

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 28, No. 2

Summer 2017

Not Ordinary People

BY **Rich Iezzi** My wife, Jean, and I met Karen DeMatteo and Andrew Habernern at the Tower Grove Creamery. They seemed like an ordinary couple. They're not. We were invited to their home on Arsenal where I immediately noticed Andrew's woodworking skills. He told me he trained as a cabinet maker for four years, then thought about going into law but ended up as an agricultural lender. In woodworking, Andrew employs a technique of using no visible fasteners, sort of a Mission-style look. I especially liked his large re-purposed pocket door that was made into a dining room table. "An alley find," he explains. One of his larger projects is the dining room ceiling. You can't miss it.

"I stared at it for two years, then started thinking about it at night," Andrew told me of the impending project. All at once, he had the design. When I asked him how many pieces are in the ceiling work, he said, "hundreds." But right after he started the project, he took it back down. "It was off center," he confessed. When I asked how much, he answered, "one quarter of an inch."

He installed the ceiling while Karen was out of town. When she called to say she was driving home and was only blocks away, *continued on page 7*



Karen and Andrew with their dog Train

Birds of Tower Grove Park

BY **Marilyn Browning** Early in April, my husband and I spotted a great horned owl perched in the top branches of the maple in front of our house. Seconds later, with one flap of its wings, it soared silently away over the rooftops. In all probability it was nesting somewhere in Tower Grove Park, one of the many birds residing year-round in the park.



Since the great horned owl is mostly nocturnal, it was likely out doing a little additional hunting, either for itself or for some hungry babies, since early spring is a prime period for owl nesting in the park. The great horned owl is a squatter of sorts. When it doesn't find a likely tree hollow it often occupies an old nest built by other tree dwellers such as hawks and squirrels. When the owls move in, they may customize the nest lining with their own downy feathers, with the fur or feathers of their prey, or even with trampled pellets (the regurgitated teeth, bones, and other indigestible parts from the prey they've swallowed whole). Not exactly Martha Stewart, but to each his own.

Very unpromising-looking when they hatch, the babies quickly grow fuzzy and adorable. By late April or early May the owlets have fledged, but you may have

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Birds of Tower Grove Park

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opportunities to see them grow over the next several months while they are tended and often fed by their parents.

Another bird many of you may see year-round in the park is the red-tailed hawk. Adults can be distinguished by their tails, rust- red above and pinkish below, and a dark band across their bellies. We watched one swoop down into the midst of a kickball game before it perched on a nearby lamppost, to the surprised exclamations of the players. Long-time Tower Grove Heights residents tell me that prior to

the time hawks established themselves in the park, enormous flocks of pigeons roosted on our housetops, relieving themselves (ahem!) on roofs and sidewalks with impunity. Thanks to the hawks, the pigeons' numbers have been greatly reduced over the years, as have the cleaning chores of neighborhood residents.

You can't write about birds in the park without mentioning one unique to our area, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow. About twenty of these birds were introduced in 1870 by homesick European immigrants, and became established here. The little birds can be distinguished from North American sparrows by their shorter legs, thicker beaks, a chestnut crown, and black ear and neck patches. They like to nest in bird boxes, on buildings, and in trees, making a bulky woven grass nest. They've been mostly nudged out by yet another introduced species, their wildly successful cousins the House Sparrows, but can still be spotted in and around the park. Both species represent the trailing edge of the 19th century fad of acclimatization. Armed with enthusiasm and ignorance, those longing for home and those simply sure they had a great idea brought plants and animals to North America and let them loose, with varying results.



With at least 204 species of birds identified in the park so far, there are clearly plenty more birds to see and learn about. Some of them are permanent residents and some are mere transients on migratory paths along the Mississippi. To find out more, call either the Webster Grove Nature Society at 314-935-8432 or the Saint Louis Audubon Society at 314-822-6595 for the latest sighting opportunities.



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Who Lives There

BY TRICIA HELIKER

Have you ever stood on the park side of Arsenal at Spring, while waiting for traffic to stop, and wondered, "Who lives in that white stone house on the corner?"

