

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 32 No. 1

Spring 2021

President's Message

BY PATRICK WEBER

IF YOU WERE SCOUTING FOR THE PERFECT SPOT to open an architectural firm, Tower Grove Heights would seem like an obvious choice: easy access to almost anywhere in the region, walking distance to Tower Grove Park, a unique community of well-established and new small businesses and an unmatched historic building stock for inspiration.

Six years ago, I was doing just that – having decided to leave my existing job in suburban Atlanta and move back to my hometown. But admittedly, I did not know much about Tower Grove Heights at the time. My first introduction was touring the building which now is my office and home via a video call with my realtor and making an offer sight-unseen. **Even though I loved the location and the building, I never imagined the community that came with it.**

From the first few days after I moved in, I was immediately struck by the number of neighbors who stopped by to introduce themselves, offer their help and going out of their way to make me feel welcome here. My first clients in St. Louis were in Tower Grove Heights – an early testament to how much our neighbors are willing to support both local businesses and each other personally. And now, six years later, I am excited to return that support by serving as president of one of the oldest, most established, and active neighborhood associations in the City.

Yet, after six years, this neighborhood continues to surprise me. In its generosity – witnessed by record donations to our “adopted” families as part of our annual 100 Neediest Cases campaign and in honor of our neighbors who survived a deadly home invasion and the family of an officer who did not. In its spirit of community – demonstrated by impromptu street marches by the Red & Black Brass Band (commanding national news media attention) and a socially-distanced Front Porch Concert Series on Utah Place. And in the seemingly small everyday actions so many take – checking on neighbors, stopping to pick up litter and shoveling a few extra sidewalk squares.



I do not need to tell you that 2020 was a rough year for all of us, affecting each of us in our own way. Like everything else, the neighborhood association has been forced to evolve with the conditions – we may have been forced to cancel our planned social events, but our monthly meetings have resumed virtually as have the committee and board meetings; our Block Captains continue their volunteer work distributing welcome packets and this *Gazette*; and the everyday actions of so many neighbors, the things that truly make this such a special neighborhood, continue. I would love to be able to fill this space with the board's plans for resuming social events this coming year, but with so many unknowns and an unclear definition of what “normal” will look like, or when we may return to it, all I can say is stay tuned. In the meantime, if there is anything I or the board can be doing or should be doing to help the neighborhood continue to weather the storm please do not hesitate to reach out. president@towergroveheights.com

One thing I can say with certainty is “thank you” – to everyone who generously donated their money and time this past year, to our neighbors who are front-line workers knowingly putting themselves at risk for all of us, to our neighbors who continue to support our local small businesses during the pandemic and to everyone who just “does what they can do” to make this amazing neighborhood feel like home. And to any of our new neighbors reading the *Gazette* for the first time: Welcome! I hope your experience in Tower Grove Heights is as rewarding as mine continues to be.

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	I
Get Outdoors.....	2
Tower Grove Park	3
Note From The Editor	4
Overwhelming Response.....	4
Resident Profile	6
Real Estate News.....	7
Safe On Juniata Redux.....	8
Where To Find The Facts.....	11
The Big New Sign	11
Announcing Arch by Homescreen	12
Door Knobs	15

www.towergroveheights.com



SUPPORT YOUR GAZETTE ADVERTISERS

CO-EDITORS

Barbara Gilchrist & Tricia Heliker

COPY EDITOR

Debra Knox Deiermann

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Lynne Casey, Jennifer Florida, Barbara Gilchrist, Ella Gross, Peggy Hoelting, Nigel Holloway, Rich Iezzi, Mike Miller, Patrick Weber, Ellen Wilson, Katie Wolf

PHOTOGRAPHS CONTRIBUTED BY

Samuel Borgmeyer, Lynne Casey, Tricia Heliker, David Lauber, Patrick Weber

FOUNDING EDITOR

Janice Nesser

The Gazette is a non-profit publication published quarterly by the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. For information concerning advertising rates contact

gazette@towergroveheights.com

Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette.

Mail them to:

THE GAZETTE

3638 Juniata, St. Louis, MO 63116
or email

gazette@towergroveheights.com

MEETINGS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our meetings will be conducted via Zoom and live on the TGH Facebook page. Everyone is welcome to tune in.

A Zoom invitation will be sent through MailChimp and posted to the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Assn.

Facebook page and Tower Grove Heights Facebook Community Group or contact info@towergroveheights.com

www.towergroveheights.com

Get Outdoors

BY PEGGY HOELTING

DURING THE 2020 LOCK DOWN, MANY OF US found the time and the need to get outside. While we were there, some of us learned how to grow our own food, create an outdoor space to hang out in, or build a brilliant bonfire in our new fire pit. In other words, we conquered the great outdoors. With COVID-19 still rearing its ugly head and vaccines on their way, we can use 2021 to further enhance our relationship with Mother Nature.

Since we are limited to where we can freely roam, our outdoor space has become a place we want to spend more time. To extend the season and enjoy being outside in all kinds of weather, add a heater or fire pit for cool nights or chilly afternoons. Add a few chairs in a social distancing circle and break out the blankets. Perhaps you've seen the ad for the wood burning Solo Bonfire? It is a city-sized smokeless, portable fire pit, that uses logs for fuel. If you want to heat up with less prep, consider a gas fire pit or an electric infrared patio heater. To get out of the rain, clear out the carport, set up a table and chairs, add some drapes and potted plants. For hot nights, add an overhead ceiling fan or an oscillating indoor/outdoor fan to create a breeze and keep the bugs away.

