

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 26, No. 3

Autumn 2015

AUTUMN FEST in the Heights 2015



BY MARILYN
BROWNING

On Saturday, October 10th, 2015 Tower Grove Heights will once again celebrate fall color and cooler weather with Autumn Fest in the Heights. This year three great neighborhood locations will play host to the event, which runs from 5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. and beyond.

Long-time Tower Grove Heights residents Elaine and Peter Haynes will open their home and back yard at 3610 Utah Place as the first stop of the celebration. Register at the door or pick up your pre-registered name tag that will be your entrance pass for all the fun. Another great selection of appetizers will be featured this year, generously donated by area restaurants and neighborhood residents. A broad selection of wine and beer, as well as soft drinks for the kids, will be available.

Down the street at 3801 Utah Place, neighborhood baker extraordinaire Pat Edwards and her husband John Papa will be the hosts of our dessert and coffee site. Pat has always amazed and delighted us with the vast array of desserts born of her culinary talent, and this year promises to be no exception.

A stroll or ride to Hartford will bring you to Nick Taylor and Metra Mitchell-Taylor's home at 3883 Hartford. This stop is for those of you having such a good time that you aren't ready to call it a night. Nick and Metra are experienced Autumn Fest hosts by now, since this is the third year they've volunteered to open their home and back yard to us. Wine, beer, snacks, and whatever else Metra and Nick have dreamed up will be available. Stop by to say hello, and bring your friends both old and new.

This year we'll be doing something new and exciting in the way of neighborhood traveling. Pedicabs from Saint Louis Rickshaw will be cycling down our streets in the crisp fall air starting at 6:00p.m. and continuing until 9:00p.m. You may have seen them in Soulard, Lafayette Park, and downtown plying their trade. Now's your chance to take a ride yourself! The price of the ride is included in your registration.



As always Autumn Fest in the Heights is open to all, whether you're a resident or not, so bring your family, friends and out-of-town guests and discover how much fun this neighborhood party is. Registration forms are available on the back page of the Gazette, and at 3801 Utah. Going paperless?

Go to www.towergroveheights.com to register online!

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Autumn Fest in the Heights</i>	.....1
<i>TGP's - New Director</i>	.....3
<i>Height's Night</i>	.....4
<i>Ritziata</i>	.....5
<i>King of Mudrooms</i>	.....6
<i>A City that Reads Together</i>	.....7
<i>Guerrilla St. Food's Opening</i>	.....9
<i>TGHNA Most Members</i>	.....10
<i>The D-I-Y Lie</i>	.....11
<i>Garage Oasis</i>	.....12
<i>A Neighborhood Stroll</i>	.....14
<i>Real Estate News</i>	.....15
<i>Autumn Fest Registration</i>	.....16



www.towergroveheights.com



Support Your Gazette Advertisers

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

is brought to you quarterly by:

FOUNDING EDITOR:

Janice Nesser

COPY EDITOR:

Debra Knox Deiermann

EDITING TEAM:

Rich Iezzi, Kyle Froese

BUSINESS AND AD SALES:

Rich Iezzi, Sarah Truckey

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Marilyn Browning, Tricia Heliker, Rich Iezzi,

Ellen Wilson, Mindy Rouff,

Abigail Miller, Sara Langan,

Andrew Wanko, Deborah Ervin

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Marilyn Browning, Rich Iezzi, Ellen Wilson,

Tricia Heliker, Sara Langan

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

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

www.towergroveheights.com

TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MEETINGS

are held at the

First Church of Divine Science

3617 Wyoming

at 7:15 pm on the

4th Tuesday of every month

(except December)

SEPTMEBER 22ND 2015

OCTOBER 27TH 2015

NOVEMBER 24TH 2015

Everyone is Welcome to Attend!



**Tower
Grove
Homes**

In the Business of Neighborhood Building

For more information
on homes for sale
or lease, call
Susie Gudermuth
(314) 771-7097

Urban living
with
a small
town feel.



**Come in for
a test save.**

Total average
savings of **\$825***
when you combine home and auto policies.

Call my office for a quote 24/7.

Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®

Scott R Holdridge, Ins Agcy Inc

Scott R Holdridge, Agent

1902 Arsenal Street

St Louis, MO 63118

scottholdridge.net

Bus: 314-664-5433

 **State Farm™**

*Average annual per household savings based on a national 2012 survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company; State Farm Indemnity Company; State Farm Fire and Casualty Company; State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

1001187.1 (05/09)



**Our idea of
paperwork.**

**Money. You need it.
We have it. Just ask.**

Loans for whatever you need.



Commerce Bank
Member FDIC

commercebank.com / 314.746.8201

Tower Grove Banking Center / 3134 South Grand

BILL REININGER – *Tower Grove Park's New Director*

BY
MARILYN
BROWNING

“I feel like I hit the trifecta.”

I'm sitting in the office of Bill Reininger, who started his new job as Tower Grove Park Director on July 13th and he's giving me his first impressions of the job.

“First I worked for Missouri Botanical Garden as a horticulturalist and learned about Henry Shaw and his vision. Then I worked for a decade for Forest Park, one of the great urban parks. And now here I am, the new director of Tower Grove Park, another great Henry Shaw legacy.”

Plenty of Reininger's time these first weeks is being taken up with getting to know everyone involved with our Victorian walking park. Staff, friends of the park, the board of directors, corporate sponsors, docents, aldermen, and neighborhood associations (like us)—everyone, it seems, has a vested interest in the future of Tower Grove Park.

