

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 23, No. 2

Summer 2012



## TGHNA Celebrates 25 Years with a Neighborhood-Wide Block Party Event set for June 16!

BY  
**SUSAN  
NEWSHAM**

**O**ne of the main objectives of a neighborhood association is to make the neighborhood a safe and fun place to live. For the past 25 years, the many individuals that have contributed to the efforts of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association have done just that.

The Heights, from Grand to Gustine and Arsenal to Utah, has become a diverse community with people that make the neighborhood what it is. I have seen and heard several examples of neighbors helping neighbors, neighbors developing lasting friendships with neighbors, the strong support of local businesses, protecting others' properties and an overall sense of responsibility for each other. While it's the neighbors that make the neighborhood, the Association brings all of us together.

To celebrate the Association's 25th Anniversary, the Association is hosting a neighborhood-wide block party on Saturday, June 16 from 3-8 p.m. The block party will take place on Spring Ave., between Wyoming and Juniata, and will feature a host of entertainment and activities for neighbors of all ages. Three local, St. Louis bands will perform throughout Saturday afternoon, including the Funky Butt Brass Band, Baker McLaren Band and Jim McLaren. There will also be activities for neighborhood children.

The event will be an opportunity to further strengthen our community, and it will provide the chance for new and old neighbors to get to know each other better.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. There will be soft drinks and beer (while supplies last). It's encouraged to bring along your fold-up chairs and snacks.

The planning committee is looking for neighbors interested in getting involved in the event and help out on June 16. Those interested should contact Mike Newsham at 3800Humphrey@gmail.com or 314-568-4616. The planning committee would appreciate any help you can provide.

Information about the event, and other community-related items, will be posted on the Tower Grove Heights Facebook group. To find the community page, search "Tower Grove Heights" in Facebook, or go to [www.facebook.com/groups/380836771957085/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/380836771957085/). Become a member of the page today!



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**See All of You on June 16th!** ——————  
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# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

is brought to you quarterly by:

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**TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

## MEETINGS

are held at the

**First Church of Divine Science**  
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at 7:15 pm on the  
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**JUNE 26TH 2012**

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# Refreshing Pomegranate Beverage Recipes

Warmer temperatures provide the perfect opportunity to spoil your guests with drinks which include juice from this ancient and medicinal fruit. Here are a couple of recipes...

## Pomegranate Lemonade

Yields  
2½  
Quarts



**2½ Cups Fresh Lemon Juice\***  
(about 10 average-sized lemons)  
**1½ Cups Pomegranate Juice**  
**2 Cups Sugar\***  
**7 Cups Water**

In a large pitcher, combine sugar and lemon juice; stir until all sugar is dissolved. Add pomegranate juice and water; stir. Refrigerate (at least 1 hour and up to 24 hours before serving). Stir before serving over ice.

\*For a healthier option, use organic lemons and/or raw sugar (or other natural sweetener in place of sugar).



## Pomegranate Martini

**2 oz Vodka\***  
**2 oz Pomegranate Juice**  
**1 oz Triple Sec**  
(or other orange liqueur)  
**1 oz Lime Juice\*\***

Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker with crushed ice (or several cubes); shake well and strain into a chilled martini glass. Garnish with citrus zest.

\*A citrus flavored vodka may be used with good results.

\*\*Sweetened lime juice may result in a cocktail that's a bit too sweet for some; Use fresh lime juice for genuine summer flavor (and use lime zest for garnish).

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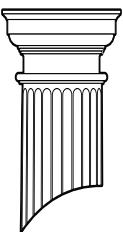
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*Meet* Your Neighbor  
by Susie Newsham

## Rick & Maria Hunter

**M**any of the neighbors I have met and gotten to know have a story about when they first moved to the neighborhood. The stories range from the inviting neighbors that welcomed them with gifts to block parties that made new neighbors realize this community was home. When my husband and I moved in, we were warmly greeted by our neighbors – Rick and Maria Hunter. The two of them immediately planned a double date with us at Gelateria, and made us feel like we were friends, not just neighbors. That is how Rick and Maria make all Heights neighbors feel.

Like most neighbors, the Hunters were drawn to the Heights because of its diverse population. They had previously lived in several other states, but when they got the calling to move back to St. Louis and start a church, they knew they could make the most difference in the city of St. Louis. They began their church in a warehouse near Manchester and McCausland, but set their sights on South St. Louis City.

