

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 13, No. 1

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

April 2002



House Tour Celebrates “A Grand Collection of Styles”

By Joy Ward
Of The GSG House Tour

The 2002 Grand South Grand House Tour on Saturday and Sunday April 20 and 21 will highlight a wide variety of architectural and personal styles in the five neighborhoods around Tower Grove Park with the aptly named, “A Grand Collection of Styles.” The theme of the tour is collections and includes a number of residents’ unusual personal collections and their fascinating homes.

From toasters to turkeys, the 2002 Grand South Grand House Tour features collections both fun and amazing. Visitors will get to see the inside of homes many only get to admire from the outside. Along with sights to delight the eyes, there will be musical entertainment at various stops along the way.

O. John Groebl, Grand South Grand House Tour Chairman says that the tour highlights some of Tower Grove’s most outstanding and interesting architecture. “The architecture of the Grand South Grand neighborhoods ranges from grand homes to one-of-a-kind office buildings. This year’s tour gives everyone a chance to experience the charm and diversity of our community.”

The proceeds from the tour will benefit the Cornerstone Center for Early Learning located at 3901 Russell Boulevard in the Shaw neighborhood. The Cornerstone Center was founded in 1969 to strengthen low-income, high-risk children and families by providing a wide range of support and education services on an income-adjusted basis. The Center serves children aged six weeks to six years.

The tour runs from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. both days and starts in the Grand South Grand Business District at the southeast corner of Grand and Juniata. Tickets are \$15 if purchased the day of the tour. Advance tickets are \$12 and can be purchased over the phone by calling 314.773.4844. Children 12 and under are free. The ticket booth and tour starting point are in the Grand South Grand Business

District at the southeast corner of Grand and Juniata. Because the tour is self-paced, the tickets are valid for both days in case visitors don’t complete the tour in one day.

The Grand South Grand House Tour is presently in its’ ninth year of celebrating the architecture in the neighborhoods surrounding Tower Grove Park.

The tour features twelve (12) unique and beautiful residences that showcase diverse styles of city living at its best! The tour features homes from the following five historic neighborhoods along South Grand Avenue:

Compton Heights, Compton Hill Reservoir Square, Shaw Tower Grove East and Tower Grove Heights

The homes offer beautiful and unusual interior and exterior architectural features and turn-of-the-century craftsmanship. The interiors reflect a rich variety that ranges from Victorian to contemporary, with some of every-



A featured house at 3667 Utah.

thing in between.

Unlike most house tours that feature a single neighborhood, the five neighborhoods work together to stage the largest St. Louis house tour. We are proud of our individual neighborhoods and we work together as a supportive community for the residents, businesses and institutions located in the South Grand neighborhoods.

Free shuttle buses are provided between the ticket booth and homes, however, you can walk, bicycle or drive yourself (map provided). Entertainment will be offered in many of the homes. The South Grand Business District offers a great variety of restaurants and shops. So come for coffee and breakfast before the tour, lunch during the tour, and dinner after the tour. Great shopping along Grand Blvd. is always available.

For additional information and group rates, contact O. John Groebl, Co-Chairperson of the Tour Committee, (314) 776-3017.

