

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

VOLUME 28, No. 4

WINTER 2017

Imitation is the Sincerest form of Flattery

BY Ellen Wilson

This is the fourteenth year of TGHNA supporting families in need through the 100 Neediest Cases Program. When I first started working on this project, I never thought it would be so well received and last so long. I am so grateful for this neighborhood of people willing to put their money, or shopping shoes, where it counts and come through each year. There are many people who have been contributing in some way right from the very first year. We also get new people checking it out or new to the neighborhood each year. Our perseverance has paid off by helping 28 families over the years and this year was even recognized by the Post Dispatch (November 12, 2017). In the first issue printed about the newspaper participation of the 100 Neediest Cases Program, they highlighted our neighborhood program and mentioned Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association by name. I hope our participation inspires other neighborhood groups to select a family also and we can be in inspiration for others to reach out and help those in need.

This year we have chosen two families again, both of which have fallen on hard times but are doing what they can to care for themselves and their children, however, this year, they could use some help. Our goal is to provide a holiday morning gift surprise for the children and help each family with past or current utility bills and food to try to give them a moment of relief that they can enjoy with their families. Sometimes you only need a little boost to get back on your feet and on your way.

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Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association 30th Anniversary Block Party

by Barb Gilchrist

Our resident historian, Mark Abbott, says that one sign of a healthy neighborhood is the presence of young children. By that standard, we are healthy indeed at the age of 30 – there were children everywhere at our neighborhood-wide Anniversary Block Party on September 23! The event began with a kids’ parade of decorated bikes. Then there were kids who chased each other with balloon swords. Others lined up to have their faces painted or to get ice cream from our own “Good Humor Man” while proud parents carried babies. There was a life-size Connect Four game to play and a scavenger hunt for answers to fun questions.

We estimate that at least 200 people came to the party which was held on Spring, between Juniata and Wyoming. There was lots of food and drinks and wonderful live music performed by four different bands. Each of the bands, Rib Tip & Rogers, Carey Coleman Trio, Funky Butt Brass Band, and Beatha Cara, has at least one member who lives in the neighborhood. There was a bingo game for adults designed to get neighbors to mingle with each other. There was also a history display that included Gazette articles tracing the area history back to the 1700s. It included a map of McDonald’s Farm, and a description of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association established in 1908.

Each of the bands, Rib Tip & Rogers, Carey Coleman Trio, Funky Butt Brass Band, and Beatha Cara, has at least one member who lives in the neighborhood.

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Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association 30th Anniversary Block Party

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There were documents outlining the formation of the current Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association as well as flyers, programs, newspaper articles and photographs reflecting the efforts to promote the neighborhood as a wonderful place to live. There were also photos of houses and people from then (30 years ago) and now and examples of the renovations that took place from early in the 1980s well into the 2000s.

Planning for the event began early this year. The committee, which primarily consisted of Patrick Weber (Chair), Pat Edwards, Kim Cole, and myself, met frequently to anticipate and plan for all the activities and contingencies. One worry was that in mid-September the weather would be cold and dreary. We never imagined it would be sunny and in the 90s! Our supply of ice had to be refreshed many times so thanks to Gustine Market for keeping our beverages cool!

The committee had help in planning from Kathy Underwood Loughren and Kate Schnetzer of Parenting Resources, and Kevin Edsen. Carrie Redd and her kids helped plan and put on the kids activities, particularly the kids' scavenger hunt. Jim McClaren provided the entire sound tech for the bands. We received food donations from Hodak's, Café Mochi, and Chimichanga's and neighbors brought a plentiful supply of dishes of every variety. Thanks also to Black Thorn Pub & Pizza, Saint Louis Brewery and Urban Chestnut Brewing Company for providing beer. Thanks to Tower Grove Creamery for the use of their ice cream cart and to Qdoba Mexican Eats South Grand for gift certificates. Aesh Design provided the life-size games, its patio for beverages and indoor space for the history display. Many other people volunteered on the day to make the event run smoothly by setting up tables and chairs, removing trash, taking down tables and chairs, and serving beverages. We received a generous financial donation from an anonymous donor. Thanks also to Parenting Resources and Aleto Construction Group for opening their doors during the party as an introduction to businesses in our neighborhood.

