

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 11, No. 4

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

July 2000



GUDERMUTH ENJOYS HER JUST DESSERTS WITH BREAD-TO-CONDOS CONVERSION

By Matthew Fernandes

As the old Ziegler Bakery building, on Wyoming and Spring Streets, silently and steadily deteriorated throughout the 1990s, the plywood boards that covered its orifices faded and cracked with each passing season. Located in the heart of the rejuvenated Tower Grove Heights neighborhood, the two-story structure has been a cankerous bud amid a bed of roses — until now.

Thanks to Susie Gudermuth, a virtual therapist for down-on-their-luck buildings in the neighborhood, the large edifice has joined its brethren on the road to rehabilitation. Workers are busily converting the corner complex into condominiums. The “adaptive reuse” will utilize materials and architectural features left over from the days when Louise and Virgil Ziegler put in long hours tending to the ovens, churning out baked goods.

One such feature will be the incorporation of a large antique oven into one of the walls. Gudermuth is unsure whether the oven will be operational or ornamental.

During the years before she purchased the property, she and other neighbors watched with concern as the building’s code violations mounted: broken windows, cracked paint, strewn garbage, overgrown weeds...

“The place was in bad condition. There was drug dealing, noise and garbage,” said Gudermuth, who lives on Utah Street. “When the bar was operating, there were alcoholics spilling out of the building, loaded during the afternoons.”

Gudermuth felt her first step was to try to get the owner, Sidney Jacks, to admit there was a problem. This task proved difficult indeed.

After failed attempts to cooperate with Jacks, a grass-roots effort germinated, pulling in a group of nearby homeowners.

The residents contacted the neighborhood stabilization officer and documented the various code violations. Public hearings followed, where the neighborhood group was pitted against Jacks and his team of lawyers.

“We spent so much time going to hearings, it seemed like

an occupation,” recalled Gudermuth.

“The only way to get his attention was to take him to room 208” at city hall, said Jean Iezzi, a Hartford Street homeowner who also donated time to the effort.

While the group was given the opportunity to have their say at the hearings, they repeatedly found themselves trumped by Jacks. The city routinely gave Jacks extensions to correct his violations.

“We all had to take off work. We had good representation from the neighborhood ... but no matter. Every time we tried to make a difference, we would get a two-by-four slapped on our head.”

Former Alderwoman Geraldine Osborne tried to secure the building via eminent domain, but her colleagues in the board of aldermen voted her down. Iezzi and others believe Osborne’s political rivals out of vindictiveness spearheaded the rejection.

The grass-roots effort lasted from the late 1980s to the mid-1990s, when the tenants vacated their rooms and the bar ceased operation. Even as his building collected weeds,

Jacks refused to sell to interested parties, according to Iezzi. At one point, Jacks generated some architectural drawings and a plan to rehab the building. He showed the drawings to the city, thus winning **more** extensions to correct violations.

The campaign to **improve** the building fizzled when the group failed to win even a small victory.

“The city was not helpful,” said Iezzi. “When the building went vacant, we figured, ‘at least the problem tenants were gone ... a vacant building is a quiet building.’”

After devoting many hours to address the downtrodden building that once churned out sweet baked goods, Gudermuth is now enjoying her just desserts. After finally reaching a deal with Jacks, she put the restoration process in overdrive.

The condos will add to an expanding list of properties in which Gudermuth had a hand in restoring. She has been a key

(Continued on back cover)



The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Founding Editor: Janice Nesser

Publications Chairperson - Editor:
Tod Martin

Production Managers:
Tod Martin, Ian Wilkinson

Business Manager: Colleen Santino

Staff: Mark Abbott, Tim Akin, Debbie Akin, Audrey Anderson, Elizabeth Braznell, Richard Clinebell, Matthew Fernandes, Don Hardin, Rich Iezzi, Sara Langan, Brian Marston, Erin O'Reilly, Suzanne Rhodenbaugh, Jay Rosloff, Patty Schneider, Joe Thele, Terry Winkelman

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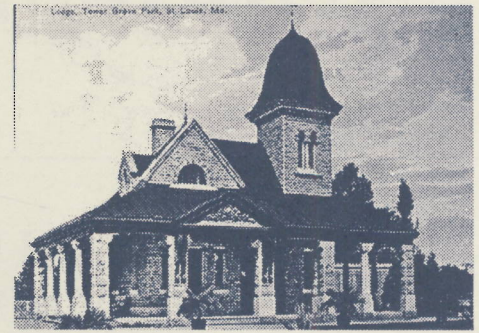
Summertime in Tower Grove Park

By TGP Staff

The Park is a very active place during the summer months as we host a myriad of festivals, concerts and family gatherings.

We are pleased to once again host the Compton Heights Band on Monday nights. In addition we are delighted to introduce the St. Louis Brass Band to our summer lineup. Last but by no means least is the return of the Children's Concert Series which will allow the children to experience and learn about several different styles of music.

The newest improvement to the Park is the thoroughly renovated West Playground. Located near the center of the Park, the playground was in serious need of repair. Thanks in part to the generosity of members of the Friends of Tower Grove Park we were able to raise the funds to replace older wood pieces with new state of the art equipment. The installation is slated for completion by June 20th, at which time both the playground and the wading



pool will be opened to the public.

