

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 32 No. 2

Summer 2021

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS



by Barbara Gilchrist

Officer Ed Slade served as our SLMPD Liaison Officer for many years, attending and reporting at Association meetings, providing crime statistics, and advising the TGHNA Safety Committee. Officer Slade recently retired. We thank him for his years of service to our neighborhood and the city and wish him well.

Luckily for us, the SLMPD has appointed Officer Nicola Walker to be our new Liaison Officer and we welcome her! Officer Walker joined the SLPD in July, 2002. After graduating from the police academy, she was assigned to the Fifth District where she became a Field Training Officer. Then, in March, 2009, she became the district's Community Outreach Officer and continued in that role until a merger of districts in January, 2014 and a transfer to the Second District. Officer Walker was chosen to replace Officer Slade as Liaison Officer in February, 2021. In addition to Tower Grove Heights, Officer Walker serves the Tower Grove South, Shaw, Tiffany, Botanical/McRee, and Forest Park Southeast neighborhoods. When asked to describe the role of Liaison Officer, she responded, "I enjoy being the Neighborhood Liaison Officer as it provides me the opportunity to represent the department in a positive light, given the negative sentiment surrounding policing today. I further enjoy being a part of the neighborhoods, assisting in resolving issues and presenting positive solutions to seemingly complex problems."



OFFICER NICOLA WALKER

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Tower Grove Heights residents have proven, once again, that we are generous people. The fundraising effort to honor Officer Tamarris Bohannon who was killed in the line of duty in August 2019, raised even more than the \$5000 goal. The money will be used to purchase a bench and a plaque to be placed in Tower Grove Park. The excess will be given to the Bohannon family. A memorial event is planned for later this year once the bench and plaque are in place so watch for notices.



**GARY KUSHINSKY**  
Served As The Business Manager For  
The TGHNA Gazette From 2006 To 2011

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of two TGH residents and contributors to the Gazette. Gary Kushinsky served as the Business Manager for the TGHNA Gazette from 2006 to 2011. Deborah Ervin provided the Real Estate News from 2011 to 2018. We extend our condolences to family and friends.



**DEBORAH ERVIN**  
Provided the Real Estate News  
From 2011 - 2018

Finally, we are always in search of writers for the Gazette. This could be a one-time submission or an offer to write a series. Contact Barbara or Tricia. Or, if you would like to see a topic covered in the Gazette, just let us know and we will do our best to have it included in the next issue!



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# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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THE GAZETTE

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## 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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# COOL GARDENS IN THE HOT SUMMER



BY Dan Waeltermann

**we go over the top and overbudget buying flowers, vegetable plants and containers only to see them dried out and dead by Independence Day.** What once looked like a portrait of an emerald field of Ireland, now resembles dustbowl-era Oklahoma.

We all know what happened. It's miserable out there! "I'll water it when I get home" becomes "I don't have the energy." For most, it's discouraging. Not only to see all the hard work put into preparing the soil and filling pots seem fruitless, but the money spent...whoa!

My 20+ years in the trade has taught me many valuable lessons of gardening. The most important lessons I learned were during the dog days of summer. Staying hydrated and using your time wisely in the garden will pay off in the overall health of your lawn and garden through the seasons. Here are my pro tips.

## The Basics

- Start Early/End Early. Don't start at 11 a.m. when the forecast calls for 95 degrees. We all know it's not the heat but the humidity in St. Louis... Nothing productive happens after 1 p.m. on days like these. Go inside!
- Split your workload. Don't mow your lawn (trim, bag and blow) then tend to your flower garden or trim the bushes the same day. Expecting to get everything your brain thinks it can get done and your body's ability to get done are two separate things. Be realistic. Know your limitations.

## The Hacks

- You don't have to mow your lawn every week. Skip a week. With hotter days, grass growth slows.
- Adjust your lawnmower wheels to a higher setting. In hotter months, keeping your grass higher creates less stress on turf. Make sure to bag clippings and/or rake off

any clippings from the lawn. Leaving cut grass on a lawn promotes weed growth.