What's the biggest challenge facing the park? “Money is always an issue, to put it in the baldest way. It takes a lot to maintain and improve the park, especially when you're trying to keep up with the latest and best technology and practices for things like tree care and planting. Each tree has a lifespan, and replacement trees in various stages of development have to be in place.”

One example of new technology is a proposed project that would use map-generating software to display the current tree inventory. In that way you could generate a custom map of any given tree species and care for all of them at once.

It turns out, however, that the most costly part of maintaining the park isn't the planting beds, lawn areas or trees. It's the structures. It's no coincidence that the park's Martinis at the Mansion fundraiser this year will donate proceeds to restore (again!) the Chinese Pavilion, one of the best-loved and most-used structures in the park. Many of the buildings and shelters in the park are over 140 years old, and like your own house, require plenty of ongoing care to look their best.

And speaking of houses, I ask if Reininger has plans to move into the director's residence. Not any time in the near future, it turns out. He has a young son and daughter, and the house simply doesn't have the conveniences (like central air conditioning and separate bedrooms) that would suit a family of four. Instead he sees the house, with some renovation, becoming a place to host events or even function as a bed and breakfast for wedding party members. In that way the house could generate much-needed revenue for the park.

“Maybe my wife and I will move in when the kids go off to college,” he tells me, which leads me to ask if this means he's in it for the long haul. “Absolutely,” he says with a smile.



BILL REININGER



**Parenting
RESOURCES**

**St. Louis' Premier Education and Support
Center for Pregnancy, Childbirth
and Early Parenting**

What We Do

- Baby Showers & Sip and Sees
- Babywearing Help
- Breastfeeding Classes
- Breastfeeding Consultations
- CEUs for Healthcare Providers
- Childbirth Education
- Events for Expectant Families
- Health, Nutrition, & Wellness
- Kids Art, Music & Yoga
- Newborn Care Classes
- Parenting Workshops
- Playgroups & Meetups
- Prenatal Education & Support
- Prenatal and Baby & Me Yoga
- Products for Mom & Baby
- Sibling Classes
- Support Groups



Pregnancy & Birth
Empowered Beginnings

Progressive, evidence based classes and groups focused on healthy pregnancy and informed birth.

Preparing for Baby
You've got this!

Our prenatal classes will ensure you feel fully prepared for your bundle of joy to enter the world.

Early Parenting
Supporting Your Journey

We offer a variety of positive parenting workshops, groups, and events as well as child enrichment for infants through preschoolers.

Products
Making Things a Little Easier

Baby Carriers, Baby Care Products, Cloth Diapers, Green Toys, Breast & Bottle Feeding Supplies, Baby Gifts

ParentingResources.org • (314) 332-2582
3801 Wyoming Street, Tower Grove Heights, St. Louis MO 63116

**“Enough shovels
of earth
– a mountain.
Enough pails
of water
– a beer.”**

– South City Proverb

***Please support
your local tavern.***

Lucas Optometry, Inc

TODD N. LUCAS, O.D.

**Eye Examinations
Contact Lenses
Eye Glasses**

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

***Participatory Provider for
Blue Choice Group Health Plan and Many Other
Vision & Eye Health Plans***

Office Hours By Appointment (314) 772-3737

Height's Night

BY TRICIA
HELIKER

Those who live in the area are aware of the benefits of living near the businesses on Grand South Grand and the Morganford strip, as well as those businesses that are sprinkled throughout the neighborhood. The board of TGHNA recognizes that it is mutually beneficial for the neighborhood and the businesses to support and encourage each other.

As a way to keep that relationship flourishing, the board dubbed the second Tuesday of the month “Height’s Night.” During the warmer months, one establishment is selected for each month and residents are encouraged to gather and socialize at that location. If it is a business that serves food, that food is offered to the group at a discount. If food is not sold, then the neighborhood association provides beverages and appetizers for those in attendance. In addition, \$50 in gift certificates is awarded at the neighborhood meeting and on the Tower Grove Heights Community Facebook page.

Tower Grove Creamery was the first location for this season. Tower Grove East was invited to join in this event. It was a relaxed gathering of families all enjoying the many flavors of Central Dairy ice cream from Jefferson City, MO. That was followed by a trip to The London Tea Room on Morganford. Normally, they are closed in the evening, but they made an exception for this event. Everyone enjoyed catching up with neighbors while sipping their favorite tea and indulging in English pastries.

Dunaway Books was our host for May. Beth and Phillip Weeks prepared and served the beverages and appetizers and the guests browsed the bookshelves. Those lucky enough to have won the gift certificates were especially eager to turn them in for a good read. Rooster introduced their new Popsicle during Height’s Night at their establishment. A private room was designated for those attending and the staff went out of their way to make it a great night.

For July we chose the newly-remodeled Vine restaurant for delicious Mediterranean appetizers. It was a great chance to sample a variety of foods without committing to something never tried before. I believe The Vine acquired a new fan base that night. Service was perfection and the food was scrumptious.

As this issue goes to press we are preparing to visit Patrick Weber at Aesh Designs on the corner of Spring and Connecticut. The plan is to make this night a little different from the others by bringing in a taste treat no one can pass up in August.

That leaves September 8 as the last Height’s Night for 2015. Mark your calendar to gather at Guerrilla Street Food, 3559 Arsenal from 6-8 p.m. on the eighth and welcome a taste of the Philippines to South Grand. Be on the lookout for those gift certificates, too.

