

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 15, No. 4

Fall 2004



Holiday Shopping on Grand South Grand (for under \$20)



Amelia Belz gives the Santa at T.F.A. a hug.

by Don Hardin

First stop, Botanicals on the Park. Where can you start (or stop) when there are hundreds of completely unique items to choose from? I found stemware, picture frames, ornaments and on and on.

Next, a favorite haunt of this reporter, Cheap TRX. Unusual rings, cards, candles and aroma diffusers. By the way, did you know that the art deco light fixtures in the store are from the old Shenandoah theatre?

Got a book reader on your list? Dunaway Books has an incredibly diverse collection of books (tons of

books according to the manager). Used cds too. One could browse for days, but, no time--we are on a shopping mission.

Fifi's On Grand, "the one stop retro shop," what a trip back in time. How about a painting of Patsy Cline done by a local artist, or a handbook on "How to be Popular," or "A Salute to the Suburban Superwoman"? Among my favorites are the Betty Paige wallets and purses.

At Grand Habitat I found a great selection of decorative odds and ends for the home-pictures, furniture and accessories, both new

and used.

KaBloom, one of our newer additions to Grand South Grand, offers many plants (flowering or green) to fit our budget. How about designing your own bouquet for the holiday dinner table or for that special someone? KaBloom is raffling off a beautiful Holiday tree for just \$5 a chance. Setup and delivery are included.

Talk about a trip down memory lane...a trip to TFA (The Future Antiques) will bring back fond memories of simpler times. I found the infamous ceramic black panther that used to sit on top of our 21-inch black and

white TV, complete with glowing emerald eyes. It's back to the 50s and 60s with aluminum drinking tumblers and boomerang-shaped ashtrays.

Last stop, The Vintage Haberdashery. Here we find boas, turbans, feathered hats, and an endless selection of vintage clothing (some are back in style now). And just for fun, how about a 300-carat ring for under \$20 and available in a rainbow of colors.

Would you like to give the gift of shopping? All merchants on Grand South Grand, from The St. Louis Bread Company to the Wyoming Barber Shop, offer gift certificates, a fun (and always on target) gift to give.

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The Tower Grove Heights Gazette is brought to you by the following people:

Founding Editor: Janice Nesser
 Editing Team: Sara Langan, Doug Samsel, Carrie Samsel
 Business Managers: Mark Berry and Julia Engelhardt
 Contributing Writers: Suzanne Brach, Peggy Hoelting, Rich Iezzi, John Karel, Sara Langan, Erin L. O'Reilly, Tom Reitenbach,
 Photography: Carrie Samsel, Rich Iezzi, Peggy Hoelting
 Proof-readers: Suzanne Brach, Joe Thele, Sara Langan

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

E-mail Group Keeps Residents Informed

By Tom Reitenbach

Are you "in-the-know?" Wanna be? It's easy. Next time you're online, point your browser to www.towergroveheights.com and join our new email distribution list. This great tool enables the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association to keep residents informed of related news and events. We even have the ability to host surveys, maintain a calendar and post pictures or other files.

All you need is an e-mail address to join. Should you later wish to unsubscribe, you'll find instructions for doing so at the bottom of every post you receive.

Take a minute to sign on through the neighborhood website or by visiting the group directly at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/towergroveheights>. Like most things in a community, this group will improve with your participation. Your suggestions are most welcome.



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What's Going On at Tower Grove Park?

By John Karel

It has been a delightfully cool summer that has allowed us to catch up on the cleanup from the devastating storms of late May and early June. The damage to trees in the Park was probably the worst we have had in the last 15 years. We lost a number of trees, but we also lost thousands of branches and limbs. Also, the handsome zinc statue of a resting stag inside the west side of the Magnolia entrance was crushed by a falling tree limb this summer. We are currently investigating the best way to restore this statue, and once that is determined, we will have to find funding so that the work can begin.

For some time, the Park has held out the hope that the original historic landscape behind the ruins could be restored with the original urn and beds which we know from early photographs were there. First of all, this has depended, upon a successful relocation of our highly-valued statue

of Baron Von Steuben. This beautiful statue from the 1904 World's Fair was placed there in the 1960's, but that site was never the best of locations for its scale and style.

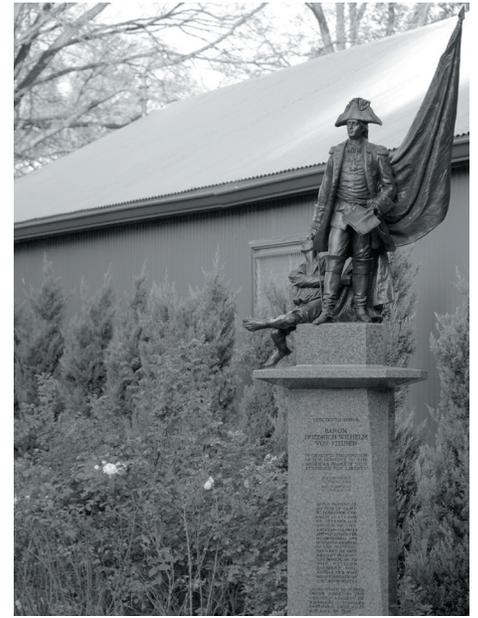
Fortunately, the Friends of Tower Grove Park and The German-American Heritage Society contributed funds and counsel that allowed us to restore the statue, find a new location, and then move the statue. We think everybody will agree that the new setting for the Baron, overlooking the plaza between the Palm and Plant Houses, is a great success.

