

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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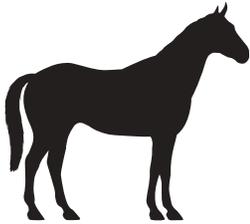
Volume 29, No. 1

Spring 2018

TOWER GROVE PARK RECEIVES \$485,000 GIFT FOR STABLE RENOVATIONS CONSTRUCTION ON HISTORIC STRUCTURE TO BEGIN JANUARY, 2018

BY *Elizabeth
McNulty*

Tower Grove Park has received an anonymous gift of \$485,000 to fund the renovations of the Park's stable building, a Victorian structure dating to 1870 and housing the Park's Clydesdale horse and Shetland pony. The gift is one of the larger individual private donations in the Park's 146-year history. The donor selected the stable out of a love for horses and because of the building's importance to Park history.



"This gift honors Tower Grove Park's legacy as a Victorian carriage park and helps bring that history to life," says Steve Kidwell, president of the Tower Grove Park Board of Commissioners. "In a year spent crafting a new master plan with the public, this generous donation stands out as an example of leadership. It helps lay the groundwork for the Park's future by preserving a unique historical treasure for all to enjoy."



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BACK IN TIME

By *Tricia
Heliker*

Those of you who are clock watchers have probably noticed the addition to the Hartford and Grand corner of Commerce Bank. It's a nostalgic reminder of a time when the town bank was the time keeper and there were no mobile phones or dashboard digital clocks. So why did this clock appear here, and why now?

When Commerce Bank built a new facility directly across the street from their bank at Natural Bridge and Newstead, this clock was not suitable for the modern one-story building. It was removed from the older building and put into the hands of the proprietor of St. Louis Clock Works for restoration. Charles B. Hellige is familiar with the historic clocks in and around St. Louis and has worked on many of them. He had experience with other clocks built by O. B. McClintock of Minneapolis and he committed to the year-long project of renovating and restoring this nearly 100-year old clock. The exterior copper cladding was removed so that the iron and steel framework could be rebuilt. The clock received the necessary mechanical modifications and the repair of all major damages. And, as you



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is brought to you quarterly by:

FOUNDING EDITOR:

Janice Nesser

COPY EDITOR:

Debra Knox Deiermann

EDITOR:

Rich Iezzi

BUSINESS AND AD SALES:

Rich Iezzi

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Vicky Dean, Ellen Wilson, Bard Gilchrist, Tricia Heliker, Rich Iezzi, Patti Aleto, Erin O'Reilly, Betty Greenjeans, Abigail Miller, and Elizabeth McNulty

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Ellen Wilson, Erin O'Reilly, Tricia Heliker, Abigail Miller, Elizabeth McNulty

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riezzi@swbell.net

Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette.

Mail them to:

The Gazette/TGHNA
3891 Utah Place, St. Louis, MO. 63116
or email
gazette-editor@towergroveheights.com

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BACK IN TIME

continued from page 1

might have guessed, the incandescent and florescent lighting was converted to LED. Once all interior workings and decorative exterior elements were reassembled, the clock was ready for its new home at Commerce Bank on South Grand.

Part of the building had to be removed to install reinforcements that would support the weight of something this size.

Installation was a bit more complicated than a couple of bolts and a drill. Part of the building had to be removed to install reinforcements that

would support the weight of something this size. After three weeks of preparation to the building, the restored clock was raised to its perch. It's an honor to have this beautiful piece of workmanship in our neighborhood. May it serve as a reminder that time is more than a check on whether you are running late or arriving early.



Former Clock Location



How Old is My House?

By
*Barbara
Gilchrist*

Have you ever wondered when your house or apartment building was built? Maybe you already know that bit of information, but wonder how it compares to the neighbors' or the rest of the neighborhood. A resource that provides all of this information is available at <https://dnr.mo.gov/shpo/docs/TGH.pdf>. This is a map of Tower Grove Heights (TGH) that was created for the application to become a historic district. The boundaries of our historic district are Grand Boulevard to Gustine Avenue and Arsenal Street to the north side of McDonald Avenue.

