

South Pedestrian Entrance - Cemetery Gate “Rehab”

BY **JOHN A. KAREL**
TOWER GROVE PARK,
DIRECTOR

One of the most attractive and interesting features of Tower Grove Park is the remarkable series of historic entrance structures that welcome visitors. The four major entrances from Grand, Arsenal, Kingshighway, and Magnolia all began as carriage entrances in the 1870's and 80's, and still retain that flavor, adapted now of course to vehicle entry.

Additionally, there are various smaller entrances that welcome pedestrian visitors, several of which also date from the 19th century. One of the most appealing of these is the stone entrance on Arsenal Street across from Spring Avenue.

This hand crafted structure includes native limestone as well as decorative cast iron railings. There is an inscription of “1870” over the arch, which is a handy reminder of its date of construction. Its design is in the style known as “gothic” due to its pointed arch reminiscent of medieval churches and buildings. This same style was also often used at that time in designing structures around cemeteries, such as at Bellefontaine here in St. Louis. We presume that this is the reason Park workers soon began the tradition of referring to this as the “Cemetery Gate”, a tradition which continues to the present.



SOUTH PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE, —“1 CEMETERY GATE.”
Early image of the “Cemetery Gate”

continued on page 3

AUTUMN FEST in the Heights



After a year's hiatus so we could celebrate our neighborhood organization's 25th anniversary, we will once again have another fun-filled Autumn Fest in the Heights. Take advantage of this opportunity to savor great food, sample an assortment of wines, socialize with neighbors, and perhaps take a ride down Spring Avenue in a horse-drawn carriage. We

can always use a little help before, during and after the event for errands, set-up and cleanup. If you have a few hours, please call or e-mail Marilyn Browning, this year's event coordinator at 314-683-6893 or at mbrowning3831@charter.net

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FOUNDING EDITOR:

Janice Nesser

EDITING TEAM:

Mark Froese

Kyle Froese

BUSINESS AND AD SALES:

Susan Newsham

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

John Karel, Marilyn Browning,

Rich Iezzi

PHOTOGRAPHY:

John Karel, Marilyn Browning

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susanclark85@gmail.com

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Mail them to:

The Gazette/TGHNA

3891 Utah Place, St. Louis, MO. 63116

or email

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South Pedestrian Entrance Cemetery Gate “Rehab”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE



Post-accident image - Spring, 2013

This spring (on St. Patrick’s Day evening!), a large SUV left Arsenal and ran into this structure, and did significant damage. After a somewhat complex round of interactions with various insurance companies, the Park has been able to contract with a local company, B&K Tuckpointing, to do comprehensive repairs.



Work in progress - June, 2013

This work is now in progress, and we hope that visitors enjoy observing the detailed workmanship involved in restoring such a structure. Our goal is to restore the Cemetery Gate as it was, except that the interior of the walls will be reinforced with steel rods, to better withstand the hazards of 21st century traffic, which is far more dangerous than the horse drawn carriages which patrolled Arsenal in the 1870’s!

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FEATURED ADVERTISER

BALI CARGO COMPANY OF SAINT LOUIS

BY MARIYLN BROWNING

“Why hurry over beautiful things? Why not linger and enjoy them?” – Clara Schumann

Bali Cargo Company is a shop filled with one-of-a-kind hand-made pieces of furniture, gifts, and jewelry from the islands of Indonesia. All are displayed in a way that makes you feel as though you have just stepped onto the island of Bali.



The store was years in the planning for owners Mike Nitzsche and Chris Thompson. Their friend Kim began the first Bali Cargo Company in Jacksonville, Florida, after she and her friends fell in love with Indonesia, its people, and the wonderful hand-made items from local artisans and craftsmen. Chris and Mike in turn fell in love with the concept and were determined to start another store in Saint Louis. As former general contractors with a passion for design, they felt that a store with unique furniture and gifts suited them perfectly. They chose South Grand for the

store's location because it's surrounded by ethnic restaurants and coffee shops, which they also felt was a perfect fit. The store opened in May of 2012, and Mike and Chris haven't looked back since.

Everything in Indonesia is made in a cottage-style industry. The Balinese live in extended families, so parents, grandparents, siblings and cousins all have a hand in running the business. The Bali Cargo Company buyers go to their homes twice a year and spend time with the families while putting in their order or designing a new product. Many of the more cutting edge pieces are designed by Europeans living in Bali and crafted by the Balinese. The buyers also seek out products made using recycled and reclaimed materials. Their furniture is made from the reclaimed wood of trees that no longer bear fruit, old fishing boats, and retired farm equipment. The stains used on the items are eco-friendly.

In addition to selling wonderful gifts and furniture, Mike and Chris offer design services in their store, and future plans may include upholstery services as well.

Stop in to browse, relax, and say hello to Chris, Mike, and their friendly little dog Taz. They just received a shipment of all new items in June, so now would be a great time to check them out. If you're interested in beautiful, one-of-a-kind, and environmentally-friendly pieces for your home or as gifts, Bali Cargo Company is a place where you can definitely linger and enjoy them.