Whether you have a large backyard or a small balcony, decide what you want to do in your outdoor space and carve out areas for each activity. For outdoor dining, add a table and chairs with an outdoor rug. Tune up the barbecue or invest in a Big Green Egg. For relaxing and reading, add a couple of comfortable lounge chairs and a side table for your favorite beverage. Extend your use of the backyard into the night with string lights, solar lanterns or pathway lights. Exterior lighting adds ambiance, safety and security to your garden. For outdoor activities, consider adding a basketball hoop or bocce ball court. Fairy gardens are fun

for the kids and water features such as bubblers, fountains and ponds are great for the whole family. Let's not forget our furry friends. Consider an obstacle course for Fido, or a catio (outdoor enclosure) for kitty to enjoy a bit of fresh air, too.

Growing our own food continues to satisfy our souls and our pocketbooks. Fresh, organic produce from our own back yard is a thrill. Sharing our bounties with others gives us joy. Start small with a raised bed, edibles in containers or mixing Swiss chard or green beans into an existing garden bed. Designate a compost area for kitchen scraps, leaves and plant litter and make your own organic fertilizer. Organic fertilizers have everything most plants need to thrive in a formula that is readily available to them as they need it.

Now that we've satisfied the needs of the people and pets of the house, let's think about the other living organisms we share our space with. Sustainable gardening is critical. By adding native plants into our existing garden, we can support the insects, bees, butterflies, birds and wildlife that lived here long before we came around. Reduce the footprint of your sterile lawn with more beneficial plants. Eye-candy plants that don't offer food or habitat should take a back seat.

Most of us spend 90% of our time indoors and sometimes need inspiration and motivation or at least a nudge in the right direction to get outside. Being outdoors is fun, but even more importantly, it's good for the brain, body and soul. Creating an outdoor space that you enjoy is the first step for a happier and healthier 2021.

Peggy Hoelting is a garden designer and consultant. www.gardeneditstl.com

DURING THE PANDEMIC, DIANA AND I HAVE been especially grateful for Tower Grove Park, only a block from our house. Before COVID, my main form of exercise was the YMCA and a walk in the park a couple of times a week. Now I visit the park almost every day.

Tower Grove Park FROM AMENITY TO NECESSITY

BY NIGEL HOLLOWAY

I do drive occasionally to a state park, but I find our neighborhood version is a perfect way to revive body and soul. I actually prefer it to Forest Park (with its many roads and golf course) and to the Botanical Garden. Tower Grove Park is more beautiful than the former and more open than the latter.

In my view, Tower Grove Park is so soothing at this fraught time because it embodies Henry Shaw's vision when he founded it in 1868. According to a contemporary, Shaw believed that parks were important "not only as ornaments to a great city, but as conducive to the health and happiness of its inhabitants and to the advancement of refinement and culture." That's prescient.

To find out how our neighborhood's greatest amenity is faring during the pandemic, I talked to David Lauber, the park's Director of Development. "We've seen how much the local community shifted focus from regarding it as a lovely amenity to a necessity; it's always been the neighborhood's backyard and now it's needed more than ever," he says.

Park officials don't count the number of visitors, so there is no data to show the increase in the park's popularity during the pandemic, but "the staff on the mowers and collecting trash say they are very aware of how many people are now in the park on weekdays," says Lauber. "Every day at noon I see a group of home-schooled children at lunchtime playing on the patio of the Stupp Center [in the park near South Grand]. They aren't there when they're normally in school."

He says it's inspiring the way the 26 staff members have risen to the challenge of looking after the park during the pandemic. Finances have been stretched. The number of events has fallen sharply since March and so the annual operating budget has fallen by \$200,000 to \$2.5 million, but the park has been able to retain all its employees.

The park's supporters, people like you and me, have also stepped up to the plate. Since the launch of a strategic plan in 2018, the park has greatly increased the number of fee-paying members, from a thousand in 2017 to more than 2,500 by the start of 2021. This includes 125 donor members from Tower Grove Heights, "likely the densest per-capita membership of the park," says Lauber. The growth in overall membership has accelerated during COVID.

"Now people have a deeper understanding than before of Tower Grove Park as a community asset, just like other cultural institutions," he says. Those who want to know more will be able to read about the past, present and future of the park in a

book to be published in 2022. "The park continues to evolve in a way that will more deeply engage the community," he says, citing a recent announcement about the building of the Sarah Street greenway connector that will join the Cortex district to the park, as part of a plan that will ultimately link the Gateway Arch to Forest Park.



ROMAN PAVILION

Since the beginning of this year, the east end of the park is being blocked to traffic for four consecutive days each month. "There was overwhelming support for carless days, but we are aware it is not unanimous. Drivers also have a right to enjoy the park and Shaw himself designed it to be driven through," Lauber says.

The park will continue to operate as close as possible to normal. There are no current

plans to expand the footprint of the Farmers' Market or the tennis courts, and Piper Palm House will carry on hosting events, such as wedding parties, with a greatly reduced density of people. The hosting of Food Truck Fridays and major seasonal events will depend on the course of the pandemic. Schlafly will continue to brew its special Park Lager, in honor of our green space.

To keep up to date with what is going on in the park, make a donation at <https://www.towergrovepark.org/membership> and you'll receive regular newsletters. If you want to volunteer for a range of activities, just write to volunteer@towergrovepark.org. In these ways, you can help secure the park's future, fostering health and happiness for the next 150 years.



WADING POND

Note from the Editor

BY BARBARA GILCHRIST

HERE WE ARE IN 2021, STILL impacted by COVID-19, but looking forward to summer when, we are told, enough of us will have been vaccinated so that we can return to something closer to normal. In the meantime, TGHNA will hold its monthly meetings via Zoom. If you have not done so already, go to our website, towergroveheights.com, to find the Zoom link you need to join the call. Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:15 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend! If you want to receive current information about the neighborhood and meeting reminders once or twice a month, sign up for our notification list via MailChimp by sending an email to communications@towergroveheights.com. If you'd like to join TGHNA, look for the membership form in this issue of the *Gazette* or on our website. Stay Safe!