Most of you are probably familiar with Felicia, that delightful skeleton that could be seen sitting in a swing, high in the trees around Halloween

Well, approximately one year ago, Rebecca and her partner, Lisa, moved into what they call their stone castle on the corner of Arsenal and Spring. They left the country life in North Carolina and the acre of land they enjoyed there because, after having lived in San Diego, they missed the city life. They brought with them their dog, Cloe, and their cats, Pogo, Brick, and their newest addition Miss Luna Belle, a rescue kitten from Stray Haven. Having family in this area was also part of their decision to relocate to St. Louis. Another was a marketing job Lisa was offered here. Rebecca's background is in organizational work and up until recently she was involved in coordinating the Garden Glow. That type of work can be seasonal and she is currently exploring other opportunities. She says this type of work suits her because she enjoys the challenge of "starting over" with each new project.

We all are aware of their talents by the interesting holiday displays they created and executed on that corner of the Heights.



Most of you are probably familiar with Felicia, that delightful skeleton that could be seen sitting in a swing, high in the trees around Halloween. They received lots of feedback from that display and that has fueled the creative process and has been encouragement to outdo themselves on the next one. Look for a bang up job in red, white, and blue for the 4th of July.

Both enjoy living near the activity and opportunities provided by the businesses on Grand Blvd. One of Rebecca's favorite dine out locations is Guerilla Street Food. Lisa enjoys taking belly dancing classes at Flex Studio. Gardening and photography are just a couple of the extra- curricular activities Rebecca explores.

When questioned about what we love about Tower Grove Heights, things like beautiful Tower Grove Park, the housing stock and the wonderful restaurants on South Grand come to mind. But the residents are what keeps the neighborhood a vibrant, friendly, and interesting place to live.



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FLOWER POWER

by Betty
Greenjeans

Despite increasing opportunities to indulge ourselves in spring and fall, summer is our time to really shine in the flowering plant department. Summer annuals provide unparalleled opportunities to blanket our gardens in color. Whether in containers or in the ground, now is the time to get your bloom on!

Garden centers are bringing in flowering annuals earlier every year it seems. Some of these plants are spring bloomers and will stop producing in the heat of summer. Osteospermum, with its daisy-like flowers and blue centers, will often disappoint as the days heat up. Given care, this particular investment will pay off again in early fall. Cyclamen and ranunculus, however, will go completely dormant. Getting these plants to rebloom is advanced class. Primrose and mimulus have their time and July is not it.

As always, when choosing plant material, keep site conditions in mind. Check tags for information on sun and shade requirements. Full sun means at least six hours of unfiltered light. Sometimes with extra water you can push a shady plant to take more sun but that's a make-work project for yourself.

Regular water is crucial, and in a 10-inch hanging basket packed with three or four plants, that may mean watering every single day if it's placed in the direct sun. Small pots may need to be watered twice a day. Understand that the larger the container, the better chance you're giving yourself to succeed.

Another key point is fertilization. All container-grown

continued on next page

Good Neighbor Garden Tip:

Keep petunias trimmed throughout the season for best results. Starting toward the end of June cut a long branch or two back by half each week to avoid a case of the straggles in August.

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plants need to be fed throughout the summer for any kind of real performance. The soil in that hanging basket from the box store is devoid of any nutrients to feed the plants that are jammed in there trying to bloom their hearts out.

Set about a system of regular watering with a soluble fertilizer made up half-strength, or pay it forward and add a season-long slow release formula now. Or, you can avoid the whole issue and buy soil with fertilizer mixed in. Plants in the ground fare much better without intensive feeding, especially if you amend your planting hole with compost.

Remember, always use potting soil and never topsoil in containers. The soilless mixes packaged for pots and baskets drain better and are much lighter.

If you can stand it, trim your plants when installing them. Sacrificing a few blooms and buds now will mean more later.

If you can stand it, trim your plants when installing them. Sacrificing a few blooms and buds now will mean more later. Your plants will respond to a light haircut by producing more side shoots and give you a bushier, more productive result.

Annuals are meant to bloom all summer long, but every plant's goal is to produce seed. Certain types will perform better with deadheading. This means simply plucking off spent blooms to prevent the plant from putting energy into seed rather than more flowers for you. Impatiens, famously, don't require any grooming. Google your flower varieties if you're unsure.

The beauty and joy of a \$9.99 hanging basket can't be overstated. Just follow the rules about fertilizing and deadheading to keep it in fine form all season. Perhaps consider an inexpensive extender from The Bug Store for that sky-high hook it hangs from. Why spend money on flowers when all you see is the bottom of the pot? Happy Spring, Tower Grove Heights!