- I'm not big on using commercial chemicals but seriously, a little weed killer goes a long way in controlling those unruly dead-of-summer weeds.
- Here is a natural weed killer recipe: mix 1 gallon vinegar, 1 gallon white vinegar, 1 cup salt, and 1 tablespoon liquid dish soap. Pour in a spray bottle.
- I typically take my gas trimmer and cut the tops off all weeds then spray them with weed killer. By cutting the tips off, it allows for faster absorption and eradication. Better than pulling them!
- If you're watering your containers every day or even twice a day and they still wilt, put them in a shady spot. Even if they're sun loving plants, at this point in the season, they will still be better off in shade. If you have larger containers available, replant them there. I see this a lot with store bought hanging baskets—they get root bound to the point where there's barely any soil left.
- Dead head flowers. Basically this means removing spent flowers from plants. This encourages new flowers to bloom.

any clippings from the lawn. Leaving cut grass on a lawn promotes weed growth.

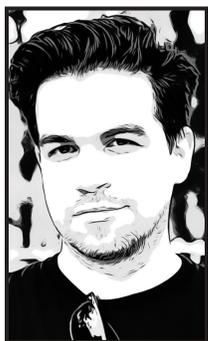
any clippings from the lawn. Leaving cut grass on a lawn promotes weed growth.

## Dos and Don'ts

- DO water early in morning. Best time is 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- DON'T water at night. Unless it's an emergency (that plant you were supposed to water in the morning). Regular night watering causes fungus growth.
- DO water your lawn.
- DON'T water your lawn every day. Watering your lawn every day only promotes shallow root growth and run-off which wastes water. Skip every other day or three. Water for longer periods (45 minutes).
- DON'T fertilize. Should have done it in spring. Good rule is not after June 15th. If you must, applying slow-release Osmocote is good for potted plants if they haven't been fertilized beforehand.
- DO take time to admire your work. Stay hydrated and stay cool!

Dan Waeltermann is a horticulturist and owner of the Grand Garden Company.

## Food & Flavors E-x-p-a-n-d on Grand



by Mike Miller

The COVID-19 pandemic brought the hospitality industry to its knees, leading several local restaurants, including a few neighborhood staples, to close their doors for good. Although the pandemic has changed the way the restaurant business works, it hasn't kept new ideas from surfacing. In Tower Grove Heights, two restaurants, Terror Tacos and Navin's BBQ, are eager to add fresh flavors to the South Grand scene.

### Terror Tacos

319I South Grand Blvd.

When brothers Bradley Roach and Brian Roash started talking about opening a vegan restaurant years ago, they knew they wanted to do something different.

Something bold. Something dark. Something bizarre. "Something very us," Roach said.

The result is Terror Tacos, a recently opened taco joint that doubles as an ode to Roach's and Roash's shared interest in horror movies, metal and hardcore music, and tasty southwest-inspired vegetal cuisine.

"We just wanted to create a totally different experience for people," Roach said. "I feel like when you go in most vegan restaurants, you know what to expect. It's very calming or relaxing, and that's fine. It's just not who we are. My brother and I grew up playing in metal and hardcore bands together. We're both artists. We love scary movies. We wanted to mesh all of that, and here we are today."

Roach has restaurant experience as the general manager and head chef at Seedz Café in Clayton, while Roash works in the art industry as a designer for various attractions and exhibits. When it came to drawing up a menu, the brothers reached back to their roots. Growing up, Roach and Roash spent time in Colorado, California and New Mexico, so their palettes are influenced by the tastes of the American southwest.



BRADLEY ROACH

And the menu at Terror Tacos is inspired by versions of the kind of meals both have been cooking at home for years.

"Both of us have been vegan or vegetarian on and off since the mid-90s," Roach said. "At home, we'd cook Mexican food several

times a week, so the menu is influenced by what we've made for ourselves and our families. But I don't really call this Mexican food, really. Just because, with tacos or burritos, you're not limited. You can do a taco with any kind of cuisine from around the world. That was a big driving force for me, knowing I would be the head chef, that I could venture out and pick something new if I got bored. Tacos and burritos are a really easy way to do that."