The German-American Heritage Society also sponsored a rededication ceremony for the statue on September 19 in conjunction with their annual observance of the birthday of another of our important statuary namesakes, Alexander Von Humboldt.

Another successful Thursday night summer family concert series at the Pool Pavilion concluded with the highest attendance ever. Everyone enjoyed the fun family atmosphere

with picnics, dancing, and lots of great music.

Fall is a wonderful season to enjoy the Park and see great colors. See you in the Park!



Statue of Baron Von Steuben in its new setting between the Palm and Plant Houses in TGP.

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The Tattler

By Sara Langan

Dumpsters parked in streets signal major renovation, and they seem to be everywhere in our neighborhood. Grand Avenue is being reworked, and new stores are coming as old ones relocate. Change is everywhere--especially in the south side Catholic churches, as a plan to consolidate and close parishes is nearing finalization. A preliminary plan was proposed this fall to close St. Pius V on Grand Ave and divide the parishioners between RSt. Wenceslaus and Holy Family on Oak Hill. Members of St. Pius have appealed, and have suggested that, among other advantages, having a church in a prominent location on Grand is important for visibility and as an anchor for Grand South Grand. The final decision will be made this year.

Street cleanings have been limited to once a month—the first Wednesday and the first Thursday of each month. Yard waste pickups will be halted December 6 until after March 10.

Tower Grove Heights Association memberships run January to January. If you are not a lifetime member, it will be time for you to rejoin or join for the year 2005.

Light up the neighborhood with holiday luminaries on December 19, 2004. Lighting luminaries along sidewalks and roadways is an age-old custom from Mexico. The candles inside the luminaries were to light the way for the Holy Family. During the 19th century in New Mexico, the custom was to light bonfires to light the path for family and friends coming to celebrate. As legend has it, one family was unable to light a bonfire, and used a candle in a small sack instead. This was the beginning of the current practice of lighting luminaries.

The Tower Grove South block captains will be organizing a “Light Up the Neighborhood with Holiday Luminaries” on December 19. Sup-



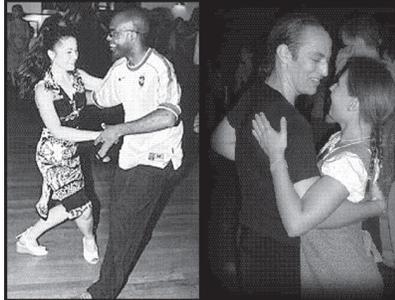
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plies will be donated from local businesses, and your block captain will be able to help you get the items you need to be part of this delightful holiday tradition.

Happy Holidays!



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Help a Family In Need This Holiday Season

This holiday season the **Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association** is joining with **100 Neediest Cases** to help two St. Louis City families have a wonderful holiday. You can help by contributing a gift or monetary donation to one or both of the families.

Helping is easy!! Either donate a new, unwrapped gift that fits one of the family members or themed baskets, or donate cash (or check – made out to TGHNA) which will be used to buy gifts and help our adopted families pay for utilities. Drop your donations at the drop point and we take care of the rest. All gifts will be wrapped and distributed to the families.

Donations of gift wrapping materials (holiday paper, ribbon, tape, name tags) are needed as well. If you are interested in helping to wrap, contact Ellen Wilson, 771-1732.

Due Date for Donations: Dec. 12

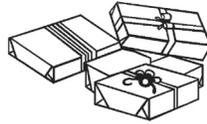
Wrapping Party: December 15

Drop Point and Contact: Ellen Wilson, 3617 Juniata St., 771-1732

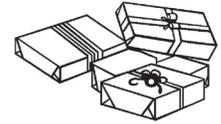
Rehabbing With Rich: *I Like It All*

Years ago, it seemed like everyone living in Tower Grove Heights had been around forever. Many of the residents were born, raised and continued to live right here when a lot of us moved in during the '70's and '80's. Now, most of us are new to the Heights.

David Gibson fits that description as he blew into our area in the late '90's from Virginia. With a background in maintenance and design, he "wasn't looking to get into rehab," but that all changed when he started working on projects in the Shaw area in 1991, and then the West End in 1998. When David met his future wife Patty at a TGH Christmas



PICK ONE OR MORE TO BUY FOR:



Family 1: Single father caring for disabled parent and two children

Father, 25 (Size: 34/36, 12 shoe)
Grandmother, 47 (4X, 10w shoe)
Daughter, 3 (4T, 9 shoe)
Daughter, 2 (3T, 8 shoe)

Health Care Basket – Consider: personal hygiene products, home cleaning supplies...