There was an effort in the early 1900s to develop TGH and this is reflected on the

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Our Neighborhood Has Lost Its Marbles (Along with the rest of the world)

By *Abigail Miller*

On any given day, there is some serious hunting taking place in parks and public places across St. Louis, including our very own Tower Grove Park. However, these hunters aren't tracking raccoons with distemper or other uncharacteristically friendly woodland creatures; they are on the prowl for something much smaller and fun to bring home.

You may recognize these hunters by their willingness to blindly stick their arms into hollow tree trunks, squat under small drainage bridges, or pace along trails methodically picking through dead leaves. For what you ask? Marbles.

Their mission begins when a "lost" marble is posted in "The World's Largest Marble Hunt" Facebook Group. A picture of the marble and a clue to its whereabouts are posted: sometimes an easy straightforward destination, sometimes a multi-step, highly involved scavenger hunt. In fact, it's not uncommon for hunters to search for hours and even to come home empty-handed.

Why all the work for something you could easily buy a bag of for a couple bucks? Well, for the most part, these aren't run-of-the-mill toy marbles. Often they are intricate works of art by glass artists with cool sounding names like Zak Disomone, Nigel Morford, and Amy Larcombe.

So how do you join the thousands of other worldwide hunters? First, become a member of the Facebook Group, then search for St. Louis and marbles marked "lost" (it'll be updated once it's been found). From there, all you have to do is figure out the clue and track down the marble! As you continue hunting, you'll learn all kinds of marble hunting lingo like MIB (marble in battle) and VFRA (visible from right angle). More importantly, you'll explore all sorts of charming pockets of St. Louis and, if you decide to "lose" your marbles in the neighborhood, you'll encourage others to explore ours!

It's not uncommon for hunters to search for hours and even to come home empty-handed.



Giving Back and Letting Go - Tower Grove Heights 100 Neediest Cases Project - 2017

By Ellen Wilson

We had another great year supporting families in need in 2017. Two families with a total of seven kids had a nice holiday with gifts, thanks to the generosity of all of you. In the early days of this program, we would provide as part of our gift package a tub of household goods such as toothbrushes, vitamins, and paper products. Now we give the families gift certificates to allow them to make their own choices about those personal items. Occasionally, I am asked about why we give so much in gift certificate donations and my answer has changed over the years. I used to think it was easier to have those items presented to the recipient until I began to realize that just as I like to shop for my own personal products, other people would probably also like to choose for themselves. The gift cards allow families who often have to buy the most economical, or go without, a chance to pick out their own shampoo or even splurge on something special. So I feel good when our sponsored families have a generous amount of gift certificates to use as they choose even if that means I am not making the decision of what they use it for. This year each family was gifted with \$270 in various store and grocery gift certificates as well as \$1,275.00 each to go toward utilities or rent to be paid directly through the 100 Neediest Cases Program.



This year Gustine Market set up a donation jar in the store to help with the fundraising and we had two circus performers help deliver flyers. Each year the wrapping party is the time we determine how the gifts are divided and this year was easier than many. Family Number One received jewelry and a beautiful blanket for Mom, gloves and a tool kit for Dad and Lego, race cars and an amazing track, a play kitchen set, sports balls, huge teddy bears, books, clothes, and a mountain of art supplies for the kids. Family Number Two received bath lotions, clothes, and a very nice shoulder

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WE ARE HAPPY TO BE HERE

By: Patti Aleto **W**e recently joined the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood when our office moved to the corner of Connecticut and Spring. Our company is excited to be in this dynamic community and is enjoying meeting our new neighbors. Our team hopes you can attend our Open House on Saturday, December 2 from 1 – 3 p.m. and meet us in person. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aletogroup for all the details and to RSVP or call us at 314-352-0507.

I wanted to take this opportunity to officially introduce our company to you. Aleto Construction Group was founded in 1955 by my father, Thomas F. Aleto. My brother, Mike and I carry on our dad's legacy of exceptional design, creative execution and superior quality. Over the years, Aleto has completed more than 1,000 renovations, 20+ new homes, and dozens of gut rehabs. With each successful project, we grow more creative and more committed to bringing each client's vision to life.

Environmental responsibility is an important pillar in every project we undertake, using the most advanced, responsible technology and processes to deliver spectacular results that are hard to miss, but easy on the environment. We're also responsible in the way we respect your time and comfort. We only give you a timeline we know we can meet—or beat. In construction, disruptions can be inevitable. But there's no reason why they should be a surprise.