Starting out, the Birria Tacos are among the signature items on the menu, packaged as two seitan tacos with red cabbage, onion and cilantro, and served with a dipping consommé. The seitan and consommé are both made in-house.

"We're pretty proud of that one," Roach said.

For more variety, Terror Tacos also offers something called a Fright of Tacos. That's billed as an ensemble of one of each of the restaurant's Tofu, Double Diablo, Carnage Asada, Chili-Lupa and Buffalofu tacos.

Want something wrapped? There's the Terror Burrito — it's filled with cilantro rice, veggie grounds, green onions, black beans, chipotle cheese, green chile sauce, shredded lettuce and sour cream. There's also a Carnage Asada burrito, which is filled with seitan, cilantro rice, guacamole, fajita veggies, chipotle cheese, salsa, shredded lettuce and house-made sour cream.

"That one has really caught up in popularity, as well," Roach said.

When Terror Tacos opened in late March, the plan was to do takeout only. This summer, the goal will be to incorporate dine-in availability, too. "Hopefully, sooner than later," Roach says.

That's because the brothers are eager to share their food — and their passions — with the neighborhood. They were excited to find a space — theirs formerly housed Baida Moroccan — on South Grand so that they could join the growing list of vegan restaurants on the strip.

While the restaurant will fit right in with its neighbors, the brothers are striving to make Terror Tacos a reflection of their own unique vision.

"This was such a huge freedom for both of us," Roach said. "Honestly, we felt like we were taking a huge risk that people weren't going to get it when they walk in. They were either going to be like, 'I don't know that I want to eat here,' or they would totally get it. We knew we wanted people when they walked in to immediately feel like they're in a different place. That was our goal from Day One."

### Navin's BBQ

3559 Arsenal Street

Chris Armstrong had time to kill this time last year. He was furloughed from his job in the craft beer industry, brought back to work, furloughed again, and eventually let go. So he did what came naturally to him.

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## DEEP THOUGHTS AND A HOLE IN THE WALL



by Carey Morgan

It's not a coincidence that I'm a lover of history and live in Tower Grove Heights. I'd imagine many of us like thinking about generations past enjoying these streets and our old homes. A hole in the wall recently got me thinking about history in a different way.

As our handyman was putting the finishing touches on a built-in kitchen shelf, he mentioned that he always signs his initials and marks the date behind the walls. How charming, I thought. But then it struck me, this was the perfect opportunity to bury a time capsule deep in the walls of our kitchen.

I would be delighted to find such a treasure, so I wanted to pay it forward and create a little piece of history myself. I didn't have much time before he finished the project, so I quickly grabbed a spare Christmas card with a photo of our family, foraged the Sunday newspaper from the recycling bin and sat down to write a letter for a future treasure hunter.

What started as a fun, distraction from my work day, turned out to be a profound experience. A blinking cursor staring me down, I attempted to sum up a tremendously tumultuous period in history that the likely time capsule finder might not have lived through. **How do you capture the lived experience of a once-in-a-century pandemic, a racial reckoning and a political insurrection while**

### your handyman patiently waits?

I'd thought about doing this before. I had great intentions of writing heartfelt letters to my children during quarantine, but with two young boys and two parents working full-time from home, there just wasn't time or mental energy to spare. But for this type-A writer, there's nothing like a deadline for motivation.

I'll spare you my perspectives on the events of 2020-2021, but I certainly didn't hold back my opinions in my time capsule letter. I wanted a reader 100 years from now to know my unvarnished thoughts and experiences. The letter also included details of our family life and a few just-for-fun details, like the year I was born and today's cost of a gallon of milk.

I knocked out the letter, hit print and sealed it up in a plastic bag without much ceremony, but the experience kept me thinking for days and weeks later.

Neighbors, let's get real here. We've been through some tough stuff this past year! We've been dragged through a consequential and history-making time. Writing this silly little time capsule letter was, for me, deeply cathartic. Putting it all down on paper was like



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a nice pat on the back for simply making it through.