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

www.towergroveheights.com

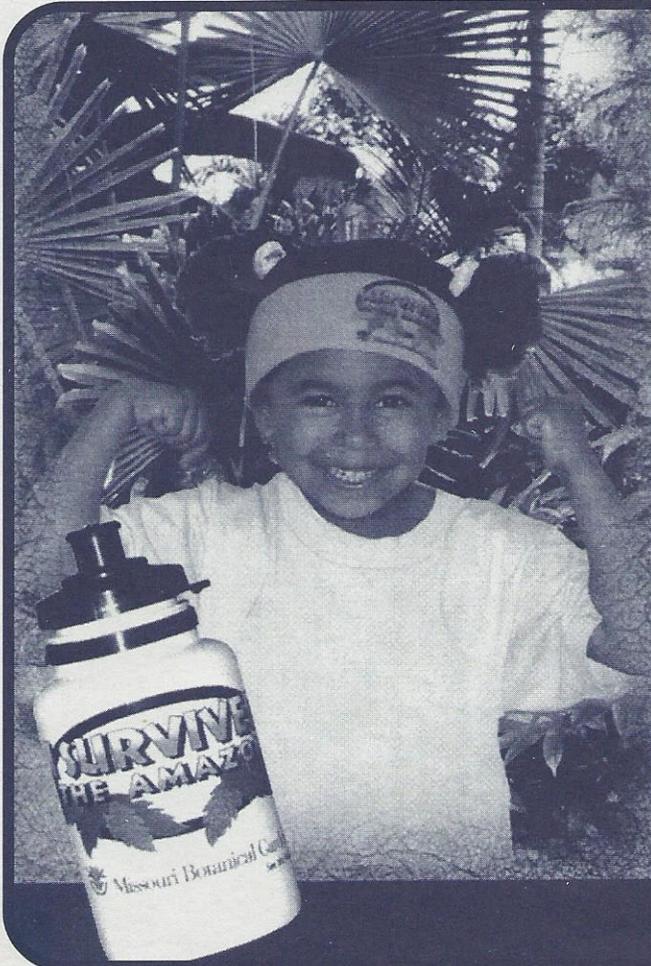
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Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette. Mail them to: The Gazette/TGHNA, 3735 Connecticut, St. Louis, MO 63116 or email GazetteEditor@towergroveheights.com.

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.



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The EPA wants you!

From Grand Oak Hill
Community Corporation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its St. Louis program partners - Operation Safestreet, Vector communications and the Coro Midwestern Center, are looking for neighborhood groups/community organizations that would like to participate in the "Listening Tour" program.

With an emphasis on leadership training, project planning and community outreach, the "Listening Tour" builds capacity among neighborhood groups so that they can successfully combat environmental threats such as:

Vacant and Abandoned Properties; Litter and Trash Illegal Dumping; Solid Waste Disposal; Water Pollution; Air pollution; Urban Sprawl and Highway Expansion; Brownfield Redevelopment; Safety; Lack of Curbside Recycling

Neighborhood residents participate in thirteen weeks of training (2-1/2 hours per week) during which time they will develop asset-based strategies to improve their neighborhoods' environmental conditions. With technical assistance from program consultants, residents also create implementation plans to carry out their strategies, identify potential funding sources to

help finance their plans, and work with neighbors to generate community support for environmental action.

We at Grand Oak Hill Community Corporation are seeking interested parties who would like to participate in this valuable free training during Spring of 2002.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please reply to me a.s.a.p., or call Judy Moore at the GOH Center at 865-5530.

Andrew Gondzur
President, Board of Directors
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A Note from Your Alderwoman

By Jennifer Florida
Alderwoman, 15th
Ward



For those of you who are new to the ward or have not heard, Grand Oak Hill Community Corporation is our full service housing corporation that administers the 15th Targeted Assistance Home Repair Program & Grand Oak Hill Management Assistance Program (management, tenant screening and placement). This service is free and will be used as a tool in dealing with nuisance properties, 865-5530.

Gravois Plaza

The K-Mart building has been demolished and the following retailers are expected to open in June of this year: H&R Block, Radio Shack, Sally Beauty Supply, Fashion Sense (Cents?), Dots, The Avenue (woman's apparel).

Soon after, the second phase of demolition will take place and it is expected that Shop-N-Save will open as early as September, 2002. Other stores which are anticipated include Petco, Footlocker, and Penn Station (Subway Sandwich-type store).

There is a groundbreaking scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, April 19. Guests will include Congressman Gephardt and Mayor Slay. Allegiant Bank Building, Grand & Gravois. By March 31, Allegiant plans to donate the old South Side National Bank to Grand Oak Hill Community Corporation which will serve to channel the building to a developer, probably Steve Trampe.

Gravois Plaza site plans are available for your review at the Carpenter Branch Library-Temporary Site at

Grand & Juniata.

South Side National Bank

Allegiant Bank has acquired South Side National Bank. They intend to donate the bank building located at Grand & Gravois to a not for profit in order to facilitate development. Steve Trampe of Owen development is the Grand & Gravois Coalition's developer of choice.

Allegiant plans to keep the parking area site which is west of the building as a possible future drive-up facility.

Walgreen's

... is building a new store located at Gravois & Grace. They have agreed to build the store right on the street with parking on the sides of the new building. I hope to have the site plans available for public view soon.