We heard from many, many people that each enjoyed the event and hoped we will do it again. The question that must be answered, now, is whether we host both an Autumn Fest and a neighborhood-wide block party? Should we alternate by year or do both every year? Should we only do one, and if so, which one? If you have an opinion, please share it at info@towergroveheights.com.

Whatever the decision about future years, the 30th Anniversary Party was a wonderful celebration of an important milestone in the history of our neighborhood and our neighborhood association.

You don't have to roam far from Home

by John
Papa

It has occurred to me that recent contributions to the Gazette have suggested excursions both near and far - but always away from the neighborhood. It is not my intention to suggest that one must travel to enjoy, relax and learn.

In fact, one of the most unique and desirable resources in the world is a few steps from any neighborhood location.

For generations, residents of Tower Grove Heights have made great use of Tower Grove Park. No sooner than moving here (with some gentle encouragement) strolls to, from, and around Tower Grove Park have been

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Tower Grove Height's Neighborhood Association 30th Anniversary Block Party.



Amaryllis: The Herald of the Holidays

by Betty Greenjeans

Besides the boughs and berries of winter décor, nothing says it's holiday time like an amaryllis. These enormous bulbs come to us from every conceivable outlet – from home improvement and grocery stores, to finer garden centers and gift shops. The fact that they will grow and bloom right out of the box is a testament to how hard it is to screw up an amaryllis. But here are a few tips to maximize their performance and even ways to enjoy them year after year.



When shopping for bulbs, buy early. The worst thing is opening the box and finding a crazy curled flower stalk that has already wound itself around the inside of the package. Stores bring these dormant bulbs indoors and warm them up and it doesn't take long to get things growing. A smart retailer will set up their display in a cool vestibule.

Plant the bulb as per the included instructions. Amaryllis like their shoulders high. Water in but let soil dry out between waterings. Fertilizer is unnecessary at this point. Place in a bright location. Sunnier spots result in a sturdier flower stalk. In 2-3 weeks you should see buds. An amaryllis is an impressive plant and fun to grow. Larger bulbs will produce a second stalk – twice as nice!

The fact that they will grow and bloom right out of the box is a testament to how hard it is to screw up an amaryllis.

When the flowers fade most plants find their way to the yard waste dumpster but this can be the beginning of a long friendship.

Once the flowers fade, cut off the stalk and wait for the foliage. Sometimes leaves will grow with the stalk and sometimes not till after. It's due to a difference in growing conditions but really doesn't matter. The point is to let that foliage grow as long as possible and recharge the bulb.

Now is the time to fertilize, but rich garden soil will likely provide plenty of nutrients once you replant outdoors. Sticking the bulb in the back of a flower bed after danger of frost has past is the easiest way to live with the long leaves for the next several months.

Moving into our home in TGH a few years ago, I immediately noticed the tell-tale straps of amaryllis foliage in one of my flower beds. Just before frost I dug them up and cut off all the foliage. I left them in the fridge for several weeks as per one internet source. Once planted, they quickly began to send up a flower stalk, but the timing was all wrong and I ended up with blooms in February.

Further research indicated that the bulbs do not require a chilling period in order to rebloom. The trick really lies in when to start the plant's dormancy. This means digging it up in mid-August when it's happily green and growing.

Cut back all the leaves and knock the soil off the roots. Pot up the

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bulb and let it rest in a cool dark place for several weeks. This year I plan to bring mine into the light and start to water more frequently in early December. The hope is to have blooms closer to the end of December.

Amaryllis come in many shades and patterns of pink, red and white. You will find the same varieties over and over again in stores but options abound in finer garden centers and online. After coveting a Butterfly amaryllis for 10 years I finally decided I deserve it and plan to indulge myself if I spot one this year. I can't wait to see the maroon and white striping and hope the chartreuse highlights in the photo come across in the actual bloom.

At a time when our homes are dark and our gardens are bare, an amaryllis brightens a winter day. Their plush, enormous trumpets sing out during this special time of year. Happy holidays!

GOOD NEIGHBOR TIP

Remember your Christmas tree needs as much water as you do every day! A well hydrated tree is a safer tree. Travelling? Set up a wick or syphon from the tree holder to a bucket of water. Or ask a neighbor to stop in.