We are constantly seeking to insure that the Park provides education, entertainment and recreation for our neighbors. And don't forget the simple joys of strolling through the historic and beautiful park grounds. We hope you take the opportunity to enjoy these activities and the Park throughout the summer. If you have any questions regarding dates, times and locations please call the Park office at 314-771-2679.

Have an enjoyable summer!

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Letter from the President

By Cheryl Jones, President, TGHNA

It's midway through the year. (As I grow older the years seem to fly by progressively faster!) This is always a great time to evaluate our goals we set in January and correct our course if necessary.

One of the most important goals we have this year is to re-establish many of the neighborhood activities that have fallen by the wayside over time. This means that we need more money and more participation. We have been diligently working on our bank account and it looks healthier, although we have many deposits to go before we are strong enough to comfortably execute some of our planned activities. We are already planning for next year and are looking at some long term financial plans for the organization.

The participation in neighborhood efforts has increased but of course, we desperately need more warm bodies. We find that many of the same volunteers are working so often that we fear we will lose them to "burn out". We need enough people to spread the fun around! About 50 more people should do the trick.

Our agenda this year has been ambitious and many events have been postponed, combined or canceled. As frustrating as that has been, we can still see progress toward our major goals. It is time to begin to make sure however that our August "National Night Out" and our December "Holidays in the Heights" celebrations go well. Plan to participate in our fund-raisers leading up to these events and save a little time to volunteer!

Overall, we are doing well. We've had a few distractions (a.k.a. "The Great Arsenal Median Debate", more on that as the situation develops, no decision is supposed to be made before the end of August) but we have not lost sight of what we are trying to accomplish: Creating and maintaining a neighborhood that we love.

Without you and your ideas and your skills we have no Tower Grove Heights. On the map our neighborhood is defined as the buildings and land between Arsenal and McDonald and between Grand and Gustine. But in our hearts Tower Grove Heights is actually each one of you. We plan to continue to work hard for you and hope you will continue to support and nurture our efforts. See you soon!

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association presents a night at the ball game. Join your neighbors in cheering the Cardinals on to victory! Watch Big Mac hit one out of the park! Fifty group tickets have been purchased for the July 5th game against the Cincinnati Reds. The tickets are \$10.00 apiece. Call the Neighborhood Association at (314) 772-5982 for details. Tickets are on a first come, first served basis, so reserve yours today!



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Dining on South Grand

Restaurant Review
By Tim and Deb Akin

Pho Grand has been a fixture on the Grand Avenue dining scene for a long time. If you haven't been there lately it's time to go back. The restaurant recently reopened after moving to its new location, and we are very impressed. The owners, Michael and Tammi Trinh, have done a wonderful job renovating the building at 3195 South Grand. The dining area is very comfortable and tastefully decorated. I particularly enjoyed the traditional Vietnamese instruments that are displayed through out the dining room. Be sure to check out the finish on the walls of the dining room and the restrooms. Tower Grove Heights resident Tricia Heliker and her friend, Lee Ann Tapscott, spent many hours creating the faux finish on the walls which look fabulous.

So...Pho Grand looks better and is more comfortable, but what about the food? I have to admit that Deb and I did not frequent Pho Grand in the old location because of the cramped quarters.

However, people have told us that there is more variety on the menu now, and the food is even better. All we can say is that we have enjoyed going and have found the quality of the food and the service to be excellent.

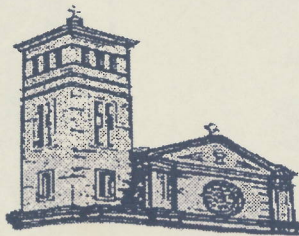


The Pho Grand menu has a lot of selections from which to choose. We order Goi Cuon (Spring Rolls) almost every time we eat in a Vietnamese restaurant. Pho Grand's are excellent. I tried the Goi Ga (Chicken Salad), which is like a spring roll without the rice paper. Pho Grand has many entrées including soups, beef, chicken, seafood, pan-fried noodles,

vegetarian, specialty campfire pots and fried rice. A few that we have tried and enjoyed are the Mi Xao Gion Chay (tofu and assorted vegetables served atop a bed of crispy noodles), Tofu Va Ca Tim (tofu with eggplant and oyster sauce), and Com Thit Nuong (crushed rice with char-broiled pork). Tricia Heliker is a big fan of the restaurant and suggests the Cari Hao (scallops with special curry and coconut milk sauce), Bo Xao Khom (pineapple beef) and an old standby Bun Cha Gio (vermicelli noodles with egg rolls and vegetables). We usually finish the meal with a Vietnamese iced coffee for dessert.

Pho Grand is located at 3195 South Grand Boulevard just one door away from the old location. They are open Sunday-Thursday from 11am-10pm (closed on Tuesday) and Friday-Saturday from 11am-11pm. They can be reached at 314-664-7435. If you haven't been to the new Pho Grand, then make a point to go soon. If you haven't tried Vietnamese food, then this is a great opportunity to enjoy one of the lightest and freshest cuisines in the world.