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We have completed many home renovations in the area and look forward to the opportunity to help our neighbors create their dream spaces. We specialize in custom renovations in older homes and structural modifications. We are happy to help you from start to finish or move a load-bearing wall so that you can finish the project yourself. To see some of our completed projects, please visit us online at www.AletoGroup.com.

We hope our Tower Grove neighbors will feel free to stop by our office anytime to say hello or solicit advice.

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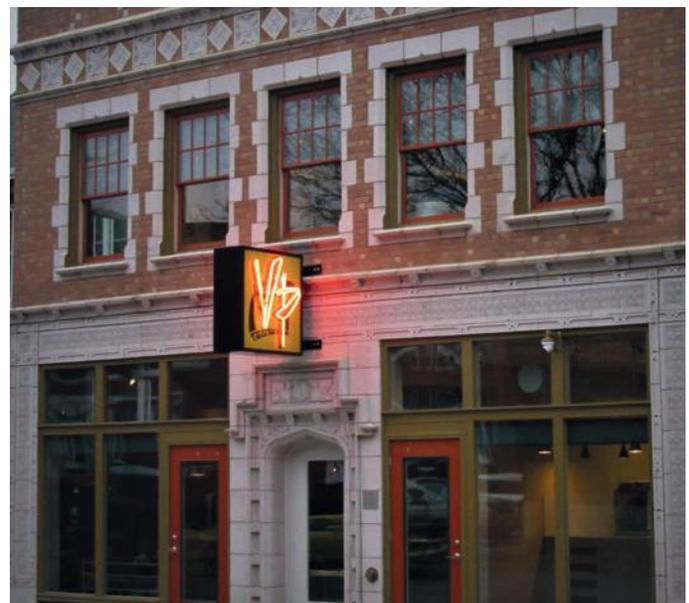


RESTAURANT DEBUT

By Tricia Heliker Another great restaurant joins the popular South Grand scene. Grand Blvd, already famous for the varied ethnic restaurants, welcomes the addition. VP Square will build on that established reputation by adding bubble tea and several banh mi sandwiches. But the menu is much more than tea and sandwiches. Just to pique your interest, here are a few items from the extensive menu: egg encrusted shrimp wontons, grilled steak salad, kimchi ranyun, miso cured salmon, peppercorn chicken wings, Vietnamese crepe, hot pots, ramen dishes and for those seeking vegetarian fare, there are currently seven items on the menu.

Because it has two floors, there is ample seating including bar seats on the second floor. Larger parties are easily accommodated with banquette seating or by joining tables. There is also ample space for the bubble tea crowd and for carry out and pick-up orders.

VP Square, located at 3611 Juniata, opens at 11 a.m. daily except for Mondays when they are closed.



TOWER GROVE PARK STABLE RENOVATIONS

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Constructed in 1870 before widespread use of mechanized equipment, the Tower Grove Park stable originally housed working mules. The building is located in the northwest quadrant of the Park, just east of the intersection of Magnolia and Alfred avenues. The structure features rustic Missouri limestone walls, a bell tower reminiscent of the Alamo, and an unusual end-grain woodblock floor. While the stable is operational today, the walls display decades of patchwork repairs, portions of the floor have sunk, and the roof suffers from deferred maintenance.

Thanks to the generosity of the anonymous donor, this historic structure will be fully and painstakingly restored to its historic glory. The entire exterior will be tuck-pointed with appropriate materials and stone replacement as needed, including the rebuilding of the bell gable. New roof, windows, and doors will be installed; and architectural lighting added. The interior floor blocks will be removed and re-set with new subflooring. The building will have all-new electric, plumbing, ventilation, and heat. A horse washing station is being added, and the employee restroom attached to the residence renovated. The site will be graded to improve drainage for both the stable yard and paddock. The end result will be a magnificent renewal of this rare Victorian structure, as well as a more comfortable and accommodating space for both horses and humans.

“The clip-clop of hooves from a horse-drawn carriage ringing out in the Park creates a magical connection to the past,” says Executive Director Bill Reininger. “This gift both secures our historic stable building and guarantees the continuation of our excellent standard of equine care. On behalf of the Park’s 2.5 million annual visitors, we are deeply grateful.”

