

## THE BRICOLEUR

### A Menagerie for Sure

By Tricia Heliker

**T**here is a fascinating shop on the corner of Cherokee and Louisiana that is packed with an eclectic mix of items so artfully displayed that you will marvel at the meticulous arrangement and clever grouping of the merchandise. All three proprietors have an eye for display but David admits to obsessing over the presentation of their collection. He says that adding new treasures and tweaking and rearranging the thousands of items easily meets his required steps for the day. David's background is in architecture but he paints and draws as well. Custom artwork, specializing in pet portraits, is his side gig. (thebricoleurSTL@gmail.com)

This shop came to be three-plus years ago although the concept was there long before that. Approximately five years ago, Andy Holman, his partner Ann Montgomery and Ann's brother, David Montgomery, bought the building at 3400 Cherokee that consists of two retail spaces with two apartments on the second floor and one on the third floor. They spent a large block of time rehabbing the apartments and getting them rented, while at the same time working towards their joint endeavor of a gallery and shop space on the ground floor. Living close by on Humphrey (Andy and Ann in Tower Grove Heights and David in Tower Grove East), they didn't waste gas or time driving to work. Initially, one portion of the first floor was devoted to a lamp repair business. Andy continues to provide that service and promises a quick turn around on repairs. Also, as the bricoleur, he constructs lamps from whatever materials are at hand. These are for sale along with shades and various other lamps. The right side of the retail space served as a gallery, showcasing the work of local artists.

Then came Covid. The shop closed for six months and they relied on online sales until they reopened. Because they could not immediately invite groups to art showings, they enlarged their showroom for their never-ending collection of bricolage by taking over the gallery space. There are still pieces of original art scattered throughout the shop and an art opening is scheduled for

\*\*\*\*\*

(continued on page 3)



By Patrick Weber

wife and business partner, Jessica] wanted the ability to spend more time with family, and a place to establish our first joint venture." In fact, family seems to be as much a part of this project as Tony's experiences in creative and innovative establishments from Kansas City to Las Vegas to Beverly Hills. And we all soon stand to benefit.

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## THE GAZETTE

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## 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 though MailChimp and posted to the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Assn.

Facebook page and Tower Grove Heights Facebook Community Group or contact  
[info@towergroveheights.com](mailto:info@towergroveheights.com)

[www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com)

# Snō by Tony Nguyen

(continued from page 1)

In late August, the Nguyens will unveil Snō, named for Tony's mother Tuyet ('snow' in Vietnamese) at 3611 Juniata Street, in the space formerly occupied by much-loved VP Square created by Tower Grove Heights' own Victor Pham. After narrowing the list of possible locations down to Cortex, the Central West End and South Grand, the Nguyens ultimately chose South Grand.

"I grew up in the Shaw neighborhood, going to Jay's Market, so I was very familiar with the area," Tony said. "Whenever we came home to visit, we would always go to Food Truck Fridays. I loved the vibe down here. I love that so many of the businesses on South Grand are immigrant owned."

Tony said they immediately fell in love with the space. "I have a great relationship with Victor. I love that it is [a] 2-story [space] and had so much room to work with. It had everything we needed, all the equipment...it was ready to go," he said. "Some might question locating off the main strip [of South Grand] but I love the mature trees, the off-the-beaten-path neighborhood feel. It felt homey. It was perfect for us and what we wanted to do."

In going along with the themes of home and family, Tony says he wants the interior of the space to feel like an extension of their home and style. Whites, grays and blacks will be the predominant colors (disclosure – as an architect, I always seem to gravitate to design in conversation).

"We wanted the space to feel like an extension of home," Tony described.



"The space will be minimalistic, like our home style. The idea is for the space to be minimal and the food to take center stage." A small bar area will highlight the front of the space, and the Nguyens are going through the encroachment permit process with the City to permit outdoor dining.

And as for the food? Chef Nguyen will draw upon his diverse experience around the country and strive to provide "something for everyone." A broad variety of sustainably-sourced seafood, steaks prepared over lava rocks, vegan options and, for dessert, one of Tony's signatures, nitrogen ice-cream prepared table-side. The Nguyens are also exploring dim-sum, the traditional Chinese dining experience of small plates served family-style using carts, something the existing size and layout of the space afforded.