We did it. We learned a lot. We (mostly) made it out the other side.

So, whether you're rushed or have too much time on your hands, I'd encourage you to put pen to paper while the experiences are still fresh in your mind and capture your reflections on the past year. I'm confident future generations will study this unique turn of history and they will surely value your story.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SUMMER 2021



by Patrick Weber

From appreciation (and/or jealousy) of our neighbors' gardens, to a favorite shady spot in Tower Grove Park to a frozen treat from the Tower Grove Creamery or Gelateria del Leone, there is a lot to love about summer in the Heights. And this summer certainly feels different—whether you are finally getting to that long-delayed vacation with the family or staying close to home this summer, I hope that you will be able to get out and enjoy all that this season offers.

With the warmer weather bringing us all outdoors more, I want to recognize those who have spent a lot of their free time doing so much to improve our collective home here in Tower Grove Heights. This past Spring has seen Block Captains organizing alley clean-ups, new and long-time neighbors coming together to plant and maintain the median in Utah Place, so many making the effort to support our South Grand businesses during weekend pop-up events and taking advantage of the large number of patios to dine out on mild nights. But of course, none of that is new for the Heights. Seeing so many neighbors out at the weekly Tower Grove Park Sip & Strolls, Saturday morning Farmers' Markets, and out for block stoop happy hours feels less like a return to routine and more of a rite of the change of seasons.

And speaking of our neighborhood's back yard, Tower Grove Park will have a fitting memorial to Officer Bohannon later this summer thanks to two dedicated volunteer organizers, Pat Edwards and Veronica Campbell, and an incredible outpouring of support from enthusiastic neighbors who raised more, in a much shorter time frame, than the Board ever expected. I have written before and have told people almost daily how inspiring our neighborhood is, and almost daily I am reminded of that.

In closing, as we move into summer and continue our path to normalcy, I would urge everyone who is able and interested to get involved and take ownership of the neighborhood, whatever that means to you. Our monthly membership meetings continue via Zoom and we are optimistic about a return to in-person meetings later this year. We are also in the early stages of planning a socially distant outdoor event this Fall. If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about the neighborhood association, please contact me, any of the Block Captains or board members. And most of all I am looking forward to seeing you out this summer.

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# COMPLICATED AND INTRICATE ON HUMPHREY STREET

By Rich Iezzi

When I visited 3870 Humphrey to do this article, I found a lot of talent. I met Michael Shirk previously when he looked at my latest pipe organ project at 3650 Wyoming. Michael is an organist and once played for St. John's church on Arsenal. He also performed at Riley's Pub doing Irish music before covid temporarily closed the pub. While he likes the organ, the tuba is his 'real' instrument. His day job is a computer programmer.

Michael Shirk and Phil McDaniel bought their house in 2017. "We wanted something that didn't need



JAN, MICHAEL, & PHIL

Not to be outdone, Michael showed me some religious icons he painted. Phil and Michael had never done artwork but went to an art class and caught on. I asked if I could touch the painted icons because they looked textured. Michael agreed saying, "They're supposed to look like that." The gold color that jumped off the painted surface was gold leaf. Nice touch. Both Michael and Phil do extremely complicated paintings. Michael is also an avid card player and meets every other Saturday to match wits with other neighborhood aficionados.

Jan claimed the basement space for her hobby of building dollhouses.



The process in painting an icon is a progression of steps, making time a key component in the creation.

a lot of work", explained Michael. The building had been converted from a two-family flat and was beautifully preserved with its natural woodwork and pocket doors. Phil said they had 2700 square feet but it felt a lot bigger.

When I asked how they ended up on Humphrey, Michael said he used to live on Juniata before moving to New York and was familiar with our neighborhood. When Phil got a job offer in St. Louis, they had one weekend to look for housing. Michael

said, "We pretty much only looked in the Tower Grove Heights/Tower Grove South area. The Humphrey house had beautiful woodwork and a great layout."

The layout was important because Michael's mother, Jan, would eventually move to St. Louis from Kansas City where she lived her whole life. Jan told me, "Everyone has their own space and having two full bathrooms on the second floor was a real bonus".