A few months ago Rachel Witt, Executive Director at South Grand Community Improvement District, invited artists to submit a proposal for an art installation at the Ritz Park between Hartford and Juniata. That request garnered nine submissions and by a vote of the public, Ritzitata by Walter Gunn was selected as the favorite. If you have not seen the rendering of this remarkable entry, check it out here: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/south-grand-s-ritz-park-art-installation/x/11663181#/story>. Mr. Gunn's creative replication of the old Ritz/Juniata theater façade connects this park to its past in a classy and contemporary manner. It will be exciting to see the completed structure unfold along the east end of the park.



But a structure of this magnitude entails engineering and construction expertise along with the artistic elements that were laid out in the proposal. A campaign to fund this project has already been started on IndieGoGo. The goal of \$133,000 was 1% funded as of August 1st. This goal was based on a preliminary estimate of cost. However, once funds are available for a more detailed analysis, this figure may be lowered. A variety of perks are being offered for various contribution levels. These incentives include tote bags, launch party invites, and a private water tower tour. A contribution of \$5000 entitles you to an individual permanent name plaque to be installed in the park. Anyone wishing to donate more than \$5000 should call 314-772-5750 or use this contact info: Catherine@southgrand.org.

This design by Mr. Gunn integrates a magnificent artistic impression with history and location in a way that is seamless and timeless. Remember, the sooner this project is funded, the sooner we will all be able to enjoy what has been created for South Grand and for our neighborhood.



www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones

INVESTMENTS



Afifa Yusof
Financial Advisor

3141 South Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63118
314-772-5304
Afifa.Yusof@edwardjones.com

Member SIPC

Meeting on your schedule, not ours.

Face-to-face meetings. One-on-one relationships.

How did Edward Jones become one of the biggest financial services companies in the country? By not acting like one.

With more than 10,000 offices. Including the hundreds in St. Louis.

When you're working to achieve your financial objectives, you will encounter obstacles — some of which can't be easily anticipated. Nonetheless, you need to be aware that these challenges are out there — and plan for them.

For starters, to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term emergencies, such as a major car repair, consider establishing an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, held in a liquid account.

In looking at the bigger picture, if you were ever temporarily disabled, the loss of income could be devastating. To protect yourself, consider disability insurance. And to guard your family's future should anything happen to you, you'll need life insurance. And if you ever need an extended stay in a nursing home, the cost could mount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. You may want to "transfer the risk" to an insurance company.

As an investor, you can take positive steps to prepare for the unexpected — and those steps should lead you in the right direction as you move toward your important goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

KING OF MUDROOMS



BY
RICH
IEZZI

I was talking with Utah residents Jeff and Janet Blunt recently and somehow the subject of “mudrooms” came up. Jeff mentioned there was a “king of mudrooms” on his block and I decided to check it out.

The mudroom belongs to Elaine and Pete Haynes who’ve lived at 3610 South Utah Place for the past 21 years. At first I was going to title this story, “The Mudroom Man” but Elaine seemed just as excited about it as Pete.

3610 Utah is one of my favorite houses because it looks like it’s been sleeping for the past 100 years. In a way, it has. I’d never seen the inside before but it was exactly what I expected – pristine, right down to the natural woodwork, original fireplace mantels and quarter sawn oak floor with its inlaid border.

When I picture a mudroom, I think of an area off the main living space that’s utilitarian and hopefully out of sight. As Elaine led me from the kitchen to the



mudroom, I didn’t know where I was. It was like an extension of the kitchen but it was a different room with a different feel. My biggest problem was believing it wasn’t original to the house. Pete told me, “We really wanted the new space to match the front of the house” and it’s almost too perfect. From the outside, the new matching brick support columns, random limestone foundation and marble steps are exactly what the original builders would have done.

On the inside, there’s original-looking octagonal floor tile and woodwork that matches the rest of the house. I stood in front of a new door but didn’t know what to do with it because it didn’t have a doorknob. Then I saw the overhead hardware and realized it was a sliding door – nice touch. The door hides a half bath that was added with the mudroom. The bathroom is a surprise because it’s completely out of sight.

The new mudroom is big. There are three doorway entrances, a hallway, half bath and additional space for storage. When I asked Elaine about her favorite part, she said, “The hidden bathroom and the buffer that the mudroom provides for the kitchen.”

Pete and Elaine’s house will host the upcoming Autumn Fest and I encouraged them to have the “before” pictures available. Looking at the mudroom from the backyard, it’s really hard to believe it’s less than a year old.

I’m not sure about that “mudroom” name, though. It’s a room but I sure didn’t see any mud, nor would I expect to. I’m thinking that with a room that pretty, the mudroom might need a . . . mudroom.

My biggest problem was believing it wasn’t original to the house.



A City that Reads Together Stays Together

by **Ellen Wilson** I think at one point there were four librarians just on my block alone and since my mother had been a librarian her entire career, I felt right at home.

I found out about the Little Free Library program by seeing these cute miniature houses-on-a-stick pop up here and there. When opened, they all had books inside. It took a while to realize that the books were there for the picking and pick I did.

I had wanted to get my own Little Library, but after researching the program and trying to figure out how to make a waterproof, weatherproof, and theft-resistant box, it seemed too big a task. My son had been taking art classes at the South Broadway Art Project (SBAP) for several years and I saw that they had a summer camp on making library boxes, but we had missed the deadline for it. I tried my luck anyway and they had an extra one.