Kids' Corner

by Greta Reitenbach
of the Alley Kats

Ever seen a lemonade stand or heard the words, "Sale on Juniata and Spring"? Well, that was the work of the Alley Kats. We are a group of kids aging from three to thirteen on the 3800 blocks of Juniata and Connecticut. We asked the Gazette about the possibility of a Kid's Corner. The answer was yes! This time, we chose to run a Halloween decoration contest. When figuring how to structure the contest, we decided to scooter around the neighborhood and take pictures of all the houses with Halloween decorations. It was a cold day and not the best of sidewalks to scooter on, but several houses made it worthwhile.

The neighbors at 3802 Arsenal offered some insight into their preparations: "Last week we had a really big storm and it looked really cool because the ship was blowing and the pirate was holding on to the wheel. It looked like she was steering through the storm. It held pretty well because we tied down a lot of the things and we try to plan for it. That's why we didn't put the mermaid up until today." THAT mermaid.

For all of you who have driven by the house on the corner of Arsenal and Spring, it is quite a sight. "So most of the stuff we

put up in one weekend, but the mermaid took a whole weekend just to make. We used duct tape and bubble wrap. My friend had to stand like a mermaid while I wrapped her in bubble wrap and packing tape. Then you cut it off, and seal it back up with more tape. It's a fun project, I highly recommend it."

All of this stuff must cost a lot to make, right? Wrong. "We have a room at the top of our house where it is pirates all year-round, and so most of that stuff we just brought down. But we built everything basically from wood found in the alley and from other stuff people dump in the alley so we really didn't have to spend money to do any of this. Everything bought is mainly from dollar stores, thrift shops, and garage sales. People in the neighborhood may recognize things from their garage sales or that they put in the alley. The wood from the ship was from the alley. It was flooring, and we spray painted it black to make shading. And the ship's wheel is an old stool that somebody had and we took it apart."

This is definitely a house you want to go to for trick-or-treating. "Everything lights up at night. That was a whole different layer of decoration. We have seven different zones of light and all different colors. We have green spotlights and we have blue spotlights on the mermaid. We have red on the porch and everything is mostly LED lights that make other things sparkle."

"Last week we had a really big storm and it looked really cool because the ship was blowing and the pirate was holding on to the wheel. ..."



First Place
3636 Utah Place
and 3802 Arsenal

Second Place
3825 Connecticut

Third Place
3802 Juniata

Honorable Mentions:
3883 Connecticut,
for the unique use of a Chicago Cubs
flag to add to the overall scariness

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for the most kid-friendly
(but scary) decorations



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A FACELIFT FOR DUNAWAY BOOKS



by Marilyn Browning

On April 1st of this year, Dunaway Books on South Grand was sold to Kevin Twellman and Claudia Brodie, long-time bibliophiles. We were told to expect the look of the store to change, and indeed it did. I had the opportunity to talk with long-time manager Vernon Bain ("I was sold along with the store," he jokes,) and he was kind enough to show me around the newly rearranged and outfitted store. The bookstore now features several well-lit and cozy seating areas for your browsing pleasure. The check-out desk, formerly to the right of the entrance as you walk in, has been given center stage. Moving the desk and shelves behind it uncovered a large window painted with clouds, the perfect anchor for a newly-established children's reading corner, surrounded by children's books for various ages.

A set of bookshelves to the left of the entrance features local authors, including some from Saint Louis artist Mary Engelbreit.

A long mezzanine in the back of the store now has comfortable seating and lighting—perfect for small group meetings. Once you climb the nice old cast-iron stairs, you have a great view of the more



open arrangement of the floor below. Featured upstairs are a number of first editions, covering fiction, Judaica, Black Studies, The Civil War, slavery and Reconstruction.

The basement area, which houses history, sciences, social sciences, sci-fi and fantasy, now has additional ambient lighting and seating areas, moving it from book warehouse to a welcoming area to peruse the offerings.

Recent additions include a large collection purchased from the Roth estate in New Jersey. It includes music, clinical psychology, philosophy, and more, reflecting Roth's wide-ranging interests. LP collectors take note: an antique cradle near the display windows houses a collection of Roth's classical music LPs, and Saint Louisans have first dibs on these records and most of Roth's collection before they are offered online.