Holiday Food Basket – Consider: fruit, holiday meals, a frozen turkey...

Entertainment Basket – Consider: lightly used videos/DVDs, age appropriate books...

Cash for gifts or utility bills which are paid directly by 100 Neediest Cases

Special Requests: Queen size sheets, toddler bed, toys.

Family 2: Single mother; two bipolar children

Mother, 37 (Size: 8, 7 1/2 shoe)
Daughter, 13 (7, 7 1/2 shoe)
Son, 7 (7, 13 1/2 shoe)

Health Care Basket – Consider: personal hygiene products, home cleaning supplies...

Holiday Food Basket – Consider: fruit, holiday meals, a frozen turkey...

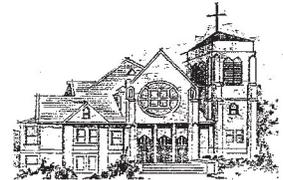
Entertainment Basket – Consider: lightly used videos/DVDs, age appropriate books...

Cash for gifts or utility bills which are paid directly by 100 Neediest Cases

Special Requests: Clothing, table and chairs, educational toys.

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party, he was rehabbing full time. This worked out well because Patty had just purchased a large two-family flat at 3872 Wyoming that needed lots of love.

When I stopped by to talk with David, he was in the middle of replacing their Wyoming 2-family front porch from the limestone up. He told me "Every time it rained, the porch lights shorted out. When I poked around looking for the problem, my fingers went through the boards."



Front Porch Repair

Continued on page 11

Resident Profile:

Jim & Lotis Fraizer

By Erin O'Reilly

Jim and Lotis Fraizer have been residents of TGH since 1964 when they purchased their home on Hartford Street. As parents of two young girls, they had moved here from Springfield, Missouri in 1955 in search of better employment and more opportunities. After renting in south St. Louis for several years, they found their niche in TGH and have remained here for 40 years!

Jim was raised by his grandparents in Springfield. He is of Scottish origin.

Lotis (who came to be named so after a main character in a book her mother was fond of) is originally from Quincey, Illinois, but she and her family moved to Springfield when she was in high school. She is of Scottish, Irish and German origin. Incidentally, she has a younger sister named Lois, which was always causing a mix-up in conversation. So Lotis was nicknamed "Dolly," and Lois was nicknamed "Sissy."

Anyway, as the story goes, Jim whistled at Lotis when he first saw her, which just happened to be in *church!* Of course, that made him a big hit with Lotis' father. But as it turned out, Lotis and Jim were married in 1949 when they were both 20 years of age.

At first, Jim was in the Navy, and then he worked for the Frisco Railroad as a telephone lineman. Both of those jobs required a lot of travel away from his family.

After the births of their daughters, Margo in 1950, and Rachael in 1952, Jim decided to look for work that would keep him close to his young family. After a few more years in Springfield at Swift and Co. as an ice cream maker, Jim found a job with Lewin-Mathes Co. (now Cerro Copper Products in Sauget, Illinois) in St. Louis, and they made the big move to

the big city.

Lotis worked in customer relations and service at various companies, and Jim eventually went into the insurance business.

Jim retired in 1992 and Lotis in 1995, both in their sixties with good health and energy left for their six grandchildren, several pets they have acquired over the years, and for their many neighbors and friends!

Their daughter, Margo, is a professor at University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Her degree is in English Church History. She travels a lot, and has written several text books in her area of expertise. She and her husband, who designs and crafts furniture to order, have three children.

Rachael, their second daughter, is an RN who specializes in geriatric/elder care. She and her husband, who is an MD, have three children also, and live in Binghamton, NY.

Jim and Lotis really enjoy their six grandchildren, but are frustrated because they live far away and they don't get to see them often enough!

So they supplant their "grandparenting urges" with their neighbors' baby, Kearen Samsel.

They also have two dog "babies," Snowball and Hazel (12 and 10 year old), who came to them by way of Mary and Bob Jackson, other neighbors who have since moved away.