I brought it home and solicited help from the neighborhood kids, Lily and Charlie Casey and West Wilson, to paint it. Being the adult of the group, I thought I had the best idea of what to do with it, but was quickly found out as the artist fraud that I am when they had significantly better ideas than mine.

In short order we had paint, decorations, and many quotes from our favorite books covering the box. Then came the dilemma of how to set it up. I can dig a hole, but didn't know the first thing about how to get a stick to hold a box until neighbor Rich Iezzi came to the rescue.

So now we have a neighborhood made, designed, painted, installed, and stocked free library box for all to enjoy. Stop by. We have already had some book exchange and a nice note (thanks, Tami). Pick out a book and take it home. Take a book to a restaurant to read while you wait. Drop off a book you liked and want to share. Grown up, young adult, kid, toddler, baby – whatever you have or want, stop by to give or take. Come by and see if you can place the book quotes. Come by just to see it. 3600 block of Juniata, just two houses west of Grand. #

Pick out a book and take it home.

Assembled by SBAP

Designed by Lily Casey

Painted by Lily Casey,
Charlie Casey,
and West Wilson

Installed by Rich Iezzi

In case you are interested
in the mentioned programs:
Little Free Library:
www.littlefreelibrary.org

Our box is registered, but it takes
a few weeks to get on their map.
South Broadway Art Project:
www.southbroadwayartproject.org



BURKARTS WOODWORKS

We make every kind of trim for the inside or outside of your house!

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

- Custom & Pre-Primed Molding
- Stock Products
- Wood Paneling
- Moldings available in MDF
- Curved & Radius Moldings
- Sanding & Planing

1.5 miles from Tower Grove Heights • Neighborhood Referrals Available
No need for special milling, we stock most trim designs • Family owned

BURKART'S WOODWORKS, INC. • M-F: 7AM-3:30PM
2500 OHIO AVE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63104
314-771-7727 WWW.BURKARTSWOODWORKS.COM





P R E M I E R
REALTY EXCLUSIVE
Premier Properties, Exceptional Service

We Live, Love, & Sell
TOWER GROVE

Let Us Help You!

PremierRealtySTL.com
314•772•4868

The Premier Team has sold over 100 million in St. Louis real estate with over 20 Million SOLD in Tower Grove South.

With our office located in Tower Grove and all team members residing here, we offer the best opportunity for home buyer's and seller's in the area.



Guerrilla Street Food's Grand Opening: The Guerrillas Take It Off The Streets

BY
**MINDY
ROUFF**

The word, “guerrilla” calls to mind revolution and the name “Guerrilla Street Food” partly derives from its owners’ desire “to spark a revolution” in how people think about food. Certainly, they were part of the revolution in how St. Louisans dine out: they were the third food truck in the city, serving their first dish in July 2011. Like any good guerrillas, Chef Brian Hardesty and co-owner Joel Crespo started with a dream and a plan, which included opening a brick and mortar restaurant. They made the leap from food truck to restaurant on July 21, 2015 at 3559 Arsenal Street.

I mentioned a dream and a plan so let’s start with the dream. Before they purchased their food truck, Joel and Brian wanted to make local, fresh, filling, fine dining style food for an affordable price. This mission came first, before they even knew what type of food they wanted to serve, and it was reiterated throughout our interview. However, their food is anything but an afterthought.

They also won my husband’s award for “Life-changing Sandwich.”

In 2014, GSF won a national competition, garnering Andrew Zimmern’s “The Munchies” award for “Best Food Truck.” Local publications, like the Riverfront Times and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch/Go! Magazine, have awarded them “Best Food Truck” numerous times. They also won my husband’s award for “Life-changing Sandwich.” OK, so it wasn’t an actual award, but my VERY restrained husband did once describe one of their sandwiches as “transformative.” Is this the first sign that a revolution is under way, when the dispassionate become guerrillas?

Incidentally, the food they chose to serve is Filipino. Co-owner Joel is first generation Filipino American and he told me everyone in his family cooks so he brought knowledge of Filipino food and culture to their partnership while Chef Brian contributed many years of fine dining experience.

For those people who aren’t lucky enough to live near the new restaurant, don’t worry, the food truck is not going anywhere—well, technically, it is going everywhere. As for their grand plan, they intend to maintain both a physical restaurant and a food truck, and if all goes well, the next step will be a second brick and mortar restaurant as well as a second truck. Eventually, they want to expand to other cities and they enjoy privately tossing around possibilities. They didn’t reveal the contenders to me, perhaps because guerrillas must maintain the element of surprise.

Loyal fans of GSF’s food truck will be in for only pleasant surprises, though, when they visit the Arsenal location. For one, with the restaurant, they have more than doubled the size of the food truck menu and they hope to eventually triple it. Secondly, some of the additions to the restaurant’s menu are past Chef’s specials—one or limited time only offerings—from the food truck. My husband is hoping the sandwich he loved so much, the Q-bert, will find a permanent home at the restaurant. However, Brian and Joel haven’t lost their sense of adventure and they plan to do Chef’s specials at the restaurant so Brian can continue to explore different styles of Filipino cooking. As Joel noted, the Philippines encompasses a lot of islands with a wide variety of food. Thirdly, the restaurant looks great with beautiful wood tables, chairs, and counters all made by Brian’s soon-to-be father-in-law. Brian credited all this donated labor with helping them make the financial leap from food truck to restaurant. Lastly, the restaurant is open until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. With these late hours, you can catch the food truck somewhere for dinner and go to the restaurant for late night munchies.