Walgreens will be demolishing buildings on the new site.

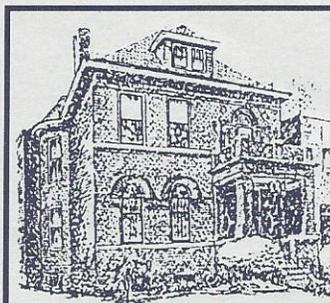
Just a reminder

We NEED Block Captains for ALL Jennifer

of our 15th Ward Blocks! The Block Captains meet at Grand Oak Hill at Juniata and Bent, the last Monday of the month at 7:00PM.

If you have a problem/nuisance property, please contact me. I need calls for service (911) associated with the nuisance property. I will refer the property to the city wide nuisance committee. If you need a city service, you may call Citizen's Service Bureau 622-4800. If you feel it requires my attention-please call me. Leave your name, address & phone number and request on my voice mail at the Board of Aldermen at 622-3763.

We have accomplished much this year due to community input and participation. Thank you for attending forums, neighborhood meetings, and committee meetings and caring enough to get involved.



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Report from the Capitol

Rep. Pat Dougherty announced that members of the Missouri Senate and

No one will forget the tragedy that befell our nation on September 11. The physical and personal damage visited on the U.S. in the commandeering of four commercial airliners will be felt for generations to come. The economic effects of the terrorist attacks continue to ripple through the global economy. Regrettably, during those first days we had everyday Missourians taken advantage of by some unscrupulous businesses. Price gouging reared its ugly head as some gas stations around the state ripped off consumers to the tune of over \$5.00 per gallon in some places.

Thankfully, the incidences were isolated. But those who did gouge consumers, gouged heavily. Prices reported that day ranged from \$3 a gallon to over \$5 a gallon. While the attorney general of the state was able to address this rip-off, the situation demonstrated the need to revise the laws that were originally written to address these types of problems after the flood of 1993.

I have introduced legislation that is tough on price gouging for gasoline and other necessities when the Governor of this state declares a disaster.

As I propose in Senate Bill 857, a person is price gouging if s/he charges

an excessive price as defined in the legislation for necessities in connection with an advertised price or sale during a state of emergency. Anyone engaging in price gouging would be liable for three times the amount that was unfairly received in the transaction and possibly up to a fine of \$5,000.

So, let's say an unscrupulous gasoline retailer decides to charge six bucks a gallon in the afternoon, and it was a buck in the morning. The unfairly received amount then is \$5. Multiplying the increase by three would make a \$15 a gallon charge. Now, multiply that 15 bucks times however many gallons our wayward operator sold that day, and you can see the penalty could be tough.

Legitimate increases would be warranted if the price of the necessity was increased due to an increase in the cost to the retailer to obtain the necessity.

Last week, the Senate Pensions and General Laws Committee, of which I

am a member, conducted a public hearing on my anti-gouging legislation. We received valuable input and support during the day's testimony and will incorporate our findings from the hearing when we present the bill to the full Senate. Should it be passed in both the Senate and the House, the bill would be presented to the governor for signing into law.

It is my hope and the intention of this bill that Missourians will not have to contend with the unseemly scourge of price gouging when dealing with future catastrophes.

If you would like more information on the price protection proposal I have outlined here, or on any legislative matter, please call my office at (573) 751-3599. Or, you can e-mail me at:

pat_dougherty@senate.state.mo.us. Also, bill summaries and a host of related legislative information can be found on the Missouri Senate's web page: www.senate.state.mo.us.



**SENATOR
PATRICK DOUGHERTY
MISSOURI SENATE
4TH DISTRICT**

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Tele: 314-772-1948

Office:
Room 425, State Capitol
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Tele: 573-751-3599 FAX: 573-751-0266

email: pat_dougherty@senate.state.mo.us

The world goes by our doorsteps!

Olympic Torch graces The Heights

By Suzanne Rhodenbaugh

On January 8, 2002, the Olympic Torch Relay, heralding the February Winter Olympic Games in Utah, entered the Heights at South Grand and Utah, moved north on Grand to Arsenal St., then west on Arsenal all the way to Macklind. The Relay had begun at the Arch.