THANKS TO DEBRA KNOX DEIERMANN AND RICH IEZZI FOR THE PHYSICAL MEETING SIGNS WITH THIS INFORMATION.

Overwhelming Response

100 NEEDIEST CASES

BY ELLEN WILSON

THE PAST 12 MONTHS HAVE BEEN...HARD. HARD FOR EVERYONE NO matter your position although certainly harder for some than others. Whatever your situation is at the moment, I hope you are well, taking care of yourself, and managing this stressful time.

This year's collection was overwhelming and record-breaking! We collected over \$420.00 in shopping gift cards for each family and a whopping \$4,400.00 each in utility payments! The PayPal option has really taken off and many more people than ever contributed to the pot this year.

For this follow-up I thought I would do something a little different. Since we did not shop for the families this year, I thought I would share portions of some of the letters I have received over the years from families and the centers that support them. I haven't thought to do this before, but don't see why I, alone, should get to hear their thanks (thanks to Paul H. for the suggestion!). The letters often do not come until later in the year, but here is a sampling from previous years.

"We are thankful for you and all the things you do for families. Your generosity has made our lives much better. God bless you."
- Family

"Thank you for everything. Just the thought of you guys brings my family and I smiles. You not only gave us toys, clothes, and gift cards, but one of the most important things a young family





All the usual reasons to invest with Edward Jones. *Plus one.*

Now investors in Tower Grove Heights have one more reason to feel confident about their financial future. Contact Financial Advisor Bobby Lessentine and experience how Edward Jones makes sense of investing.

Bobby Lessentine
Financial Advisor

3141 South Grand Blvd
St Louis, MO 63118
314-772-5304

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

needs—HELP. We are humbly thankful and wanted to ask for one more thing, that is to bless another family next year because this feeling can change a community. Thank you all.” - Family

The family was “in shock and astonishment when they saw how wonderful you were to them for Christmas. They were speechless and gratitude beamed from their faces.... If there is ever a true “neighbor helping neighbor” you are one to our Center. We just don’t know how to thank you for helping us to help those in need.” – Grace Hill Neighborhood Services.

The helper list is a little smaller this year (I really missed the wrapping party), but as usual it was a group effort. Thanks to the TGHNA Board for their help in selecting families and the past Board President Ryan Barry for his support of the project. This year Debra Knox Deiermann and Barbara Gilchrist took responsibility for getting the flyers printed and distributed by Block Captains/*Gazette* deliverers (Brian Sullivan, Sarah Fieser, Nigel Holloway, Jennifer Florida, Lynne Casey, Tom Reitenbach, Jean Iezzi, Sarah & Chad Morris, Ryan Barry, Andrea Thein & Barb McDonald, Richard Buthod, Jay Diamond, Ralph Groom, Gym Hinderer and Jim McClaren) which was a huge help. Rick Stein kept the money in line and Barbara Gilchrist kept the *Gazette* updated.

As always, thank you all and have a great year!!!

2020 Donors – Thank you to everyone who donated. If I missed you or misspelled your name, please forgive me, the list is significantly larger this year.

Anonymous
Marilyn and Mark Abbott
Gretchen Arnold
Robert Ashton
Zachary Auld
Melissa Beaty-Schraer
Matthew W. Beeman
Betsy
The Biermann Family
Ruth and Bruce Brooks
Bull Moose Beer Cheese
Elizabeth Cardinal
Lisa Carpenter
The Casey Family
Barb Ceresia
Brenda Chilman
Sue and Kevin Clavin
Liz Colizza
Ellen Connors
Shelly Cooper
Heidi Currie
Gary Davis
Debra Knox Deiermann and Barbara Gilchrist
Kristine Dodson
Carl Dothage
Amanda Doyle
Jessica Driemeier
Paul Feder
Gwendolyn Fields
Jennifer Florida
Jeff & Jorie Gold
The Grant Family
Jennifer Gustafson
Gustine Market
Gustine Market customers
Caroline Hall
Paul Harris
Shannon and Josh Heffernan
Tricia Heliker
Nick and Michelle Hogan
Nigel Holloway
Steven Horne
Liz Hubertz and Pamela Sumners
Roberta Hudlow, Sisters of Loretto
Jennifer Humphreys
Jean and Rich Iezzi

The Janger Family
Jason and family
Judy Johnson
Joanne Joseph
Marie Keath and Thomas Ganim
Jane Keel
Emily R. Kilian
Kevin and Julie Kilian
The Konstantinovich Family
Evguenia Kouranova
Michael Kramer
Ryan and Serena Leeker
Lisa
Joseph Martinez
Caroline and Mitchell May
James McClaren
Alison McCurley and Stayce Leister
Susan McLaughlin
Lisa Melandri
Matt, Qian, and Penelope Miller
Lenita Moore
The Mork Family
Michael Murphy
Mac and Anne Orcutt
Erin O'Reilly and Jay Diamond
Christian Peper
Eliot Piering
Polly
The Reitenbach Family
Cynthia Rodriguez
Edward Smith and Sarah Duffy
Ann Stanley
Rick Stein
Suzanne Strothkamp and Wally Lo Favo
Linda Taylor
Tamra Thetford
Tom Tobias
Regina Triplett
Catherine Vogel
Jennifer Wals
Margaret Wayne and Thomas Sehr
Erica Westbrook
Elizabeth Wild
Nora Williams and Mike Miller
Anne Wyman
Connor Young
Richard Zander

Lucas Optometry, Inc

TODD N. LUCAS, O.D.

**Eye Examinations
Contact Lenses
Eye Glasses**

**3165 South Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63118**

Participating Provider for
Blue Choice Group Health Plan and Many Other
Vision & Health Plans

Office Hours By Appointment

(314) 772-3737

Celebrating 25 Years
On Hampton Ave.