After many years, they were able to find the right property to house their church called Zion City Church, located at the corner of Iowa and Osage. In describing the church, Rick, who serves as the pastor, said, "We want to be both inclusive and diverse, and not exclude anyone. We're here for people of all different backgrounds, race, and nationality to experience God."

The contemporary church is a fusion of religious faiths and offers a lively service. Or, as Rick called it, "they're a flock that likes to rock." But, outside of rocking, the church offers several community programs that greatly benefit the community.

For example, Zion City Church offers area children homework help from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesday nights. Students from Kindergarten to 12th grade are welcome to come to the church to get homework help from several tutors, including teachers, ex-superintendents, volunteers and individuals with special talents. The program is free and runs through the end of May and will start back up again in September. You do not have to be a parishioner to take advantage of this program or to serve as a volunteer.

Maria said she was amazed at how much the program has helped area students. Kids that were getting D's are now getting A's. She talked about the program saying, "When you get a diverse mix of people together, you can find out their talents and strengths. The value of a program like this is in giving back to the community. Our volunteers have a heart to serve someone else and make a difference."

The church offers additional programs for adults. More information about the church and its services can be found at [www.zcitychurch.com](http://www.zcitychurch.com).

More than likely, you've seen Rick and Maria in the neighborhood walking their friendly, 150-pound African Boerboel, Mac. Once you have seen Mac's large muscle-bound frame it's hard to forget him! If you see Rick and Maria in the neighborhood, say hi. They are two people I am happy to call my neighbors and friends.

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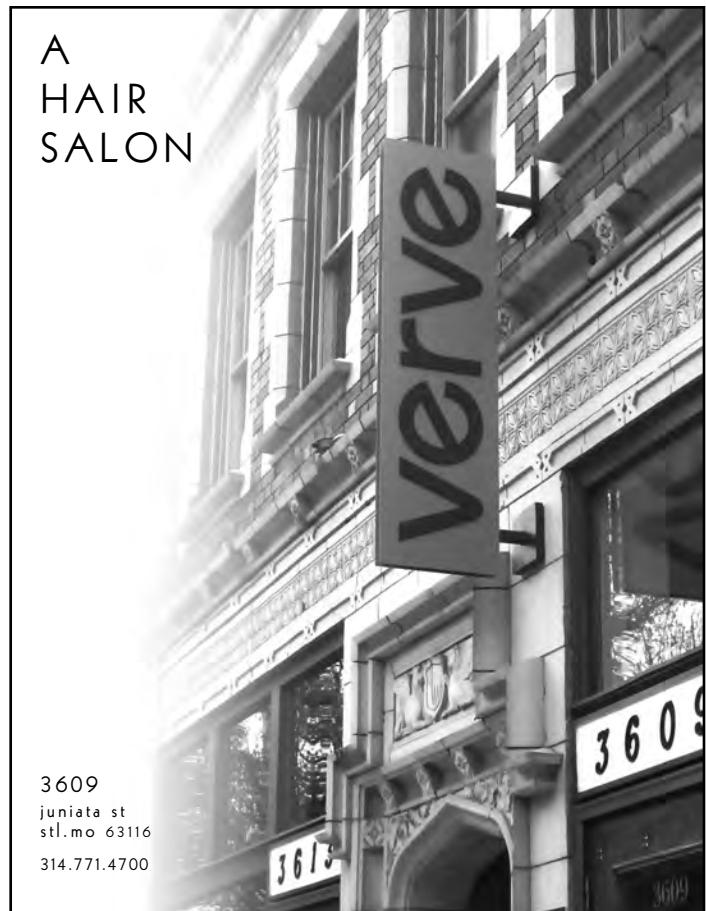
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# REHABBING WITH RICH

## Disposable tools, craigslist and Rehabbing

BY  
**RICH IEZZI**

You may not realize it but this is the perfect era to work on your house. Years ago, dads had to save up to buy that precious Skil Saw, and then worried about breaking it. Not anymore. Tools are so cheap and plentiful, they're almost disposable.

In a past article I mentioned that my son-in-law and I purchased a drywall jack instead of renting one because the new jack cost only \$289. It's the same with other tools. Ten years ago, my first cordless drill was a \$125 Dewalt. I loved that yellow drill but the replacement batteries were almost as much as the drill. Then I discovered Harbor Freight. Oh boy. 18 volt drills are \$19 and spare batteries are cheap. No, they're not built like my Dewalt---I dropped a \$19 drill off a roof and another fell from a six foot ladder and their little heads snapped right off. BUT I no longer agonize over tool breakage and the cheaper drills are powerful enough to drywall an entire ceiling on one charge --- just don't drop them.

