

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 9, Number 6

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

June 28, 1998



A Special Note to our Vietnamese Neighbors

As President of the neighborhood association, I would like to extend a long overdue welcome to our Vietnamese neighbors to Tower Grove Heights.

While we may not have known how to express it in the past, the residents of the Heights appreciate your presence.

The addition of your culture to the neighborhood has been an especially exciting contribution to the diversity of the Heights. Your customs, cuisine, and language have all made the neighborhood a more interesting place. And because you are an integral part of the neighborhood, we want you to feel comfortable in the Heights and for you to believe that your problems and concerns are being adequately addressed.

To that end, I want to take this opportunity to invite you to become members of the association. As valuable members of the community, TGHNA needs your input if we are to reflect the needs of ALL the residents. Plus, the Association can be a valuable tool for you. It can:

- Provide mediation between yourself and your neighbors, landlord, and/or tenants.
- Assist you in getting help from your Alderman, Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, and other city officials.
- Connect you to the social life of the neighborhood and the block.

Lời ngỏ đặc biệt đến với những người láng giềng Việt Nam.

Tôi là chủ tịch Hội Khu Xóm Tower Grove Height, xin gửi lời chào mừng đến các gia đình láng giềng người Việt Nam.

Tuy rằng chúng ta không biết nhau trong quá khứ, dù rằng không nói đến, thì tất cả dân cư trong khu xóm đều khích lệ sự có mặt của các bạn. Hơn nữa các phong tục, tập quán, thức ăn và ngôn ngữ của các bạn đã là những đóng góp đem đến cho khu xóm những sắc thái đặc biệt. Bởi vì các bạn là những thành viên của khu xóm. Chúng tôi ước mong các bạn sống trong khu xóm được thoải mái và dễ dàng. Những thắc mắc ưu tu của các bạn sẽ được ghi nhận.

Trong chiều hướng đó, tôi xin mời các bạn trở thành hội viên của Hội Khu Xóm. Là một thành viên của cộng đồng, Hội Khu Xóm Tower Grove Height cầu sự đóng góp của bạn để thể hiện những cần thiết chung. Hơn nữa Hội Khu Xóm Tower Grove Height có thể giúp đỡ các bạn trong những việc sau đây:

- Tạo sự liên thông giữa bạn và láng giềng, chủ nhà và người mướn.
- Giúp đỡ bạn trong những việc liên quan đến các nghị viên, viên chức an sinh trong khu xóm và các nhân viên thành phố.
- Liên kết các bạn trong sự sinh hoạt hằng ngày của khu xóm và vùng láng giềng.

Dù rằng các bạn không rành tiếng Mỹ, chúng tôi cũng khuyến khích các bạn tích cực tham gia các hoạt động trong khu xóm.

Muốn biết thêm chi tiết xin các bạn gọi _____ số _____.

Xin chào mừng và cảm ơn các bạn đã chọn định cư trong Khu Xóm Tower Grove Height.

Mark Abbott
Chủ Tịch Hội Khu Xóm Tower Grove Height.

So even if you are not fluent in English, the neighborhood and the association would like to strongly encourage you to become an active part of the neighborhood. For more information, please call Mark Abbott at 776-5354. Welcome neighbor! Thank you for choosing the Heights as your home.

Mark Abbott, President Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

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The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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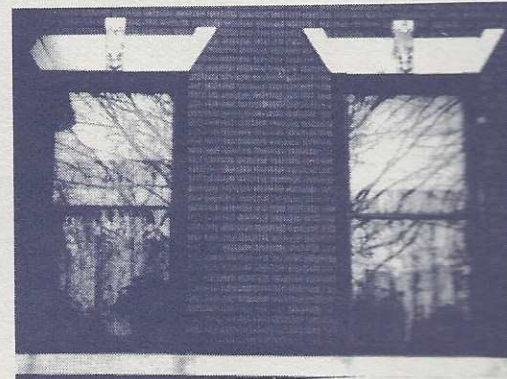
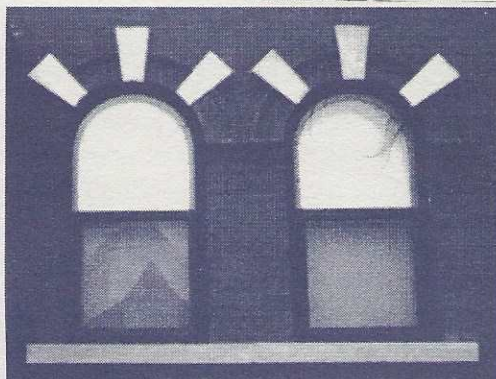
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The Gazette is a non-profit publication that is published bi-monthly by the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. For information concerning advertising call Colleen Santino at 773-5772.

Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette. Mail them to: The Gazette/TGHNA P. O. Box 63002, St. Louis, MO 63163

ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES

by Don Hardin



A person's eyes are the windows of their soul. Windows are the eyes of a home. Can you locate these "beautiful eyes" from our neighborhood?

Upcoming Events

"Dinosaur Safari"

Through July 31

Over 30 life-sized dinosaurs invade the Garden's steamy rainforest conservatory, the Climatron®. Be sure to visit the fossil exhibit in the Brookings Interpretive Center.

"Paintings of the Garden & Beyond"

Through July 3

25 oil paintings by John O'Dell of gardens, arboretae, St. Louis area landscapes, and natural wonders.

West County Daylily Society Show and Sale

June 28, Sale 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Show 12 - 5 p.m.

Whitaker Jazz Festival

July 1 & 8, 7:30 p.m.

This series of concerts continues amidst the splendor of the summer Garden. Bring a picnic or just feast on the sights and sounds.

"The Tongass, Alaska's Magnificent Rain Forest"

July 14 - August 30

Photographs by seven nature and wildlife photographers including Robert Glenn Ketchum, Art Wolfe, Chris Burkett, and Robert Johnson.

Henry Shaw's Birthday

July 26, 1 - 5 p.m.



Henry Shaw Cactus Society Show & Sale

July 25 - August 2

Taster's Month

August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 11 a.m. - 12 noon
Enjoy fresh produce at the Kemper Center for Home Gardening.

MBG Daylily Society Show & Sale

August 16, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Greater St Louis Daylily Society Show and Sale - August 23, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

24th Annual Japanese Festival

September 5 - 7, Sat. & Sun 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Mon. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Special Japanese Garden tours, Tea Ceremonies, Taiko Drums, Japanese marketplace, arts & crafts, food, martial arts, karaoke, Bon Odori, cooking demos, children's activities, & much more!

Many other events are happening at the Garden! Call (314) 577-9400 for information on all upcoming events.



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THE TATTLER

Did you see the feature article "TowerPOWER" in the May 20-26 The RFT's Summertime St. Louis issue by **Randall Roberts**? It's all about Tower Grove Park and the objects inside the park including the "newly and beautifully" renovated Palm House, the "best place in the city for a small wedding". He ends with "The Park is the magic that you can feel...". "Osborn Drive" named after **Gerry Osborn** now has an official street sign.

The intersection of Grand and Utah is a traffic hazard—recently Utah Place resident **Judy Newman** had her car totaled by someone who ran the red light. Newman is lobbying to make the intersection safer by instituting some "traffic calming" mechanisms.

May 17, Operation Brightside was the kickoff for landscaping the yard behind The Tower Grove Office at Spring and Connecticut—3735 Connecticut—which is also the new address/headquarters for the TGH Neighborhood Organization. Headed by **Joe**

Thele, and aided by helpers **Michael and Michelle, Linda Fick, Diane Hurwitz** and others the back yard that runs along Spring Avenue is being transformed. TGH Resident, **Ben Chu** has agreed to donate 2 trees, **Joe Rogers**, from the 4400 Block of Arsenal, owner of **Solutions**, a landscape planning and lawn mowing business has donated 2 planters. Executive council and the Block Representatives have their monthly meetings at this location thanks to the donation of space by Diane. We have also been donated two copiers. **Elizabeth Braznell** has employed **Roger** as Chief of Security. The "Cookies for Cops" program will give out goodies to the police on the beat on major holidays at this location. Look for the chocolate chip police banner over the 4th of July holiday!

Save those treasures, Tower Grove Heights is again having a rummage sale this August. No clothes, no mattresses, no non-working appliances—everything else needed!!

A movie is being made in our midst. "Will of Their Own" starring **Lea Thompson**, star of weekly TV show **Caroline in the City**, and Oscar-winning actress **Ellen Burstyn**. The movie traces the women's suffragette movement in the late 1800's to early 1900's. The crews have been sighted at the Stockstrom Mansion which is better known as the "Magic Chef Mansion" on Russell Ave, now home to the **Donohoe** family. City Hall is scheduled to also be part of the NBC miniseries.