Jan pointed out several paintings on the wall that were done by Phil. I asked if he used a single brush hair to do them because they were so intricate and was told it takes weeks to complete one. Phil graduated from medical school and works for the VA as a psychiatrist. Before that, he served on a navy sub for 10 years assigned to the nuclear power plant. He also plays saxophone and oboe and does intricate crochet.

She's been building dollhouses for years to 'keep her from wondering the streets', she revealed. Again, intricate and complicated work.

When I asked about living on Humphrey, I heard a familiar story. Michael said, "We like that everything is within walking distance". During the pandemic, they supported local businesses with carryout. At home, Michael and Phil do the cooking.

It's nice that after 100 years, our homes can be re-purposed for interesting people living complicated and intricate life styles.



The oboe is just one of the musical instruments Phil plays.



Just one, albeit the largest one, of the many doll houses and rooms constructed and furnished with miniatures of every description by Jan. Others include a country store, authentic Victorian rooms, a library, an Asian-inspired home with a very detailed rooftop garden and various other themed rooms.



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## REAL ESTATE NEWS

Email your real estate questions to [jfloridastl@gmail.com](mailto:jfloridastl@gmail.com)

### Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights this quarter

Street	Listed At	Days on Market	Sold Price
3815 Wyoming St	\$250,000	2	\$253,500
3893 Hartford St	\$300,000	36	\$351,000
3157 S Spring	\$379,900	52	\$379,900
3714 Wyoming St	\$415,000	61	\$400,000
3703 Utah	\$450,000	0	\$450,000
3636 Hartford St	\$480,000	4	\$475,000
3706 Connecticut	\$495,000	0	\$495,000
3709 Juniata St	\$439,900	7	\$503,000
3621 Utah Pl	\$525,000	5	\$580,000
3850 Arsenal St	\$499,000	4	\$595,000
3871 Connecticut	\$275,000	29	\$265,000
3811 Wyoming	\$299,900	41	\$285,000
3834 Humphrey St	\$289,900	6	\$300,000

Currently there are nine properties under contract or pending sales.



## Jennifer Florida, Realtor

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# ROOF

## the RAISING



BY Rich Iezzi

It's a good thing Michael Roy is a handy guy. That isn't why he decided to build his two-story garage behind he and his wife Lyndsay's home in the 3600 block of Humphrey but having building skills pretty much rescued this massive DIY project.

Michael started out living by himself in a two-family flat on the 3800 block of Humphrey in 2006. Then things changed. "After three years and getting married, I wanted more room to grow our family. Because I love the

neighborhood so much, we bought our new house just a block up on the 3600 block of Humphrey".

On the new house priority list was a garage or at least a carport to comfort Lyndsay's car, Michael's toys and the kid's bikes. Like so many of our alley-scapes, their backyard had an old concrete parking pad surrounded by a chain link fence. Re-using the existing pad wasn't an option so with an open field in front of him, Michael set his sights a bit higher. A standard garage on a standard pad was planned but then things changed again. "My wife gave birth to our beautiful twin daughters and when you have double



everything, you need a lot more room," Michael explained. The garage plan now called for higher trusses enabling ceiling storage but after comparing prices, Michael realized that replacing the trusses with taller walls and a flat roof would double the original square footage.

He engaged an architect to design a 20' X 24' garage with a 16-foot garage door, double French doors opening to the backyard, ten-

foot ceilings on the first floor and an outside stairway to the second floor.

However, Michael's optimism flagged after his first contractor started the work but took off after getting his second payment. Michael finished digging out the foundation himself and found a new contractor for the pour.

With the foundation in place, Michael and a friend started building the garage. It took the 2 - 3 months to complete the framing, siding, outside second floor stairs and flat metal roof. During this time, Lyndsay tried to be supportive and not impugn Michael's skills but did ask at one point, "Do you know what you're doing?" As the project grew, Lyndsay kept asking, "How much taller is this going to be?" It's a very tall garage.