Family Owned
& Operated

Steve, Brian, Sean
Gary & Allison
Mon-Fri 8AM-8PM
Sat 8AM-6PM
Sun 10AM-3PM

**SOUTHSIDE
HARDWARE**

6401 Hampton Ave. 314-351-0204

Good Neighbors, Good Advice

- Paint
- Electric
- Plumbing
- Housewares
- Tools
- HVAC
- Hardware
- Lawn & Garden
- Keys Copied
- Locks Rekeyd
- Lamp Repair
- Small Engines Repaired
- Paint Matched
- Pipe Threaded
- Glass & Plexi Cut



THIS WASN'T ALWAYS THE PLAN.

Dentistry? Working in his father's practice? No, this wasn't the dream of a young Dr. Sam Borgmeyer. He thought, perhaps, of being an engineer. Or maybe he'd become a medical doctor. But a dentist? No, his father was a dentist and, even from a young age, Borgmeyer wanted to be his own man.

"I never said I wanted to be a dentist in the second grade when they ask what you want to be when you get older," Borgmeyer said with a laugh.

But as he grew, the family business had some pull. It was good work — interesting work — and he could do it alongside one of his older brothers, Gus, and his father, David, who started Borgmeyer Dental in the Holly Hills neighborhood in 1979. Now, Sam Borgmeyer is in his third year working at the practice, and while he didn't necessarily see his life's path taking him in this direction, he's glad that it did.

"The interactions are really what drew me toward it," said Borgmeyer, who lives on the 3800 block of Wyoming street with his wife, Kristen, their daughter, Ellouise, and son, Theodore. "You get to work one-on-one with people and solve problems individually."

It wasn't until he graduated from DePaul University in 2006 that Borgmeyer knew the precise path he wanted to pursue. So he enrolled in the dentistry program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and graduated in 2011. From there, he returned to Chicago to work as a dental director at the Lawndale Christian Health Center, a community clinic on the west side of the city.

For the St. Louis City native, living in Chicago was a thrill. The neighborhoods, the restaurants, the attractions — they all spoke to the city boy that he's always been. Chicago was special for another, more sentimental reason, too. It's where Sam and Kristen met as freshmen living in the same DePaul dorm.

But after having their first child, Sam and Kristen realized something.

"We thought we were going to stay in Chicago until we had our first kid," Borgmeyer said. "We got four months in and were like, 'Hmmm, we want family around. This is too much.' So we moved back here."

Here, meaning Tower Grove Heights.

The Borgmeyers didn't waste any time looking outside of the city. They knew the kind of neighborhood they wanted,

Resident Profile

BY MIKE MILLER



SAM, THEODORE, ELLOUISE AND KRISTEN

so they focused their search on Benton Park, Shaw and Tower Grove East before finding the right fit on Wyoming. Kristen, too, got a job nearby, working as a play therapist at Come Play STL on South Grand.

"We knew we wanted to have all these things available," Borgmeyer said. "The park drew me back. So did being able to walk to get something to eat. We looked at houses all over and found one here."

Being close to the family practice was similarly a point in the neighborhood's favor. It's primarily Sam and his brother, Gus, running the show these days. Forty-one years after he bought the space and opened the business,

David still shows up to help from time to time. But mostly, he leaves the heavy lifting — errr ... the heavy cleaning — to his sons.

"He's funny," Borgmeyer said. "He'll come in and check for cavities, but he doesn't really do the other work anymore. Here and there, he might. But that was COVID-induced a little bit. He was out of the office for a long time, just not comfortable being back. He was also like, 'Man, I kind of like this semi-retirement thing.' But he still comes and checks in on us almost every day, just walking through the office to see what's going on and catching up with patients. They're people he's seen for 40 years, so I don't think he'll ever actually retire. He'll never say, 'This is my last day.'"

The relationship part of the job was also something that drew Borgmeyer to the family business. He saw exactly how his father built meaningful connections with those who came to see him and wanted to create his own here at home.

"It seems like every new patient we get is from the neighborhood," Borgmeyer said. "When I look out my front door, I can see three patients' houses that come to see me, and I love that interaction outside of the office and just being able to help people with whatever problems they have."



SAMUEL J.
BORGMEYER,
DDS

DAVID J.
BORGMEYER,
DDS

AUGUSTINE J.
BORGMEYER,
DDS

Jennifer Florida, Realtor

Coldwell Banker Gundaker



Your local expert!

314-229-8904 Mobile
 Jennifer.Florida@cbgundaker.com
 Office: 314-351-6005
 4301 Hampton Ave
 St. Louis, MO 63109

Proud Tower Grove Heights Resident Since 1993

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Email your real estate questions to jfloridastl@gmail.com

Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights this quarter

Street	Listed At	Days on Market	Sold Price
3711 Humphrey St.	\$290,000	6	\$321,000
3878 Arsenal St.	\$369,000	4	\$367,500
3834 Arsenal St.	\$385,000	27	\$385,000
3866 Hartford St.	\$419,000	5	\$425,000
3853 Wyoming St.	\$455,000	26	\$450,000
3815 Utah Place	\$499,000	-	\$495,000
3722 Arsenal St.	\$515,000	4	\$515,000
3641 Wyoming St.	\$535,000	56	\$525,000
3664 Connecticut St.	\$299,900	7	\$310,000

Currently there are five pending sales with only two active for sale properties in Tower Grove Heights!