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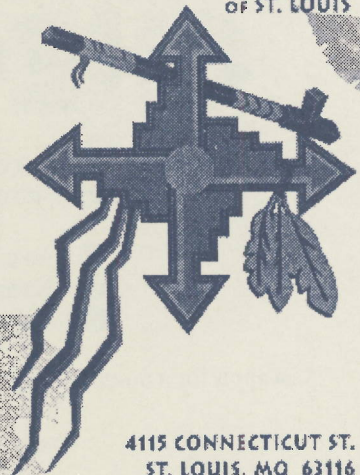
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The Ziegler Bakery Building Rehab

By Rich Iezzi

Just driving by the property on the Southwest corner of Spring and Wyoming triggers a flashback of how things used to be. These buildings were owned by Sidney Jacks and prompted many of us to spend lots of time together in City Halls' room 208, enforcing the new conservation district guidelines (see *Gudermuth Enjoys...*, pg1). Sidney's building was bad when it was vacant and worse when it was occupied. It included the L&B Bar on Spring along with five run down apartments and the old Ziegler bakery space.

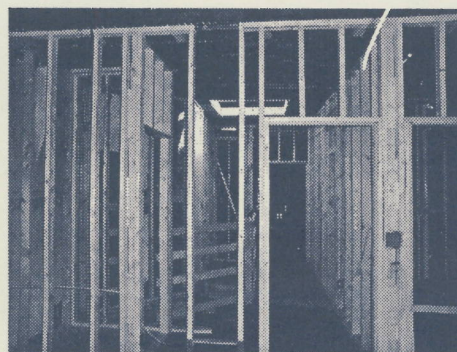
That's the way it was from 1983 until around Christmas of 1997 when it was purchased by Susie Gudermuth. Sidney and Susie both had needs: Susie didn't want to see the building torn down and Sidney didn't want to accept the city's purchase offer.

Many people don't know that Susie, of Utah Place fame, has already been heavily involved with developments on Spring. She volunteered to be the gen-



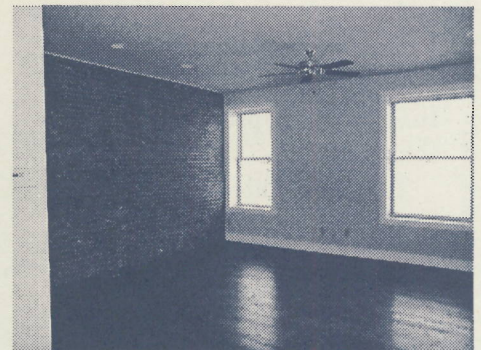
eral contractor for two Tower Grove South Housing Board projects: 3734 Juniata and the townhouse developments (a.k.a. the Hartford Arms) between Hartford and Juniata. She looks at her new acquisition at Wyoming as another step to improve Spring, the major entrance to Tower Grove Heights.

Susie has an all or nothing approach that shows with the Ziegler Bakery Building, as she now calls it. Who else would clean the brick, lay all new sidewalks and install real copper frieze work at the top of both buildings? She thought about



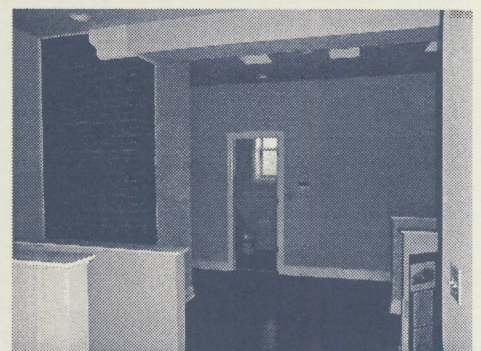
taking down the old L&B Bar building on Spring but decided to fill in the basement to install garages for the upstairs unit. That's where the trouble started. Normally, buildings have their utilities coming up through the basement. Without a basement, the Spring side had to be served through the Wyoming building. Susie remembers that "we had to make sure we fed everything into Spring before we closed it all up to work on the Wyoming side." "Basements are important," she now observes.

One of the costliest parts of the plan was caused by the old bakery oven that's a mass of white glazed brick jutting out



to the West. It gives an interesting 'foot-print' but required rebuilding two stories of brick walls to achieve the planned indoor patio.

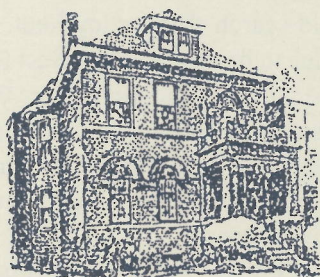
The overall design calls for a loft style condominium on the second floor of the Spring building with parking garages on the first floor and two condominium townhouses on the Wyoming side. The Spring condominium was originally built as two side by side apartments separated by a brick firewall. Now they've been combined around a central stairs and the



beautifully reincarnated brick wall, cut away and spanned by a beam to provide an open floor plan.

The Wyoming condominiums offer three bedroom, two bath units that have electric windows that open with the flip of a switch, skylights, fireplaces and exterior wrought iron fencing. It's hard to believe it's the old Sidney Jacks building.

Living at this corner used to be an oxymoron—now it's not. Thanks, Susie.



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Treasures of Tower Grove Park

By Don Hardin

One of the greatest treasures of Tower Grove Park is its impressive calendar of events. Just look what's coming up this year!