ON SOUTH GRAND

by Marilyn Browning

Spring has sprung, and it's time to sit down once again with Rachel Witt, Executive Director of South Grand Community Improvement District to see what's happening on South Grand.

After extensive consultation with Missouri Botanical Garden and Missouri Department of Conservation, Rachel developed a short list of new plants that will go in some of the bump-out beds, as well as in selected planters. The plantings this year include more colorful flowering plants, a move that businesses on South Grand have heartily endorsed.

The new information kiosk has been installed in Ritz Park, designed by local architect Patrick Weber of Aesh Designs. The kiosk will feature all upcoming events in the park and on South Grand.

Found by the Pound, a clothing resale shop, opened in late April at 3232 South Grand in the previously vacant building space south of Sheesh. Featuring gently used clothing for men, women, and children, most items sell for as little as \$3 to as much as \$15 and have a "Bohemian" vibe. Hours are Wednesday to Sunday 11am to 7pm.

Pizza Head opened in early May at 3192 South Grand, the former home of Absolutli Goosed and Brickyard Tavern. They are serving vegetarian and vegan New York style pizza by the slice or by the pie. Pizza Head features a small casual sit-down area for diners with an 80's grunge bar atmosphere. Prepackaged house salads are available as well as beer and soda sold by the can. Everything is designed for quick and easy carryout and delivery orders. Owner Scott Sandler also owns and operates Pizzeoli on South 12th Street which features wood-fired Neopolitan-style vegan and vegetarian pizza. Hours for Pizza Head were still in the works as of this writing, but those hungry for pizza can check out their current hours at their website: www.pizzaheadstl.com.

As of this writing, the space vacated by Saint Louis Bread Company at 3114 South Grand is in the process of a complete remodel to accommodate its new tenant, Total Access Urgent Care. Consider this bad news for bread lovers but good news for the accident-prone. Like other Total Access Urgent Care facilities, they'll be set up to treat non-life-threatening physical injuries and infections, will have CT scanning, ultrasound and digital x-ray, and will offer physical exams and immunizations.

Dunaway Books at 3111 South Grand has a new owner as of early April. Expect to see some changes in the layout of the second-hand bookstore over the coming months, including establishment of a kids' area in the front and community area for meeting and hanging out. The new owner has assured Rachel that there will be a reorganization of the books, good news for those of us that have tried in vain to master the quirky arrangement.



South Grand Movie Nights return this summer with a couple of fun movies: Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure on Friday June 16th, and Bride and Prejudice on Friday, August 18th (a Bollywood movie, and who doesn't love those?) For a complete list of summer events, stop by the new Ritz Park kiosk or check out the events listings at www.southgrand.org.



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My Favorite Waitress

by **Gazette Ghost Writer**

My favorite waitress works at a privately-owned pub that I've been going to since the 1970s. Before my first visit, I called about the dress code (some places had them at the time) and the bartender told me to wear a fig leaf. My kind of place.



I'll call my waitress "Virginia." I was there when Virginia turned 30 and she's as beautiful now as she was over 30 years ago. Virginia can be two people – big hearted, loving Virginia and Virginia with a temper.

I first witnessed her temper while standing in line for a booth. A family of four had a problem and complained to Virginia, asking to see the manager. Big mistake. Virginia replied, "What do you think this is, Applebee's? Get out!" And they did. The surprising thing was that none of the other patrons seemed shocked. That should have told me something.

I was in line another time when I heard an enormous crash. Naturally, I looked for Virginia. Apparently something didn't go well and Virginia took a pile of empty trays and threw them down on her server station. The pub went completely silent. No doubt, all of Virginia's customers were wondering in sheer terror, "Did I cause that?" Virginia also has backup. With the crash, police officers in the pub immediately closed around her, asking if there was a problem. Impressive.

Because of my long tenure, I've got seniority with Virginia and also see her loving side. There are many nights when she's joined me in my booth, discussing life and the other patrons. If she feels my food took too long to arrive, she'll point to it and say, "That's on me." Same with my drink. I sometimes hear, "You're not paying for that" as she slides my drink across the table.

**If I'm waiting in
line, she magically
slices through the
crowd and brings
me a drink.**

On my part, I have minimal expectations. For 20 years, Virginia hasn't provided the pickle that should come with my meal so I finally asked for the pickle. I was blasted with, "Whaddya mean you want a pickle? You haven't been getting a pickle for 20 years!" I got the pickle. It's all part of the entertainment.