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A Chilling Story

by Rich Iezzi

Let's talk about something we can't seem to live without – central air. You may not know much about your air conditioning system but you can do a lot to keep it running.

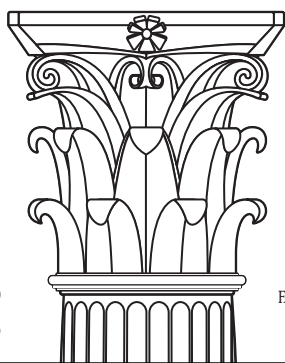
Central air (C/A) units are perfectly happy purring away in hot weather but they need to breathe. Lack of air flow is their leading cause of death.

To prevent that, start by checking the outside unit for obstruction. This large outside metal contraption houses the compressor and cooling fan to dissipate heat removed from your living space. If the fan is running, put your hand over it to feel the air flow and keep this amount in mind for a later comparison. The outside unit has cooling fins that can easily become covered with vines, leaves or lint build-up. If the aluminum cooling fins are exposed, use a stiff brush to clean off dirt and fuzz. If the fins are shrouded in a louvered cover, remove the dirt with a hose AFTER killing the power to the outside unit. Do this at your main service panel by locating and killing the double C/A breaker (if you're not comfortable rooting around in your electrical box, skip the hose cleaning part).

With the power off, use a hose nozzle with a strong spray to spray horizontally between the louvers and across the cooling fins. Peek between the louvers to check your progress. You're done when there's nothing on the cooling fins to block air flow. Be sure to remove vines or vegetation growing on or near the cooling fins you just cleaned and never store anything on or near the air louvers. Turn the power back on but don't get excited if nothing happens – your central air system may have built-in timers to prevent a sudden on/off/on

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A Chilling Story

by Rich Iezzi

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX

command (they don't like that). When the unit fires back up, you should feel increased air flow when you do the hand test again.

Now it's onto the filter. The 'air handler' containing the filter is usually in the basement but can also be in a closet or the 3rd floor. When you find it and are ready to check or change the filter, **TURN OFF THE C/A**. If you disturb the filter with the fan running, you could dislodge dirt from the filter and send it into the cooling coil – not good. When changing the filter, pay attention to the arrows that indicate the direction of air flow. The arrows should point towards the furnace or air handler, not the rectangular silver air duct.

How about some troubleshooting? Let's say you hear the outside unit trying to start but can't. The fan might barely be turning. If so, there's a good chance the capacitor is bad. This might sound a bit scary but it's easy to check and easy to fix.

With the C/A power off (!), remove the access panel to the outside unit. You'll see a silver canister looking device three to five inches tall with colored wires going to it – that's the capacitor. If the top of the capacitor is bulged, it's defective. Draw a diagram of the wire connections and bring your old capacitor to Commercial Electric at 3121 Washington and get a new one – they're less than \$20.

These are all easy things to do but not doing them accounts for the majority of repair calls. Keeping your C/A system happy will make you happy – and that's cool.

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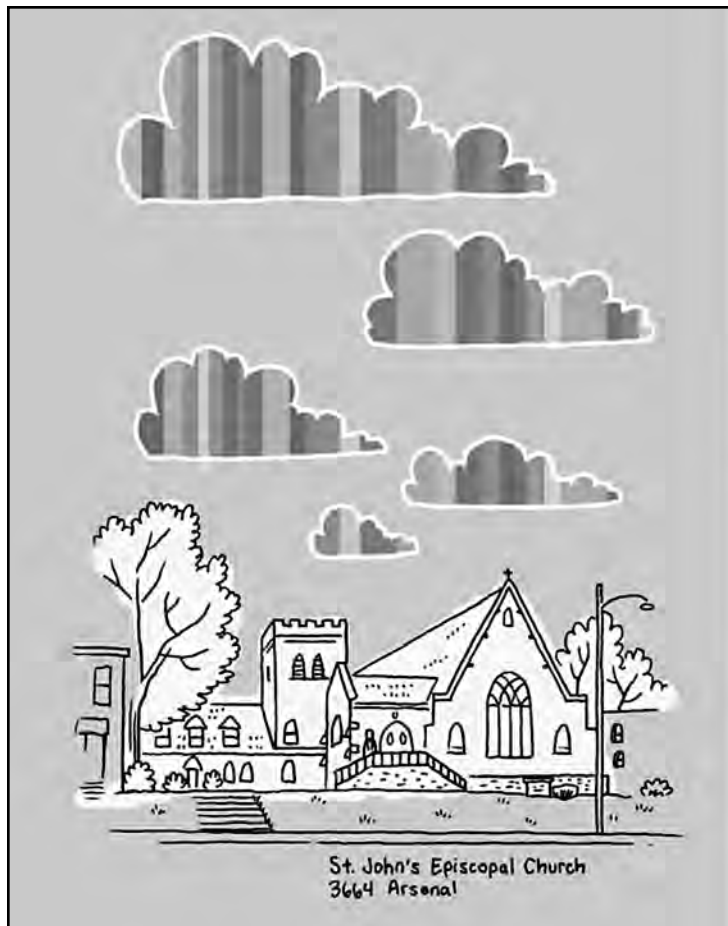


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BY RICH IEZZI

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