If you still want to buy the real deal, there's always craigslist (if you want to buy ANYTHING, there's craigslist). I needed a beefy hammer drill but the new ones

were \$450. A few days later, I bought a beautiful 40 year old drill that weighs a ton for \$50. Better watch it---craigslist can be addictive. We needed three fireplace mantles to complete the second floor apartment we're working on and somehow we bought six. I've included a photo of a mantle we bought on craigslist for \$500.

Another source of inexpensive supplies is the Re-Store on Forest Park Blvd. It's a great concept. People donate left over items such as doors, lighting fixtures, kitchen cabinets, etc., and get a tax deduction while you get great prices. Here's a tip --- regulars that shop the Re-Store are convinced that the more tattered your clothing, the better deal you get. My daughter and I practice this concept and have landed some great prices.

Today's materials are also better. Years ago, drain pipes were cast iron, water lines were galvanized and sink and toilet supply lines were inflexible. Now, there's PVC (poly vinyl chloride) drain material, copper water lines and braided sink supply lines so flexible you can tie them in a knot. Even better, you can purchase the new stuff at our local Oak Hill Hardware store where Don or Tim can give you one-on-one service and walk you through any home repair.

Finally, if you don't know, Google it! I was having a terrible time cutting concrete board and knew there had to be a better way so I Googled 'cutting concrete board' and found a jillion U-Tube self-help videos on it. U-Tube has instructional videos on every possible phase of home repair. Skil Saw dad sure didn't have that.

Getting back to craigslist, I saw another fireplace mantle calling my name. Like I said, it can be addictive.

- Rich Iezzi



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### RESIDENTIAL WASTE:

Craigslist St. Louis – <http://stlouis.craigslist.org>

A centralized network of online communities, connecting people who have something they no longer want with people who are looking for those items.

Gigoit – <http://www.gigoit.org> Phone: 877-244-4648

"GIGO" is an acronym that stands for 'Garbage In, Garbage Out' which is a modern spin on the old saying, 'One person's trash is another person's treasure'.

ReUseIt St. Louis – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ReUseitStLouis>  
Find a new home for reusable items.

Recycle St. Louis – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RecycleStLouis>  
...everything posted on this recycle board must be 100% free.

St. Louis Baby Cycle – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stlbabycycle>  
...open to all who want to 'recycle' that special something rather than throw it away.

### CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE:

Habitat for Humanity St. Louis' ReStore –  
[www.habitatstl.org/restore](http://www.habitatstl.org/restore) Phone: 314-531-4155

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# RAIN BARRELS

by Marilyn Browning



Photo courtesy of US EPA

What are rain barrels?

Rain barrels are containers used to collect rain water from the roof of a building by way of the gutter and downspout. The downspout is cut to a height that lets the rain water flow into a barrel placed underneath it. The barrel should have a spigot to access the collected rain water, and an overflow hose to direct water away from the foundation if rain continues after the barrel is full. Rain barrels are often made from 55-gallon food-grade plastic barrels, but can also be made of wood. The collected water can be used to water gardens or lawns, wash cars, or do other household chores.



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## Why use rain barrels?

Using a rain barrel conserves water and reduces storm water runoff. Unless it's collected, rain water runs off impervious surfaces, such as roofs and pavement, gathering pollutants which often end up in local streams and rivers. Keeping and using rain water on your property helps reduce pollution and improves local watershed health.

Just 1/4 inch of rainfall on a typical roof will fill a rain barrel. Even a small amount of rainfall can supply many or all of your outdoor watering needs - a full rain barrel will water a 200 square foot garden. A good rule of thumb is that 1 inch of rain on a 1000 sq. ft. roof yields 623 gallons of water. A plus for gardeners is that rain water is "soft," or free from minerals and chemicals such as chlorine, fluoride, and calcium that are often present in municipal water. Rain water is considered ideal for watering plants or washing cars and windows.

## How do I install a rain barrel?

1. Before you begin, purchase or make a rain barrel. Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) has an Annual Spring Rain Barrel Sale as part of their efforts to promote activities that benefit water quality in the St. Louis Community. This sale takes place once a year during the spring. MSD subsidizes a portion of the cost of the rain barrel, so it's a great deal. Feeling handy? There are tons of sites on the internet that give instructions on how to make a rain barrel using a food-grade 55-gallon drum.