GROOMING • BOARDING • DAYCARE

TOWER GROVE SOUTH
3892 Wyoming St.
(314) 664-3647

WEST END
5595 Pershing
(314) 875-0087

Healthy Holistic
BLUE



A WALK IN THE PARK

PETKO'S ROOFING COMPANY INC.

Family Owned & Operated Since 1974

*Get the job done
right the first time.*

RESIDENTIAL • **FULLY INSURED**
— AND — • **WORKMAN'S**
COMMERCIAL • **COMP. INSURED**

"Flat roofs
are our
specialty!"

Located 2 miles from TGHT's
3540 Missouri, St. Louis, MO

call: **314.773.2893**

email: petkos.roofing@aol.com

**Referrals
Available**



BY TRICIA HELIKER

The winner's circle has been established. It developed as a way to recognize the Tower Grove Heights street with the most memberships at the end of the membership drive each year.

Debra Knox Deiermann took on the task of making an award a reality. Ideas were tossed around. She took those ideas to Chris Bronson, our resident profile in the last issue of the Gazette. As an illustrator and animator, he had the skills to pull those ideas together into a professional drawing that could be taken to the printer. Like so many wonderful volunteers in the Heights, he donated his time and expertise. Debra then took this drawing to A-1 Signs. They fabricated a two-sided, eighteen-inch round plaque that is able to be mounted to a light standard.

Another willing volunteer, Rich Iezzi, was enlisted to handle the mechanics of hanging the award. Look for it on the corner of Spring and Juniata for now, as Juniata leads the pack with 49 memberships.

Hartford lost their "top dog" status when Juniata surpassed them by four memberships. Can they regain the lead or will one of the other streets come from behind and grab the award? Remember Arsenal, every membership from your street counts double, so your chances are equal to the rest of the neighborhood.

Let's get a friendly competition going. It's not too early to start building your lead for next year. Is your street up for the challenge? The winning circle could be braggin' rights at the intersection of Spring and your street next.

Standings as we go to press:

Arsenal.....8 (16)	Wyoming.....20
Hartford.....44	Humphrey .....23
Juniata.....49	Utah .....42
Connecticut .....20	

Greetings from
CITY DINER
Since 1992

**EARLY BIRD
BREAKFAST**

**DAILY
SPECIALS**

City
DINER

SOUTH GRAND

◆ 3139 South Grand 314-772-6100 ◆

THE D-I-Y LIE

BY
**ABIGAIL
MILLER**

When we bought our house, I was eager to build and conquer my D-I-Y project list. I had multiple Pinterest boards, a subscription to *This Old House* (paper and electronic), and inspiration from generations of D-I-Yers before me. The house had a lot of history, some worth highlighting and some worth hiding.

Now that a year has passed, I can confidently say that, for me, the whole concept of D-I-Y is simply a lie, our backyard project being a perfect example. If you have wandered the alley between the 3800 block of Hartford and Juniata, you may have noticed an overgrown nightmare of weeds and old bricks – welcome to our backyard! After removing two decks and a buried brick paver patio, our yard quickly became a breeding ground for morning glories and poison ivy – and D-I-Y dreams.

A dozen YouTube videos and a couple of tutorials later, I was prepared to get started on our brick paver patio. All we needed was to attach a railing to an existing concrete pad, do a little digging, and use our treasure trove of old bricks to install our masterpiece. After a hot Saturday in the sun, complete with four (yes, four) trips for supplies, and a drill that couldn't cut through concrete, we were calling for bids from landscapers. You gotta know when to fold 'em, right? The relief

was short-lived when our first bid came back at three times the amount we expected. It was back to the drawing board.

It was time to think outside the box (and by box, I mean the dirty wasteland that was our backyard). A Facebook post later, we secured a few tools from neighbors we had never met. A knock on another neighbor's door led to a few more tools, including a drill that cut concrete like butter. We were ready to get back at it. We took the grinder and drill out back on a Monday evening, confident that railing was as good as installed. Thankfully, the drill's owner had the foresight to check in on us when he got home from work. He found us confused, sweaty, and with nothing but some sweet pictures of sparks to show for our effort. In no time he had us right on track, making up for the time that had already been wasted (the most valuable part of that exchange is that we learned our neighbor's assistance can be bought with cold beer). The next day we were back at it, and once again, everything that was easy on Monday didn't work at all on Tuesday. Minutes later we heard steps in the gangway – our neighbor was back to help (it's like he knew we would be struggling).

This is how the backyard project has continued: we work, we get stuck, we get help, and the cycle begins again. We have learned that there is a time to power through, a time to knock on our neighbor's door, and a time to call professionals. One of the beautiful things about this neighborhood is that just about any issue we face with our house – whether it's bats, water in the basement, falling gutters, broken light fixtures, or patio construction (and those were all just in July!) – there is somebody nearby who is happy to tell you how they fixed it or who they called.

continued on page 15

WE RESCUE HOUSES

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

CALL TODAY 314.724.6627



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

WHY YOUR HOUSE?

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

You own a distressed rental property.

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

HOW IT WORKS

**YOU DO
NO REPAIRS**

**YOU PAY
NO COMMISSIONS**

**WE DO
NO INSPECTIONS**

**WE PAY
ALL CASH &
CLOSE QUICKLY**

GARAGE OASIS

BY SARA LANGAN

Have you noticed the increase in visitors to South Grand lately? We live in the 3600 block of Juniata just a few houses west of Grand. There are three popular restaurants at our corner—The King and I, Lemongrass, and Rooster. Parking has always been an issue at this end of the block, especially in the evenings, but with the opening and great success of Rooster, it has become more problematic even during the day on Saturday and Sunday. We are happy for their success and know that our neighborhood is better and more desirable because of their presence, but do miss finding a parking spot near our house.