Welcome to **Dave Drebes**, President of Metropolis who is now living on the 36-3700 Block of Wyoming. Metropolis is an organization that encourages city living. For more information about Metropolis, visit their website at <http://www.mstl.org>. Also we are glad to have **Donna Branca**, Gazette Staff Writer, back in the neighborhood. Congratulations to **Dr. Richard Clinebell** of the 3800 block of Hartford who just completed his doctoral studies in biology at Saint Louis University.

Grand South Grand News: **Phillippe**, a Parisian Chef, has opened a French restaurant "La Petit Cafe" where Nu Peru was located. A Croatian Restaurant will be opening where the Mid-Eastern market was. The Chinese Bakery/Mongolian BBQ is taking the place of New Dawn. TFA "The Future Antiques" has located on Grand also. The owner has had a shop on Cherokee Street called "Things From the Attic". TFA will feature new furniture with the retro 50's look.

Nancy Bridges is looking for faces of Tower Grove Park and significant architecture in Tower Grove South. Contact her via **Don Hardin**, the Gazette Editor, if you have ideas. National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4. Get ready to party!

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR...

by Erin O'Reilly

Robert Jones is a St. Louis native and a recent inhabitant of TGH Neighborhood. After he and his wife Opal married one year ago, they set up residence on Hartford street and have gotten quite involved in neighborhood activities even though they both work more than full-time and Opal is in school. Robert says he is "hyper" and is always on the go.

Robert's job is with the Fire Department. He started out as a firefighter for 5 and 1/2 years, then spent 1 and 1/2 years investigating arsons, and has now been a fire inspector for 3 years. He states that most fires involve negligence and as an inspector he sees lots of places without the basics for fire prevention: smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. He does make note that the TGH area has fewer house fires than other areas in the City even though we have lots of older homes. Does that mean we are more diligent in this neighborhood?!

A neighborhood safety committee is Robert's next project (after he finishes working with the Festival of Nations). He wants 2 block representatives per block to distribute information of safety issues such as fire prevention. He would like to see that all TGH homes have smoke alarms as needed and a fire extinguishers in the kitchens.

Meanwhile, he is keeping busy with the upcoming Festival of Nations on South Grand (June 6 and 7). The theme is "It's a Grand World After All" and there will be booths representing different nations. Robert will be at the booth representing the USA and he will be selling cookies to raise money for TGH Neighborhood Association. Robert's theme for the USA/TGH booth is "It's a Grand Place to Live" - and so it is!

BARB POTTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY

by Donna Branca

Barb utilizes the metaphor of "Communities can move mountains" to remind us of the quaint pocket park created at 3117 Bent. Prior to being a pocket park, the area was a structurally unsound property.

Further testimony to this is the addition to the Tower Grove South Neighborhood. Currently, Tower Grove Heights, Grand Oak Hill and Parkside South will add Fanning Neighborhood Association.

Barb offers an open invitation to all neighbors to join in a walk of solidarity on Fridays at 6pm. To walk, meet at Morganford and Juniata at the 7-11 and bring your dog or your friend or both!

Barb reminds us the City Forestry Division is taxed with the task of cutting vacant lots. As Tower Grove Heights is not a Target 30 neighborhood; that is, we do not have an abundance of vacant lots, we are not eligible for grass cutting on our vacant lots by the City. It is, therefore, our responsibility to be certain the grass is mowed on those vacant lots.



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NOBODY READS ANYMORE

By Richard R. Clinebell II

I recently emerged, somewhat exhausted and bleary-eyed, from ten years of graduate study in biology and mathematics at all three of the city's major universities. After so many years of leaping through academic hoops held by others, I am delighted to be liberated from academic slavery, and in retrospect, consider myself to be a functional illiterate with a Ph.D. How could this be?

I cannot speak for others, but perhaps my own feelings of frustration about my lack of well-roundedness might strike a sympathetic chord in others, and this is what motivates me to write this essay. My confession that I am well-educated but illiterate comes from my diverse liberal arts education in high school and in two liberal arts colleges, where I enjoyed studying not just science, but also literature, history, art, social science and so on.

1. Nobody reads anymore because life got tough.

While my own personal derailment from being educationally well-rounded has come from the extreme specialization and the Anti-intellectual arms race characteristic of

Recollections of a time when I had the time to read.

most current graduate programs, most people today experience similar time robbery, which seems to have eaten into what used to be reading time. In fact, it seems that two-income households have become the norm.