An amazing number of Heights and other Tower Grove South neighbors lined both sides of Arsenal to see, for just a few moments, the symbol of the world athletic competition that has its roots in ancient Greece. Its present-day manifestation is still a thrill for people of all ages. Though it was a Tuesday afternoon in deep winter, large numbers of adults just happened to be on administrative leave of some sort, or felt a near-necessity for sick leave, managing to be present by 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. to wait for the Torch, arriving close to twilight. The wait somehow added to the

thrill, and the weather cooperated — it was as mild as an early spring day.



What with St. Louis being the Land of Litter, the Region of Rubbish and the Treasury of Trash, a group of Tower Grove South residents undertook the clean-up of trash on Arsenal. From Grand to Kingshighway, two days before the Torch Relay, we tidied the street so that we could offer the world (if it happened to be looking) our best aspect.

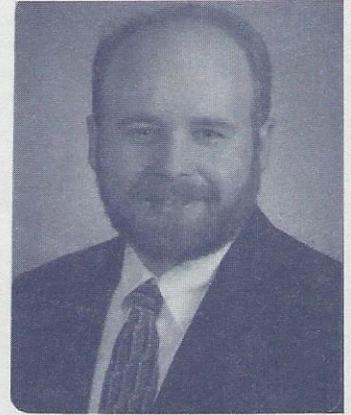
Joe Ogier brought his pickup truck and everyone

brought trash bags. The group spent a cold soggy Sunday, January 6 afternoon picking up the multitudinous litter and ubiquitous unretrieved *South Side Journals* from sidewalks, curbs, street and front yards. While John Bratkowski, Dennis Fortna, Tricia Heliker, Deana Hughes, Brian Marston, Dave Nissen, Joe Ogier, Michael Renner, Tom and Suzanne Rhodenbaugh, Dave and Julie Scheu and Patty Schneider collected litter, Anna Margaret Nissen (7+ months) and her

mom Jill kept the hot chocolate brewing at the Rhodenbaughs' house. Among the day's highlights were the sight of TGHNA President Brian Marston wearing a Peruvian knit cap upside down, and Anna Margaret (also known as Pixie), wearing what her mom referred to as "Anna's daddy's Iowa nerd cap."

News&Notes

From the desk of State Rep. Mike Daus



* Saturday, April 20, is the last day that the Temporary Carpenter Branch will be open for business. The newly expanded and remodeled Carpenter Branch will open its doors on Monday, May 20.

* Absolutli Goosed, a martini bar and restaurant at 3196 S. Grand, is set to open on May 1. Offerings will include desserts, appetizers, wine, beer and, of course, martinis. Absolutli Goosed will be owned and operated by Melissa and Deb (neighborhood residents.) For more information, e-mail m.b.spear@att.net.

* Saffron on Grand is in the works for the long-dormant space on Grand at Arsenal. The Pan-Asian restaurant will feature a Japanese sushi bar.

Dear Gazette Readers,

The 1st month of session in Jefferson City has been a busy one. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight two of the many items I have been working on.

The first item is a piece of legislation that I co-sponsored pertaining to mental health. As many of you know insurance companies often require people who need mental health services to pay higher co-pays and deductibles than when people suffer physical ailments. House Bill 1440 would require insurance companies to treat mental health in the same manner as physical health. Much of the research I have read indicates that at some point in our lives we are just as likely to require mental health services as we are physical health services. The intent of HB 1440 is to require our health insurers to provide us with medical services without discriminating between mental and physical health.

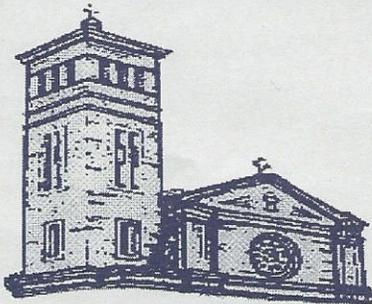
I have also filed legislation regarding the Recorder of Deeds in the city of St. Louis. This bill is House Bill 1708. The purpose of this legislation is to provide

St. Louis residents the convenience of one stop shopping for birth certificates, death certificates, marriage licenses, and real estate documents. Many of you may be aware that a death in the family often requires you to get many of these records and it becomes very inconvenient, especially for our seniors, to drive both to the Recorder of Deeds office and to the Vital Records office. This bill will put all records in the Recorder of Deeds office at City Hall. The legislation is also expected to save the City of St. Louis approximately \$250,000 the first year alone without having to cut any current jobs at either office. The savings are a result of consolidation, re-appointments, and the fact that the Vital Records office will not have to purchase duplicate record keeping equipment already located at the Recorder of Deeds office.