But even with my long tenure, I still make mistakes. Recently, I told Virginia that I wasn't quite ready for another drink when she stopped by my booth. With that, I was ignored for what seemed to be an eternity while I learned my lesson – I'm ready for a drink when she says I'm ready.

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Andrew told her to drive around the block one more time so he could finish.

Andrew and Karen purchased their home in 1998. It's an enormous converted two-family that they thought was too big.

On one trip, she was stalked by a jaguar.

we wouldn't have to look at a gable end with siding the rest of our lives," Andrew told me.

Karen and Andrew met while they were in high school and were married in 1995. Karen has a doctorate in biology and did her dissertation on bush dogs. When I asked what she did, she explained, "My dog and I look for scat." When I asked about "scat," Karen told me it was animal poop.

Karen studies jaguars, mountain lions, bush dogs, ocelots and oncillas as a part of an ongoing carnivore conservation project with her dog in Misiones, Argentina. The two have also worked similar projects in Nebraska and here in Missouri. Her dog has been trained to find the scat from these carnivores. "It can be more effective than camera traps," Karen explains.

On a typical trip of three months, her group will walk 300 miles. In the same time, her dog covers 4 -5 times that distance. "He's always looking," she reports. Karen loves her dog, Train. "I knew he'd work out when he didn't pee on the scat samples he found," she explained.



Andrew's Dining Room Ceiling

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Message from the President

BY BARBARA
GILCHRIST

There are two areas of particular interest to me during my tenure as president. The first is neighborhood safety. While the City's crime statistics reflect a reduction in crime overall, our neighborhood has experienced far too many specific types of criminal events, predominately, armed robberies or assaults and stolen vehicles. In response, TGHNA has created a Safety Committee which has been tasked with exploring and implementing ways to reduce crime and increase safety. In particular, this committee is focusing on better lighting, cameras, neighborhood watch programs, and other ways we can help to keep all of us safe. Committee members have divided up responsibilities and we are well on our way to making recommendations. Of course, we also have to find ways to pay the costs of cameras or additional lighting. We can always use more volunteers, so let me know if you are interested.

The second area of interest for me is increasing membership in the Association and engagement of residents. In particular, I want our neighbors who are rental tenants as well as families with young children to know that you are very welcome to become members of the Association and to participate in all neighborhood activities. You are an essential part of the fabric of this neighborhood. Our first Heights Night at The Creamery was intended to attract families and it was a great success despite the cold weather. We also distributed flyers inviting renters to our monthly general meetings. Several people responded by attending a general meeting and we hope they and others will continue to be involved.

I also want to remind everyone that this is the 30th anniversary year for the Tower Grove Neighborhood Association. To celebrate

**Tower Grove
Heights is and
has been a vibrant
neighborhood
and association
for all these years
for many reasons**

this achievement, there will be a neighborhood-wide block party on the afternoon of September 23, on Spring Ave. from Juniata to Utah. There will be activities for kids, including a bike parade, food, and live music. Everyone is welcome.

As part of the event, we would like to display photos and other memorabilia reflective of the

history of Tower Grove Heights. If you have any such items, please let me know.

Thanks, again, to everyone who has contributed to our great neighborhood and the Association over these many years. Together, we can make 2017 another year of progress in our long and successful history.