June 5 thru September 4, 2000

South City YMCA Day Camp

Turkish Pavilion

Monday - Friday

For info call: 865-3500

June 20 thru August 27, 2000

Wading Pool Open

11a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Sunday

FREE

For info call: 771-2679

June 24 & 25, 2000

Pride St. Louis Festival

East End of Park

Parade, crafts, merchandising, concessions, and live entertainment

10a.m. - 7p.m.

Mondays, June 26 - August 7, 2000

Compton Heights Concert Band Series

Music Stand

7:30p.m.

FREE

For info call: 776-2227

July 24, 2000

Celebrate Henry Shaw's 200th Birthday!

More info to follow

For info call: 865-3500

September 24, 2000

Friends of Tower Grove Park Party

at the Palm House

Vernon W. and Marion K. Piper

Palm House

For info call: 865-2394

October 7, 2000

Alzheimer's Association Memory

Walk 2000

Walk Starts at Whitaker Theater

For info call: 432-3422 or 1-800-

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Date TBA

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Outdoor performances to include
poetry, music, dance, and writing
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For info call: 721-0052

Passing the Torch ...

By Sara Langan

I want to thank Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood for the privilege of being the editor of the Gazette. It was a totally new experience for me—I had written a few columns and am an avid newspaper reader but that was the limit of my exposure. Thankfully, we have a wonderful talented pool of writers in the neighborhood who are willing to share their time and are open to new ideas; creative layout artists and supportive advertisers. With their help, we were able to produce the Gazette. It has been fun.

I'm stepping down because I decided to start in May an eight-month coaching certification program through the Hudson Institute of Santa Barbara. It is extremely intensive—with an exhaustive reading list and assignments. So the next time you see me, I'll probably have my nose in a book or be loaded down like a pack mule!

You might be asking what is coaching—is it athletic coaching or what? To me, coaching is guiding a person, persons or human systems toward fulfilling futures.

Five central tasks of coaches are:

- To facilitate continuity and change in the lives/systems of clients
- To clarify core values, beliefs and sense of purpose
- To identify and define key social roles and activities and their balance
- To tap developmental challenges
- To invent a vital, continuous learning agenda

I currently work at Fontbonne College as a Career Advisor where I enjoy helping students determine majors, career choices and search for employment. It will continue to be an area of interest for me. For coaching certification I have the luxury of having a coach and the charge to coach others using my new learning. So if it sounds appealing to you to have a coach, give me a call!

I'm excited that Tod Martin stepped up to the plate to take over as Editor of the Gazette. I can't wait to get this issue!

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TGHNA Joins SLACO

By Michael Renner
President-Elect, TGHNA

At its February meeting, the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association voted to join the oldest network of neighborhood organizations in the city: The St. Louis Association of Community Organizations, or SLACO. With our membership we become part of a coalition of 16 community groups and 14 churches working to better our neighborhoods through the principles of self-determination and democratic action. As we address the quality of life within the Heights we can now draw upon the strength and experience of SLACO organizers and other neighborhood leaders to address issues as they arise.

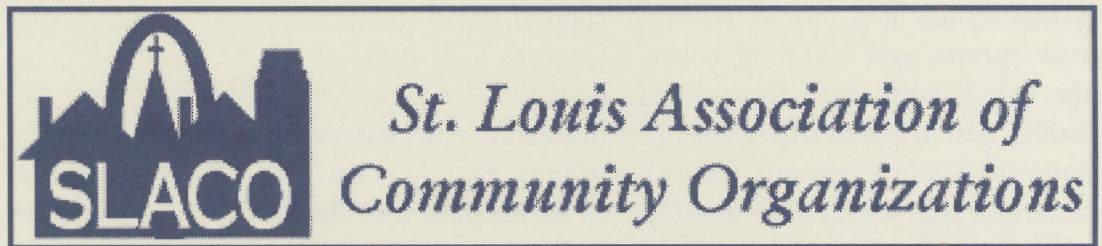
SLACO sprung from community-minded religious leaders over 20 years ago on the north side of the city who believed in the grassroots empowerment of neighborhood residents. Today it's a recognized secular force for community development working on issues that affect us all: housing, economic development, crime reduction and education. One of SLACO's most

recognizable events is the annual Neighborhoods Conference that brings together hundreds of participants to attend workshops on neighborhood development. Some of their most powerful accomplishments include organizing the campaign eliminating the sale of 40-ounce beer bottles and spearheading the effort that stopped the growth of package liquor stores in residential areas.

leadership academy training neighborhood leaders in community-building techniques.

* Refugee Organizing-Through its Community Links program, SLACO works with the International Institute to assist refugees settling in St. Louis become involved in neighborhood associations.

* After-School Youth Programs-



Other SLACO activities include:
* Neighborhood Organizing-Staff assistance is available to us to assist our leaders with issue selection, strategy development, research and ongoing outreach and recruitment. A good example is that our SLACO organizer, Karen Heitzman, agreed to facilitate a meeting of the task force assigned to study and make recommendations on the Arsenal median issue.
* Leadership Training-In order to build strong local leaders and help neighborhoods address issues, SLACO offers a

SLACO offers after-school and summer academic enrichment programs for children living at Etzel Place Apartments and Towne XV public housing units.