Despite the fact that Snō will inevitably draw diners from around the region and become a destination in its own right, Tony said he wants to create a place for the neighborhood as well. In fact, the Nguyens are planning a one-night preview in conjunction with the annual South Grand Dine-Around event in June. And another unique dining experience around the corner provides us with one more thing to love about our neighborhood. That is something we all can sink our teeth into. [www.snostl.com](http://www.snostl.com)

...the Nguyens are planning a one-night preview in conjunction with the annual South Grand Dine-Around event in June.



# The Bricoleur

(continued from page 1)

the fourth weekend of October where they will showcase sixty years of work by Mary Nichols, Andy's mother, who passed away in 2021. Mary was an elementary art teacher and also taught classes at the St. Louis Art Museum for 25 years. She was a prolific painter and her works will be on display for 2-3 months. Both Andy and Ann have degrees in photography which

explains a large selection of vintage cameras and camera equipment that is inventory of STL Vintage Camera and pairs seamlessly with the art and antiques of The Bricoleur. Not only are cameras for sale but will also be purchased should you happen to have one to sell.



The owners of The Bricoleur are an artistic trio who make browsing the shop a delightful adventure. They are friendly and extremely helpful. If you are looking for something specific, they will tell you they just might have it. Give them a few minutes and they will let you know for sure. You can find them on Instagram ([Instagram.com/TheBricoleurSTL](https://www.instagram.com/TheBricoleurSTL)) and Facebook ([facebook.com/TheBricoleurSTL](https://www.facebook.com/TheBricoleurSTL)) but I highly recommend experiencing the delight of the unexpected first hand.

Currently Bricoleur is open Friday-Sunday. Hours are Noon-5 p.m. on Friday and Sunday, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sat. Online store: [the-bricoleur.square.site/](https://the-bricoleur.square.site/)



# Have You Considered A Water Feature For Your Garden?

By Dan Waeltermann, OWNER, GRAND GARDEN SERVICES

One of the most overlooked aspects of a garden is water. Not the watering-of-plants water but bodies of water.

When I suggest to homeowners a water element to a garden plan, I tend to get resistance. Sometimes the concern from them is maintenance. Usually, the hesitation is because they never think of water gardens as the keystone to a garden's overall health. The benefits of water features to the rest of the garden cannot be overstated. Water attracts all sorts of wildlife. Most important are the pollinating bees and butterflies. Also birds of all feathers flock to watering holes. From hummingbirds and goldfinches to raptors like peregrine falcons and barred owls pay visits making water gardens open 24 hours a day.

The sound of burbling water is a known stress reliever and the cancelled noise of surrounding city life will make you feel miles away.

Not all water gardens are the same. Some can be mammoth 3-foot deep koi ponds with multiple waterfalls and submersible lighting. While others can be a simple self-contained tabletop bubbler to everything in between. Water gardening is as varied as plantings. Your creation is only limited by your style and budget.

If you're not sure about investing in a full-on water feature with koi and excavation of your yard then consider a simple and

affordable DIY version:

- 30-inch round x 12-inch deep black plastic tub (or similar, doesn't have to be exact)
- 200 GPH submersible pump with flow control valve and fountain attachments
- 1 water iris (potted), 2-3 water lettuce, 2-3 water hyacinth
- 20 clean bricks (used or new)

Place tub near a ground fault interrupter (GFI) outlet. Place water iris in tub (still in its container) near the back. Set pump in center of tub and connect fountain attachment. Begin stacking bricks in and around pump, filling in the void of the tub to two inches from top of tub. Fill tub with tap water just above bricks. The stacked bricks inside tub will allow a wading platform for birds. Plug in pump. Adjust pump to desired flow. Add in floating water lettuce and hyacinth, they will grow and multiply, acting as a landing pad for bees and butterflies to drink from.

Shop local! Recommended stores for supplies:

- Bayers Garden Shop (pump, aquatic plants)
- Garden Heights Nursery (aquatic plants)
- Southside True Value Hardware (black tub)
- Chalily Pond Store (all items)
- Kirkwood Material (Bricks, tub, pump)

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# How Orange Shellac Saved My Life

By Rich Iezzi

**O**K, the title might be a bit hyperbolic but I do love everything about orange shellac. Shellac is made from the secretions of the lac beetle found in the forests of India and Thailand and is used to protect and restore wood to its original appearance.

