

Many thanks to Ellen Wilson for her many, many years of coordinating the TGH collection of gifts and money for the 100 Neediest Families program. Please read her article to find out what is needed and when to deliver your contribution.

If you are a property owner or you own a vehicle, you have likely received your real estate or personal property tax bill. If not, call 314-622-4105 to request that it be sent to you. There are no satellite bank payment locations this year.

And, unrelated to the end of the year, the TGHNA *Gazette* depends on advertisers to pay the costs of layout and printing. Please take note of our advertisers and patronize them whenever possible. We would like to find one or two more regular advertisers as explained in our own ad.



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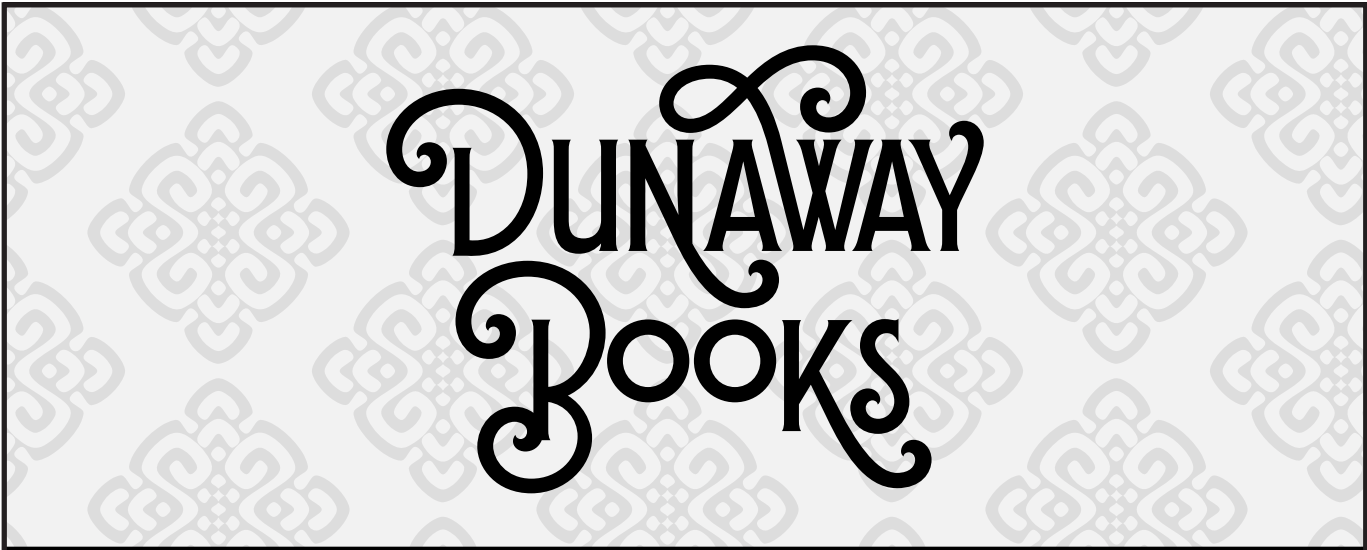
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It's not always rainbows and unicorns when it's your turn to host the holiday get-together. If family is involved, things can go sideways quickly. I speak from experience, being one of eight children who were born in a ten-year span. Our gatherings are LOUD and EVERYTHING is competitive. In the past, this made for tears and tumult. We just needed to channel all that "energy." Here is what we have done to make our family gatherings actually fun!

Delegate. Decide what it is you enjoy doing and claim those jobs, then ask others to fill in where you'd rather not spend your time. Entertaining is a big job (cooking, cleaning, decorating etc.), no one has the time or energy to do it all. Consider hiring someone to clean your home a few days before your event. It's such a relief having the cleaning finished, but if it's cleaning you enjoy, delegate in another area.

Keep the menu delicious and simple. Gumbos, stews, and baked pastas can all be made well ahead of time. Grilled or roasted vegetables, sausages and some meats can be prepared ahead and reheated the day of your party. It's perfectly okay to prepare vegetable or fruit salads a day in advance and toss just prior to serving.

One of the keys to "keeping the peace" at our holiday get togethers is entertainment. Specifically, self-entertainment in the form of a talent show. Everyone is informed a couple of weeks in advance of the party that there will be a talent show with prizes. (We have always had monetary prizes in fear no one would participate. Participants can pair up with other family members or go solo. Some of the talents have been: poetry recitation, playing a musical instrument, composing and performing all different styles of music, karaoke, and dance. One year, my husband JP and I sang Jason Mraz's "Lucky" to the crowd. (It was humorous as we are both tone deaf.) The sky's the limit! Creativity is encouraged! Open to all ages! At the end of the show everyone votes privately, the votes are tallied and prizes are distributed to the eager contestants.

We save the best for last, the white elephant gift exchange. According to Wikipedia, the phrase "white elephant" came from the bygone practice of the King of Siam giving rare albino elephants to courtiers who had displeased him, so that they might be ruined by the animal's upkeep. In current times a typical white elephant activity is one in which everyone brings a wrapped gift under a certain value to be predetermined by the host/ess. All the participants are



given a number as to when they are to take their turn. The first person opens a wrapped gift, and the turn ends. On subsequent turns, each person has the choice to either unwrap a new present or "steal" another's. When a person's gift is stolen, that person can either choose another wrapped gift to open or can "steal" from another player. To avoid never ending "stealing" each gift can only be "stolen" twice per game. The

game is over when everybody has a present.