Spare time, such as it is, seems to be frequently consumed in the pursuit of secondary sources of income, and recreational, personally-motivated reading time seems to have been one of the casualties. At the same time,

reading is a great joy, and I look back to my childhood and teenaged years as a time when I had the time and opportunity to read.

Recollections of a time when I had the time to read.

I caught the reading bug in a small, northern Illinois farming community where I remember several grade school and high school teachers who not only possessed a love of knowledge, but also a sense of mission in teaching young people to love learning. One in particular stands out, my high school English literature teacher, whose name is Frances St. John. I wish that everyone could have had a teacher like Mrs. St. John in high school, and I am not just talking about learning itself, but also about a genuine attitude of concern for students which is, I believe, the hallmark of all great teachers.

Mrs. St. John had me for both freshman and senior high school English. I remember reading all kinds of wonderful things in her classes, including not only Shakespeare and Dickens, but also Greek, Roman and Norse mythology. Another year of high school English at our school was devoted to American literature, and it is remarkable that we also had the opportunity to take two years of Latin (in tiny Wyoming, Illinois!) where we read from Virgil, Ovid and quite a bit of Julius Caesar's accounts of the Gallic wars. There was also Spanish, and the opportunity to learn a bit about life and culture south of the border. Thrown into this mix was several years of world and American history, as well as four years each of science and mathematics. It was a very basic and very nourishing high school education that was available for every student in the school who sought it.

While Mrs. St. John encouraged me to, perhaps, do a little bit more than I perhaps otherwise would have, her pedagogy was very catholic and universal — she would regularly draw

Continued on page 6



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NOBODY READS ANYMORE

Continued from page 5

out all of the students in the class to make comments, and would read to us from Hamlet, Macbeth and so on with genuine and infectious enthusiasm. My most vivid memory is her amusement over Shakespeare's witches in Macbeth casting an evil spell on someone who refused to give them some chestnuts.

Finding time to read in tough times.

By the time I got to college the sixties were in full swing, and I got sucked up in all of that, but still I had a lot of time to read.

At my lowest point I had washed out of graduate school and was writing term papers in New Mexico for several wealthy young hippie ladies who expected A's at every turn. In fact, two of them were invited to do graduate work in the Astronomy Department based on a paper I wrote for them on Oparin's theory of the origin of life.

Pulling myself up by the bootstraps from the total cultural disaster of my life in the sixties — like many ex-hippies, I went corporate, working as an executive male secretary in the skyscrapers of San Francisco for twelve years, and with the designer suit wardrobe to prove it. Here, there was some reading going on, for many thousands of middle class workers in the Bay Area use the buses, streetcars and light rail to commute, and a lot of people would use that time to read.

Then came graduate school for the past decade here in St. Louis, and this is perhaps the ultimate robbery of one's time to seek well-roundedness, for it is

so competitive and specialized.

I almost feel like Rip Van Winkle, waking up to a culture I no longer know! I am struggling with the concept of trying to catch up with what has been happening in the culture after being buried alive in the esoterica of an obscure academic discipline.

2. Is Cable TV the culprit?

Cable TV has been my major lifeline to the world while I have been in graduate school. There is such a diversity of topics in history, travel, nature study, forensic detectives, major scandals, and even a series on the great books, that it can become addictive. Ideally, we should be able to use the very positive potential of cable TV as a springboard to reading. After all, whether we are watching the conquests of Alexander the Great, or the fall of the Romanovs, or Darwin's voyage on the Beagle, the TV treatments are not as deep and illuminating as going to the library and getting an in-depth treatment.

It is in this recognition that those of us who have succumbed to cable TV junkiehood can see a personal intellectual redemption — a way back to reading. Life has gotten tough, and cable TV is a wonderful narcotic, but no matter how intriguing Gregory Peck's technicolor grimaces, there is no way to experience the power and starkness of Captain Ahab's pasteboard mask soliloquy other than to go back and read Melville.

Conclusion. There are powerful reasons to set aside time for cultural and recreational reading. After all, who

we are is really very much a function of the influences we allow into our lives. At the same time, it is very hard in today's tough world, where so much of our time is demanded by the escalating requirements of survival, to find a bit of time to read the original prose of the world's great artists and thinkers. I, for one, am going to try and find that time again, for in losing it in the rat race of life, I feel that I have lost both my compass and my beacon.

FANNING MIDDLE SCHOOL

by Audrey Anderson

Fanning Middle School is located just south of Tower Grove Heights between McDonald and Fairview at 3417 Grace Avenue. The school opened in 1907, and the classic school design was created by the Board of Education's architect, Ittner. Fanning was originally an elementary school, but since the 1980's it has been a middle school. Fanning is a public school, a part of the St. Louis City school system.