* Neighborhood Stabilization-SLACO monitors and addresses city policies and legislation that impact the stability, preservation and redevelopment of neighborhoods. They also work to ensure that local banks offer loans sufficient to meet the needs of our neighborhood.

* Community Oriented Policing-They work with the police department to address crime problems and neighborhood hot spots.

* Affordable Housing Development-SLACO has initiated several new housing developments in four city neighborhoods.

Given SLACO's track record, commitment to neighborhood development and overall philosophy, Heights residents voting for admission feel that our yearly \$250 membership fee is more than just another expense, it is an investment in the long-term growth and stability of our area.

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St. Louis Pridefest 2000 Offers Community a Feast

PrideFest 2000 is the annual celebration for the city's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community. It will take place this year in Tower Grove Park, on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25, 2000, from 11:00a.m. until 7:30p.m. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. There will be the annual Pride Parade, on that Sunday at 11:00 a.m. The festival features over 100 food, beverage, merchandise and informational booths. Also featured will be a dance floor, mini-sports and arts festival, children's play area, an on-site HIV testing unit, The Names Project Memorial Quilt, and entertainment. For more information, reference www.pridesaintlouis.com or call (314) 772-8888.

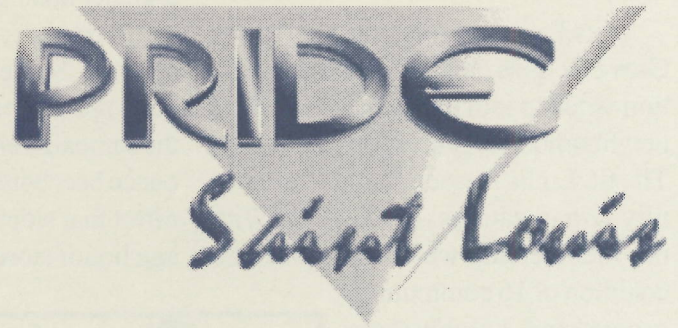
Pride St. Louis, Inc. announced its on-going relationship with Bud Light. Once again, the hometown brewery is stepping up to the plate by aligning itself with St. Louis PrideFest 2000, as the Presenting Sponsor. Other corporate sponsors include Manline, The Downtown Marriott Hotel, Trans World Airlines, Wet, Planet Out, Elbert GMC, and the St. Louis TAN Company. Media sponsors include Curve, Instinct, and Slam!

"We are very excited by the continued growth of the corporate spon-

sorship for PrideFest. This kind of support demonstrates these businesses' commitment to our community. We need to show them in every way possible how much we appreciate their support," said Debra George, Vice President, Events Group Inc., who is handling corporate fundraising on behalf of Pride St. Louis, Inc.

In keeping with the history and current pace of a strong and diverse mainstage line-up, Pride St. Louis, Inc. announced that it's keynote speaker will be activist, author, and the Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, Urvashi Vaid. St. Louis Mayor Harmon will address the crowds along with local transgendered activist Jordynne Olivia Lobo. Its three headlining entertainers will be Jimmy Somerville, Frankie Goes to Hollywood and Lisa Lisa, all of which are remembered for huge dance hits during the 1980's.

Other entertainment will include everything from Latin to R&B, Jazz to Comedy: Chic, PMS, Girls With Guitars, SCSI, Trio Oro, Camino



Real, Mahogany, The Gateway Men's Chorus, CHARIS, and Vicki Vincent and Friends. Los Angeles based bands Hypnogaja and Corday, Chicago based comedy group The Hysterical Women, and New Yorkers Jade Estaban Estrada and Comedian Michele Balan will perform, along with Lorna Brooks, from Scotland. Locals Kurt Tarkington and Dieta Pepsi will host some of the festivities.

"We strive to present a diverse and unique show, one that will celebrate and entertain. Once again, we have done just that," said Public Relations Director Rolf Rathmann. "This is a labor of love and a gift from a hard working corps of volunteers. Without their work and the support of Corporate America, this show would not be possible," continued Rathmann.

Pride St. Louis, Inc. is a tax-exempt educational and charitable organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, dedicated to increasing the awareness of the general public of the presence of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered individuals in the community in an effort to eliminate prejudice and achieve harmony.




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Your Retro Plex

Resident Profile - Diane Hurwitz

By Erin O'Reilly

What do law, research, rehab., gardening, cat rescue and adoption have in common?! They all come together in the person of Diane Hurwitz, a TGH resident since 1987. Diane is from St. Louis; she was raised in Richmond Heights as an only child, adopted by her parents as an infant. Her adoptive parents have both passed away and she is interested in finding out if she has any biological family, yet she knows that will entail a lot of research and time.

Diane is familiar with research though. She is a lawyer who does research for an appellate judge in Illinois. She gradu-

ated from Washington University School of Law in 1983 and got into the research aspect of lawyering soon thereafter. For those of you who, like me, are ignorant of the court system, the appellate court is a court of appeals. First a case is heard in the circuit court, then is appealed in the appellate court, and is possibly appealed again at the State Supreme Court. Diane's research mostly involves family, real estate, and workers' compensation law.


Before Diane bought a house in TGH, she purchased an old farmhouse with $\frac{3}{4}$ acre land in Dogtown. This house was built in the late 1800's and she has been rehabbing it over the years since she

bought it in 1982. She calls it the "money pit" and says she has learned all about rehabbing from the work she has done on this house. Her dream is to turn it into a Bread and Breakfast!