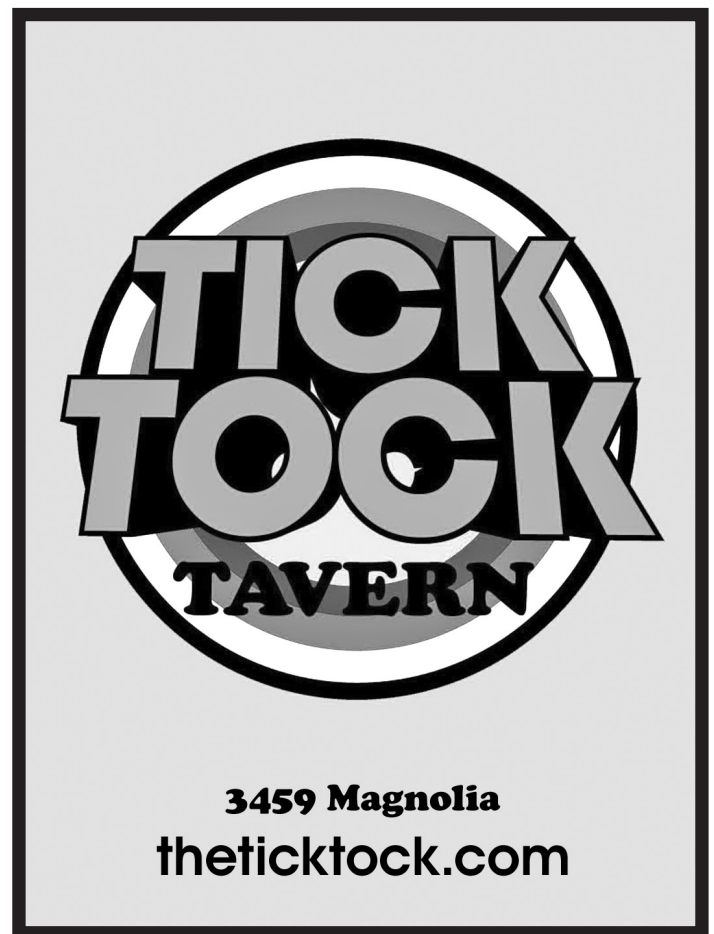
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Right Across The River

BY JOHN
PAPA

Tower Grove Heights has been a stately, leafy neighborhood for several generations. While densely populated, it feels comfortable and accommodating. At least those are characteristics I have observed and enjoyed since moving here just over twelve years ago. In that time, however, many of you have contributed another very enjoyable character element – the vitality found in young children. It has been a pleasant surprise that so many of you have found the Heights as a place to nurture. As much as anything, this will allow the neighborhood to thrive. In appreciation of your adventurous spirit, allow me to draw upon years of living across the river in the Prairie State and offer some suggestions as to remarkable, unique and low-cost excursions with which to entertain, educate and fill those long summer days and those fertile, young minds.

St. Louis is blessed with world-class attractions like the Zoo, Art Museum and Science Center. Less than ten miles from where you are sitting is the Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site. Five hundred years before Columbus “discovered” America,

a village of 10-20,000 people thrived in present-day Collinsville. They were mound builders like the Aztecs and Incas. To my

**Less than ten miles
from where you
are sitting is the
Cahokia Mounds
World Heritage Site**

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But Virginia is my favorite waitress. I never have to place my order – she has it written down as I enter the booth. If I’m waiting in line, she magically slices through the crowd and brings me a drink. It’s been years since I’ve had to actually order something.

The pub feels like home and Virginia is part of my family. I love that she makes dining an experience. Isn’t that why we prefer our neighborhood independent establishments to the humdrum chain affairs?

Uh-oh – looks like Virginia has a problem at the next table. This oughta be good.

Waiters, waitresses and bartenders

BY GAZETTE GHOST WRITER In this issue, we’re going to acknowledge the efforts of the people who serve us in bars and restaurants. While we enjoy being served and waited on, it’s a bit different on their end. As I spoke with a few people in the trade, I realized that a patron walking out w/o paying wasn’t their biggest problem.

Bartenders have to put up with idiotic questions like, “What’s on tap?” (while the customer looks directly at the taps) or “Can you charge my phone for me, pleeease?” When it’s time to pay, they might hear, “I already paid for that round.” Complaints like, “I can get a six-pack at the gas station for that much” are common. A bartender friend told me his biggest problem is a fight. “Gotta get ‘em outa the bar.”

On the server side, I was told, “Customers don’t realize that we’re only getting \$3/hour without tips. If one thing goes wrong, there goes your tip.” And it could be something as simple as not being able to present the bill. “Once, our bill printing machine ran completely out of paper. It was a disaster” said another.

While we’re seated comfortably, our servers are constantly on the move. A waitress friend told me she wore a Fitbit one night and clocked 3 ½ miles during her shift. Using 100 feet for her average round trip, she made about 185 trips from the customer to the kitchen and bar. If she carried as little as three pounds per trip, she would walk 3 ½ miles carrying a total of 550 pounds. Yipes.

When I asked what was the worst thing that ever happened, a waitress said that she spilled an entire drink on a little girl who came all dressed up right from church. “It was like a baptism.”

Yea! for all the people who work so hard to serve our food and drink. Nearby is a story about a hardworking waitress friend of mine.

knowledge, there are no other World Heritage Sites within a day's drive of St. Louis.