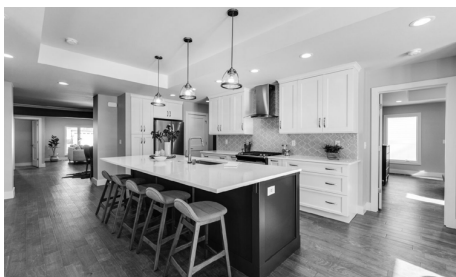


aeshdesign

architecture + design lab

commercial + residential architecture
 custom wood + metal fabrication

3735 Connecticut St (at S Spring Av) | (314) 354-6063 | aeshdesign.com | hello@aeshdesign.com
 practicing architecture in Missouri, Illinois + Tennessee but born + raised in **Tower Grove Heights**



Safe on Juniata Redux

BY LYNNE CASEY

I CAN'T RECALL HOW MANY TIMES I'VE UTTERED THE WORDS, "WHAT a small world" in my life. Like the time I chatted with a grandma at the playground in Tower Grove Park who turned out to be from the same village in County Mayo (Ireland) as my husband's grandpa and whose sister was married to his nephew. Confusing, I know, but a delightful coincidence that has led to a closer connection with that side of the family. I love connecting with people like that—finding the small intersections of our lives and feeling the world contract just a little. My world felt a little smaller again recently when I received an unexpected email a few days after my story, *Safe on Juniata*, appeared in the last issue of the *Gazette*.

In the article I wrote about finding some things in an old safe in our house and learning about the family who left them there. I also mentioned a connection between that family and an old sled I had in my basement. Someone in our neighborhood apparently read the story and recognized a name in it. She sent the story to her dad who sent it to his best friend in Chesterfield who forwarded it to his sister in Texas. The sister in Texas is named Cindy, and she said she nearly fell off her couch when she read the story. It wasn't because of the contents of the safe—it was because of the name that was on the sled that was in my basement. She spent the next couple of days writing this letter:

Dear Lynne,

My younger brother sent me a copy of the article you recently wrote for the winter edition of the *Tower Grove Heights Gazette*. I was born and raised in St Louis. My grandparents lived off South Grand near Meramec Street. When we would visit them, my grandparents would frequently pack a lunch and we would have a picnic under the big oak trees in Tower Grove Park.

I enjoyed reading your article as your writing style and the tale of your house was quite entertaining. The items in the safe and the history of the Rehme family was fascinating. I have a particular interest in this part of the tale. Like you, I, too, have a connection to that family.

As a young child, my family lived in a house on Arban Drive, just off Sappington Road, in Crestwood. My older brother had a sled and when it snowed, he would rush off to go sleigh riding on a hill near our house. I was seven years old in 1962 and desperately wanted a sled for Christmas so I could go sledding with the big kids. On Christmas Eve there was a gift under the tree with my name on it. When I opened it, there was a note inside telling me to open the front door and low and behold, on the front porch, there was a shiny new Radio Flyer sled with a big red bow, leaning against the wall. I was elated!

Fast forward a few years. In the Spring of 1964, we moved from Crestwood, to a house my parents built, on Saddlebrook Drive. My dad hung the large garden tools, a ladder and our sleds on the wall of the garage.

We waited impatiently for the first snowfall. When it finally came, school was closed and we had a chance to pull out our sleds. Our house sat on a small hill. The driveway was on the side of the house and slanted towards the

street. With a lot of fitness and enough snow, we could take a running start, jump on our sleds, shoot down the hill, make a sharp turn to the left, cross the unplowed street, make a hard turn to the right and continue our ride down Pommel where we eventually were forced to stop or crash into a fence that surrounded a pasture behind the houses.

Years passed, I married and moved to Florida and then Texas. My husband and I had two daughters. Living in the sunny South, we never had the need for a sled. When we visited St Louis during the holidays, if there was snow, we would borrow sleds from our relatives and go sleigh riding. My brother Terry eventually crashed his sled and it was beyond repair. My brother Michael still has his sled and it's currently hanging in his garage in Chesterfield. Through the years, I always wondered what happened to my sled. I figured my mom sold it in an epic garage sale when she sold my 1950s Barbie doll along with my brother's entire collection of baseball cards.

As I wrote earlier, I grew up on a street just off Eddie and Park Road. I did babysit for several families on our street. One of those families was the Degnans. They had two beautiful daughters. One daughter was named Lynne, just like you.

Our address was 9205 Saddlebrook Drive. My mother's name was Marlyn Rehme. My father's name was Richard "Dick" Rehme. His first cousin was indeed, Joseph L. Rehme. My name is Cindy Rehme Olszewski and I currently live just outside Austin, Texas, in the Texas Hill Country.

After all these years, the mystery of the whereabouts of a sled I received as a Christmas gift, almost 60 years ago, has been solved! I cannot tell you how happy I am to know that it's tucked in your basement and is "safe on Juniata."

Thank you for sharing the story of your home and for giving me the opportunity to recall some wonderful childhood memories with my brothers.

Cindy Rehme Olszewski
Spicewood, Texas

In our small world, Cindy, her brother Terry, and I reconnected at my parents' house last month. My parents still live in the same house on Saddlebrook Drive, two doors down from where Cindy and her brothers lived many years ago. I brought the sled with me and was able to return it to its rightful owner. I wish I could have also returned her Barbie, but that is a part of someone else's story.