Construction will begin in January, 2018, weather permitting. During construction, the Park’s horses will be relocated to a private facility in Wildwood, and carriage rides will be on hiatus. The Park anticipates the completion of work and restoration of carriage rides later this spring.





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Helluva Place to Garden

by *Betty Greenjeans*

Passionate gardeners in Tower Grove Heights often find themselves lamenting a lack of square footage. Some of us live with postage stamp gardens and plantation dreams. This may explain in part the phenomenon of electing to dig up the area fondly known by some as “the hell strip.” Often full of poor soil and tree roots, this grassy area between the sidewalk and street gets abuse from pets, road salt and foot traffic.

Other motivations might stem from the difficulty in cultivating the expected strip of grass under mature street trees or in shade. Some may be committed to reducing the scourge of turf and its demands wherever it may lie.

This is a little discussed, but major, land grab opportunity. Those on corner lots are looking at major potential to expand their horticultural agenda.

Attempts to find a definitive position on the subject from the city proved fruitless but know this: the tree lawn area is a public utility easement and any project that you undertake there is at risk. Witness the recent gas work in our area. If access is required under or beside your rose bush, the rose bush goes.

Another important consideration to make when planning a project like this is to keep it car and pedestrian friendly. Parking spots are valued and you would not want to be accused of eliminating one by planting something that will grow large and scrape car doors. Nor do you want exiting passengers landing in your flower bed.

The key to a hell strip project is finding the balance between beautification and function. Choose dwarf varieties

of woody plants. Install a blanket of low maintenance groundcover but rethink invasive ivy or wintercreeper. Consider adding to the charm of the Heights with a street tree. Whatever your plan, include steppers throughout.

Tie your design into what’s happening closer to the house with the addition of feature plants on each side of the paved link between the sidewalk and curb. If you’re growing annuals and perennials, keep things tidy and trimmed. The word to remember is “purposeful.”

Some of these appropriated spaces have had soil and mulch added to them to the point of raising the level of the garden well above the sidewalk. This causes a mess after a rain, with water washing these amendments out onto the sidewalk. You’ll be happier in the long run if you excavate and remove poor soil before adding your improvements. Remember, as with any planting project, mix deeply into the subsoil to encourage plant roots to reach down. It’s always better to work with what you’ve got and choose tougher plants that don’t require fussy conditions.

There are dozens of examples of what works and what doesn’t in our neighborhood. If you’re cultivating your hell strip take a few minutes to review what’s going on and ensure you remain a Good Neighbor Gardener.

The key to a hell strip project is finding the balance between beautification and function.

GOOD NEIGHBOR GARDEN TIPS

Rethink tightly sheared shrubs. Avoid leaving stubs. Vary the lengths of your cuts and create open spaces where light can enter and cause new growth to fush.



Giving Back and Letting Go – Tower Grove Heights 100 Neediest Cases Project

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bag for Mom, warm clothes, a jacket, and a tool set for Dad and Lego, sports balls with a ball inflator, a huge box of toy animals, Monster High dolls, nature and other books, a Spirograph, a super soft teddy bear, clothes, and another mountain of art supplies for the kids. Both families received laundry detergent, linens, family games, books, and a beautiful basket of household goods.

Each year this project is supported by the TGHNA Board and by each and every neighbor. For 2017, then-President, Barbara Gilchrist, and the Board helped to select our families, and provided financial support for the flyers. Rick Stein, the Association Treasurer, kept the money in order, and Editor Rich Iezzi helped me to keep to the deadline and provided space for the articles in the Gazette.

Distribution of the flyers to the entire neighborhood is always the hardest part of this project so I am grateful to those who help to get them

delivered. This year, Alice Mooney, David Arnoldy (Intern from Germany here to study circus arts), Zach Holmberg (circus coach and performer here to teach at Circus Harmony), Barbara Gilchrist, Debra Knox Deiermann, Anne Orcutt, Ann Stanley, and West Wilson helped get them on your doorstep.

Wrapping the presents has become a nice system, but having help is the key component. This year, Ann Stanley, Anne Orcutt, Alice Mooney, and Sandy Pritt organized everything and made the gifts look beautiful. Again this year, Anne Orcutt donated the use of her car so we got everything to the center with no problem.