I look forward to your questions, comments, and support when it comes to serving you in Jefferson City. Please feel free to call me at home 773-7785 or at my office (573) 751-6736 if I can be of assistance to you. You may also want to stop by the Missouri House of Representatives web site to check on other legislation pending or my voting record, the address is: <http://www.house.state.mo.us/>

Thank you for your time.

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President's Column

By Michael Renner
By Brian H. Marston

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has".

— Margaret Mead

Hi. I'm the new guy.

First and foremost, I want to thank our outgoing president, the witty and charming Michael Renner, for a job very well done. (Insert wild applause here.)

Now, on to the business at hand: making our neighborhood an even better place to live than it already is. The best way to help achieve that goal is to get involved and do something. As Dudley Moore and Christopher Cross would say, I know it's crazy, but it's true. Here are some specific ways you can take Tower Grove Heights higher:

Mann Village People. The MVPs are working with parents, teachers and interested others to support our neighborhood elementary school. Bring breakfast to the teachers on the first Wednesday of a month, supervise an after-school activity, collect General Mills Box Tops For Education or help plan Mann's centennial celebration. Contact: Amanda Doyle, amanda@fatdays.com, 772-5947

Block Representatives: Get really local and serve as a liaison between the neighborhood association and the people on your block. Attend the block representative meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from 7-8 p.m. at 3735 Connecticut to get the scoop on what's up in the Heights. Contact: Sara Langan, saralangan@mindspring.com, 776-3506

Grand South Grand House Tour. Volunteer to help introduce Tower Grove Heights to people from throughout the region on April 20 and 21. Contact: Jean Iezzi, 772-4987

Holiday in the Heights. Plan the big



shindig that will take place on December 8 at the Stupp Center. Contact: Cheryl Jones, pegusus@quixnet.net, 664-7678

The Gazette. Write articles or sell ads for the fine publication you're reading right now. Contact: Matt Fernandes, mfernandes@post-dispatch.com, 773-4985

15th Ward Crime Task Force. Work with the police department to come up with creative solutions to stop the bad guys. Contact: Jenny Florida,

mjflorida@email.msn.com, 776-2890

Cardinals Concessions. Head up the dedicated team of residents who sling dogs and pour beer at the ballpark to raise money for our neighborhood association. As a bonus, you get to wear one of those cool TGH visors.

Contact: Cheryl Jones, pegusus@quixnet.net, 664-7678

South Grand CID Task Force. Build bridges between the neighborhood association and the business district and help South Grand thrive as an urban destination. Contact: Susan Anderson, 772-5750

Of course, you can always make up your own project that's not on this list. Commit random acts of kindness. Pick up trash on your block. Make a point to learn your neighbors' names and say "hi."

Game on!

You can reach Brian at 772-5947 or webguy@fatdays.com.

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Resident Profile — DeAndre Jackson

By Erin O'Reily

I thought it would be nice to hear about one of our younger residents of Tower Grove Heights so I requested an interview with DeAndre Jackson of the 3800 block of Humphrey Street. His schedule must have been busy because it took us a long time to meet for the interview.

These young folk are getting busier these days! Well, it was worth the wait for now I know much more about a teenager's life in the city and I'll be better prepared for when my son becomes that age.

DeAndre or "Dee" as a lot of people call him, is 14-years-old and the youngest in his 9th grade class. He'll be 15 this summer. He lives with his mother, Sylvia, and stepfather, Terrell, and his baby brother, Terron. He comes from a large extended family here in the Webster Groves area of St. Louis and the Chicago area. He and his family moved to the Humphrey Street address about two years ago from Webster Groves. He spends a lot of time with his grandparents in Webster and attends High School at Webster High School.

Spanish and sports are his favorite subjects at school.