LYNNE CASEY AND
CINDY REHME OLSZEWSKI



SOHA Barbershop

5206 Hampton Avenue - St. Louis, MO 63109

314-261-0221



- independently owned
- owner/manager always on site
- walk in or call for appointment
- less than two miles from TGH

Located at:

4305 Chippewa, St. Louis, MO 63116

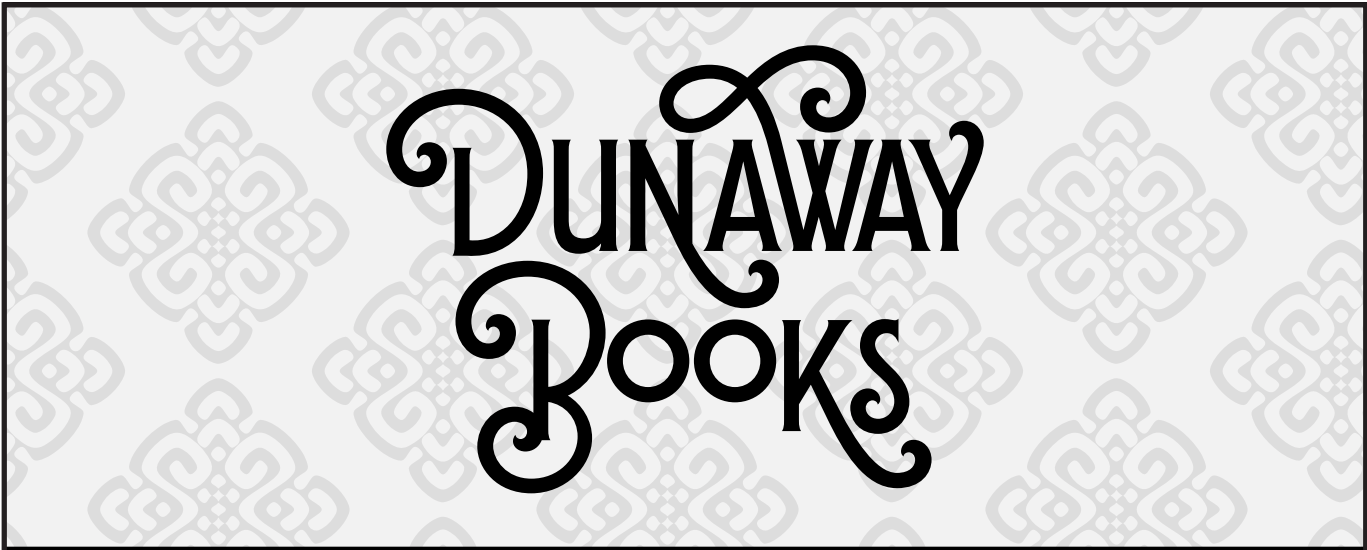
314.772.7155

7:30AM - 5PM Mon- Fri

BROOKSBERRY KITCHENS AND BATHS

(314) 872-7720 | design@brooksberry.com | brooksberry.com





DUNAWAY Books

EXPLORE OUR EXTENSIVE PRIVATE LIBRARY COLLECTION

- ◉ PSYCHOLOGY
- ◉ PHILOSOPHY
- ◉ JUDAICA
- ◉ SHEET MUSIC & LPS

WWW.DUNAWAYBOOKS.COM

3111 SOUTH GRAND BLVD.
(314) 771-7150

Where to Find the Facts

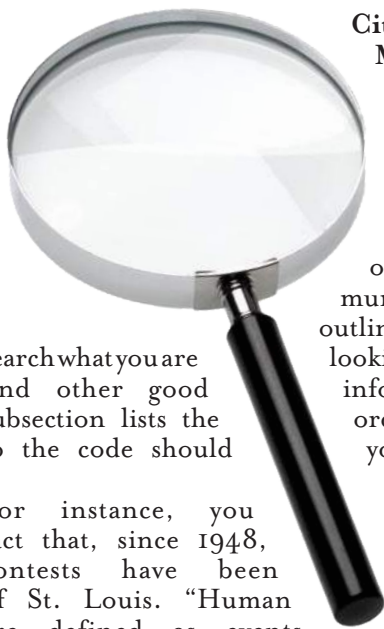
CODES AND ORDINANCES

BY KATIE WOLF, NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

HOWDY NEIGHBORS! YES, I DO UNDERSTAND THAT SOMETIMES I SOUND like Ned Flanders. Maybe I should work that into my update for neighborhood meetings! Haha. Don't worry. I won't.

Last issue, I took a break from the Trash Talk and wrote about outdoor fire ordinances. This issue, I want to remind/tell you where you can look up ordinances and codes should you have the urge to spend your time that way. You can always ask or email me, but this is good information to have as well.

Since the *Gazette* is primarily distributed in print, it might be easiest to Google the keywords you are looking for. However, you can find the links to what I am describing at <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/city-laws/>. This "Laws and Lawmaking" page is a great starting point to look up all sorts of information that might be handy.



search what you are find other good subsection lists the to the code should

For instance, you might run across the fact that, since 1948, "Human Endurance" contests have been prohibited in the City of St. Louis. "Human Endurance" contests are defined as events where contestants pay a fee and have to do something for 12+ hours out of a 24-hour period. Probably not what you were looking for, but interesting, nonetheless.

Ordinances: You can search ordinances via number, title, keyword, author, etc. The ordinances go into depth on the topic and probably contain information that you will want to know. The ordinances will also list the Alderperson who authored the ordinance and other information that will help you know who to turn to in case you have further questions.

Board Bills: You can read about what issues are being discussed in the current aldermanic session and see what future ordinances are being considered.

City of St. Louis Revised Municipal Code: This is the bulk of the information that I reference. Clicking this link will take you to a City of St. Louis page and then a library.municode.com page with the codes outlined by topic. I love this municode list because I love outlines. It makes it very easy to looking for, and you will often information on the way. Each ordinances that correspond you wish to delve in further.

Also on this page: Links to the City Charter, to Aldermanic Resolutions, and to the Board of Alderpersons. You can check out the different Aldermanic Committees and if you have ideas, know where to send your solutions and concerns.

I encourage you to check out this page and all the links. Which links do you find most helpful? Talk over your ideas with friends and neighbors. I am hoping that the future in government continues to be more transparent and more inclusive. And I have no doubt that the residents of Tower Grove Heights and South will continue to work together to make a positive difference. Thank you all for your hard work in building this city and here's to the future together!