We have lived at our home for 40 years without a garage although we had considered building one through the years.

I decided to gift my husband a garage for his birthday.

The deciding moment came when a work colleague mentioned that they had their contractor put in a garage before closing on a house in the Shaw Neighborhood and never considered buying a property without one. I was stunned. What, if when we sell, our buyers request a garage? Then we would get all of the cost without any benefit! So, I decided to gift my husband a garage for his birthday. Ok, our money is held jointly but who can turn down a birthday present?

We biked up and down the alleys to research garages in the neighborhood. It was interesting to see the variety of garages and the popularity of the “faux” garage – a car port with a garage door – which we believe was invented by Bill Casseau, a former resident of Tower Grove Heights who used to live on Utah.

We chose Coach House Garages based on recommendations. Building garages is all they do. The process is pretty cut and dry. Once you select the size and “features” you want, the process begins. A contractor excavates and pours the footings, a process that requires three “pours.” There are city inspections after the first and third pours. Once finished the contractor makes the final measurements and sends them to the Coach House factory in Arthur, Illinois.

In about two weeks, the “garage” is delivered on two big trailers. The four walls and the roof rafters are preassembled at the factory and packed on the trailers. Once on-site it took the workman two hours to erect the walls and the roof. The rest of the day was spent installing roof shingles, roof vents, siding, service and garage doors, garage door opener, and weather vane. Except for the gutters, the garage was up in a single day. We just needed to get an electrician to hook up power and the garage was ready to use.

The process took a bit longer than we expected but that was due to all the rain we had earlier this summer.

There was a lot of interest by neighbors in the building process so we had a garage open house. What a great excuse to get the neighbors together for a little party!

Our kids thought I was crazy and when a neighbor heard we were building a garage, said, “Aren’t you moving?” Well, yes, in the future we do plan to move to Portland, OR, where two out of three of our sons live with all five of our granddaughters... but in the meantime, we are going to enjoy having a garage! And we hope the next owners of our home enjoy living in Tower Grove Heights as much as we do.



Before



Work Begins 6/11/15



Concrete Done 6/24/15



Works Started at 8:00, 7/9/15, Progress at 10:00 AM



Erected in a Day, 7/9/15

OAK HILL TRUE VALUE HARDWARE & PAINT CO.

4100 CONNECTICUT ST. AT OAK HILL
314-776-0741

**A FULL SERVICE
FAMILY OWNED
HARDWARE STORE**

**SERVING SOUTH ST. LOUIS
FOR OVER 60 YEARS**

HOURS:

Monday thru Friday 8 to 5:30
Saturday 8 to 5



10% OFF WINDOW/SCREEN REPAIRS

Present This Coupon With Windows or Screens To
Be Expertly Repaired For A 10% Discount On Labor & Materials

Coupon expires 10/31/15 (TGHNA)
Not applicable to work in progress - Oak Hill Hardware



DCN DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Home Repairs the Easy Way

- Call us for those honey do's that don't get done
- Handyman services at competitive rates
- Over 20 yrs experience remodeling in South City

Whether you need a complete remodeling job or just to get a grip with some grab bars... small things can have a big impact on how you enjoy your home.

Call today for your free consultation!

DAN NOECKER

OFFICE: **314-773-2399**

3165 Portis Avenue • St. Louis, MO 63116



Dine In or Carry Out

Sun-Thurs 10am-10pm

Fri-Sat 10am-11pm

Download our monthly specials from our website!
Banquet Room seats parties 40-100

- - BULK RATES - -

10 lbs. Wings	\$55.00
50 pc. Fried Chicken	\$55.00
100 pc. Fried Chicken.....	\$110.00
Mostaccioli (Full Pan)	\$55.00
Cole Slaw OR Baked Beans (Gallon)	\$12.50
Potato Salad OR Mashed Potatoes OR Vegetables (Gallon)	\$13.50

Ask about our Chik Pik a Paks!



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

THE LONDON TEA ROOM



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

Reservations for Group Bookings: 314-241-6556 or info@thelondontearoom.com

WWW.THELONDONTEAROOM.COM 3128 MORGANFORD, ST. LOUIS MO 63116

A Neighborhood Stroll of 140 Years Ago

BY
ANDREW
WANKO

If you took a stroll on South Grand in 1875, things would have been a little quieter. Let's take a look at what was going on near Tower Grove Park 140 years ago, when Richard Compton and Camille Dry gave us *Pictorial St. Louis*, the largest panoramic city map ever drawn.

When Henry Shaw donated the land for Tower Grove Park to the city in 1868, it was a nearly treeless prairie, overgrown with ragweed, ironweed, and wild sunflowers stretching to the sky. Shaw set to work dotting Tower Grove Park with hundreds of trees, a Victorian "folly" pond, and a dozen gazebos in a variety of exotic styles. The city immediately began raising money to match Shaw's effort, even though the park sat just outside the St. Louis city limits (at Grand Avenue until 1876).