Why is orange shellac important in our Tower Grove Heights? Because it enhances our 100-year-old woodwork by adding a golden glow to make it look like the day it was made.

I learned about orange shellac from my late friend, Paul Carton, who was a neighborhood character known for his collection of clocks and pump organs. I invited Paul to see my pump organ restoration but he wasn't impressed by the polyurethane finish. "You need to use denatured alcohol and orange shellac," he demurred.

Using stripper removes the natural patina from wood and coating it with polyurethane can make the finish look yellow and plasticky.

Using denatured alcohol to remove old varnish saves the original patina but it's a bit of a process. Denatured alcohol is "denatured" because it includes additives to make it undrinkable (still smells good, though). Denatured alcohol has a low flash point so its use requires maximum ventilation. I prefer using it outside.

To remove old varnish, apply denatured alcohol to the surface until the original finish dissolves. Scrub everything with warm water and towel dry. It takes longer than chemical stripping but doesn't "kill" the wood.

I use orange shellac for so many things. If a polyurethaned floor becomes worn down to the wood, coating the affected area with orange shellac makes the wound almost invisible as it matches the existing floor patina. Adding a coat or two of orange shellac to dried-out looking woodwork immediately restores its natural color and luster. The storied "French finish" is accomplished by applying many thin coats of orange shellac and using 4,000 grit sandpaper to produce a mirror finish.



While other finishes might take a day to dry, shellac is ready for another coat in 10-15 minutes, letting you finish (no pun intended) a project in a day. Shellac also doesn't stink up your basement like oil products. It may cost more than varnish (\$18/quart) or polyurethane but there's no waste because it doesn't "skin over" like other products, even after years of storage.

I invited Paul over again to see my latest project on a different pump organ. This time I completely disassembled everything, removed the old surface with denatured alcohol and applied four coats of orange shellac. There it sat, fully assembled and playable after 100 years with its quarter sawn oak case warmly glowing in – orange shellac. Paul nodded and quietly said, "Yes."



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# Note from the Editor

By Barbara Gilchrist

**T**here are approximately 1000 households within the boundaries of Tower Grove Heights and about 350-400 members in the TGH Neighborhood Association at any one time. As you know – because every issue of the *Gazette* has a membership form – membership is determined by payment of very nominal dues by individuals, households and businesses. Membership means a vote or votes at meetings, but everyone is welcome to attend.

TGHNA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation – so what does the organization do with those dues? **Rick Stein, long-time treasurer for the Association, always provides a monthly report about income and expenditures and he makes an annual report in January for the previous year.** Based on his reporting, here is a list of typical expenditures: supplies, permits and signage for neighborhood-wide block party; permits for individual block parties; printing of the Buzz Book; rent for our P.O. Box; contribution for use of space for Association monthly meetings; and Heights Nights supplies.

The organization also makes annual donations to the Tower Grove Park Farmers' Market, Roosevelt High School breakfast for football and girl's achievements, and to the South Grand Business District. Other, similar donations, are made from time to time. Special fundraising efforts are sponsored by

the Association on an as-needed basis with one exception: 100 Neediest Cases, which is an annual effort. Other recent fundraisers have been for the purchase of security cameras and for a bench in Tower Grove Park to honor Officer Bohannon, who was killed in the line of duty in our neighborhood.

If you are not already a member, please use the form in this issue of the *Gazette* to join or join online at [towergroveheights.com](http://towergroveheights.com). If you want to receive information about meetings and other neighborhood news, please send an email to [communications@towergroveheights.com](mailto:communications@towergroveheights.com) and ask to be added to the MailChimp list (check your junk/spam folder, if you have signed up but don't appear to receive any of the low-volume notifications).

\* \* \* \* \*

We are always happy to receive articles from anyone interested in publishing in the *Gazette*. If you like to write, but do not have a topic, let us know and we will make a suggestion. We are also happy to include an advertisement.