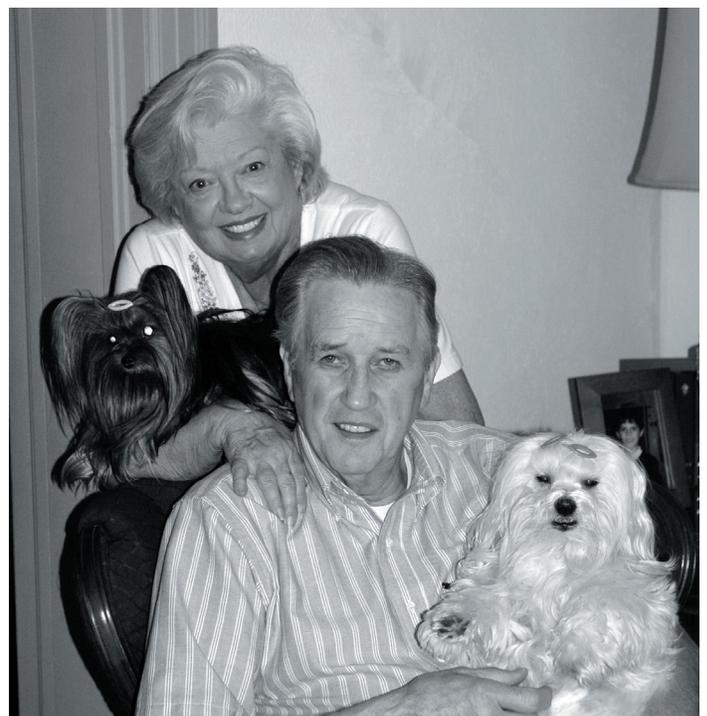
Another member of our community that benefits from their

care and attention (and vice-versa) is Cindy, the mailwoman. She stops by to visit them, and they offer her respite from her heavy load when she is in need.

Lotis is an avid gardener. Jim enjoys helping with some of the larger projects, such as installing an azalea bed in front of their house, complete with custom-mixed soil. They remember with groans removing the soil, as it happened to coincide with all the raining and flooding of the 1993. You can find flowers in most of the neighbors' yards that began their lives in Lotis' garden.

There are many pictures of family members which adorn their walls and tables. Their home is comfortably "remodeled," as Lotis puts it. A piano, which both their daughters played, sits in their living room, and Jim has taken lessons off and on.

They do think of "downsizing" to a smaller home, but for the time being, they are content in their lovely home of many years!



Neighborhood Builders: *Tales from the Trenches*

by Suzanne Brach

Those who choose an urban lifestyle in St. Louis are a new kind of pioneer. Not content with conventional suburbia, urban dwellers seek instead a non-traditional lifestyle that expands the mind, feeds the soul, and transports us back to a time when people lived in real communities with real people. Tower Grove Heights is just that—a community made up of diverse people who share a common love for historical homes.

Tower Grove Heights hasn't always been that way, however. During the times of urban blight in the 1960's and 70's, like many other city neighborhoods, Tower Grove Heights was struggling to survive. Through the vision and hard work of our early "settlers," it has become the neighborhood we love today. Starting with this issue, The Gazette will tell their stories, and offer insights and ideas on how we all can become "neighborhood builders."

**Neighborhood Builder:
(na'bur-hood' bil'dur) n. An eccentric, albeit interesting urban dweller with a proclivity for creating communities of diverse individuals and like-minded souls.**

Neighborhood Builder Puts Tower Grove Heights Back on the Map

Neighborhood builder Susie Gudermuth always wanted to live in a historical home. Although she had grown up in West St. Louis County (when hardly anyone else lived there), she longed for an urban environment.

"I always loved coming to the city and wanted to be part of saving one," she says. "Since I grew up in a small town, I appreciated the community aspect of knowing people well,

and wanted to bring that sense of belonging to an urban community."

The time was right to make the move in the early 1980's. After spending a year in Denver on a nursing fellowship, she returned to St. Louis in search of a house.

"Denver people were into the urban lifestyle—it was right before the Denver boom where people were renovating houses, and I thought 'I can do that, too,'" she explains.

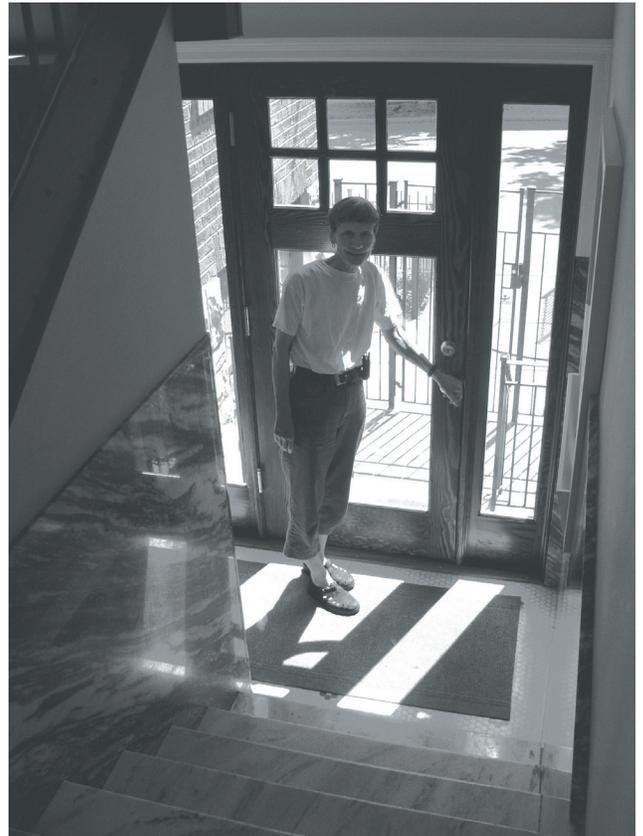
Susie's professional colleagues (she was a nursing instructor), introduced her to Utah Place, leading to the purchase of her first two Tower Grove Heights homes--one on McDonald and one on Utah.