The Big New Sign

BY RICH IEZZI



AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS AMAZED at how quickly the new sign appeared on the north wall of the Gustine Market? I know it's not hand painted but it sure looks like it.

The advertisement on the Gustine Market is about 20' high and features "Park Lager" beer. However, along with the ad are references to "Your Community" and "Your Neighborhood Park," featuring a picture of the Turkish Pavilion in Tower Grove Park. Lastly, the ad claims that Park Lager is "brewed for Tower Grove Park and Park people."

While I haven't tried the Park Lager beer yet, I'm impressed by the technology that permitted the sign to be perfectly applied in just one day. If you're going to check out the new sign, better do it on foot. There's a lot to read.



*Family Owned
& Operated
Since 1951*



Dependable Plumbing & Sewer Cleaning

*Located at the corner of
Arsenal & Hampton*

781-9188 781-9047



Announcing ARCH by HomeScreen:

AT-RISK RENTERS' CONNECTION TO HOUSING
BY ELLA GROSS

TOWER GROVE NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Corporation (TGNCDC) has a mission to promote responsible development, affordable housing, and diverse character and vibrancy. One of the ways we achieve that mission is through our tenant screening program, HomeScreen, which was specifically designed to reframe the traditional tenant screening model and to fill vacancies in a nondiscriminatory way. Since launching in 2019, HomeScreen has provided progressive, data-driven tenant screening solutions for landlords and property managers who are looking to create more equitable housing within their communities. The vast majority of the nearly 5,000 applicants we have screened since launching HomeScreen are approved because of our unique approach that combines modern screening criteria, rooted in the Fair Housing Act, and landlord education of best leasing practices.

Last year, COVID-19 highlighted the systemic issues in housing that have existed for decades. Low-income renters saw reduced income as employers were forced to decrease or eliminate their work hours or they chose to stay home to social distance or help care for children, causing many to fall behind on rent. Eviction moratoriums helped ensure people were not displaced at the height of the pandemic, but the moratoriums will not last forever. In the meantime, the virus continued to spread, the economy continued to stall, and rent and late fees continued to stack up. HomeScreen, like many, fears that there will be a massive wave of evictions when the pandemic finally comes to an end.

When Employment Connection approached us about using HomeScreen as a tool to create a database of landlords willing to rent to tenants with barriers like evictions, we jumped on the opportunity. Through CARES Act funding we were able to make updates to the HomeScreen software that allows our over 1,000 registered landlords to participate in a new program, ARCH by HomeScreen: At-risk Renters' Connection to Housing.

ARCH by HomeScreen gives our landlords the ability to fill their vacant units quickly with someone in need of safe and stable housing by advertising their available rental units for

I'm not much of one to advertise,

But,

I do like to support my neighborhood
and its newsletter, so...

This is the Blackthorn Pub and Pizza.

We make a pretty solid Chicago style
pizza. Some like it.

Come by and try it for yourself.

**BLACKTHORN
PUB AND PIZZA**
3735 Wyoming St.

WE RESCUE HOUSES

**HELP YOUR WALLET & OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.
WE PAY CASH & FIX 'EM RIGHT!**

CALL TODAY 314.724.6627



3721 S Kingshighway Blvd
Saint Louis Missouri 63109
rescue-stl.com
314.353.0336

WHY YOUR HOUSE?

**You inherited a home you
don't need or can't keep.**

**You own a distressed
rental property.**

**You have a house you
can't afford to repair.**

HOW IT WORKS

**YOU DO
NO REPAIRS**

**YOU PAY
NO COMMISSIONS**

**WE DO
NO INSPECTIONS**

**WE PAY
ALL CASH &
CLOSE QUICKLY**

free to non-profit social service providers seeking housing for their clients. By participating in ARCH by HomeScreen, our landlords will work with tenants who are most at-risk of homelessness. The applicants will likely have less than perfect applications that have acted as barriers to safe, secure housing in the past. ARCH by HomeScreen requires that these applicants will have supportive services from non-profit organizations throughout the region, who are constantly trying to find landlords willing to rent their properties to applicants with barriers. ARCH by HomeScreen will give social service providers a modern, easy-to-use system to submit applicants with their clients. HomeScreen will securely store apartment applications and will only charge the nonprofit organization for one screening per month, resulting in savings for nonprofit organizations over time. Finally, ARCH by HomeScreen will build upon our existing partnership with Prosperity Connection to offer one-on-one financial coaching to all applicants to establish and create an action plan to meet their financial goals.

ARCH by HomeScreen was created due to the accelerated crisis caused by COVID-19, but this was always the vision we imagined for HomeScreen. Evictions, criminal convictions, and other barriers to housing have had long-lasting effects on low-income renters before COVID-19. Unfortunately, we know for a fact that these barriers have a larger effect on people of color as well. We are hopeful that this tool can be used for many years in the future to reframe landlords' thoughts on renting to applicants with barriers of any

kind and to create a more equitable housing system in our communities. We would not have been in a position to seize this opportunity to make such a long-lasting impact without our custom HomeScreen software. The software, created through a grant from the Equifax Foundation in 2018, allows HomeScreen to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise, and adjust as the world changes. Thank you to the Equifax Foundation for allowing us to be in this position!

Existing HomeScreen landlords can opt-in to ARCH by HomeScreen today from their dashboard. New to HomeScreen? Register as a Landlord at www.myhomescreen.org. If you are a part of a non-profit organization looking to view the ARCH by HomeScreen listings, contact Ella Gross at ella@towergrovecdc.org for more information.

Revenue generated through HomeScreen is used to support community development activities and is directly invested back into the City of Saint Louis. TGNCD is a real estate-focused community development corporation that has facilitated 100s of redevelopment projects with a focus on eliminating blight, created 84 affordable rental units (owned and managed) in the last five years, supported infrastructure projects, delivered landlord/rehabber training seminars and advocated for energy efficiency programs for low-income renters.