The new owners are keen on making the bookstore a real community affair, and currently have poetry readings by local poets every two months. Poetry lovers mark your calendars for the next poetry reading on December 10th. Starting with acoustic sessions from 3-6 pm, an evening of wine, eggnog, and poetry will take place from 7 to 10 pm. More details are available at the bookstore.

Imitation is the Sincerest form of Flattery

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If you would like to help, either donate a new unwrapped gift that fits one of the family members or general needs or donate cash (or check – made out to TGHNA) which will be used to buy gifts and help our adopted families pay for utilities. Drop your donations at the drop point and we take care of the rest. Please be sure to include your full name with your donation to be sure I can acknowledge your generosity or identify if you wish to remain anonymous. All gifts will be wrapped and distributed to the families.

Choose one (or more) of the following:

Family 1: This family is going through a very rough patch. While the wife works full time, he can only find sporadic work through a Temp. agency. Their electricity was cut off in the summer and were eventually evicted. They are currently living with friends. Their car is not working which makes transportation difficult. They are doing everything they can to shield their children from their difficulty.

**Father (35): Size:
2X Pants 34/36; 10/12; Shoes (11.5)**

**Mother (36): Size:
1X; Pants 20; Shoes (8.5)**

Boy (11): Size: 12M; Shoes (5)

Boy (9): Size: 10M; Shoes (4)

Girl (3): Size T-5; Shoes (T-9)

Special Requests: Winter clothes and gear for all; household cleaning supplies; and bedding (twin/queen); Pokémon; hand held games; drawing material; football; anything Patriots; anything Odell Beckman; action figures; My Little Pony; play kitchen set and appliances; Bible history books; Curve cologne; Bath items; Paris Hilton Cologne.

Family 2: Both Mother and Father in this family are disabled veterans. She has a back injury and he is still waiting for his benefits to start. They are supporting four children and having difficulty making ends meet.

Mother (43): Size: 12; Shoes (9)

Father (49): Size XL; Shoes (10)

Boy (9): Top (10); Pants (8); Shoes (2)

Girl (7): Size: 8T; Shoes (1)

Girl (6): Size 6T; Pants (5T); Shoes (T-12)

Boy (4): Size 5T; Pants (4T); Shoes (T10)

Special Requests: Winter clothes and gear for all; household cleaning supplies; bedding (twin, full, queen); towels and wash cloths; dinosaurs; art supplies and sketch pads; Monster High related stuff; Lego; soccer equipment; cars and car track; bikes for kids; bath items; coconut oil body products; Mesmerize cologne; and tool set.

Both families need the following:

Gift cards for any of the following: medicine; gas; food; cleaning supplies; personal hygiene products; or baby care products if appropriate. Consider: Walgreens; Target; Walmart; Schnucks; Shop N Save; Aldi; BP; or other related store.

Educational Items –age appropriate books; family games; school supplies...

Cash – for gifts or utility bills which are paid directly by 100 Neediest Cases (checks to TGHNA)

There is always a need for volunteers to help wrap the gifts as well as wrapping materials such as paper, tape, ribbon, name tags, and bows. If you want to help wrap or just stop by to see the process, contact Ellen.

Due Date for Donations: December 15

**Wrapping Party: December 16 at 10:00 a.m.
at Ellen's house**

**Drop Point and Contact: Ellen Wilson,
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Tower Grove Heights House History Cache



By: Erin O'Reilly

Wouldn't it be neat if we in Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association started the trend of including a house history with every house when it is sold to a new owner? Imagine if the known history of a home including photos, rehab, remodels, any relevant sharable family data, number of previous owners and any other significant information were kept in a place in each Tower Grove Heights home for future owners to see what the house looked like in the past and how it has been changed over the years! Of course, all history will not be known, but we can start with what we do know and add to it as we find out more information and more rehab/changes to the house occur. This cache of history could be kept in a special place in the basement so any future owners can see it and add to it when they make history in the home!