Then in 1987 she bought a two-family on Arsenal and lived there until 1996 when she bought a single family home on Utah and moved there after extensive renovation. She is renting and rehabbing the Arsenal property. As if that wasn't enough to keep her busy, she then purchased the building at the corner of Connecticut and Spring and renovated it. This is the place where TGHNA holds their block captain and board meetings and Tower Grove South Management Co. initially resided.


Diane does a lot of the rehab work herself and she has come to love the architecture and style of these old homes. She also appreciates the TGH neighborhood with its strong sense of community and friendly atmosphere. She enjoys knowing her neighbors, being near the park and Garden, and the variety of eateries on Grand. Her hobbies include gardening at her properties. She has an eclectic style and incorporates lots of daylilies and hostas and other low maintenance plants into her gardens.

Another hobby, or should I say, a dedication of hers, is the rescue and adoption of abandoned or abused cats. Her not-for-profit operation is called the "Clowder House Foundation". Most of her cats come from older people who cannot care for their cats because of illness or death. She has the help of two other people in the care and housing of these cats. Many of the cats are housed on her own properties, although some of them are adopted out to caring homes. A goal of hers is to purchase a building to use as a cat shelter or "cat retirement home", but the zoning laws are too restrictive in the city. Eventually, she hopes to get the law changed for this dream of hers. Well, she's off to feed some cats and get back to her gardening! She is one busy lady!



Kurt E. Wolfram
Attorney at Law

Personal Injury
and Commercial Litigation



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Peanuts! Get Your Peanuts Here!

By Patty Schneider

Several of your neighbors in the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood answered that call recently and assisted with the Cardinals' concession stand fund-raiser. These lucky individuals now have first-hand knowledge nacho and pretzel preparation and hot dog grilling techniques. Our president-elect was able to relive a favorite high school/college job of working at his father's bar and grill.

Our president even convinced us all to dress as Easter Bunnies for the rainy Easter game. In all seriousness, it is a good way to meet your neighbors and raise some money for the upcoming events and parties.

The neighborhood association has been staffing a concession stand at the Cardinals' games as a fund-raiser. The neighborhood association receives 9% of the total stand profit. In just three games, we have raised over a thousand dollars! The benefit of this

type of fund-raiser is that it requires no resources other than your time. This can be a very profitable, year-round fund-raiser for the neighborhood association. There are opportunities to staff concession stands at both the Kiel and TWA Dome. If you are interested in participating, a small mandatory training session provided by the stadium is the only experience you'll need. Please let one of your board members know you want to be a part of the team at (314) 772-5982.



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Finally, a very special and heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers who gave up a few hours of their week to assist in this project. The following people have volunteered in the concession stand: Michelle Riechart, Virlene Riechart, Linda Schweighofer, Kim Cole, Amanda Dole, Brian Marston, Jennifer Gower, Matthew Rossmiller, Mike Renner, Meg Renner, Tom Rhodenbaugh, Jane Cochran, Jill Nissen, David Nissen, Diane Hurwitz, Margaret Prichard, Patty Schneider, Cheryl Jones, Pam Hardy, Cary Liembach, John Bartkoski, Tod Martin, and Jodi Heliker and her friends. Thanks to everyone!

Keep It Clean!

By Brian H. Marston
<webguy@fatdays.com>

As neighbors, we all have a duty to do our parts to keep our shared environment clean. If you're a dog owner, please pick up after your pet. It's not just a matter of courtesy; it's also the law according to Section 10.04.310 of the St. Louis City Revised Code. Failure to remove any feces left by your dog on public or private property could leave you in deep doo doo. Violation of the pooper scooper ordinance is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and/or an imprisonment of up to 30 days.

A plastic grocery bag or Ziploc bag will do the trick. Turn the bag inside out, stick your hand inside, grab, and turn the bag inside in. As the owner of two dogs who go on three walks a day, I'm intimately familiar with the process. I quickly overcame any qualms I had about picking up poo, although it does make me question who the master is in this relationship.

According to Missouri state law, it's illegal to dump yard waste in a landfill. That's why we have two different kinds of dumpsters in our alleys: green dumpsters labeled "YARD WASTE ONLY" and brown dumpsters labeled "NO YARD

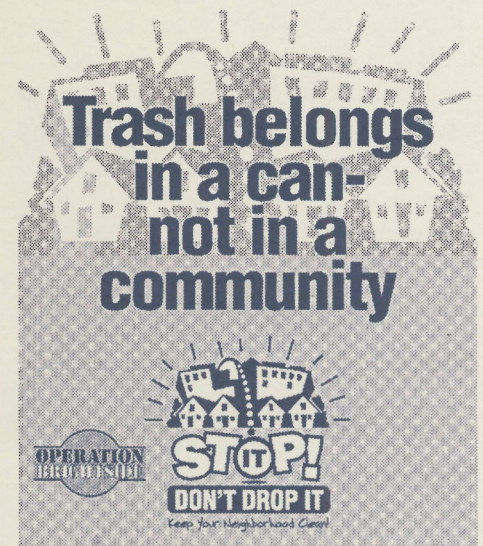


WASTE." The two are not interchangeable. Put leaves, grass clippings, twigs, and vegetation in the yard waste dumpsters. Everything else except bulky trash (e.g. large appliances, tires, car batteries, tree limbs that are more than two inches in diameter, etc.) should be placed in the brown dumpsters. For the prepositionally challenged among us, "in" does not mean "near," "beside," or "on top of." If the dumpster closest to your house or apartment is full, use a neighboring container that's not full.