Although still lovely, the neighborhood had obviously taken a turn for the worse. Many good people were moving out, and there was a growing drug trade that made many residents afraid to answer their doors. Even then, however, Susie saw the potential.

"Or maybe I was too naïve to recognize what was happening," she says. "It was spiraling downhill but hadn't truly bombed out. There were not yet a lot of vacant houses, so we saved it before it got that bad."

Susie had found an avocation, but her career took a couple of turns from nursing to healthcare insurance before her new passion turned into a full-time occupation.

"I found that I didn't enjoy corporate life, and really wanted to work for myself," she says. And with that



Susie Gudermuth in one of the Capistrano Condominiums.

inspiration and some assistance from her mother, Tower Grove Homes was born, and the rebirth of a neighborhood began.

"I thought I would do it for about 10 years, make lots of money and move on," she says with a laugh. "But, I got hooked."

The road to revitalization was long and sometimes tough, but Susie credits the community for helping the neighborhood take a positive turn.

"The original people in the neighborhood seemed to take hope from what I was trying to do," she says. Neighbors let Susie know when something was ready to go on the market, and many original homeowners offered creative solutions like owner financing to assist with the purchase.

"Although I was far from wealthy, contrary to popular industry standards, you really can buy every house on the market," jokes Susie.

“We literally tried to buy every house that became available on Utah Place.”

The “we” is Susie’s mother who still lives on Utah in Susie’s original house. “I think this was a dream for her as well, and she lived it through me,” explains Susie. “She was my inspiration and support.”

During that time she also met another strong supporter, husband Tim Hays. Tim bought their current home on Utah, and instructed her to “fix it up.”

“It really was on-the-job training,” says Susie. “You learn who to work with, who’s dependable, and who does a good job.”

A defining moment for the neighborhood was the formation of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. “We got together to solve problems and have fun and support each other,” she says. “Many of us still live in the neighborhood and are friends to this day.”

Another turning point in the early 1990’s was the creation of the Tower Grove South Housing Corporation, a not-for-profit funded by the city. The corporation included a group of neighborhood residents who, through the corporation, identified a series of problem properties and purchased them. Two of the first acquisitions were the “Hartford Arms” and 3735 Juniata, both of which were in terrible condition. After searching for an outside developer to no avail, the corporation took on the job of restoring these properties. Susie served as volunteer developer for the corporation.

A stroke of good fortune came in the way of Joe Curtis from Commerce Bank.

“We had put up a sign, and Joe happened by and facilitated a loan through Commerce to complete the project,” explains Susie. “It really stabilized that corner and encouraged others to improve property, bringing other good people into the neighborhood.”

With that project complete, the corporation realized its goals to rid the

neighborhood of eyesores and stimulate private development. “And we did it at market rate housing,” says Susie. “That was a turning point, and the neighborhood began to take on a life of its own.”

To date, Susie has completed 30 gut rehabs and owns about 45 houses. This includes her most recent project, The Capistrano, five luxury condominiums ranging from 2500 to 4400 square feet.

Her vision for Tower Grove Heights is one that is shared by us all: to build and maintain a strong neighborhood with diverse residents, and preserve those historical characteristics that make our neighborhood

unique.

“After visiting European cities and other urban centers like San Francisco and New York, I felt and still feel that St. Louis can have its own unique urban vitality. I really believe in St. Louis.”

Although Susie and other neighborhood advocates helped put Tower Grove Heights back on the map, she stresses the importance of community involvement and taking it to the next step.

“It hasn’t been done by just one person, and can’t be done by just one person,” she says. “We need a new generation of residents who are committed to the neighborhood.”

So you want to be a neighborhood builder? Tips from a Pro

In order to maximize our investment in Tower Grove Heights, it’s important that we all play a role in neighborhood building. Here are some basic “how-to” tips from Susie:

Make a commitment. Neighborhood building is an inside-out, grass roots endeavor. “Live where you work, work where you live” is a good mantra to follow.

Concentrate your efforts. Make your money work for the neighborhood. Putting money into the neighborhood reinforces your initial investment. For every dollar you put in, you get two back.

Start small and work up. If you tackle too big a project at first, you may become frustrated, and/or broke and quit.

Patronize local businesses. Keep our shops open, and keep the business district thriving. You may sometimes pay a little more but your money is more likely to stay in the neighborhood.

Support Tower Grove Park by becoming a Friend of the Park. We

are privileged to have as our anchor Tower Grove Park, one of only four urban parks in the U.S. to be designated a National Historic Landmark.

Remember, appearances are everything. There are lots of great neighborhoods, lots of competition. Keep our neighborhood competitive by maintaining your property: help keep the streets and alleys clean (prospective homeowners drive the alleys). Plant trees, keep lawns mowed and trimmed. Utilize the city’s 50/50 sidewalk program where the city shares the cost of a new sidewalk with you 50/50.