Last year he played football as a wide receiver on offense and cornerback on defense. This year he is pursuing track as a sprinter. He says Webster H.S. has good sports teams and he looks forward to being involved in them. He stays in shape by being involved in sports and get-

ting exercise.

Dee's hobbies include family gatherings, socializing with friends, video games, and going out to eat with his family. He likes Mexican food a lot. His best friends in the neighborhood are Eric and John. He is a pleasant, young gentleman of our "hood"!



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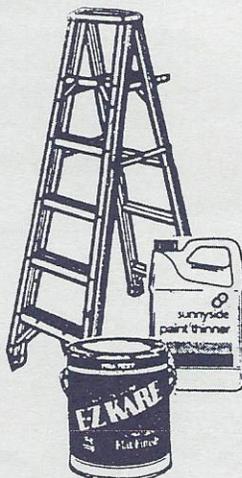
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When a dumpster tells others more than it should

By Michael Renner

I used to view dumpsters and the people who use them as their personal shopping mall with a rather benign eye. After all, what's the harm in people digging through cast away items when a lot of "trash" is perfectly good stuff that no longer meets our so-called needs in this consumable, throwaway society? If anything, I admired their ability to see beyond the fact that they were digging through a smelly dumpster and could actually find something usable.

That diamond-in-the-rough mentality was a bit appealing. But then I noticed more than just the missing items laid to rest near dumpsters or the occasional bag of cans profited by an ally cruiser. I noticed bags of trash were being opened and, it seemed, examined. I found the billing statements of neighbors strewn around the dumpster, as if somebody was searching and sorting through our trash with a purpose other than furnishing their apartment or stocking their flea market. I thought it odd, but nothing more. Then the frequency increased. I started placing my discarded bill

statements in paper bags within the plastic garbage bag.

Sometimes I would discard them in the same bag I use to throw out the cat litter. I figured someone would have to be very determined to sort through that mess. When I told my wife of my observation she shared with me that she was currently disputing two unauthorized charges on her business credit card. One was for \$50 at Domino's Pizza and the other was a car insurance charge in a name we've never heard of. Then it hit me like a crashing dumpster lid—someone had rifled through our trash and used the credit card num-

ber to have a pizza party and drive their car. I was stunned that: 1) it's so easy to use stolen card numbers, 2) somebody had that many friends to eat \$50 worth of pizza and 3) somebody would steal numbers in order to drive their car legally.

Now the attorneys reading this may question if my conclusion is valid, my evidence solid. All I know is that I'm buying a paper shredder, one of those fancy ones that shreds paper crossways, horizontally, vertically, upside down, inside out, every which way. And I suggest you do the same.

Then I'm calling Enron. I hear they could use one too.

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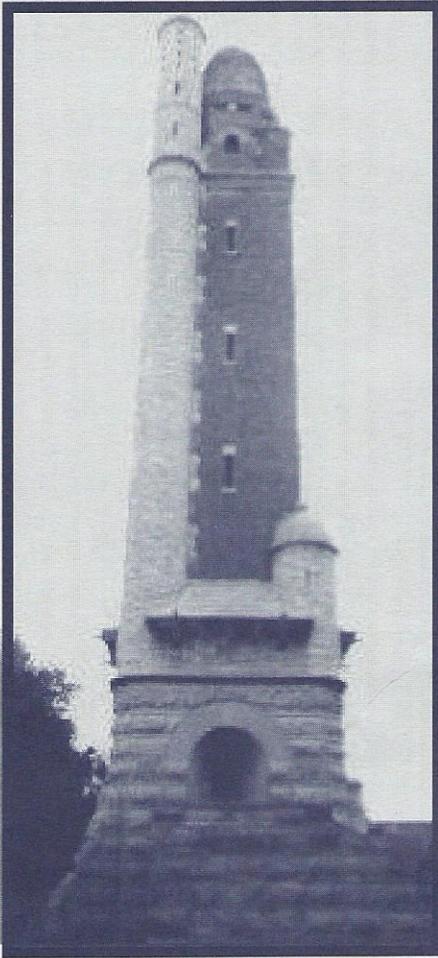


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The Tower Grove Depths

Neighborhood news in an alternate reality

Neighborhood association president proclaims Tower Grove Heights “higher than the rest”

By Matt Fernandes

Citizens of The Heights rejoice!