Material in the yard waste dumpsters is ground up into mulch. Throwing cans, bottles, and plastic bags into the yard waste dumpsters ruins an entire batch. Bulky trash is picked up once a month according to a schedule posted on the dumpsters. Call the Citizens' Service

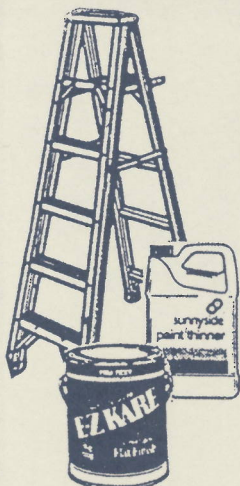
Bureau at 622-4800 if you have any questions or complaints about the city's trash collection service.

To reduce the number of trips you have to make to the dumpster, buy a compost bin to turn your kitchen scraps and yard waste into rich black humus for your garden. Also consider signing up for weekly curbside recycling with Earth Circle Recycling (1660 S Kingshighway, 664-1450). Earth Circle picks up newspaper, magazines, office paper, paperboard, corrugated cardboard, steel food cans, plas-



tic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, and aluminum cans. You only have to separate the paper items and food containers. The program normally costs \$72 per year, but the city subsidizes the service in our zip code, so your cost is only \$24 per year. The annual fee includes a blue bin in which to place your materials.

If there's a spot on your block that would benefit from some plantings, consider applying for some green from Operation Brightside. Groups can get \$250 for community beautification projects through the Growing St. Louis program. At least 60% of each grant must be spent on plants. The rest can be used for tools and maintenance equipment. Application packets are available at Operation Brightside's office at 2375 Hampton Avenue. They're due by August 18. For more information, call 781-4556.



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The Saint Louis Zoo Insectarium

by Rick Clinebell

This article has been made possible by my partial re-entry to the real world (after many long years of graduate school) in the form of becoming a Zoo volunteer. I am discovering that volunteer work for one of our cultural institutions is tremendously satisfying and that I look forward to my weekly two-hour stint in the zoo's new butterfly house not just because I like butterflies and tropical plants, but also because it feels good to be a volunteer. I highly recommend the experience to those who have thought about volunteering for some worthy cause, but haven't taken the final step of actualization.

The Monsanto Insectarium is the newest exhibit at the Zoo. There is a free hour (9:00 to 10:00 daily, at least during the week) and otherwise costs \$4.00. There are many small exhibits of insects, including a bee hive, bullet ant colony, a desert display ("Dune Buggies") and many others, similar to "The Living World," which also exhibits small critters. But there is also a large glass-domed butterfly house, and this is where I have been putting in my volunteer time. It is quite beautiful, with a waterfall and pool in the center, and blooming tropical plants rich in the nectars that butterflies love. My work involves answering visitor questions, tidying up a bit and making sure the butterflies don't ride out of the dome on somebody's back. Sometimes there are one or two other volunteers in the dome with me, and sometimes it's just me. Since there are no predators in the dome, the butterflies are quite tame, and easily approached for close observation. Being in the dome is a magical experience, and on any given day there may be twenty to thirty different kinds of butterflies in residence. Their lifespan is 3-5 weeks in captivity.

The dome is a USDA containment facility, which means that the only way

anything in the dome can leave, other than human visitors, is via the incinerator. This precaution is necessary, as the butterflies are imported as dormant chrysalises, which are shipped to the Zoo via the mails in cardboard containers and wrapped in tissue paper, from several butterfly farms in Florida and in Malaysia. The purpose of containment is to minimize the chance that any exotic insect diseases or pests that might come in with the chrysalis shipments will not escape into the local environment, with adverse effects on local ecosystems. The chrysalises are glued onto pins, the pins



stuck onto boards about 18" square, with enough room between them to allow the emerging butterflies to spread and dry their wings. These boards are exhibited in movable glass boxes in the insectarium, which are taken into the dome from time to time to release the newly-emerged butterflies. All stages of the process are on view. Although the research area (where many of the insects

displayed at the Zoo are raised) is not open to the public, there is a large window into this area so the public can see what goes on behind the scenes, which I think is kind of neat.





The area surrounding the building is landscaped with a rich collection of nectar plants which attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and other insects. This landscape is very rich in native prairie wildflowers, such as compass plant, Missouri primrose, liatris, several kinds of coneflowers and many others. Also there is a large statue of a Hercules beetle which kids, young and old, like to climb up on. This is a fantastic place for kids of all ages, but the ones who seem to love it the most are the six- to twelve-year-olds. They just love this place, and so do I. It's worth checking out. Finally, the Zoo has a huge volunteer program, and them that's interested need only call the Zoo and ask for the volunteer desk.