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

2017 Donors – Whether you dropped off wrapping material, a check, purchased gifts, helped with logistics, or just said thanks, I am so grateful to everyone who contributed in any way.

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How Old is My House?

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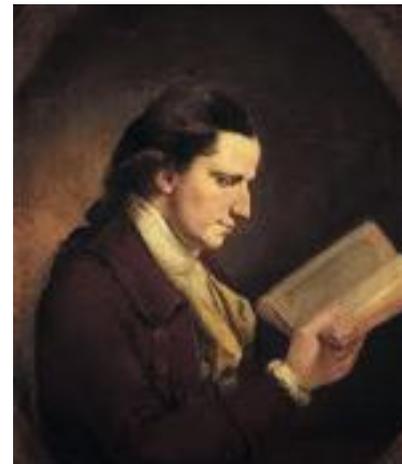
map. Most buildings in our neighborhood were built between 1900 and 1915. There are some older, however. The 3800 blocks of Arsenal and Hartford Streets have the oldest homes, most built between 1895 and 1899. The Hartford Arms at 3161 Spring Ave. was built in 1899 and the building at 3618-20 Hartford was built in 1895. Several commercial buildings on South Grand Boulevard are also this old. The building at the southwest corner of Grand and Juniata Street that currently houses Lemon Grass restaurant was built in 1894. The two apartment buildings, 3167 and 3169 South Grand (third and fourth buildings south of Lemon Grass), were built in 1897. The oldest buildings in TGH are the three homes on Arsenal going west from Spring: 3802, 3806 and 3810 Arsenal, which were built in 1892. The newest buildings are at 3855 McDonald (1954) and 3825 McDonald (1964).

If you want to learn more about your home or any other building in the City of St. Louis, there are a variety of resources. A free property title search can be done, in person only, at the Assessor's Office (part of Recorder of Deeds) on the first floor of City Hall. If you want to learn who owns a specific building in the City, you can do a property search at <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/data/address-search/> if you know the street address or parcel ID. Information about current ownership, assessed value, taxes, building permits and sale dates and values is provided. There is also a parcel map that allows you to click on all the other addresses on the block.

Another valuable resource is the Missouri History Museum Library located at 225 S. Skinker Boulevard. Many of its documents and records have been digitized, so are available via the internet. The library website link is <http://mohistory.org/research/library/>. It is a spectacular place to visit in person, and there are frequent classes on researching homes and ancestry.

And, of course, there is Google. Once you have the names of prior owners of your home, you can plug them into Google; maybe they are famous. The original owner of our home was a very successful business man and a subsequent owner was on the St. Louis City School Board during the desegregation lawsuit.

Happy researching.





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Bad Karma in the 'Heights?

By Rich Iezzi Do houses have bad Karma? I think so. How else can some places have one bad story after another while other houses have no bad stories at all? Here's my candidate for "Worst Tower Grove Heights' Karma – Ever."

The first people that we remember living in the bad Karma house broke up. But that wasn't all – after the breakup, the woman continued to live there but was so scared of the ex that she used a dummy/mannequin in the living room to make it look like she always had company.

The next owners were rough people. At one point, the husband showed up at our door pretty much looking for a fist fight because he thought I turned him in for the shoddy, non-permit work they did on the sewer. I've still got a scratch on our front door from when I was trying to get away from him while carrying an old door into our entry.

After the "rough people" left, we got the "band guy." His marriage was so bad that his wife kept breaking into his other house by sliding down the old coal chute and stealing his stuff. The band guy sat on the house then began "rehabbing it" which consisted primarily of removing a load-bearing wall and gutting several rooms. The house was vacant for years and the plumbing was stolen.



Meanwhile, the electric and gas services were discontinued. With everything of value removed, the band guy owner decided he needed someone to stay in the house to "protect it." So we got squatters staying in the house without gas, electric or water. It took the city six weeks to evict them.

At this point, someone did enough work to sell the house and make it livable but the new owner managed to get upside down on his loan. He had several chances to sell without taking a loss but he was waaaaay too smart for that. He rode it all the way down to foreclosure, and then ripped out all the light fixtures, ceiling fans and kitchen cabinets before the bank got it.