Reflecting the diversity of the neighborhood, Fanning is multicultural with students from Vietnam, Laos, Bosnia and many other countries. Because there are so many students with English as their second language, the children are very accepting of one another, and respect their cultural differences.

Generations of families have been schooled at Fanning and large reunions are held bringing former classmates together for happy days of reminiscing.

Fanning is also the home of the Fanning Community Education Center, providing a wide variety of evening classes for adults. For information about the summer session, call 865-4894.

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August 1998

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Botanical Garden - Free admission til Noon
2	3 Compton Hts. Concert Series 7:30pm	4 Carpenter Lib. "Choose your own adventure" 2-3pm Grades 6 and up	5 Botanical Garden - Free admission til Noon Carpenter Lib. "Summer Story Time" 10-11 am Ages 2-6	6 Carpenter Lib. "Arthur! Arthur!" 2-3pm Grades 1-5 Stupp Center - Children's Concert 9:30am "Iacode String Quartet"	7 Carpenter Lib. "Dinosaurs, Dragons, and Oryges" 2pm	8 Botanical Garden - Free admission til Noon Carpenter Lib Summer Reading Club Ends
9	10 Compton Hts. Concert Series 7:30pm	11	12 Botanical Garden - Free admission til Noon	13	14	15 Botanical Garden - Free admission til Noon
16 Botanical Garden - Dalylity society Show and Sale	17 Bulk Trash Pickup Carpenter Lib. Book discussion "The Finish- ing School" 7-9pm	18	19 Botanical Garden - Free admission til Noon	20	21	22 Botanical Garden - Free admission til Noon
23 Botanical Garden - Dalylity society Show and Sale	24	25	26 Botanical Garden - Free admission til Noon	27	28	29 Botanical Garden - Free admission til Noon
30	31					

July

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July 1998

Calendar of Events

June												August																																
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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR...

by Bridget Moss

Tower Grove Heights resident Trisha Heliker turned a trip to Scottsdale, Arizona, for a class into a way to showcase her artistic talents as a painter.

Six years ago, Trish spotted a magazine advertisement for a class on how to paint faux finishes and signed up. And what followed were more classes, more projects and more demand for her work.

While Trisha mainly does her magic on furniture, you may have seen her handiwork at on some local walls. She had created the finish on the walls of the Library Ltd.'s Stacks Cafe before the store was purchased by the Borders chain. And more recently she painted the walls of the expanded Once Upon A Vine. And those who took the House Tour may have noticed her work in Diane Hurwitz's house on Utah.

Time is the main reason she

paints more furniture than walls. For the Once Upon A Vine undertaking, she had to take a week of vacation from her job as an office manager. Trisha also enlisted the help of a friend she met at a Scottsdale class. She says that a project that large that uses several colors of paint at once often requires two people so the paint does not dry and leave a "dry line." On top of that, Trisha works with water-based paint, instead of oil-based, which dries more quickly.

Trisha took the opportunity to repaint the interior of her house with faux finishes after putting in central air-conditioning, since her house was in a bit of disarray already. "I don't have a canvas, I have my walls," Trisha said.

As for painting furniture, Trisha has created dressers, tables, chairs and more. She enjoys painting

in a style similar to that of the MacKenzie-Childs, Ltd. line of home furnishings. These combine several different finishes on one piece of furniture for a funky look. People seek her furniture out mainly through word of mouth and through a few interior designers that she has worked with.

Some of the finishes she paints are marble, tortoiseshell, granite and verdigris, the green or bluish patina that forms on copper. She enjoys the opportunity to always try something different.

Trisha says the finishes that are popular are always changing. Right now, the distressed look and the old-world, slightly-worn Tuscan look are in vogue. That's okay with Trisha, because she doesn't tie herself to one style of finish. "One day I like one, the next day I like another."





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TO BE OR NOT TO BE...AN HISTORIC DISTRICT.

by Mark Abbott

Is it a tool for neighborhood rejuvenation or is it a force leading to possible neighborhood gentrification? This is the question that will be facing residents of Tower Grove Heights when they debate and vote on whether they will endorse the process of becoming an historic district at the July neighborhood association meeting.