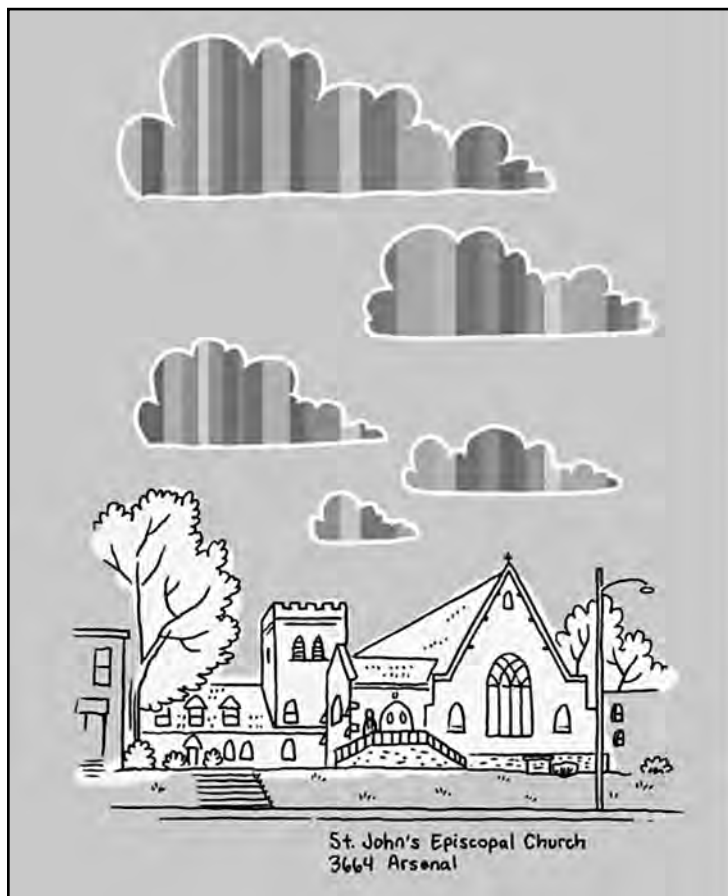
Around Tower Grove Park was a landscape of big property owners. Henry Shaw owned quite a bit (including the Missouri Botanical Garden), and nearly all of the land that we now call the Shaw neighborhood was owned by Mary Lawrence Tyler of Louisville, thought to be the richest woman in Kentucky. On the south side of the park, the big land owners were the coal mining Russell family. Since 1820, the Russell Coal Mines had been supplying south St. Louis with coal dug from underneath the future Tower Grove South neighborhood. The family's mansion, named Oak Hill, stood near the present day intersection of Wyoming Street and Oak Hill Avenue.

Now surrounded by neighborhoods that more than 30,000 people call home, in 1875, Tower Grove Park had little more than pasturelands by its side. Most citizens of Tower Grove Heights were probably cows. Seems like people would be dying to live next to the city's premiere picnic spot, so why was it so empty?

The area surrounding Tower Grove Park would remain largely undeveloped for another three decades, and for a very specific reason that is not so obvious today – in 1875, it was just too dang far away. Traveling four miles to Downtown in a reasonable time was nearly impossible. No streetcars serviced the area yet, and it was an hour carriage ride, if you could afford an expensive personal carriage. There was also no bridge to carry Grand Avenue over the canyon of rail yards north of Chouteau. Until the Grand Avenue Viaduct (location of the Grand Metrolink station today) was built in 1889, living so far out definitely wasn't worth it.

Tower Grove is a featured spot in the Missouri History Museum's exhibit, "A Walk in 1875 St. Louis." The exhibit uses Compton & Dry's *Pictorial St. Louis* to put nine St. Louis neighborhoods of 140 years ago under the microscope. Enormous graphics from local artist Dan Zettwoch show what life was like at the time.

Most citizens of
Tower Grove
Heights were
probably cows.



St. John's Episcopal Church Welcomes You!

FREE MEAL FOR ALL!
EVERY Saturday 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday Schedule:
Staffed Nursery - 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Children's Montessori Sunday School
at 10:30 a.m. in our New Classrooms
Sunday Communion Services at
10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

We "Believe Out Loud!" (pro-LGBT)
3664 Arsenal – just west of S. Grand

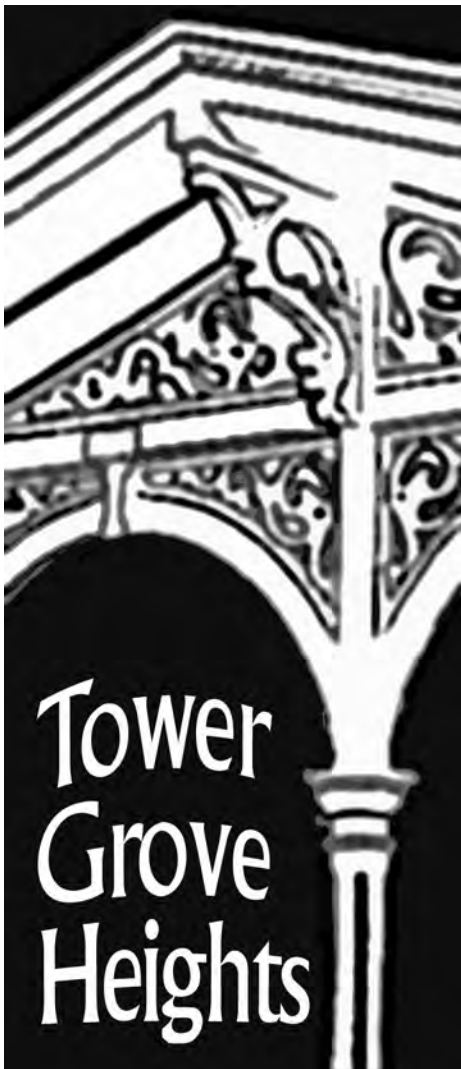
www.towergrovechurch.org
314-772-3970

THE D-I-Y LIE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

For me, the whole idea of Do-It-Yourself is a lie. Instead, our approach is a much more effective combination that involves ourselves *and* neighbors, YouTube, my father-in-law and his friends, *This Old House*, Oak Hill Hardware and the occasional professional.