AWARD WINNING BURGERS

BAR OPEN UNTIL 3:00AM FRIDAY & SATURDAY

COVID-19 safety observed, masks required.

Hours may be different during COVID-19
according to city regulations.

O'CONNELL'S PUB

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED WITHIN MINUTES OF THE
BOTANICAL GARDEN, ST. LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER
AND THE ST. LOUIS ZOO

4652 SHAW AVE. AT KINGSHIGHWAY

773-6600

KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 11PM
MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY closed on SUNDAY
*carry-out through ChowNow and new
outdoor dining accommodations.*



A garden-themed home decor boutique
with unique gift items & locally made goods.

Garden District STL

3203 South Grand Blvd

St. Louis, MO

314-261-4577

Connect with us on Instagram and Facebook
@gardendistrictstl

THE LONDON TEA ROOM



High Quality Loose Leaf Teas | Huge Range of Teas & Fabulous English Pastries | London Eats
Enjoy afternoon tea in our lovely Hyde Park Room

Reservations for Group Bookings: 314-241-6556 or info@thelondontearoom.com
WWW.THELONDONTEAROOM.COM 3128 MORGANFORD, ST. LOUIS MO 63116

Door Knobs

BY RICH IEZZI

AS I SIT ON MY FRONT PORCH, MY EYES DRIFT TO ONE OF THE SMALLEST parts of our house – its original doorknob.

Doors didn't always have doorknobs. Until the 1800s, doors were mounted on leather hinges and a strap took the place of a doorknob. From 1830–1873, over 100 doorknob patents were issued. Early doorknobs were made from brass, copper and steel while glass and porcelain knobs were popular throughout the depression and used during WWII to conserve metal for the war effort. Today, doorknobs are so ubiquitous that beautiful ones still appear on old doors thrown away in the alley.

*Doors didn't
always have
doorknobs."*

Years ago, our doorknobs were getting noticed by the wrong people. Ornate knobs and cast iron "stars" were being stolen from our buildings. To stop the doorknob caper, we had to re-position the knob set screw so it was close to the doorframe, eliminating screwdriver access.

Our Hartford house doorknob isn't ornate and has been worn smooth – but that's the best part. How many people

have turned that knob to enter our house during times of great joy or sorrow during the last 125 years? I show that our home was the residence of Alexander Isch in November of 1896 when it was built. What was it like to look out on Hartford Street with no other houses but his?

Over the years, our century homes have been updated but often the front doorknob remains, connecting the past and present. I've got a diary from our neighborhood during the 1920s showing that people were more sociable before TV. They were always twisting our vintage doorknobs before barging into each other's houses to discuss the latest events. Topics ranging from the sinking of the Titanic to the Great Depression and both world wars would have been a part of the conversation.

Our houses carry a lot of history. Every time you turn your doorknob, you add more.



BULK RATES - -

100 pc. Wings Appetizers.....	\$78.00
50 pc. Fried Chicken.....	\$69.00
Chicken Strips 5lbs.	\$35.50
Mostaciolli (Full Pan) .	\$62.00
Cole Slaw OR Baked Beans (Gallon)	\$15.00
Potato Salad OR Mashed Potatoes OR Vegetables (Gallon)....	\$15.00

Ask about our Chik Pik a Paks!

2100 Gravois Avenue • 776-7292 • www.hodaks.com

Tower Grove Heights

NEEDS YOU!

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association can only be YOUR association if you join. With your participation, TGHNA will be a reflection of what YOU want the Heights to become.
So please don't delay in joining or rejoining.

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

Indicate your membership level choice:

<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL (1 vote) \$10/year	Include my name, address and contact information in the TGHNA Buzz Book. . . <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> HOUSEHOLD (2 votes) \$15/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE (non-voting) \$10/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> LIFETIME (1 vote) \$100 single payment	
<input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS (1 vote) \$25 /year	

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL(S) _____

Join online at towergroveheights.com or mail this form to:
TGHNA • P.O. Box 160069 • St. Louis, MO 63116
TGHNA is a 501(c)(3) organization

ACCOUNTING | LEGAL | LOGISTICS



Michelle Sherod

President & CEO

4005 McRee Avenue, St Louis MO 63110
michelle.sherod@all-solutionsinc.com
314.749.5606



DCN DEVELOPMENT, LLC

3165 Portis Avenue • St. Louis, MO 63116

COMPLETE REMODELING

- Refresh your kitchen, bathroom or any room
- Remodeling for all your projects large & small
- Local experience you can rely on
- Licensed and insured

Small changes can have a big impact
Enjoy your neighborhood and your home

Call today for your free consultation!

DAN NOECKER

OFFICE: **314-780-0018**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.towergroveheights.com

TO RECEIVE TGH NEWS AND NOTIFICATIONS, CONTACT:

communications@towergroveheights.com

TO CONTACT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

president@towergroveheights.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

president-elect@towergroveheights.com

PAST-PRESIDENT

past-president@towergroveheights.com

SECRETARY

secretary@towergroveheights.com

TREASURER

treasurer@towergroveheights.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

membership@towergroveheights.com

TO STAY CONNECTED

Search for Tower Grove Mo on Nextdoor.com

On Facebook:

Tower Grove Heights Community Group

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

Twitter: @TowerGroveHts

**Jerry's Fine
Hardwood Flooring
Installations & Restorations**

*We guarantee that
our workmanship and
quality will always be
the very best possible.
We have thousands of
customers throughout the
St. Louis area who can
verify our performance
and reliability.*

- Dustless Sanding
- Staining
- Refinishing
- Repair
- Installation
- Bonded & Insured

Senior and Military Discounts
Call for a Free Estimate: 314-640-6920
stlouishardwoodflooring.com