There are countless ways to have a good time at your holiday party. The fun part is choosing what will work for your group and trying it out. Whatever way you choose, we hope you have a wonderful time. John Papa and I wish you all good health and happiness in 2022!



NEEDS YOU !

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association can only be YOUR association if you join. With your participation, TGHNA will be a reflection of what YOU want the Heights to become. So please don't delay in joining or rejoining:

- To find out what is happening in your neighborhood
- To make the Heights a cleaner and safer place
- To have a liaison with City Hall and other agencies
- To better protect our property values
- To make TGH a more interesting, fun place to live

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- ☐ **INDIVIDUAL** (1 vote) \$10/year
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- ☐ **ASSOCIATE** (non-voting) \$10/year
- ☐ **LIFETIME INDIVIDUAL** (1 vote) \$100 single payment
- ☐ **LIFETIME HOUSEHOLD** (2 votes) \$200 single payment
- ☐ **BUSINESS** (1 vote) \$25/year
- ☐ **LIFETIME BUSINESS** (1 vote) \$500 single payment

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Season's Greetings

During this holiday season,
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Financial Advisor

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Ella Gross, TOWER GROVE NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



TGNCDC bought 3635 Hydraulic Ave. as a vacant property in 2015 then made improvements to keep the units occupied as affordable homes. We noticed some cracking along the front façade and hired a structural engineer to take a look. The structure was built in 1913 and over the years the front façade started pulling away and failing. Our board was faced with a very familiar decision, save the property and keep the block intact or demo the structure and create a vacant lot. They choose the former and work began. The result was over \$70,000 of additional investment to create TWO newly updated and affordable two bedroom units rented at \$700-\$750 per unit. The building is now stable and positioned to last for decades to come!



In 2018, the TGNCDC purchased a long-time nuisance property at 3800-02 Gravois in our continued attempt to stabilize the southern part of Tower Grove South, known as The Wedge. The property is our first mixed-use (commercial/residential) building.

Our goal for the commercial spaces was to add value to the residents of the area. We knew the importance of finding the perfect tenants (non-profit organizations/local businesses) versus just getting the spaces filled.

3800 Gravois, the larger of the two spaces, will become a consignment furniture store run by a local non-profit organization. **The James Jackson Group Home for Pregnant Teens provides services to help pregnant teens develop skills necessary to independence and life as healthy productive adults, as well as responsible and capable parents.** The store will benefit this cause, and an affordable furniture store in an area with a high amount of affordable rentals will benefit the neighborhood as well.

3802 Gravois is the first retail storefront for a great, local, family-owned business. **The Popcorn Bar STL will bring healthy snacks and jobs into the area.** After running a successful business at Soulard Market, the PopCorn Bar STL is expanding into Tower Grove South.

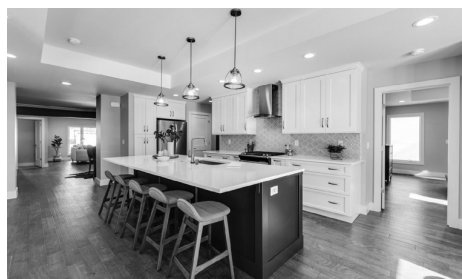


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AUTUMN AND WINTER GARDENING IN THE HEIGHTS

By Dan Waeltermann, HORTICULTURIST AND OWNER OF GRAND GARDEN SERVICES

Finally, with cooler temperatures, going outside and staying outside is enjoyable. Seeing the green colors of summer turn to yellow, orange and red makes me really appreciate living in the midwest and particularly St. Louis. Cool temperatures make garden work easier as well.

Here's an easy list of "Things You Can Do in Your Garden This Fall and Early Spring" (November/December):

- Trim back flowering shrubs like hydrangea, roses, crape myrtle by removing spent flowers.
- Prune branches on ornamental trees like cherry, Japanese maple, even dogwoods and redbuds this time of year is very beneficial to their overall health. There are many "how to" videos of proper pruning techniques on YouTube.
- Do not trim or prune rhododendron or azaleas now. They have set their flower buds for next spring. By trimming them you will be missing out on their spring show. Trim those after they are done flowering next spring.
- Roll up your garden equipment and store it away out of the elements. Doing this will prolong its usefulness.
- Turn your outdoor faucets off from inside and open the

outside valve to allow trapped water to drain out. This will keep your pipes from bursting when temps drop below freezing.

- Rake up leaves and apply 3 - 4 inches of mulch to your planting beds. I prefer black organic leaf mulch due to its versatility not only as a mulch that keeps roots moist and protected but also enriches the soil as it breaks down into compost. A good source is St. Louis Composting, LLC or Kirkwood Material. Both companies will deliver to you.
- Blowing yard leaves into your bed is good and has lots of benefits as well, however, large thick leaves like southern magnolia, sycamore or oaks can use a little help breaking down by running a lawn mower over them.
- Empty out your container plantings into the compost bin or green dumpsters in alley. Take those containers and store them either inside or out of the coming winter weather.
- Plant spring bulbs and plant a lot of them! Daffodils and tulips are always an eye-catching springtime sight but need your efforts in autumn to make it happen. I've noticed a good surplus in garden centers already. But don't wait too long.

Happy gardening!

Tower Grove Heights

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.towergroveheights.com

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