Oh, and what is the current status of the backyard project? We powered through the rest of the railing installation ourselves, are prepping the area with the help of neighbors this weekend, and the professionals come next week to finish the job! If you ever find yourself needing a little assistance with your D-I-Y project – please don't hesitate to call us, we'll gladly help you . . . by showing you exactly which neighbor's door to knock on!



REAL ESTATE NEWS for Tower Grove Heights

Inventory of homes for sale is very low and mortgage rates are still low too. If your home is priced right and in good condition, your home could sell quickly for list price or more and get multiple offers. It is definitely a seller market right now.

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

Houses Sold in Tower Grove Heights

Type	Price	Address	Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Square Feet
Residential	\$149,000	3827 Juniata	3	1	1,629
Residential	\$210,000	3877 Wyoming	3	2	1,564
Residential	\$233,000	3711 Humphrey	4	3	
Residential	\$250,000	3845 Hartford	3	2	1,630
Residential	\$281,000	3884 Connecticut	3	3	2,500
Residential	\$299,000	3732 Connecticut	3	3	2,050
Residential	\$325,000	3709 Juniata	4	3	2,708
Residential	\$356,500	3830 Humphrey	4	4	3,390
Residential	\$359,900	3814 Connecticut	3	4	2,610
Residential	\$365,000	3724 Wyoming	4	3	2,500
Residential	\$375,000	3844 Hartford	4	4	2,592
Multifamily	\$120,000	3862 Juniata	0	0	2,388
Multifamily	\$156,000	3726 Connecticut	0	0	
Multifamily	\$180,000	3875 Juniata	0	0	2,808
Multifamily	\$222,000	3812 Wyoming	0	0	2,800
Multifamily	\$325,000	3885 Utah	0	0	3,082

Debby Ervin
I have the keys to your future.
Don't buy or list without me!

Call me for a complimentary consultation today!
(314) 560-7018 deborahervin@att.net

WILD BROTHERS REALTY



Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

PRESENTS

AUTUMN FEST in the Heights

SATURDAY

October 10th, 2015

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Event begins at:

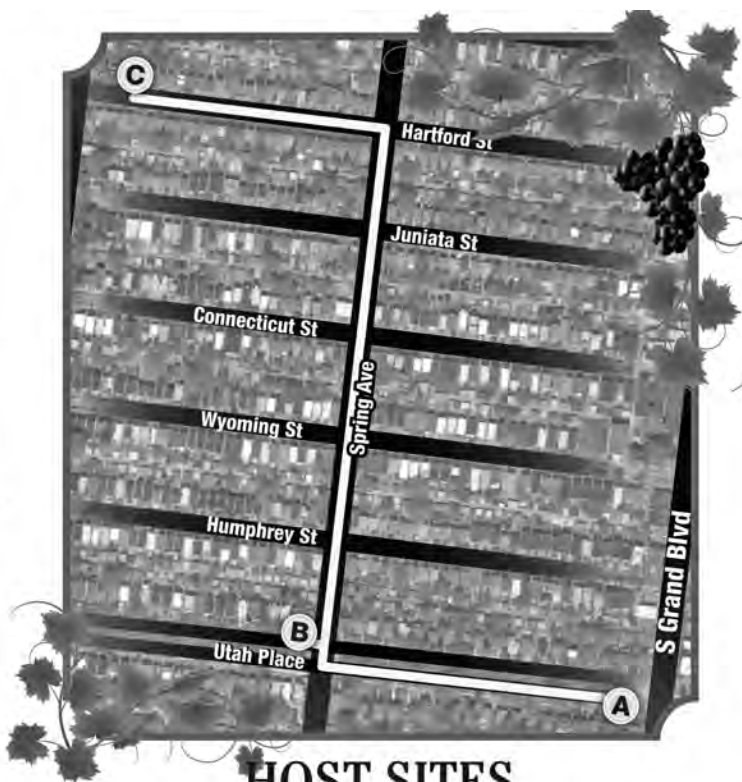
3610 Utah Place

REGISTRATION

IN ADVANCE: \$15⁰⁰

AT THE DOOR: \$20⁰⁰

- Appetizers
- Desserts
- Coffee
- Pedicab Rides
- Wine Tasting
- Beer
- Soft Drinks



HOST SITES

- A 3610 Utah Place** - Registration, wine tasting, beer, soft drinks & appetizers from 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- B 3801 Utah Place** - Desserts & coffee from 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- C 3883 Hartford Street** - Party to continue the conversation with new & old friends 8:00-10:00 pm (and beyond)

IN ADVANCE: \$15.00 Use the form below or go online to www.towergroveheights.com to register.

(Pick up your pre-registered nametags the night of the event at 3610 Utah Place.)

AT THE DOOR: \$20.00 (Registration closes at 7:30 pm)

Autumn Fest in the Heights 2015 **ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM** Names in your party....\$15.00 each

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Please make your check payable to:
Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

Total amount enclosed: _____

Mail advance registration form and check to:
Marilyn Browning, 3831 Juniata St., Saint Louis, MO 63116
TGHNA is a tax-exempt 501c3 organization