## REAL ESTATE NEWS

### Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights this quarter

Street	Listed At	Days on Market	Sold Price
3700 Humphrey	\$359,900	115	\$330,000
3722 Hartford	\$359,000	5	\$385,000
3661 Hartford	\$450,000	6	\$541,000
3860 Connecticut	\$228,000	0	\$228,000
3654 Connecticut	\$450,000	0	\$457,300

E-mail questions to [jfloridastl@gmail.com](mailto:jfloridastl@gmail.com)  
1 under contract. 4 pending sales.



## Do You Have an Exterior Security Camera?

By Barbara Gilchrist

The Safety Committee is compiling a list of camera locations in the Heights to help the police in the event a crime or suspicious activity occur. Rather than knocking on doors, the St. Louis Police Department can contact the Chair of the Safety Committee to find out what cameras are in the relevant area. The list will not be published or shared with anyone other than the police or, with permission of the owner, in other, appropriate circumstances.

If you do have an exterior security camera, you can help keep the neighborhood safer by sending your name, address and phone number to [safety@towergroveheights.com](mailto:safety@towergroveheights.com).



### 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 your 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

### Membership level choices:

- ☐ **INDIVIDUAL** (1 vote) \$10/year
- ☐ **HOUSEHOLD** (2 votes) \$15/year
- ☐ **ASSOCIATE** (non-voting) \$10/year
- ☐ **LIFETIME INDIVIDUAL** (1 vote) \$100 single payment
- ☐ **LIFETIME HOUSEHOLD** (2 votes) \$200 single payment
- ☐ **BUSINESS** (1 vote) \$25/year
- ☐ **LIFETIME BUSINESS** (1 vote) \$500 single payment

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Include my name, address and contact information in the TGHNA Buzz Book:

☐ Yes ☐ No

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TGHNA is a 501(c)(3) organization



# Flashback Feature

"Just for fun and to provide a sense of TGH history, we are re-publishing a selection of items/articles from previous issues of the Gazette. This page is from Vol. 1 #5 April 29, 1989.  
(All previous Gazette issues are available at [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com). Click on the Resources tab.)"

## CLASSIFIEDS

The classifieds are open to all TGH residents at a cost of \$1.25 for two lines, \$.50 for every line thereafter. If you would like to place a classified call Janice 776-5780 or Tom 776-6270.

**Full kitchen cabinet \$200** - Call Rich at 772-4987

**For Sale:** Commodore 64 computer, disc drive, 1525 printer, modem, lots of software, magazines. \$350 Linda at 773-0409

**Congratulations to Paul, Margie & Franz...**and welcome to the newest Meyer on the 3800 block of Connecticut - Janice & Ben

**POOL** - 16 ft. diameter, above ground, excellent condition, complete \$350. Relax this summer. Call Jack Hurov at 776-6939

**WANTED** - Old-fashion pump organs in any condition. Call Rich at 772-4987

**Beautiful 5 large rooms** bright upstairs apartment. Hardwood floors, no pets, appliances furnished. 38XX Connecticut. Wonderful landlords. Call 771-7434.

**Garage Sale:** May 20, 3802 Hartford, 9:30am. Much variety, Don't miss it!

## Porchlight Safety

Would you spend a penny a day to reduce your risk of burglary and assault by 80%. That's all it costs to leave your porchlight on all night. Imagine a burglar driving down your street deciding which house to break into. Statistics prove that he will choose the house that has a poorly lit exterior. A timer or photo-electric cell is inexpensive (\$5-\$10) and assures that your porchlight will always be on when needed. A dimmer reduces the cost of operating your porchlight and increases the life of the bulb by a factor of 10 or more. Imagine every house on your block with the porchlight on . . . and then work to make it a reality.



## A MESSAGE FROM TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

It's spring in Tower Grove Heights! Flowers and friends that haven't been seen in months will soon reappear. This is the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association's second official spring. Last year we celebrated the season with the first annual Tower Grove Heights Open House and by winning 3rd place in Operation Brightside's Blitz. That spring the Journal wrote an article about our great neighborhood because they were impressed with the vitality of the members.