Think about neighborhood reinvestment. Identify properties you may want to purchase to enhance the neighborhood and your investment.

Improve the neighborhood one block at a time. Create and maximize interesting places in the neighborhood. Make it a street others want to walk down.

Get involved in your neighborhood association. Attend meetings and find out how you can become a neighborhood builder!

Perfect Plants For the “Not-So-Sunny Garden”

By Peggy Hoelting

Your garden faces east and you get full sun in the morning, with afternoon shade. Or your garden is shaded by a large tree all morning, but in the afternoon the sun is blazing! What kind of plants work best in this “part sun” situation?

Picking the right plants is the key to a beautiful, long blooming “part sun” garden. Plants for “full sun” grow best with at least 6-8 hours of intense sun. Without enough sun they will grow extra tall, flop over, and then not bloom as well as expected. They are weak and more susceptible to disease. “Full shade” plants tend to like cool, moist spots. Too much sun dries up moisture and heats things up. Leaves turn brown at the edges and curl up.

In the past it has been difficult to find plants that will thrive and bloom in a “part sun” situation. Plant growers have been very busy developing plants that will do just that. Here are some of my favorites:

‘Knock Out’ Shrub Roses are almost completely disease resistant and maintenance free. They grow about 3’ wide by 3’ tall, and are covered with cherry red blossoms from May until frost. Full sun is best, but they will

still thrive and bloom with only 4 hours of sun.

‘Endless Summer’ Hydrangea, pictured to the right, is not your grandmother’s hydrangea. The “old fashioned” Big Leaf Hydrangeas that we all know and love set their flower buds on “old” wood. This means if we get a really cold winter, and they die all the way back to the ground like a perennial, they will not bloom the following spring. ‘Endless Summer’ Hydrangea not only blooms on “old” wood, but on the new season’s growth too. Where old fashioned hydrangeas set one round of blooms per season, this one continues to repeat bloom all summer long!

Oak Leaf Hydrangea should be in every garden. This four season plant displays interesting dark green, lobed leaves in spring, large white, mop-head flowers in summer, gorgeous reddish purple foliage in fall, and peeling cinnamon bark during the winter. Hydrangeas need some sun to bloom properly and give you the best show of



color in the fall. Give these acid-loving plants a dose of sulphur every few months.

Japanese Maples add grace and texture to the part shade garden--purple leaves, arching form and winter structure. Japanese Maples like it cool and moist. In too much sun the leaves will scorch.

Other shrubs for “part sun” areas include Azalea, Abelia, Clethra, Itea, Kerria and Holly.

Use perennial flowers to provide bursts of color. Spring blooming perennials for “part sun” gardens include: Bleeding Hearts, Helleborus and Tiarella. Best summer bloomers are: Black Eyed Susan, Repeat Blooming Daylily and Coreopsis. For fall bloom, try Sedum ‘Autumn Joy’, Japanese Anemone and Aster.

Start with a few shrubs for texture, height and structure, add one or two spring, summer and fall blooming perennials for a “not so sunny” garden you can enjoy all season long.

A Tower Grove South Gardeners Group is now forming. Join the fun as we visit each other’s garden, share plants and talk gardening.

For info call Peggy Hoelting at 616-5142, e-mail her at pegalicious@netzero.net or check out the TGH web site.

Happy Gardening!

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Volunteers and Houses Needed to Represent TGH in 2005 Tour

The 2005 Grand South Grand House Tour theme is "A Grand Mosaic." We need three houses, and three house captains for those houses, plus lots of people to staff the houses on the days of the tour. The tour is scheduled for April 16-17, from 11 to 5 each day.

Liz Fleming is organizing our neighborhood's part of the tour. If you are interested in being a part of showcasing our beautiful neighborhood, call Liz at home, 776-7424, or e-mail her at fleming.e@sbcglobal.net.

Continued from page 6

The front porch work isn't for beginners, but these projects helped prepare David for a much larger job at 3657 Utah. When asked about his favorite part of rehab, he answered "I like it all." Good thing.

One goal of the Utah house project was, of course, to make a profit, but there was also a desire to take the structure back to its original style minus the earlier inconveniences. New kitchens and baths, central air, plumbing, electric and drywall were combined to produce another 100 years of magnificent living in the original residence.

These are big projects--over 400 sheets of drywall were used on the Utah house. The renovation was so extensive that I could see from the first floor all the way to the 3rd floor ceiling when the plaster was removed.

Although his favorite part of the job was installing the new kitchen, David fell in love with the old stove that came with the house. "It was from the '50's with a griddle area in the center

along with the 4 burners. We enjoyed using it, but couldn't add it to the new plan," David explained.

Old pesos and a hidden bottle were also uncovered from the walls. David suspects the plasterers drank from the bottle to, well, get plastered.