2. Select a location under a downspout and determine the height of the barrel.

3. Build a platform to elevate the rain barrel: Elevating a rain barrel a foot or so above ground level increases the water pressure, which comes solely from gravity, and also give you room to

continued on page 10

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## RAIN BARRELS

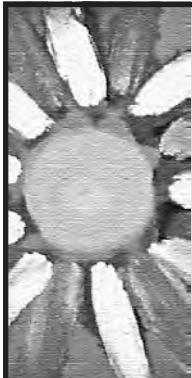
continued

place a bucket under the spigot. A full rain barrel typically weighs over 400 pounds, so make the platform out of sturdy materials such as cinder blocks or bricks. The platform has to be flat, level and large enough to support the whole base of the barrel for good stability.

4. Cut your downspout to fit the rain barrel opening - You should connect the house downspout directly to the lid opening or through a flexible pipe. You may also want to install a downspout diverter, which allows you to divert water back into your downspout during winter or when you don't want to collect rainwater.

5. Attach a hose to the overflow fitting. Use a hose long enough to drain excess rainfall away from your foundation into a garden area or into another rain barrel. Be sure to keep the overflow valve open all the time.

That's all there is to it! Along with the rain gardens I wrote about last time, this is an easy way for homeowners to help reduce the amount of water that flows to our sewer system during a rainfall. This in turn allows our sewage treatment plants to process all the water they receive, and helps keep our rivers and streams a lot cleaner.



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Photo courtesy of Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District

# “DID YOU KNOW?”

by Debby Ervin

Debby Ervin

314-560-7018

DeborahErvin@att.net

## DID YOU KNOW?...

3 ACTIONS that all sellers should take before listing their home:

1. Get an FHA appraisal:

- a. It overrides any other appraisal for 90 days.
- b. It takes the guess work out of valuing your home
- c. It avoids problems, if your homes appraises by your buyers lender for less than sale price.

2. Get a home inspection on your home:

- a. Make the repairs on your home.
- b. Make the report available to buyers and their agent.
- c. This avoids surprises during the closing process that could cause losing the contract.

3. Get a Home Warranty from your agent:

- a. It will cover the buyer after closing.
- b. It will cover you as the seller for qualified repairs while your home is on the market.

Get a Home Warranty from your agent that will not only cover the buyer after closing but will also cover you as the seller for qualified repairs while your home is on the market.

## DID YOU KNOW?...

3 FACTS that have little or no influence on the market value of your home:

1. The price you paid for your home.

2. The net proceeds you expect on the sale.

3. The amount you spent on improvements.



## DID YOU KNOW?... TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS - SOLD SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

Address	Beds	Baths	Sq/Ft	Date sold	Days on Market	Original Price	List Price	Sale Price
3651 Juniata	5	3	0	2/7/2011	240	\$245,000	\$180,000	\$184,000
3624 Hartford	4	2	2352	2/15/2011	11	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$45,000
3844 Humphrey	4	4	2596	3/30/2011	100	\$350,000	\$260,000	\$220,000
3823 Wyoming	3	3	2250	4/25/2011	16	\$279,900	\$279,900	\$250,000
3865 Juniata	4	2	0	4/29/2011	287	\$224,900	\$219,900	\$208,900
3877 Utah Place	4	4	3064	5/4/2011	104	\$369,900	\$354,900	\$345,000
3716 Connecticut	3	3	2050	5/5/2011	16	\$239,900	\$239,900	\$225,000
3805 Wyoming	3	3	3082	5/11/2011	189	\$299,900	\$249,000	\$234,000
3826 Juniata	3	2	0	5/12/2011	24	\$244,900	\$244,900	\$236,000
3859 Juniata	3	2	1612	5/20/2011	64	\$94,900	\$79,900	\$83,000
3885 Humphrey	4	3	2730	5/20/2011	208	\$254,900	\$239,900	\$225,000
3848 Juniata	3	3	2460	6/1/2011	3	\$199,900	\$199,000	\$198,200
3866 Hartford	4	3	1624	6/1/2011	44	\$239,900	\$219,900	\$205,000
3828 Wyoming	4	3	3018	6/1/2011	57	\$299,900	\$299,900	\$275,000
3871 Utah Place	3	4	2421	6/2/2011	353	\$439,900	\$349,900	\$330,000
3837 Connecticut	2	3	2556	7/15/2011	51	\$230,000	\$199,900	\$190,000
3615 Juniata	4	2	1738	7/22/2011	26	\$184,900	\$184,900	\$176,500
3859 Connecticut	3	1	1600	7/22/2011	113	\$214,900	\$199,900	\$190,000
3820 Humphrey	3	3	2218	7/28/2011	24	\$202,900	\$202,900	\$199,900
3715 Hartford	4	2	1654	7/29/2011	46	\$179,900	\$179,900	\$178,000
3842 Juniata	4	3	2682	8/17/2011	18	\$189,900	\$189,900	\$189,000
3800 Humphrey	5	4	2881	8/26/2011	10	\$295,000	\$295,000	\$278,130
3807 Hartford	4	3	3159	9/1/2011	14	\$344,900	\$344,900	\$330,000
3875 Wyoming	3	2	1564	9/12/2011	43	\$130,900	\$103,900	\$102,500
3865 Wyoming	3	4	1734	10/3/2011	137	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$142,000
3889 Hartford	4	2	1956	10/12/2011	10	\$229,900	\$229,900	\$227,500