Spring was a busy time for the association and momentum picked up in the summer of 1988. Meetings were held on crime prevention, home security, the Conservation District and Operation ConServ. In the blistering heat of August, the first Gazette rolled off the presses and was greeted with complimentary phone calls from City Hall and neighboring associations. Earlier that summer many of us participated in the Third District Police

Picnic and discussed ways we could work better with our police force. After a meeting with city hall's Milt Svetanic, the Tower Grove South Housing Corporation was formed to purchase and improve problem properties in the 15th Ward.

Fall arrived with more bulb plantings and our own monthly street clean-ups. By December, the spirit of the association was felt at the Christmas Social and we watched ourselves on TV many times when our Christmas light displays were featured. Throughout the winter, we were delighted to have the Post-Dispatch and Journal display pictures and articles about our Tower Grove Heights. We also received many letters of support, including one from Aldermanic President, Tom Villa.

This spring our goal is again to help the neighborhood any way we can. It doesn't seem like 18-months have passed since the idea of reinstating the Tower Grove Heights name to the area was discussed at

a block party. In retrospect, more was restored that day than just a name. Many traditional neighborhood pleasures have returned such as progressive dinners, softball games in Tower Grove Park, block parties, and Christmas light displays. At a glance, the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association seems headed in two directions: back to the past and off to the future. While we have always enjoyed the comforts of tradition, our progress and hope lie in the future. We still have much to do to realize the full potential of our area and we look to 1989 for continued success. Like anything else worth doing, this takes time, hard work and money. We thank you for your past support and hope you continue to support your neighborhood association by becoming a paid member and an active volunteer. The success of Tower Grove Heights is in the strength of its membership. Please join us.

—Jean Iezzi





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## Summer's Bounty

By Pat Edwards

"Summer was on the way; Jem and I awaited it with impatience. Summer was our best season; it was sleeping on the back screen porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the tree house; summer was everything good to eat: it was a thousand colors in a parched landscape; but most of all summer was Dill." (From *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee)

The friendships of summer are special and often different for us than the rest of the year. We travel, maybe go back home to visit our old stomping grounds or if we are lucky, dear old friends come to visit us.

The following are a few ideas for summer entertaining, be it in your backyard, at the park or in the comfort of your home.

Ina Garten's recipe for vegetable tian is delicious and is loaded with the vegetables summer brings.

When it's blistering hot out try this refreshing frozen alcoholic drink. It's very easy and can be kept in the freezer for months. Make it the day before you want to serve it (or well before) so it has a chance to get slushy.

### Frozen Daiquiris

1-6 oz. can frozen lime (my preference) or lemonade



By Katie Wolf, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist

It's hoped that the presence of lights and security cameras will deter the bad action. But in case the action happens, cameras can help officers capture the offenders. Coordinating the need to review camera footage with appropriately placed cameras is often where communication breaks down.

How are other neighborhoods corraling the power of cameras and helping SLMPD make use of neighborhood resources? I will explain how some neighborhoods are organizing private security cameras with a Camera Coordinator.

Several neighborhoods (Benton Park, Benton Park West, Marine

Villa) have residents who are associated with its neighborhood association who act as the point of contact for the neighborhood camera program. The Camera Coordinator doesn't always have to be associated with the neighborhood association, but that does seem to help in the neighborhoods mentioned above.

The first step is to find a volunteer who wants to act as Camera Coordinator. This person will make themselves available to create and maintain a spreadsheet of private cameras. They will also reach out to SLMPD and let them know about the program. And finally, they will be ready to take the contact information from residents who want to participate, and be willing to be the liaison between SLMPD and residents with cameras.

It would be announced at neighborhood meetings, on the website, on the emails, etc., that residents who have security cameras AND WISH TO SHARE INFO WITH SLMPD should contact the Camera Coordinator. The Camera Coordinator would then take down contact and camera placement info, and add it to a spreadsheet.

In the meantime, the Camera Coordinator would introduce themselves to SLMPD through the Liaison Officer or other contact (some districts have specific detectives who collect video evidence). Then, the communication can begin between SLMPD and the Camera Coordinator.