Looking at the Utah house now, you'd never know the front porch dental work used to be covered with aluminum siding or the front doors were painted. But that's the fun of it, according to David.

"The enjoyment is saving and restoring an old home so it can be brought back to life," he says. "Preserving and adding to what was there is always better than tearing something down."

I should have known David was a preservationist. Before I met him, people told me, "Some new guy is going through the alleys looking for old wood." When I finally met David, we worked out an alley agreement--he could have the oak doors, and I'd continue to collect the yellow pine. City life--gotta love it.

Neighborhood Editorial: *Grand No More*

By Rich Iezzi

Now that the elections are over and the sports world has calmed down, what is there to talk about? Plenty, if you drive on Grand from Arsenal to 44.

In 1997, the Board of Public Service focused on controlling this stretch of Grand, and construction began last spring. Since then, we've seen Grand Avenue shrink from three lanes each way down to two with 'bump-outs' on most intersections. Recently, a concrete median was added along with a bike path. So where did all this come from?

Speeding complaints on Grand got the attention of the traffic department and the Board of Public Service got involved. Anne G. Moore headed up a taskforce to address this, and the "Grand Visions" committee was formed. Stir in a little funding (our 15th ward contributed \$200,000), and a \$1.5 million dollar project was created.

The idea behind the plan was to slow traffic through restriction, and make Grand more pedestrian friendly. This is accomplished through lane loss, bump-outs and the median addition. "Adding bump-outs at intersections reduces the amount of road pedestrians will have to cross," Anne Moore explains. She also believes that "Together, the medians and bump-outs will slow traffic as it visually narrows the field of vision and makes the driver more careful and slower." The bike path, as mandated by the federal funding, also takes up room.

So how's it going over with the drivers? When I spoke with chief engineer Tom Behan, he told me, "There's not a day that goes by that we don't hear complaints about this." Jim Suelmann, Director of Streets, said his department was "swamped with complaints" about this project. Personally, I've heard over 30 opinions about this, and I've yet to hear one in favor of it.

Most of the complaints center around safety. "When I turn into Compton Heights I get honked at and almost hit," complains a Hawthorn resident because drivers can no longer use the right lane to slow down.

Some of the most vocal safety concerns came from Messiah Church and School at Pestalozzi and Grand. School secretary Lucy Schroeder pointed out that not only did the church and school lose parking spaces but parents are now forced directly into traffic after dropping off their kids. Lucy thinks, "It's an accident waiting to happen," and related liability concerns have surfaced.

Residents and drivers find it hard

to believe that the same city that restricts commercial barbeque pits from our sidewalks to avoid lawsuits would make drivers enter directly into traffic from side streets when they didn't have to before.

Traffic light synchronization was also a sore spot. Long time residents remember driving from Arsenal to 44 without missing a light. Now, according to chief engineer Tom Behan, longer pedestrian crossing times have 'complicated' light synchronization.

The weirdest thing I heard was the sighting of an ambulance headed north on Grand but using the south-bound lanes and going into south-

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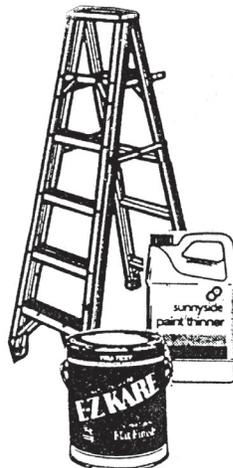
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Continued from page 12
 bound oncoming traffic because the northbound lanes were 'all tied up'. I've heard conflicting stories from city planners explaining how emergency vehicles will negotiate traffic now that the spare center lanes are covered by the new median.

I had hoped to do an objective article on this project but was unable to locate even one person who supported it. Ninety percent of people said "I hate it" as soon as I brought up the plan, and many felt that it was a heavy handed solution to tame the minority of careless drivers. Perhaps there is a positive side to this story that can be covered in future articles, but for now the word from the street is not good. What do you think?

From the editor: If you have a response to this article or an editorial

Continued on page 15

La Clinica Supports Needy and Immigrant Families

La Clinica was founded in 1993 as a free bi-lingual medical service for poor and immigrant families. Services, such as prenatal care, are provided by volunteer licensed professionals. WIC Supplemental Foods are also available. Demand for services grows daily due to so many families living without any other source of care. Almost all patients exist significantly below the poverty level. La Clinica will serve about 7000 patients in 2004.

La Clinica receives funding and in-kind services from individual donors, church groups, foundations, and grants. Please contact La Clinica for information on how you can support this community effort. La Clinica's sister organization is Accion Social Comunitaria.