Following is a list of types of history that could be included in a house history:

- when the house was built
- historical photos of house if they are available
- documentation of any rehab/changes to the house
- costs and details of rehab that is willingly sharable
- any relevant information about previous owners that they are willing to share
- any public data regarding the history of the house or its previous owners
- changes to the landscape around the house
- any other interesting information related to the house

Future owners would love it, I'm sure! Also real estate agents would be able to use some of the data in their efforts to sell the house. TGH could be known as the House History trend setter! What an interesting distinction to be able to claim for our 14-block neighborhood!

The History of This Old Tower Grove Heights House

By: Rich Iezzi

With Erin O'Reilly's idea in mind, here's some information we found on our house at 3809 Hartford:

Our house was built in 1896 even though some city records show its construction in 1897. I'm sticking to the 1896 date because Alexander Isch, the first owner and builder, claimed our house as his residence in November of 1896. Isch was the secretary and manager of St. Louis Fuel Co. at 1626 Clark.

The house was addressed as 3811 Hartford instead of the 3809 we use today because it was originally built as a single family home. However, in 1907, Isch sold the house to Anna Strudell for \$6,400 and that's when the changes began.

Anna's husband, Fredrick, was killed in the "cyclone of 1896." This "cyclone" is still the deadliest tornado in St. Louis history causing 255 deaths and 1,000 casualties.

I looked up Fredrick Strudell and saw that he drowned while trying to cross the Mississippi during the storm. Since the family lost its breadwinner, Anna decided to move everyone into 3811 Hartford. We discovered a 1912 newspaper article from this period titled, "Plaster falls on Woman." It reported a lightning strike at 3811 Hartford that tore off a patch of slates and caused a severe bruise to Mrs. Strudell's head from falling plaster. Poor Anna.

To accommodate more family members, the

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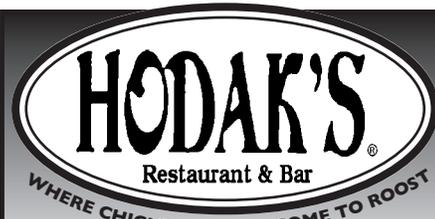
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Dunaway Books, 3111 S. Grand Blvd. Hours: Tues-Fri 11am-7pm, Sat 10am-7pm, and Sun 12Noon- 7 pm. More information is available at www.dunawaybooks.org.

You don't have to roam far from Home

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an important part of life in the neighborhood. One half mile from our front porch, walking north on Spring Avenue, is one of the South park entrances along Arsenal. As you walk through the stone portal, you become a time traveler leaving most vestiges of modern life behind.

Quickly turning right along a paved path through a grove of mature catalpa trees, you shoehorn yourself into your stroll walking initially downhill. The pace is easy and the path is steady as you head east. Soon the path approaches Grand Avenue, and one of the cardio components of the walk is apparent as the path dramatically inclines. At the crest of the rise is the corner of Grand Avenue and Arsenal. By making a hard left, one enters Tower Grove Park a second time through

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You don't have to roam far from Home

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the southeastern gate which, in season, displays magnificent flowers of compatible colors. This path is also designed for pedestrians.

As one approaches the Stupp Center, one can't help but notice a stately blue spruce to the right. One feature of Tower Grove Park is how the flora (and fauna) changes with the seasons. No matter the time of year, one recognizes why this tree is a "blue" spruce, but there are certain times when the needles appear frosty or icy blue.

Many are the sights of Tower Grove Park – from pavilions and ponds, to playgrounds and playing fields. After passing the Stupp Center and the holly trees to the north, make a right onto the street and enjoy the Sons of Rest Pavilion. It is here on most weekends you will find a group, organization, or family hosting an event and building community.

It is not difficult to resist joining a 5k run (and scoring a t-shirt), when most of Tower Grove Park lies before you. Walking north past the Christopher Columbus statue in the spring over the last several years, you can encounter the Pagan Festival and, in the summer, the International Festival. As you turn west on the paved (but typically barricaded) road, the ground will undulate past groves of many different trees, the Missouri Ginkgo Tree of Distinction and countless varieties of magnolia trees (each blooming at different time of the spring and in different colors). Soon, after a steady climb, the

sight of the red roofed Orchestra Pavilion appears in the distance. You reach level ground again and pass by the Piper Palm House.