Just what is an historic district? An historic district is a commercial and/or residential area that has historic significance as certified by the National Register of Historic Places in the Department of the Interior. Generally, such places are at least 50 years old, have a unifying theme or character, and are architecturally significant. Tower Grove Heights would seem to be a logical candidate. Most of the neighborhood was built before 1908. The majority of the residential stock is of a similar Queen Anne design. Moreover, many of the structures on Grand and Utah were designed by some of the most prominent architects in St. Louis at the time.

But why does it matter? For a number of years, a group of Tower Grove residents have been trying to create interest in the project, feeling that Historic District certification would give the neighborhood more status (and hence higher property values) plus it would create incentives for home owners to rehabilitate their homes in keeping with the character of the historic character of the neighborhood.

However, what has really made historic district status enticing for many residents is that of January 1, 1998 the state of Missouri has been offering 25% tax credits for rehabilitation of houses in certified historic districts. While the cost of rehabilitation must be in excess of 50% of the value of the property and the rehabilitation must meet standards as determined by the State Historic Preservation Officer of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the tax credits may be carried back to any of the three preceding years or carried forward for the succeeding ten years.

For example, if a home owner had a house appraised at \$80,000, she could undertake a \$60,000 project that would earn her a \$15,000 tax credit that could be used once or to write down her state taxes over the next ten years.

So what are the potential downsides to being an historic district?

One, the process of becoming certified is very time and labor consuming. The application for

Is it a tool for neighborhood rejuvenation or is it a force leading to possible neighborhood gentrification?

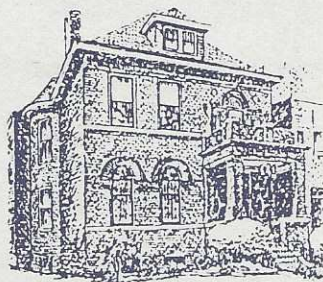
historic district status requires not only a justification of why the district should be awarded certification, but each property has to be photographed and have its own narrative detailing architectural style and ownership history. The Heights has approximately 700 properties and according to the State Office of Historic Preservation, it usually takes three years to complete an application for a neighborhood this size. Fortunately, much of the background work has already been completed for the neighborhood. But, it would still take over a year to complete the application.

Two, many people are fearful that all improvements to their properties would be regulated. However, historic district status does not necessarily place all properties under the restrictions and review of Heritage and Urban Design. Generally, the only time that a

property would come under intensive oversight, would be if the home owner was applying for the tax credit. For smaller projects, and if the home owner opted not to apply for the tax credit, the property would not have to meet design guidelines.

Three, opponents of historic status argue that certification would lead to the Heights losing much of its ethnic, class, and racial diversity. The argument is that historic district status would give the neighborhood an "elitist" character, that property values would dramatically rise, and that many groups of residents would be displaced, making the Heights a "gentrified" community. While there have been class tensions in neighborhoods like Souldard and Lafayette Square, it is unclear if these have been the outcome of historic district status. Other neighborhoods, like Shaw to the north, have obtained historic district status and have continued to be very diverse communities in every sense.

To provide a forum for neighborhood residents to learn more about historic districts and to debate the desirability of Tower Grove Heights becoming one, there will be a panel discussion with panelists being drawn from city agencies and surrounding neighborhoods at the July 28th Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association meeting. After the panel discussion, members of the association will have a chance to voice their opinions and to vote on whether or not TGHNA should endorse the completion of an application. The meeting will take place at 7:15 PM at the First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming. Please come. This is an important issue!



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MR. MANNERS TALKS ABOUT TRAFFIC

Dear Mr. Manners:

I live on Hartford in the 3600/3700 block. Idiots are constantly driving down the street between 40 and 50 mph because our block is so long. Would it be appropriate to throw rocks at their cars to slow them down? Screaming does not seem to do any good.

Dear Gentle Reader:

You are right. Screaming does not work. But throwing rocks—while understandable—would be a childish response. Moreover, it might result in a traffic accident involving an innocent by-stander. In Mr. Manners's mind, violence is

never the answer. What he advocates is for residents like yourself to lobby the Alderman and the City to provide "active traffic calming measures." Research has shown that passive measures such as signage and increased traffic surveillance by the police do little to slow traffic. But what does work are active constraints like protruding curbs which give the illusion that the width of traffic lanes has been reduced. And to the jerks who speed, remember that the 3 year old girl who forgot to look both ways might be your own daughter!


Dear Mr. Manners:

I am new to St. Louis and I have never seen so many stop signs in my life! I read some place that the city has more stop signs than any other city in the country. Is that true? One thing that I do know is that people have a different notion of what these signs mean. No one ever seems to stop and people are making hostile gestures to proceed even before I come to a rolling stop. What is proper stop sign etiquette?