The next people to buy it were the ones who rehabbed it for the current owners. Remember the nefarious sewer line work the "rough people" did? It had to be re-done again but instead of doing it right, these guys used four-inch pipe instead of six-inch pipe and buried everything before getting caught. Once again, the neighbors that witnessed the caper were met with glaring, threatening looks from the workers.

Now, rather mysteriously, the current owners are leaving after being in the house for less than a year. And the story continues.

If you've got a bad Karma house story, share it with the Gazette readers.

I've still got a scratch on our front door from when I was trying to get away from him while carrying an old door into our entry

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PARENTING RESOURCES CENTER

By Erin O'Reilly **K**ate Schnetzer and Kathy Loughren are a mother-daughter team who own and operate the "Parenting Resources Center" on the corner of Spring and Wyoming. It started out selling products friendly to mother/child/parenting, but has morphed into a Parenting Community/member-oriented Center with gatherings, classes, and services to help parents on their parenting journeys! They are open seven days a week. They are easily recognized by their family and child friendly center with the creative outdoor playground right in front.

Kate is also a Certified Lactation Consultant (CLC) and has been influenced by her past involvement in La Leche League. She ascribes to the concept of community support and parent-to-parent support that is so important for people on their parenting journey.

They have around 65 families who are members, mostly from Tower Grove South (including Tower Grove Heights) and Shaw neighborhoods but also from other communities farther away since this is the only parenting resources center in the metro-STL area. They primarily serve families with young children birth-6 years of age with furniture, toys, a playground and activities geared towards the younger child. They host the Play and Learn Club for members with morning activities that are geared towards the toddler while their afternoon hours/activities are focused towards the baby ages.

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THREE WISHES FOR THE HEIGHTS

by Betty Greenjeans **T**his issue contains my final submission as Gazette garden writer. The time has come to pull up stakes again and say goodbye. I've only been a resident of TGH for three years but feel incredibly lucky to have had the time. I have a lot of neighborhoods in a lot of cities under my belt and the Heights is something very special. It has been such a pleasure to be in this place.

With that, I leave for you my three wishes for this great neighborhood.

1. Keep on top of the forestry department and demand street tree care and installations. The beauty of this area is largely due its tree canopy. We have dead trees on our streets and increasing expanses with no street trees. This work is a gift to future residents.

2. Get involved at Tower Grove Park. All the work you see in the garden areas is done on a tight budget with a small crew. They are accomplishing miracles every year. Contact them if you'd like to donate or volunteer. They are terrific people. The park is our jewel.

3. Learn more about what you can do on your tiny slice of this earth to make it cleaner, healthier and more purposeful. Reconsider chemical use. Capture your runoff. Plant for pollinators.

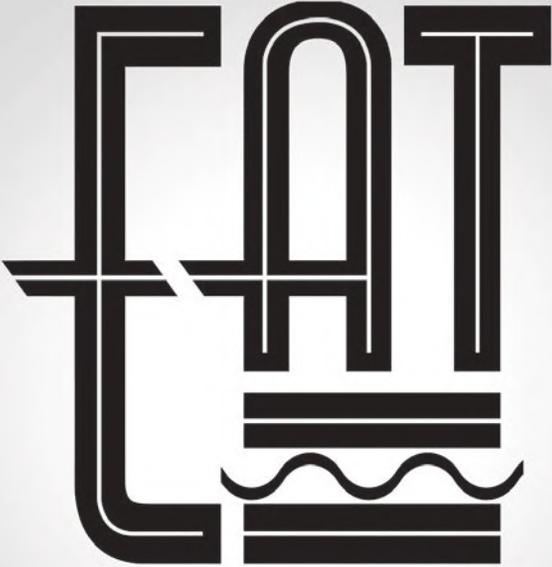
Peace to you.