If a crime occurs, SLMPD would ask the Camera Coordinator if there are any cameras in a specific area. If there are, the Coordinator would email residents listed on the camera



6 oz. water  
 4 1/2 oz. light rum  
 16 oz. lemon lime soda (i.e., 7Up, Sprite)

Mix all the above in a container that can go in the freezer. Cover and freeze. Stir every six hours or so, you want it to be slushy. Spoon into a rocks glass and serve with a small straw for stirring and slurping. Serves 4. Easily doubled, tripled etc. (If left in the freezer for a longer period it will be semi-solid. Scrape off layers and mush it around when transferring it to a glass.)

The cornucopia of fruits and vegetables summer provides makes it easy on the cook to please everyone's palate. Pickling vegetables is easy and can be made well ahead of your get together. Try cauliflower, carrots, green beans, beets, asparagus. The possibilities are endless and also makes for a great host(ess) gift. Ina Garten's recipe\* for vegetable tian is delicious and is loaded with the vegetables summer brings. Try it, you won't be disappointed. Let the entree wait until after your guests arrive. Everyone can have a drink in hand, gather around the grill and deliberate the best way to cook a pork



steak. Here are a few other ideas besides the perennial favorite:

marinated shrimp...great as a simple quick cooking appetizer  
 boneless leg of lamb  
 stuffed portobello mushrooms  
 your favorite fish wrapped in a foil packet seasoned with salt, pepper, butter or olive oil, sliced leeks, lemon slices, fresh thyme. Use your imagination!  
 marinated tofu sausages (on some sliced Union Loafers bread with mustard = heaven!) kebobs

A slice of watermelon is the perfect ending to a summer meal for some. You can even have fun by participating in a seed spitting contest. For others, (myself, included) sugar is the reward for eating the meal. If you are in that camp, dessert can be as simple as gelato, ice cream sandwiches or drumsticks to keep things on the cool side or the embers from your grill will do a fine job toasting marshmallows for s'mores if gooey goodness is what you crave.

Enjoy some outdoor living and have a great summer!

**\* Vegetable Tian Recipe**  
 Ina Garten  
 Food Network

spreadsheet and ask if they caught anything on camera. The Coordinator would then relay this information to SLMPD, who would follow up with residents as needed.

Alternatively, if someone captures any criminal behavior on camera, they can let the Coordinator know, and the Coordinator can let the SLMPD contact know.

This way, one person keeps up with the database and resident contact info. One person acts as contact for SLMPD. The list and the actions stay manageable. From experience, it is hard work to keep asking for camera information. Interest ebbs and flows, and people and cameras come and go. It is easier to build it and let them come.

The addresses on the database can also be used to map out sections of the neighborhood that need more camera coverage. Requested data can help map out crime trends and help neighbors focus on targeted security.

Tower Grove Heights is in a great position to have a Camera Coordinator. TGHNA has a robust Safety Committee (looking for a new chairperson, and always looking for dedicated members – could be you!)

The Safety Committee is working on camera mapping right now. If you have exterior security cameras, please register them at [safety@towergroveheights.com](mailto:safety@towergroveheights.com). Thanks!



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# KIDS PARTY



**3800 Wyoming**  
This impromptu gathering is becoming a spring tradition. It's a safe way for the little ones in the neighborhood to have a blast and for parents to catch up with other parents on the block. It's a casual affair that's all about the kids with lots of play things and food that appeals to the younger crowd.







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## Lights in the Heights

By Rich Iezzi

**R**ecently, I noticed something was different about our house. The front porch light burned out and its light no longer came through the front transom window to illuminate our entry. Walking down the stairs to a dark entry felt unwelcoming.

I forgot to change the porchlight for a few days and was amazed at how difficult it was to find our outside front door lock in the dark. My shadow blocked the glow of the street lights, putting the door lock in a black void. Once the bulb was changed, everything went back in balance again.

Porchlights have been emphasized in our Tower Grove Heights for years starting with our early “nickel-a-night” campaign. Back then, the best option was to use a 60-watt bulb and fire it up at night and turn it off in the morning. We also had magic little discs that we’d install under the bulb to reduce wattage.

Today, energy efficient bulbs make things so easy. To get the same 60-watt light output, these bulbs use just nine watts or even less.

What can only  
be described  
as a Zen-like  
transition  
between what  
is real and  
imagined makes  
a fun nighttime  
visit.