Doug Moorland, current president of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, has proclaimed our fair square of the city “higher than the rest.” In a ceremonial press conference held in the thin, crisp air on the corner of Gustine and Utah, Moorland issued the lofty proclamation through a bullhorn amid much fanfare.

The neighborhood checked in at 606 feet, beating out the nearest competitor, Compton Heights, by nearly four feet. “My fellow residents, let my words settle the debate once and for all: our dwellings rest on higher ground than that of our counterparts ... and maybe even the highest land in the city!”

Moorland then added this good natured jibe at those who would challenge his proclamation:

“To those of you neighborhoods who think you are contenders, I’ve got news for you: Our heights are higher than your heights!”

Over the past few months, Moorland carried his trigonometric triangulator to seven city neighborhoods that use some form of the word “high” in their names. The results of his survey confirmed what Moorland had suspected all along: that when it comes to elevation, Tower Grove Heights is number one.

“It’s all in good fun,” said Moorland, who admitted to draining the association’s saving’s account in its entirety to purchase the triangulator.

“But in all seriousness, I was just getting sick and tired of all these wannabe neighborhoods using the term ‘heights’ in their name. I visited some of these neighborhoods with my instruments and I can tell you that these places were not high. Not high at all.”

When informed that a representative from Compton Heights disputed his claims, Moorland bristled at the suggestion.

“Well, I don’t know what instruments they were using, but mine clearly show that the Heights—the real Heights that is—is a full 3 ½ feet higher than Compton Heights. There is really no comparison.”

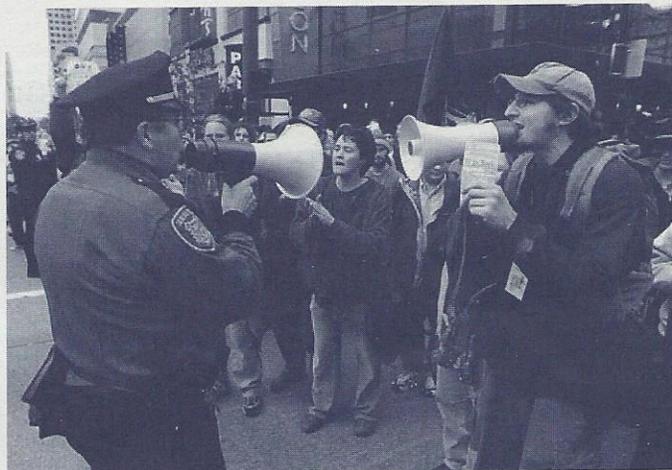
When asked about his visit to Boulevard Heights, Moorland guffawed, saying, “they have no business whatsoever including that word in their name.”

His thoughts on The Hill?

“Hill? What hill? I enjoyed the food but I didn’t see any hill there.”

Other neighborhoods—termed “also rans” by Moorland—included in the survey were Clifton Heights, Mount Pleasant, Princeton Heights, Holly Hills and Hi-Point.

Shortly after he spoke, Chad Overtop, of Compton Heights, confronted Moorland with his own bullhorn. The two held a



An officer steps in to quell Chad Overtop, of Compton Heights

“summit” of sorts.

This impromptu exchange, though, got a bit heated. Overtop went a little, well, over the top, accusing Moorland of fabricating his figures.

“Did you measure from the Naked Truth or from the top of the reservoir?” asked Overtop through his bullhorn.

“And where is your witness? I want to see a witness!” Moorland got the last word in, though, shouting with a red face, “We are the highest, so live with it!”

As tempers rose to a boiling point, a SLPD officer, brandishing his own bullhorn, stepped in to restore order, bringing the total number of bullhorns on the scene to three.

In what Overtop later viewed as a “slap in the face,” the Compton Heights Concert Band concluded the press conference with a rousing rendition of “God Bless America.”

The stories on this page use invented names, except in cases when public figures or establishments are being satirized. Any other use of real names is accidental and coincidental.

**TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS
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ASSOCIATION**

Monthly meetings 7:15 PM on 4th
Tuesday, First Church of Divine Science,
3617 Wyoming St.

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Upcoming meetings:

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