Like all large projects, planning is imperative. Thinking of a possible bathroom, a 4" sewer line connection was established and a trench was dug between the garage and house to provide electric and three extra 2" conduits to run a compressor airline and future water lines.

Toward the end of the project, Michael was ascending his masterpiece when he accidentally kicked over his ladder and was stranded on the roof until Lyndsay checked on him an hour later. **"She put the ladder back for me", reports Michael, "right after she worked it for a dinner. She was laughing the whole time."**

While there are no plans to finish the second floor, the extra space is pure gold with a lot of options. Michael dreams of having a shop over the garage but I'm not so sure. With three young girls in the family, I think that premium second floor garage-top has been spoken for a long time ago.



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- Bob Ross



by Katie Wolf  
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

I have been asked to collect information about the recent Street Tree removal efforts. I spoke with the Forestry Department, Alderwoman Green, and had a great discussion at the April TGHNA meeting. Here is some information I think you will find useful.

The trees that were slated for removal were chosen by a team of city arborists because they were Ash trees OR were dead or beyond saving. Just like Santa does, the list was checked by arborists twice.

A contracted tree service spray painted "X's" on some of the trees slated for removal. However, there have been instances where TREE BANDITS have been marking live trees to harvest them for profit. So, if you have suspicions about a marked tree, please contact Vicki Wakeland at the Forestry Department - (314) 613-7200.

Another question concerns stump removal. All of the trees in this project are slated for automatic stump removal. You do not have to call CSB to request a stump removal. However, as always, if you have concerns about a specific removal, please call or email me.



Will replacement trees be planted where the previous trees were? The answer is "maybe." I have heard from residents that some of the removed Street Trees have already been replaced. The Forestry Department states that tree replacement will always depend on budget, time, and appropriateness of placement. I was told that if you wish to have a tree planted in place of a removed tree, please call CSB to request one - (314) 622-4800.



Street Trees are normally planted between November to April. In some cases, the full tree planting list will not get completed in one year. In that instance, the remainder of the list will be carried over to the next planting cycle. If you request a tree planting before November 2021 and one is not planted by May of 2022, please feel free to contact Forestry or me. We can check to see if a work order has been generated.

The Forestry Department web page provides great "Street Tree Information" that outlines requirements and timetables for all city tree work. There is even a list of trees currently in the Street Tree planting rotation. If you are requesting a Street Tree be planted, you can also submit a request for a specific tree at that time. Please

note that while suggestions are always welcome for Street Tree selection, the Forestry Division is responsible for determining what tree is planted. The downloadable "Street Tree Information" sheet further explains guidelines city arborists follow when deciding tree location. If you have already entered a request for a Street Tree, and wish to add a specific tree request, please email me and I can add it to the request.



I hope this answers most of your questions regarding Street Tree removal, stump removal, and replanting. As with any topic, I am sure that there are some nuances not touched upon in this article. If you have any questions, please email me at [wolfk@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:wolfk@stlouis-mo.gov) or call at (314) 657-1374. Hope to see you soon!

Editor's Comment: In the Heights, there are 29 stumps either recently removed or waiting for removal. Making plans for replacing the trees lost is something that should start now. The good news is that a few new trees have been planted recently and, many more that were planted prior to all the elms and other species being removed. In fact, there are 85 young trees doing well along the streets of Tower Grove Heights. However, there are more trees marked for, or in need of, removal so planting new trees in the open stretches is still encouraged.

# Tower Grove Heights

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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.

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- 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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The name of the restaurant is an homage to Steve Martin's character in "The Jerk," a 1979 film that features a memorable scene involving a gas station in St. Louis.

continued from page 3

He walked into the backyard of his Lafayette Square home and fired up his smoker.

At first, smoking meats was something to do to keep him busy. It was something he always enjoyed, a culinary skill passed down from his father and his uncle. With extra time on his hands, he figured he'd experiment with recipes and add to his expanding barbecue tool kit.

"I told some friends I was doing it," Armstrong said. "They were like, 'Oh, if you have extras, we'll be happy to eat it.' So I gave them some and they told some other friends about what I was doing and friends of friends started ordering stuff. Then the neighbors started smelling it and asking if they could get some."