Based on Ameren’s current energy rates, a 9-watt bulb costs about two cents for 24 hours of use. Two cents a day makes it easy to leave your porchlight on all the time. Even better, the new bulbs have a longer life. A 60-watt incandescent bulb lasts 1,000 hours while an equivalent LED has a 25,000-hour life. If left on 24 hours/day, the LED would stay lit for almost three years.

With the porchlight issue in mind, I conducted an unscientific study of the best lit blocks in the Heights. What I didn’t expect was the variety of lighting we have. Yes, party lights and Christmas lights that illuminate the front of a building certainly counted as porchlights. A lot of thought went into designs that ranged from vintage bulbs to high tech stuff.

My favorite porchlight display appears near the southwest end of 3800 Humphrey. What can only be described as a Zen-like transition between what is real and imagined makes a fun nighttime visit. Don’t miss the lawn lights.

While I was excited to do the light survey, the results seemed to make my article superfluous. I counted 529 lit porchlights out of 676 buildings in the Heights, producing a 79% participation rate. Incredible.

Judging only on total lit porchlights, the 3800 block of Humphrey rings the bell with 50 (!). However, since the number of houses varies per block, the adjusted winners, based on percentage of houses lit are: 3600-3700 Utah - 95%, 3600-3700 Hartford - 94% and 3800 Utah with 87% of homes with lit porchlights. Impressive.

I intended to close my porchlight story with “please flip it on and keep it on” but all I need now is the “please keep it on” portion. Yea for all the lights in the Heights!

# President's Message

By Jennifer Florida

It fills my heart with joy to see so many people out and about enjoying our beautiful neighborhood. I am so ready for the spring/summer vibe! There are opportunities for us to connect. Heights Night events are a great way to patronize a local business and get to know your neighbors. South Grand has planned District-wide events including some fun happenings in Ritz Park (next to the King and I restaurant) from now through December. Our Tower Grove Park is celebrating 150 years as our very own historic landmark park!



Jennifer Florida

Do you have exterior security cameras? Please register them with the Safety Committee ([safety@towergroveheights.com](mailto:safety@towergroveheights.com)). This is a voluntary registry to assist SLMPD in the incidence of a crime.

Zoom meetings are not ideal, not for me – just saying. We are working on improving access. We hope to provide relevant information and a virtual place to gather. Please pop in – everyone is welcome! The Zoom link to our meetings can be found on the website and is emailed to the TGHNA notification list via MailChimp. (If clicking on the link doesn't work, try typing it in directly.) Meetings are on fourth Tuesdays (January through November) at 7:15 p.m. Hope to see you soon!

## News from Carpenter Library

By Tonnya Joy ([tjoy@slpl.org](mailto:tjoy@slpl.org))



Earlier this spring, St. Louis Public Library and St. Louis County Library migrated to a shared integrated library system (ILS), providing library cardholders access to nearly 5 million items! The new ILS allows customers from both library systems to seamlessly view, request, receive, and check out material at the library of their choice.

Having trouble accessing your SLPL account online? During the upgrade, all PIN numbers were reset to MMDD of the birthday on file. Once cardholders have successfully logged in, they may personalize their PIN once again. Customers with questions can call 314-241-2288 or email [customerservice@slpl.org](mailto:customerservice@slpl.org).



What is a 7-letter word for a great place to have fun in St. Louis? LIBRARY! On June 18 from 1- 4:30 p.m. Carpenter welcomes

Patrick Blindauer to conduct, oversee and challenge you at the Library's 1st STL Crossword Puzzle Tournament. All you will need to bring is a few sharp pencils and your thinking cap as these puzzles will range from the easy to teeth-grinding hard. Patrick Blindauer is a multi-published puzzler with The New York Times whose work has also appeared in The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and GAMES magazine.

Seating is limited and registration is required. This event is for adults 18 years old and up. To register, visit [slpl.org](http://slpl.org) and click on "Events Calendar."

3309 South Grand Blvd. 63118  
314-772-6586  
[www.slpl.org](http://www.slpl.org)



**"Patrick Blindauer to conduct, oversee and challenge you at the library's 1st STL Crossword Puzzle Tournament." June 18th from 1 p.m.- 4:30 p.m**



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[communications@towergroveheights.com](mailto:communications@towergroveheights.com)

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