There is a bit of a hill to climb after passing Center Cross Road and the tennis courts, but one is rewarded with a downslope past the caretaker's home and horse stables. There is a long climb ahead to reach the west end of Tower Grove Park, but there are well-positioned benches along the way.

It is during this climb that the *There is a long climb ahead to reach the west end of Tower Grove Park, but there are well-positioned benches along the way.* First harbinger of - witch hazel - is what interests me during the winter. Once the witch hazel blooms, the magnolia, wild daffodil, and bluebells soon return to Tower Grove Park in full flower.

As spring passes, the sports teams enliven Tower Grove Park, especially along Arsenal Street. It is great sport reading the nicknames on the Big Ballers' uniforms. They give one hope for future generations.

By the time one returns east and nears the Chinese Pavilion, it is time to climb one last steep hill and return to one's point of entry into the park.

A circumnavigation of Tower Grove Park is about four miles, but there are more than 400 items/vistas to capture your attention and recharge your battery – no matter the season!

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The History of This Old Tower Grove Heights House



continued on page 9

house was sawed into a two-family flat in 1913 for a cost of \$2,500, that's \$62,000 in today's money. This is one of the mysteries of our house. Why didn't Anna just purchase an existing two-family flat instead of going through all the trouble?

The renovations were extensive. Some staircases were eliminated while others were installed. The heating and electrical services were split into two independent systems and a wall was built down the entry to enable a second front door to be installed.

With the new entry door came the new 3809 address.

Anna's husband, Fredrick, was killed in the "cyclone of 1896." This "cyclone" is still the deadliest tornado in St. Louis history causing 255 deaths and 1,000 casualties.

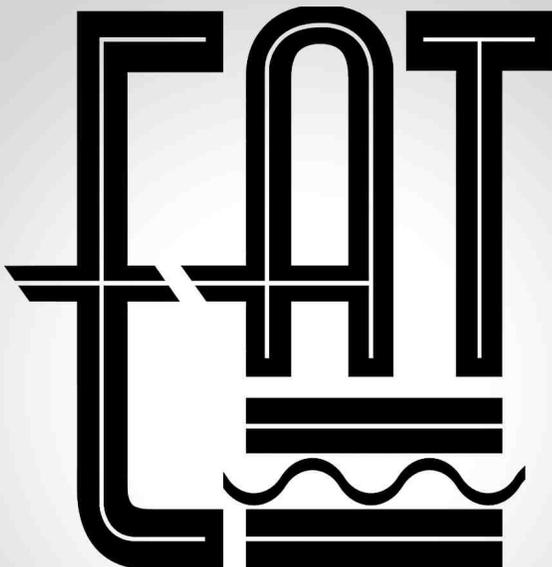
The Strudells sold the building in 1920 but it was in 1932 when the ownership became

interesting. Between 1932 and 1959, the house changed hands between Estella Bishop and Earnest Went five times. Earnest Went finally sold in 1972 after controlling 3809-3811 Hartford for 40 years with the help of Estella Bishop.

In November of 1978, the developer who now owned the property jettisoned it to the clever Iezzi family exactly 82 years after Alexander Isch walked through the door for the very first time.

But after Jean and I moved in, we began to wonder if we were the only ones living here. We always smelled an unusual fragrance in a particular room but never found its source. Then, late one night, we heard the piano play. It was in the "strange fragrance" room. I told wife Jean "it had to be our cats" but she replied, "They're all in our bedroom with us." Everything's been quiet since then and we love our Hartford house.

If you'd like to pursue the history of your house, our own Rich Buthod volunteered to be of service. Rich works in the Recorder of Deeds Archive Department at City Hall. His number is 314-589-6796.



SANDWICHES

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We bid a fond farewell to Oak Hill True Value Hardware Store, a long-time friend to neighborhood do-it-yourselfers and a faithful advertiser in the Gazette.