The State of Illinois maintains the site. Multiple mounds (all built by hand) remain, including the feature mound (Monk's Mound) which rises 100 feet above the flood plain and covers more than 40 acres. Access to the grounds is free, there is plenty of open space to hike and play. Cahokia Mounds was a popular destination for school field trips in my youth.

The state has constructed a building containing fascinating displays of life in a Mississippian Indian village. The Mounds may be a perfect destination during the solar eclipse this summer, as these indigenous peoples were sophisticated enough to construct a "Woodhenge." Excavations during my lifetime revealed these people sufficiently understood the heavens to construct a cosmic calendar similar to another World Heritage Site at Stonehenge in England.

The interpretive center contains a theater, as well as life-like displays, and there is a movie that describes the site and its significance in terms all ages can appreciate.

In addition to the Cahokia Mounds other attractions within a mile or two are Fairmont Park racetrack (where lessons in fractions, multiplication and probabilities can be presented with real world applications), several very authentic Mexican restaurants in Fairmont City (a home to many Hispanic families decades before they discovered Cherokee Street), Kruta's Bakery (a true European experience for your discerning sweet tooth) just up the bluff on Collinsville Road in Collinsville, and Horseshoe Lake State Park

(which has hiking trails frequently populated by critters kids would love to discover).

All in all, you can fill a warm summer day (or a part thereof) with inexpensive, educational and entertaining activities a convenient distance away.

Cross the Poplar Street Bridge and follow Interstate 55/70 to Illinois Route 111 and follow the signs.

Should your family prefer biking, consider the off-road trails crisscrossing Madison (mostly) and St. Clair Counties in Illinois. Contact the Metro East Park & Recreation District and the Madison and St. Clair County Transit District for maps that cover hundreds of miles of motor vehicle free trails.

This may be an appropriate year to learn more about our rivers. Illinois Route 3 in Madison County offers the old Route 66 Chain of Rocks Bridge, the Lewis & Clark State Memorial north of Interest 270, an observation tower in Hartford at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center in East Alton, the Melvin Price Lock & Dam south of Alton, and the spectacular bicycle trail which hugs the Mississippi and limestone bluffs between Alton and the charming village of Elsah.

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Heights Nights

Heights Nights are a way to meet and interact with community members in Tower Grove Heights. Heights Nights are scheduled from 6-8pm the 2nd Tuesday of the month from March through September. Many Heights Nights locations are chosen adjacent to the community to support and promote mutually beneficial relationships with local businesses.

The schedule of Heights Night for the remainder of 2017 is as follows:

June 13th at King & I

July 11th at Rooster South Grand

August 8th VP Square

September 12th at Civil Life Brewing Company

Heights Nights are promoted on the Facebook and Twitter accounts. You'll also see a yard sign pop up on Spring Avenue a few days prior to the date as a reminder

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continued from page 7

While they try not to make contact with the animals they're studying, the animals can get close. "My dog wears a bell so we can hear him working but it also warns animals that we're here." If Train picks up the body odor of a mountain lion, the lion is way too close. "When that happens, he stops dead."

On one trip, she was stalked by a jaguar. "I was immersed in my field work when I heard a "gruff." I continued to work and heard similar gruffs until a co-worker yelled, 'Let's get out of here!'"

Karen and Andrew's marriage has an interesting balance. When Karen travels on extended trips, Andrew completes projects at home. The next one is the front porch ceiling. Karen told me, "He likes to stay busy when I'm gone."

If you want to check out Karen's work, visit her page:

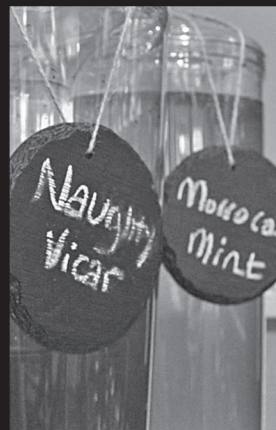
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Living History in the Park

BY **BETH
AUSTIN**

The intriguing home inside the west entrance to Tower Grove Park on Kingshighway is mysteriously quiet and marked as private property. According to Brigid Flynn, Director of Development for the park, the home was built as one of four gatehouses on the park perimeter. They housed gatekeepers who were responsible for opening and closing the park each day. There are two remaining gatehouses, the second being the Artscope building at the Arsenal St. entrance.