Giving Back and Letting Go - Tower Grove Heights 100 Neediest Cases Project - 2017

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CONTRIBUTERS

Anonymous	Judith Johnson
Marilyn and Mark Abbott	Colleen Joyce and Tyler Mork
Jill Anderson	The Konstantinovich Family
Gretchen Arnold and James Bohman	Jane and Andrei Kouranov
The Austin Family	The Mendez Family
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Christopher and Georgiana Grant	Ann Stanley
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Andrea and David Gratz	Rick Stein
Gustine Market	Lorena Villasenor
Paul Harris	
Tricia Heliker	
Henkel Consumer Goods	
Jean and Rich Iezzi	

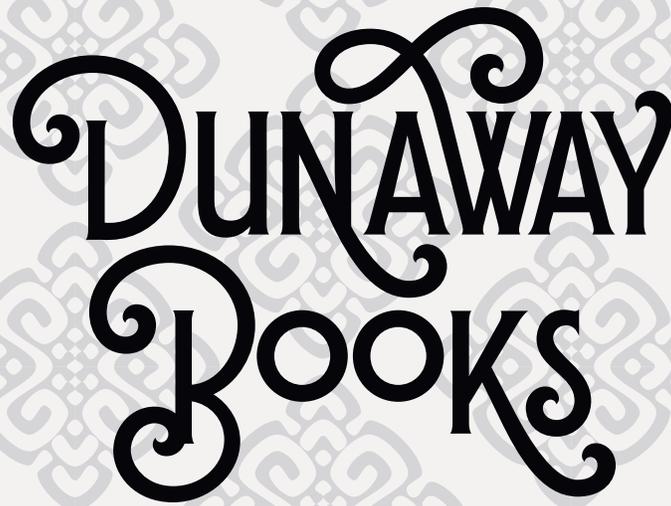


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The logo for Dunaway Books is centered within a decorative banner. The banner has a light gray background with a repeating pattern of stylized, interlocking geometric shapes. The text 'DUNAWAY' is in a bold, serif font, and 'Books' is in a larger, more ornate, blackletter-style serif font.

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Tower Grove Heights

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY MEETINGS – EVERYBODY WELCOME!
Fourth Tuesdays (Jan-Nov), 7:15 p.m.
Center for Divine Love (First Church of Divine Science) 3617 Wyoming (near S. Grand)

2018 Officers

President

Vicky Dean (president@towergroveheights.com)

President-Elect

Ann Stanley (president-elect@towergroveheights.com)

Past President

Barb Gilchrist (past-president@towergroveheights.com)

Secretary

Debra Knox Deiermann (secretary@towergroveheights.com)

Treasurer

Rick Stein (treasurer@towergroveheights.com)

Membership Secretary

Jean Iezzi (membership@towergroveheights.com)

For the latest neighborhood news and events; receive a Welcome Packet; contact your Block Captain; join TGHNA; nominate a neighbor for the Matt-the-Cat Award; read our bylaws, meeting minutes or past issues of the Gazette; and much more, please visit:
www.towergroveheights.com

Stay connected: Tower Grove Heights notification list via MailChimp - contact:
secretary@towergroveheights.com | Nextdoor Tower Grove: <https://towergrovemom.nextdoor.com> | Tower Grove Heights - Community Group: www.facebook.com/groups/380836771957085 | Tower Grove Heights Twitter - @TowerGroveHts

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Our Ellen Wilson Slacklining on Juniata



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parentingresources.org - 3801 Wyoming St. - 332-2582

Our Programs

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ONLINE CLASSES

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REAL ESTATE NEWS

Email me your real estate questions at: DeborahErvin@att.net

Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights during 2017

Type	Address	Sold Price	Year Built
Res	3846 Hartford	\$270,000	1899
Res	3700 Hartford	\$295,500	1901
Res	3883 Juniata	\$222,000	1902
Res	3880 Juniata	\$290,000	1907
Res	3654 Juniata	\$310,100	1904
Res	3709 Juniata	\$350,000	1904
Multi	3664 Connecticut	\$250,000	1905
Res	3837 Connecticut	\$251,000	1906
Multi	3868-72 Connecticut	\$280,000	1906
Res	3706 Connecticut	\$437,500	1905
Res	3860 Wyoming	\$261,000	1908
Res	3888 Wyoming	\$290,000	1910
Res	3884 Wyoming	\$348,597	1907
Res	3880 Humphrey	\$158,000	1908
Res	3814 Humphrey	\$200,000	1907
Res	3640 Humphrey	\$247,000	1909
Res	3708 Humphrey	\$364,000	1905
Res	3703 N. Utah Pl.	\$370,000	1922
Res	3888 S. Utah Pl.	\$407,500	1908
Res	3871 N. Utah Pl.	\$414,500	1907
Res	3837 N. Utah Pl.	\$477,000	1910
Res	3810 S. Utah Pl.	\$495,000	1909
Res	3873 N. Utah Pl.	\$499,000	1908
Res	3735 N. Utah Pl.	\$525,000	1911



PARENTING RESOURCES CENTER

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They offer various classes/activities such as child enrichment, artistic, movement, parenting and prenatal, baby wearing, infant CPR, and car seat usage. Some classes are offered online.