## ACTIVITIES:

Worship - SUNDAYS ..... 7:45 AM & 10:30 AM  
Sunday School & Bible Class ..... 9:15 AM

Preschool - WEEKDAYS  
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Before & After Care ..... 6:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Food Pantry - TUESDAYS ..... 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Bible Study - WEDNESDAYS ..... 7:30 PM

English Classes - THURSDAYS ..... 6:30 PM

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# Tower Grove Heights

## Neighborhood Association

### CONTACT LIST

Monthly meetings 7:15 pm on 4th Tuesday (except Dec.),  
First Church of Divine Science on 3617 Wyoming Street

#### - BOARD -

- President:** .....Rich Seifert  
**President-elect:** .....Jim Zakibe  
**Past President:** .....Marilyn Browning  
**Secretary:** .....Claudia Seifert  
**Treasurer:** .....Rick Stein  
**Asst. Secretary/Membership:** .....Debby Ervin

#### - COMMITTEE CHAIRS -

- Block Captain:** .....Rich Seifert  
**New Biz/Gazette Advertising:** .....Gary Kushinsky  
**Webmaster:** .....Tom Reitenbach

#### - BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES -

- 3600/3700 Arsenal: .....Recruiting!  
 3800 Arsenal: .....Recruiting!  
 3600/3700 Hartford: .....Recruiting!  
 3800 Hartford: .....Rich Iezzi  
 3600/3700 Juniata: .....Lynne Casey  
 3800 Juniata: .....Tom Reitenbach, Kim Cole  
 3600/3700 Connecticut: .....Recruiting!  
 3800 Connecticut: .....Liz Clyne  
 3600/3700 Wyoming: .....Recruiting!  
 3800 Wyoming: .....Trent Patterson  
 3600/3700 Humphrey: .....Michael Schwalbert  
 3800 Humphrey: .....Erin L. O'Reilly & Michael Newsham  
 3600/3700 Utah Place: .....Rich Seifert, Susie Gudermuth  
 3800 Utah Place: .....Pat Edwards, Jim McLaren  
 3800 McDonald: .....Kathryn Heitzenroeder

#### SUPPORTING - GAZETTE DISTRIBUTION -

- 3600/3700 Arsenal: .....Hillary Coffee  
 3800 Arsenal: .....Mike Woolfolk  
 3600/3700 Connecticut: .....Rebecca Andrews  
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 3600/3700 Humphrey: .....Nels Moss



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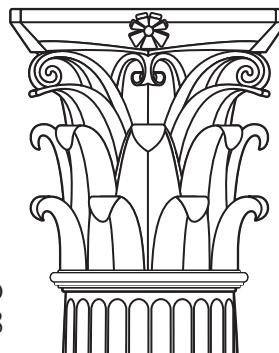
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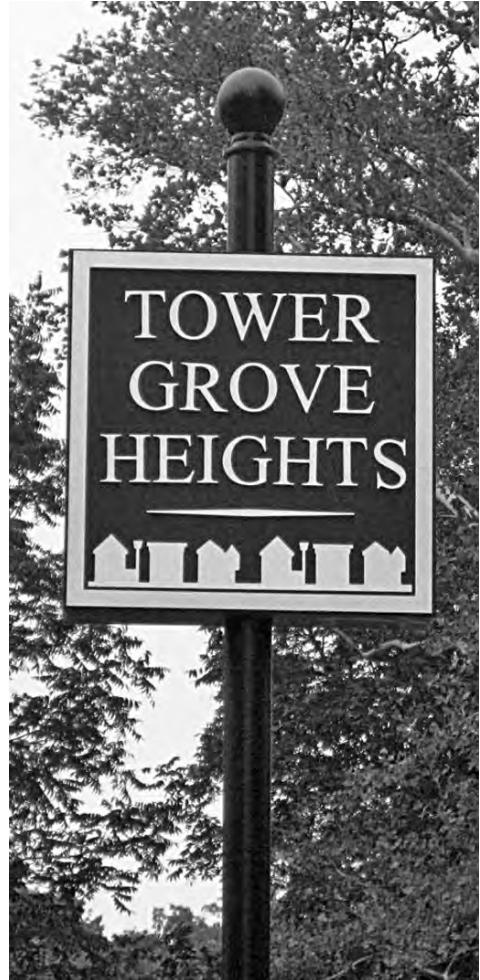
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“For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other.”