The Kingshighway house and park entrance was designed by Francis Tunica in the Gothic Revival style, and built from 1870-1872. The iron fence and pedestrian gates at Lafayette Park have also been attributed to Tunica. The gatehouse has already undergone renovations in 1908, 1957 and 1970 which successfully preserved its distinct character.

Until recently, the house was rented to a private individual as a source of income for the park. That resident has moved on and there are some major improvements that need to be made before it might be rented again. According to Flynn, the house and its future use are up for review and part of the Master Plan for the park.




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REAL ESTATE NEWS

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

Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights during this quarter

Type	Address	Sold Price	Age
Resident	3837 Connecticut	\$251,000	111
Resident	3700 Hartford	\$295,550	101
Resident	3708 Humphrey	\$364,000	112
Resident	3888 S. Utah Pl.	\$407,500	109
Multi	3640 Humphrey	\$247,000	108
Multi	3880 Juniata	\$290,000	110
Multi	3868-72 Juniata	\$288,000	107



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TOWER GROVE EAST TURNS 50!

BY **RICH
IEZZI**

Congratulations to our neighbors to the east for 50 years of continuous service through their Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association (TGENA). Recently, I talked with Ann Auer, long time Tower Grove East resident and a big part of the TGENA early days. Ann's husband, Ron, has lived in Tower Grove East his whole life while Ann moved there in 1980.

In the 1970s and 1980s, it wasn't much fun to live in the City. School busing eliminated neighborhood schools and the oil embargo meant we were paying over \$500 a month to heat these

old barns. City living was an oxymoron, causing realtors to steer their clients to the county.

Ann said, "I can't eat another one" and wondered if a misplaced pizza from a bygone era could still be hiding in someone's freezer.

But Tower Grove East had a lot going for it. There was a dedicated group of neighbors who enjoyed each other's company and were in it for the long haul. Ann says they enjoyed "bar walks" and volunteering at the City's July 4th celebration for the past 35 years.

Neighborhood associations need two things: volunteers and money. To make money, Tower Grove East residents sold pizzas, conducted house tours and worked a booth at the VP Fair. TGE

volunteers assembled pizzas by hand and sold 30,000 of them over a 20-year period. Ann said, "I can't eat another one" and wondered if a misplaced pizza from a bygone era could still be hiding in someone's freezer.

Thirty years ago, our Tower Grove Heights competed with Tower Grove East over potential house buyers but we never seemed to catch up. While TGHTs was still forming, TG East was installing their beautiful "Tower Grove East" signs on vintage light poles. I remember pestering Ann about the signs but our neighborhood didn't have the organization or money to pursue them.

City house tours in the 1980s and 1990s provided funding for Tower Grove East but more importantly, they were a great marketing tool. Tower Grove East residents opened their houses over 200 times for tours and celebrated every time the house tours led to a sale. For many potential buyers, the house tours were their first glimpse of the magnificent interiors we sometimes take for granted.

Then the City started coming together. Pantheon Construction was renovating the Fox Theatre and also developing huge areas in the West End. KMOX radio had an extremely popular morning radio host named Jack Carney who constantly talked about his City house and promoted City Living. Post-Dispatch columnist Elaine Viets owned a house in Tower Grove Heights and also talked up the City.

Our area's depressed housing prices began to attract buyers and developers but that wasn't the only appeal. Neighborhoods like Tower Grove East grabbed new buyers and made them feel welcome. "We had so much fun back then," reports Ann. They're still having fun but also working hard to maintain a beautiful neighborhood. Congratulations on 50 years, Tower Grove East.

Tower Grove Heights **NEEDS YOU!**

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association can only be YOUR association if you join. With your participation, TGHNA will be a reflection of what YOU want the Heights to become. So please don't delay in joining or rejoining.

To find out what is happening in the neighborhood
To make the Heights a cleaner and safer place
To have a liaison with City Hall and other agencies
To better protect our property values
To make TGH a more interesting, fun place to live

Indicate your membership level choice: ☐ ☐

☐ INDIVIDUAL (1 vote) \$10/year

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

☐ HOUSEHOLD (2 votes) \$15/year

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ ASSOCIATE (non-voting) \$10/year

Please add my email address
to the Neighborhood Forum
Email notification list. . .

☐ LIFETIME (1 vote) \$100 single payment

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ BUSINESS (1 vote) \$25 /year

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