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Moving Right Along

From the WWW:

The mission of the Traffic Division of the City of St. Louis Street Department is, "to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people, vehicles, and goods over the city street system through a well designed, operated, and maintained multi-modal transportation network, providing the best possible service to citizens and visitors to Saint Louis."

Although often working during late shifts or behind the scenes, the Traffic Division has six double crews working to maintain an inventory of more than 300,000 signs placed in the streets of our city. They can replace and install more than 2,000 signs a month.

The Division prioritizes repairs to signs which have a direct impact on safety. These include Stop, One Way, Do Not Enter, Detour, Yield, and School Crossing signs, which are handled as emergencies and are usually replaced within 24 hours.

The Traffic Division Sign Shop produces up to 32,000 standard and custom signs yearly. Besides providing all the traffic signs that the City needs, it processes custom orders for other departments as well.

All signs manufactured since 1987 are made of fiberglass reinforced plastic panels, replacing the old iron baked enamel method used until then. An exception is the 6 3/4" Street Name signs that are produced of aluminum.

The old signs that are replaced are brought back to the facilities for recycling; re-cut, recovered with new reflective sheeting, re-screened, and restocked in inventory. Part of an old Stop sign may become a Snow Route; another may reappear as a new license plate or Yellow Marker. Old brackets and u-posts are also salvaged and reused when possible, helping to preserve our resources.

The Sign Shop started using stainless steel nuts and bolts for the installation of signs in 1994, instead of the zinc plated that had traditionally been used. For a few more cents each, the city's signs will now be free of rust for years to come.

Our Neighborhood

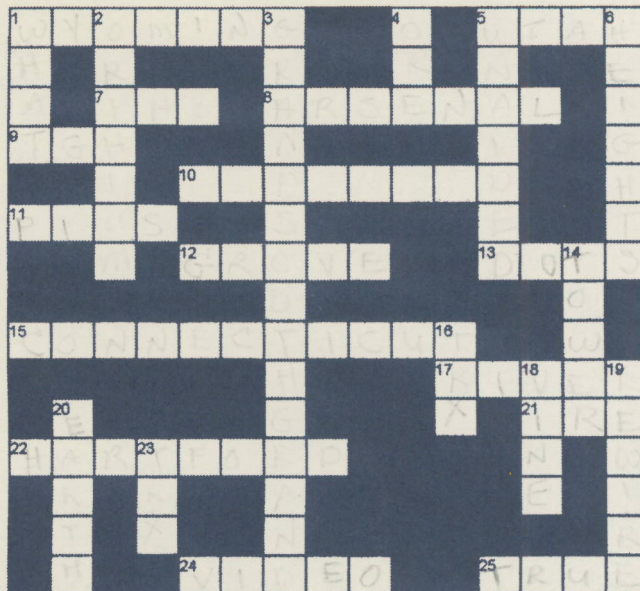
By Don Hardin

Across

1. Its capital is Cheyenne
5. Our southern boundary
7. _____ Grand
8. Our Northern boundary
9. Our neighborhood (abbr.)
10. Fast food and a street
11. A Pope and a church
12. Tower _____ Park
13. Cheap TRX ____ com (plural)
15. Its capital is Hartford
17. Mississippi _____
21. Anger
22. An insurance company and a street
24. Hollywood _____
25. _____ Value Hardware

Down

1. Pardon?
2. _____ Cleaners
3. Shopping at its best
4. Raw minerals
5. With no assistance
6. Tower Grove _____
14. _____ Grove Heights
16. Cheap _____
18. Once Upon a _____
19. Update your electricity
20. Curve of the _____
23. A good place to buy a lava lamp



What other shop has

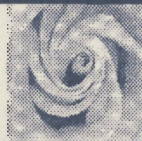
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President Elect: Michael Renner
Past President: Elizabeth Braznell
Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
Asst. Secretary: Margaret Prichard
Treasurer: Patty Schneider

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Fun & Fundraising: Jeffrey Blunt
Gazette: Tod Martin
Membership & Social: Robert Jones
Neighborhood Safety: Robert Jones
Physical Improvements: Mark Abbott
Tenant Committee: Jeff Muse

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3800 Arsenal
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Jane Cochran x
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(Continued from page 1)

figure in the stabilization of the Tower Grove South area, according to Iezzi.

"(Gudermuth) salvages buildings that some people might have said, 'that should be torn down,'" said Iezzi. "She is willing to take risks with her own money. She is a cornerstone of the neighborhood."

"She has told the rest of us that, wow, we can stick around and maybe even buy another house!" Iezzi added.

"This is a key building in the neighborhood," said Carolyn Toft, president of the Landmarks Association. "Spring

Street is important so this work really needed to be done."

"How this building impacts the whole neighborhood is where the return will come," said Gudermuth.

On a related note, Gudermuth has recently purchased the American Legion building across the street from the condos. Currently, the storefront is unsightly, with painted metal siding and very few windows. Gudermuth hopes to lure a small business, perhaps the Sierra Club, and open up the storefront using large windows.

Tower Grove Heights Needs You!

If you have not been mailed a copy of this Gazette, you are not a member. Join today and you will be mailed all 6 issues of the Gazette. Membership dues raise more funds for the neighborhood than any other activity. Please show your support for your association and your neighborhood by joining today!

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