Quickly, as people kept asking for more meat, Armstrong realized his skill on the grill might be more than just a hobby. That's how Navin's BBQ was born.

Armstrong opened the restaurant in the space formerly home to Guerrilla Street Food as a way to offer his meats to more people and pursue something that has been on his mind for as long as he can remember.

"It's always been a dream of mine," Armstrong said. "Barbecue has always been a part of my life, from early on and grilling with my dad, to then jumping over and helping my uncle's team at American Royal for a few years. I grew up in and around it. My



CHRIS ARMSTRONG

dad was in the Air Force when I grew up, so I've lived all over. I was fortunate to live in some really good barbecue communities like central Texas, Kansas City and now St. Louis. I'm just happy to turn a passion into a dream."

The name of the restaurant is an homage to Steve Martin's character in "The Jerk," a 1979 film that features a memorable scene involving a gas station in St. Louis. Armstrong's original idea was to find and remodel an old gas station, but he ultimately found the space on Arsenal to be more accommodating for a first-time restaurateur.

Navin's will offer meats served by the plate, as well as a selection of sandwiches. While working out of his backyard, Armstrong found

that sandwiches were convenient for packaging the orders placed by his friends and neighbors. So he'll incorporate some of the same offerings at Navin's.

Sandwiches include The JERK (pulled jerk chicken, pepper cheese, bacon, sweet heat slaw, crispy onion strings and white BBQ sauce), the Mess (pulled pork, Navin's house sauce and sweet heat slaw), the Hot Brown (smoked turkey, bacon, diced tomato, cheese sauce and chives, served open-faced style) and the Lou (sliced pork steak, provol cheese, Navin's Sweet St. Louis Sauce and Red Hot Riplets Chips), among others.

"I started with some old familiar things, then I got a little bit creative," Armstrong said. "A couple of the sandwiches on the menu came out of testing different things on my at-home, backyard setup. Then my chicken wings were a big demand item, as well. I was doing hundreds of those each week for people."

Now, Armstrong is eager to meet demand through a real restaurant, one he hopes will allow for neighbors in Tower Grove Heights to share in his love for all things grilled and smoked.

"Anyone who first tries a burnt end or some Texas brisket falls in love with it right away," Anderson said of his passion for barbecue. "I've always been one of those guys who likes to get my hands dirty. I love the ins and outs of barbecue, and I like trying to replicate it on my own. It's this mindset I've always had: if someone else can do it, why can't I?"



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Izzy and a new friend, Penelope, help out.



Volunteers of all ages turned out for the 3600-3700 Hartford/Juniata Spring Extravaganza Alley Blitz on April 17 organized by Block Captains Nigel Holloway and Debra Knox Deiermann.



# Block Captains

If you are new to the neighborhood and would like a Welcome Packet, contact your Block Captain. Updated contact information can be found under the Block Captain tab on [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com). If you would like more information about the organization or if you would like to become a Block Captain, please contact [blockreps@towergroveheights.com](mailto:blockreps@towergroveheights.com).

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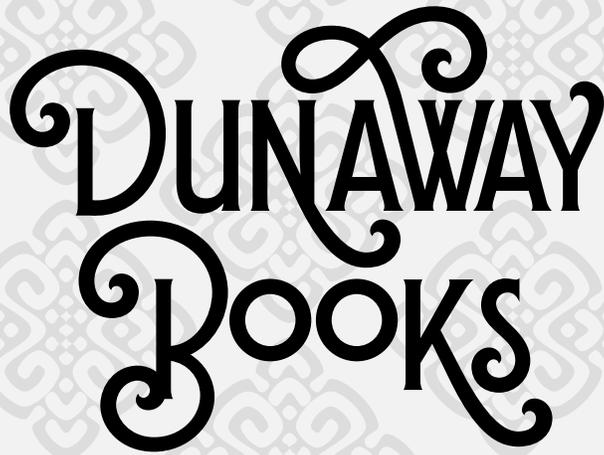
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