La Clinica - Latino Community Health Centers
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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION CONTACT LIST

Monthly meetings 7:15 PM on 4th Tuesday (except December), First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming Street
 President: Daryl Brach
 President Elect: Open
 Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
 Treasurer: Jan Clinite
 Asst. Secretary/Membership: Pauline Ashton
 NSO: Joe Thele, 773-0664,
 email: thelej@stlouiscity.com

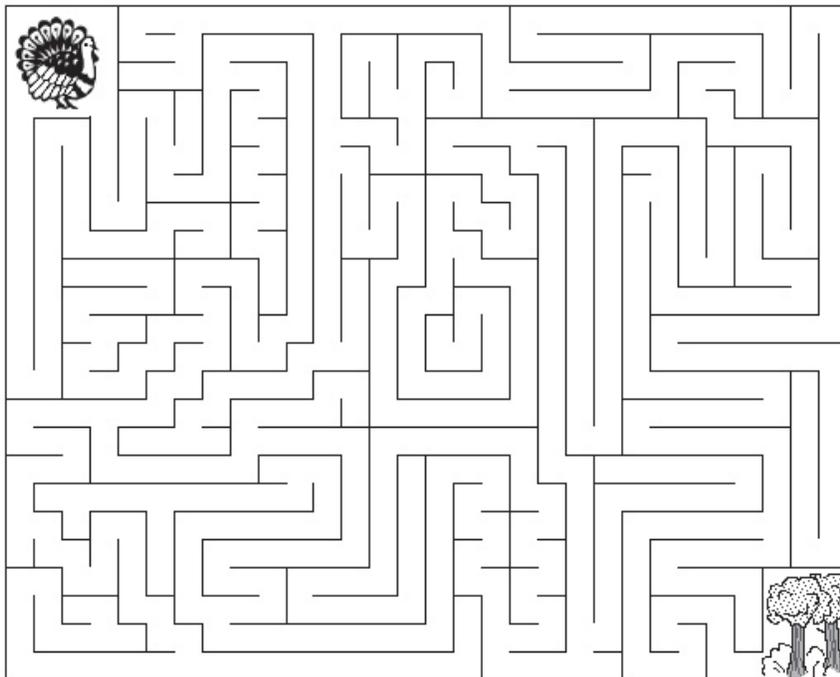
Committee Chairs

Block Representatives: Tom Reitenbach
 Fundraising: Suzanne Brach
 Gazette: Carrie Samsel
 Telephone Inquiry Service for TGH Rental info: Jean Iezzi (314)772-5982
 Promotion: Suzanne Golemb
 Member-at-Large: Jodie Heliker
 Webmaster: Rich Wendel
www.towergroveheights.com

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3600/3700 Arsenal: Recruiting!
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3600/3700 Hartford: Recruiting!
3800 Hartford: Joe Thele
3600/3700 Juniata: Lynne Casey
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3800 Connecticut: Virlene Reichert
3600/3700 Wyoming: Creston Ragan
3800 Wyoming: Pat Strawhun
3600/3700 Humphrey: Sue Freedman
3800 Humphrey: Erin L. O'Reilly/
 Georgiana Grant
3600/3700 Utah Place: Kristy Andrews
3800 Utah Place: Daryl Brach

Kid's Corner



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you would like to submit for consideration to be included in a future issue of the Gazette, please email it to cesamsel@swbell.net, or send it to the neighborhood office, (3735 Connecticut, attention Gazette Editor).



It's not too late to renew your membership! Membership runs one calendar year--January to January, unless you are a "life" member. The TGHNA is the one thing that best illustrates the Heights' commitment to community. It is the place where we come together:

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

However, the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association can only be YOUR Association if you join. We need your participation if TGHNA is going to be a reflection of what YOU want the Heights to become. So please don't delay in joining or rejoining. **Tower Grove Heights NEEDS YOU!**

Please indicate your membership level choice:

___ Individual (1 vote) \$10/yr ___ Household (2 votes) \$15/yr
 ___ Business (1 vote) \$25/yr (Includes 10% discount on Gazette Ads for 1 year)
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*I have found that,
among its other
benefits, giving
liberates the soul
of the giver.*

-Maya Angelou

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 Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, 3735 Connecticut St., St. Louis, MO, 63116.



Clip & Save Events Reminder

Nov. 23 - Neighborhood Holiday Party. *First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming; 7:15 p.m.*

Dec. 12 - Deadline for Donations for Needy Families *(see p. 6)*

Dec. 14 - St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series
Piper Palm House; 7:00 p.m.; FREE; Doors open at 6 p.m.

Dec. 15 Wrapping Party for Neighborhood Gifts *(see p. 6)*

Neighborhood Association Meetings

**Tuesdays:
November 23
January 25
February 22**

**7:15 p.m.
First Church of Divine Science
3617 Wyoming
Everyone is welcome!**

Jan. 11 - St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series
Piper Palm House; 7:00 p.m.; FREE; Doors open at 6 p.m.

February 6 - Friends of Tower Grove Park 2005 Lecture Series "In Search of Bohemian Hill"
Presented by Nini Harris, author and historian whose latest book is Bohemian Hill, An American Story Stupp Center (Grand & Arsenal) 2:00 p.m. FREE For info call: 865-2394

February 8 - St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series
Piper Palm House; 7:00 p.m.; FREE; Doors open at 6 p.m.