Parenting Resources offers classes that can be signed up for individually without a membership. They also train and certify doulas. They get referrals from OBs, pediatric doctors, lactation consultants, WIC, childbirth educators and doulas. Parenting Resources is also available to host birthday parties or other types of child friendly gatherings in their center. They sponsor a summer camp for members.

They host a Circle of Moms gathering which is free and open to the public on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m. No topic is off limits in the Mom's Circle and many topics get discussed: mothering demands, time constraints, postpartum recovery and emotions, partner relationships, breastfeeding, and sometimes it is just a social hour for Moms to get together!

Speaking of breastfeeding, Kathy Loughren is a Nurse Practitioner and IBCLC (lactation consultant). Kathy is available

for breastfeeding/lactation consults at the Center or home visits can be arranged. Most insurances do cover lactation services now. You can reach the Parenting Resources Center and Kate or Kathy by calling 314-332-2582 or emailing kate@parentingresources.org. Their website is parentingresources.org or check them out on Facebook at facebook.com/parentingresourcesstl.



Letter from the President

BY
VICKY

First thing first. Thank you for reading the Gazette. This newsletter is completely volunteer run, (writing, editing, & delivery!) and I've found it to be a fun way to learn more about our community.

Second, I want to introduce myself. My name is Vicky Dean, and I am serving as the 2018 president of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. The title "president" can convey a sense of power and responsibility – that can skew positively or negatively. I view the role of president as one of service to the people in our association and neighborhood. I would like my year of service to be one in which ALL of our neighbors feel welcome, heard, and included. If you've met me already, you know I am outgoing and quite the talker! If we haven't met yet, you've been warned- I'll probably talk your ear off and ask you lots of questions! To give you an idea of my background- here are some quick bullet points. I:

- Have lived in Ohio, Michigan, Texas, and Georgia before landing here in St. Louis;
- Have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, but currently work in higher education administration at SIUE;
- Love to travel! I'm always up for a road trip to visit family and friends for long weekends – what I call "get out of town free" trips, as well as to several countries as my dad's travel companion during his retirement; and
- Love my human and furry companions. My wife, Myrinda, and I have been together for a decade, adding our cat, Dwight, to our house eight years ago. Our newest family member is Lucky, a black

dog; you may see us walking around the neighborhood trying to burn off his puppy energy.

So... that's a window into my life. But what do I envision for the association? Here are the three questions I've had as I've gotten more involved and they informed my goals for 2018. I've included proposed ways to move forward for each.

Question: How can the association reach more of our residents?

Actions: Increase transparency of association efforts; sponsor more social engagements.

Question: How can we deepen and broaden resident's connection to the community and each other?

Actions: Create neighborhood engagement committee to promote service projects within our community; engage membership more at monthly meetings by providing snacks and treats at each meeting; and increasing communication methods.

Question: Is the neighborhood association meeting the needs of our community?

Action: Develop an assessment task force to identify long-term development goals.

None of this can, nor should, happen in a vacuum. The more people like you who are engaged in these efforts, the more the association will reflect what you want and need it to be. We are so lucky to live in a neighborhood that thrives with diverse neighbors. We can only become better with more open and committed neighbors. So please, don't hesitate to reach out if you want join the assessment task force, the neighborhood engagement committee, or simply want to speak your mind. My email is president@towergroveheights.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

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"/> HOUSEHOLD (2 votes) \$15/year	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE (non-voting) \$10/year	Please add my email address to the Neighborhood Forum Email notification list. . .
<input type="checkbox"/> LIFETIME (1 vote) \$100 single payment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS (1 vote) \$25 /year <small>(entitles member to a 10% discount on TGHNA Gazette Ads for one year)</small>	

NAME(s) _____

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