Dear Gentle Reader:

I know how you feel. Not being a native (but a "real" Hoosier), I am a little baffled as well. However, I do have thoughts about what is "polite." First, the signs mean what they say. Stop means stop. Second, cars proceed through the intersection in the order in which they arrive at the intersection. Most of the time, false gestures of politeness usually just slow traffic even more. If there is a question of who arrived first, the car on the right goes first.


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Dear Mr. Manners:

I wish I owned a bazooka. I would use it to blow away all these bike riders who ride in the streets. For what purpose do they think sidewalks were made?

Dear Gentle Reader:

I am glad that you brought up the issue of bicyclists. Being a bicyclist, I sometimes too wish I owned a bazooka to eliminate inconsiderate motorists who try to hog the road. (I also wish I had one when I drive Grand and there are cars in the no parking lanes during rush hours—but that is a different story). By law, cyclists are entitled to and are governed by the exact same laws that govern motorists.

I DO, I DO

by Donna Branca

These two words can so easily change one's life. Or so I hear from my friends who have committed the sacrament of marriage.

A recent Ladies Home Journal article published this finding: When it comes to everyday issues, women have no problem telling their spouses. But bring up more intimate issues and women become more secretive. For example 41% admitted they would never tell their spouse of an affair. However, 63% would want to know if their husband was attracted to another woman.

Bridget Brennan, family life director at St. Francis Xavier College Church and soon to be entrepreneur with her husband Jerry Shen, of the Center of Marriage. Ms. Brennan and Mr. Shen offer ecumenical marriage courses through the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Ms. Brennan is encouraged by the number of couples who seek guidance and insight. She states "So many are looking for completion of themselves in marriage. Hopefully, we can encourage them to realize their own completion as individuals before entering marriage." For more information on the Marriage Enrichment Center, you can reach Bridget at 832-4889. To book a wedding at St. Francis Xavier College Church, you must contact the Church at 977-7300 one year prior to your wedding date.

Studio Branca and Day Spa, located in West County, offers the wedding party service on the day of the wedding or pre-wedding specialty services. For more information, contact Studio Branca at 469-1222.

Our own Stupp Center in Tower Grove park hosts weddings on

Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons. For post wedding photos, the fountain in the center of the park is a favorite spot

Lastly, a tale of first love which ends in marriage. Kelli Reagan and

and her fiance Dan met in grade school and are engaged to be married in May 99. For Kelli, she knew Dan was committed when he chose to attend college in town to be near her.

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DA NANG RESTUARANT

by Patrick Murphy

The South Grand Business District is the spot for finding fine Southeast Asian cuisine in St. Louis. Da Nang, located at 3126 S. Grand, is perhaps the newest entry in a line of excellent ethnic restaurants in the neighborhood.

Owner King Lam opened the restaurant in 1996 in Creve Coeur, but later relocated his restaurant to its current South Grand location. The number of established Southeast Asian restaurants, the heavy flow of traffic and reasonable expenses drew him to the area.

Lam, 36, is Vietnamese immigrant who left his small village in southern Vietnam in 1982. At his parent's urging, Lam said he left Vietnam and struck out for the United States for educational and career opportunities. Shortly after leaving Vietnam, Lam reached Malaysia and was interred in a refugee camp for about six years.

In 1993, Lam entered the United States and spent years working as a baker in San Francisco before becoming a naturalized citizen. Lam, a Tower Grove Heights resident, said his goal is to one day open his own bakery. In 1996, Lam visited the St. Louis area and found living expenses and the quality of life more to his liking. After one visit, Lam and his wife moved to St. Louis and opened their first restaurant.

For the uninitiated, Vietnamese, and Southeast

Asian cuisine in general, is a radical departure from time-tested, popular Chinese standards. For example, Thai food bears a strong Indian influence -- especially its unique and fiery curries.

Vietnamese cuisine draws upon French, Chinese and some Indian cooking traditions. Chinese stir fry techniques and the use of ginger and pepper were introduced by neighboring Chinese during their invasions and rule of Vietnam. The Vietnamese curries and use of coconut milk in cooking points to an Indian influence.

While heavily influenced by diverse cultures, Vietnamese cooking is distinctive in reliance of fresh herbs. Lemon grass, a long, fibrous plant, imparts a strong citrus flavor to dishes. Cilantro, which has a slight licorice flavor, and varieties of basil are also frequently used to flavor Vietnamese dishes. One other common ingredient is fish sauce -- a pungent liquid with a strong, salty flavor that mellows during the cooking process.