Millard Fuller

Please remember the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association when you are making donations this year. 100% of your donation to TGHNA is tax deductible and the money will be used to improve the neighborhood. If you would like to donate, send a check made out to "TGHNA" to:

T.G.H.N.A.  
Post Office Box 160069  
St. Louis, MO 63116



# The People Have Spoken

By Richard Seifert



**From January through March, TGHNA conducted a Survey of Tower Grove Heights residents. We will summarize what we learned in this article. For complete results, go to our web site [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com). In all, there were 91 responses, though not everyone answered every question.**

Let me first note that the Survey was anonymous. We could not extract e-mail addresses from the on-line responses. So we included a question asking on which block you live. Happily, there were entries from every block in the Heights! The largest number were from 36-3700 Hartford (11) followed closely by 3800 Juniata (9).

One question was on recycling habits, now that dedicated dumpsters are in each alley. It showed that 42% are now recycling a lot more, 20% somewhat more, 34% about the same, and only 4% little or not at all. This is important because it earns and saves the City tax dollars; landfill costs for regular trash have become very high.

We asked several questions to gauge how well the TGHNA officers and volunteers are serving you...

- Our support of the 100 Neediest Cases received the most positive response. 88% thought it wonderful, while 11% were not familiar with it and only 1% said we should not be involved.
- The Gazette you are reading is rated a real asset by 45% and usually pretty good by another 39%. 10% feel it could be better, while 6% seldom or never read it.
- The Minutes of TGHNA's monthly meetings, e-mailed and posted on-line, are considered important by 60% and usually OK by 24%. 16% said they've never looked.
- The speakers and information provided at the monthly meetings were rated interesting/informative by 19% and usually decent by 20%. Sadly (for us) 60% rarely or never attend.

• 39% of respondents rated the Tower Grove Heights web site as decent, while 12% considered it very informative and 13% said it needed improvement. 36% have never looked at it.

• As to Autumn Fest, 34% consider it wonderful & look forward to it; 30% said it is not something they want to do, while 9% said it's too expensive. 26% were not familiar with it.

We asked respondents to rate Police protection in the Heights. 71% said OK, with 18% saying great and 11% inadequate. Meanwhile, for a question on what are the biggest issues that Tower Grove Heights needs to address, 32 of the 62 who replied included something that would be considered a Police matter – violent crime, dumping, traffic and more. We will present this information to the 3rd district; perhaps we will do a follow-up article in the future.

The other responses to the biggest issues question varied quite a bit. Several dealt with upkeep and behaviors at problem properties – we will pass some specific complaints on to our Neighborhood Stabilization Officer. A number of responses lamented the loss of traditional neighborliness and a lack of involvement of people in neighborhood activities.

Another essay question was on what new ideas, activities, or improvements should be pursued in Tower Grove Heights. Again there was a broad range of responses. A number of people favored things like a Yard Award or an Alley (or Street) Cleanup Day. But there were many more ideas.

Finally we asked how we should celebrate the 25th Anniversary of TGHNA. As before, ideas varied, but one theme dominated – a giant block party. And that we will do. Look for details in an accompanying article.

As I said this is just a summary. I encourage you to go to our Web site and read all of the responses. Then give some thought to this... How could you help in raising Tower Grove Heights to the next level?



# Tower Grove Heights 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 the neighborhood
- To have a liaison with City Hall and other agencies
- To make the neighborhood a more interesting and fun place to live
- To make the Heights a cleaner and safer place
- To better protect our property values

Please indicate your membership level choice:

**PLEASE PRINT:**

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Yes  No, Please add my email address to the Neighborhood Forum Email notification list

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