HallowGANZA in the 'Heights'



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)

2017 OFFICERS

- President
Barbara Gilchrist (president@towergroveheights.com)
- President-Elect
Vicky Dean (president-elect@towergroveheights.com)
- Past President
Stephen Gregali (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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REAL ESTATE NEWS

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

Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights during this quarter

Type	Address	Sold Price	Age
Resident	3809 N. Utah Pl	\$275,000	109
Resident	3861 Hartford	\$277,000	116
Resident	3812 Juniata	\$285,000	113
Resident	3661 N. Utah Pl	\$399,000	93
Resident	3890 S. Utah Pl	\$406,000	109
Resident	3640 Hartford	\$440,000	113
Resident	3734 Hartford	\$465,000	113
Resident	3717 N. Utah Pl	\$500,000	111



Solar Powered Recharging Stations coming to South Grand

By: Dana
Gray

Select South Grand bus stops will soon receive Solar Powered Charging Stations. You will be able to recharge your mobile device as you await the South Grand bus. The stations offer USB 3.0 Rapid Charge ports and a dedicated handicap access port. If electric service is down, the residents will still be able to recharge.

The stations will serve as WiFi hotspots after the City of St. Louis finalizes a WiFi policy and necessary permits are obtained. The city WiFi policy is currently being developed.

The project is funded through a HUD Community Development Block Grant via the St. Louis Community Development Administration and is coordinated by Tower Grove Neighborhoods Community Development Corp.



President's Message: A Year in Review

BY BARBARA
GILCHRIST

The primary focus this year has been on the 30th anniversary of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. And rightfully so.

Thirty years is a long time for a neighborhood association to not only survive, but to remain viable and relevant. A separate article describes the wonderful anniversary party we had on September 23, so this piece has a broader coverage.

I wrote in a previous Gazette message that I wanted to concentrate on neighborhood safety and on increasing participation among rental tenants and families with young children during my term as President. I am happy to report that our Safety Committee has met many times over the course of the year and has learned a great deal about lighting and cameras, including the costs and challenges. At press time, the Safety Committee is on the November meeting agenda to share much of what it has learned and provide useful information on how to go about choosing and installing home cameras and alarm systems.

Our very first Heights Nights event was at the Tower Grove Creamery (which opened specially for us). We distributed flyers to each household and, despite the very cold weather, many young children (and parents) attended. In addition, there was a "play date" event for kids in Tower Grove Park and the second annual Hallowganza was held in Ritz Park. As described more in the Anniversary article, kids were everywhere at the block party! I give us an "A" for kid-friendly activities. There were six other Heights Nights events including a sneak preview at VP Square and a very well-attended evening at Civil Life Brewing Co.

We also distributed flyers early in the year encouraging neighbors who rent to join us at general meetings and at Heights Nights, especially the April event at Aesh Design. While we did have several renters attend several general meetings and many came to the Anniversary party, we could improve on the effort to encourage involvement.

In addition to the Anniversary party, the August general meeting was devoted to celebrating our 30-year history. Five people who were instrumental in the effort to revitalize the neighborhood, out of which came the formation of the neighborhood association, shared their memories. We learned what the neighborhood was like in the late 1980s and the challenges it presented. Without their work and the work of many others, we might not have the fabulous neighborhood we have today.

TGHNA also participated in several community events. We had an information booth at Tower Grove Pride and we provided volunteers for the games at South Grand Fall Fest. We made financial contributions to support the Farmers' Market and the Progressive Pavillion Party, both in Tower Grove Park, and the South Grand Cultural Alliance. We will also participate in the 100 Neediest Families program by sponsoring two families, as we have for many years.

There are many people owed a "thank you" for their contributions, big and small, during this year. At the risk of forgetting someone (and I likely have), I want to acknowledge Tom Reitenbach, for his "behind the scenes" work on our website; Ann Stanley, for all her wonderful design work on flyers and signs; Debra Knox Deiermann, for updating the content to our website; and Patrick Weber, Pat Edwards and Kim Cole, for planning the Anniversary Block Party. Thanks, also, to Divine Science-First Church St. Louis for allowing us to benefit from all the building improvements. I also want to acknowledge Board Members, Jean Iezzi, Vicky Dean, Rick Stein, and Debra Knox Deiermann, for everything each has done to make this year a success for TGHNA.

This has been a busy, challenging, and rewarding year. While 30 years is a long time for a neighborhood association, the area, itself, has a history that dates back several hundred years. I believe we can be proud of the year we have added to this history.

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		
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<input type="checkbox"/> LIFETIME (1 vote) \$100 single payment	Please add my email address to the Neighborhood Forum Email notification list. . .	<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>		

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