True Vietnamese food is also very spicy and includes large portions of garlic, ginger, black pepper and dried chilis. Lam said he strives to follow Vietnamese tradition by offering the spicy and intensely flavored dishes of his homeland. One other departure from Chinese cuisine, Lam said, is that Vietnamese dishes can

often be cooked with a fraction of the vegetable oil used in Chinese dishes. The result is a much lighter dish.

The Da Nang menu offers a wide range of items that should appeal to both novice diners and the more adventurous. For starters, try the spring rolls, a distant (and superior) cousin of the Chinese egg roll. Spring rolls are comprised of rice noodles, cooked pork and lettuce rolled in rice paper and served cold with a dipping sauce.

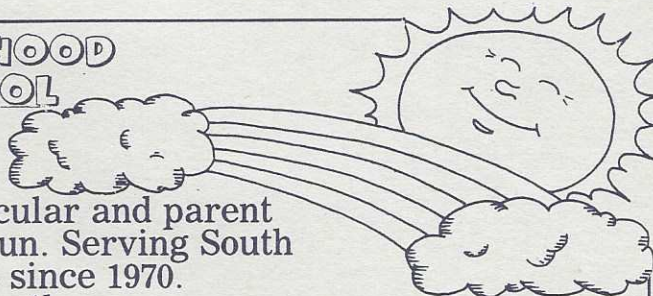
The char-grilled chicken marinated in five spice powder is a light, slightly sweet entree that has been flavored by a combination of fennel, cinnamon, cloves, star anise and Szechwan pepper. The beef sate is a hot, spicy combination of tender beef, bell peppers, onions and celery in a chile sauce. The combo rice clay pot, a casserole of rice, scallops and sausage cooked in a ceramic pot, is also excellent and among the restaurant's specialties. The clay pot is a ceramic utensil with a dull exterior and a glazed interior that is used to slowly cook any combination of ingredients.

The restaurant also offers a strong vegetarian menu, and most entrees include healthy portions of vegetables. Da Nang's menu is moderately priced -- the meals range in price from \$6.25 to \$11.95 for the house special lamb. Come prepared to be filled or take home leftovers, Da Nang's servings are large. Also try an iced coffee, which is a strong coffee served with condensed milk served over ice.

Da Nang has the capacity to sit about 90 people in two dining rooms. The restaurant's hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Credit cards are accepted.

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Doug Harding

Loretta Morgan

Robyn Schrager

3800 Utah Place

Veda Lynn

Susie Gudermuth

Betsy Ward

Membership Alert!

Due to work and time commitments, President Elect Mike DeCamp has resigned.

A nomination committee, headed by Sara Langan and members Sal Difolo and Robert Jones, has been appointed to fill the vacancy. Elizabeth Braznell has agreed to be acting President Elect until the election at the July 28 Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association General Meeting. Please call Sara at 776-3506 if you would like to make a nomination.

Some St. Louis Area Parks

Babler State Park

Tennis, horse rental, nature center, excellent visitors center, bike trail. An expansive, heavily forested park in far West St. Louis County off Missouri Highway 109.

Bee Tree County Park

2701 Firestown Rd. in South St. Louis County. Finestown and Becker roads, south of Telegraph Rd. Riverboat museum, seasonal floral display, overlooks the Mississippi River, fishing, hiking trails. (County Park info 889-2863).

Bella Fontaine County Park

Bellefontaine Rd., on both sides of Missouri Highway 367, just south of I-270. Ballfields, hiking trails, playgrounds, fitness and bicycle trails.

Blanchette

A St. Charles City park. Playgrounds, tennis courts, and a large aquatics park with lap pools, water slides, and water-based playground equipment. Park grounds are free, admission fee for aquatics area. 1900 W. Randolph, St. Charles, MO 63301, 724-9775.

Buder County Park

Missouri Highway 141, north of I-44, on the Meramec River. Model-airplane facility, lighted ballfields and playgrounds. (County Park info 889-2863).

Carondelet

A large city park in South St. Louis City. Bike trail, 2 lakes with fishing, playgrounds. (City Park info 535-0100).

Castlewood State Park

Bike trail (both paved and dirt/mountain bike trails), boat ramp to Meramec River. A large heavily wooded park in Southwest St. Louis County. 152 Keifer Creek Rd. (County Park info 889-2863).

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