

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 26, No. 4

Winter 2015

Perseverance

by **Ellen Wilson** It seems hard to believe that this is the twelfth year that our neighborhood will be working with the 100 Neediest Cases program to help families in need. The neighborhood has changed a lot during that time and so has our program. Each year new people get involved without losing the group of original helpers who, gratefully, come back every year. Friendships are renewed when we get together to wrap the presents and new acquaintances made. I worry each year that things will fall apart or we won't get enough donations, but each year I get reminded how generous and thoughtful our group is. So, in celebration of our twelfth year, we have again selected two South City families to support that each are dealing with illness and disability preventing them from keeping up with all that life demands.

Both families are doing what they can to care for themselves and their children, but they could use some help. I hope you will join me again in supporting those who are less fortunate. Our goal is to provide a holiday morning gift surprise for the children and help each family with bills and food to try to give them a moment of relief that they can enjoy with their families.

If you would like to help, either donate a new unwrapped gift that fits one of the family members or general needs or donate cash (or check – made out to TGHNA) which will be used to buy gifts and help our adopted families pay for utilities. Drop your donations at the drop point and we take care of the rest. **Please be sure to include your full name with your donation to be sure I can acknowledge your generosity.** All gifts will be wrapped and distributed to the families. Choose one (or more) of the following:

Family #1

Single parent works part-time and raises four children. She has several chronic illnesses and struggles to maintain her medication costs.

Mother (53)

Size: L 12;
Shoes: (10.5)

Boy (11)

Size: XL;
Pants: (32/34);
Shoes: (9.5)

Boy (18)

Size: XL;
Pants: (34/34);
Shoes: (10)

Girl (9)

Size: 12/14;
Shoes: (7)

Boy (14)

Size: XL;
Pants: (32/34);
Shoes: (10)

Special Requests: Bikes, easy bake oven, doll house, black baby doll, scooters, footballs, basketballs, PlayStation3 games (sports), games; cooking ware; bedding (queen); dishes, curtains, bed room set

Family #2

Young couple with three children struggling with injury which prevents being able to work.

Father (22)

Size: M;
Pants: (34/32);
Shoes: (9)

Girl (1.5)

Size: 24/36 mths;
Shoes: (1-Child)

Girl (newborn)

Size: 3/6 mths

Mother (20)

Size: S 2;
Shoes: (5.5)

Girl (4)

Size: 4T/5T;
Shoes: (9-Toddler)

Special Requests: Doc McStuffins; Black Baby Dolls; Minnie Mouse; Infant swing; Infant (1) Diapers and wipes; Cologne; Perfume; Bedding (queen); books; crayons; educational toys; age appropriate movies

Both families need the following....

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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:

Ellen Wilson, Abigail Miller, Tricia Heliker,
Marilyn Browning, Rich Iezzi, Mindy Rouff,
Sarah C Truckey, Jason Henley,
Carey Uxa Morgan, Deborah Ervin

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Marilyn Browning, Rich Iezzi,
Sarah Truckey, Brian Marston, Ellen Wilson,
Ann Stanley, Tricia Heliker

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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

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FEBRUARY 23RD 2016

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Five Reasons to Make The Holiday Bright

BY **ABIGAIL MILLER**

As the holiday season approaches, each of our "To Do" lists grow. Shopping, party planning, and eating entire batches of cookie dough quickly fill the calendar. In the Miller house, one of those holiday chores is putting up Christmas lights. Even though we aren't going for Griswold status, it is still a bit of a hassle. For those of you tempted to forego this wonderful tradition, here is a list of five reasons you should take a moment to hang some lights on the front of your house...

1. You know all those cute kids you've been seeing around the neighborhood? Let's give these new parents an easy option to help burning energy when the little ones are just too excited to go to sleep. Decorated streets are perfect for late night cruising, even if it is just to get little ones to fall asleep in the back of the car.
2. Holiday decorations show that people live in these houses... and not just any people, people with flare!
3. Festive blocks beckon others to come visit for strolls and cruises. More visitors are more eyes and ears on the street – and more potential neighbors!
4. Adorned blocks complement the bustling business district we are so fortunate to live next to. Let's show our businesses we support them by highlighting what a fantastic part of town this is and making them want to come back.
5. If holiday cheer gets to a new level it may just inspire a holiday beer wagon!

Yes, lights are fun, but they do also showcase a vibrant, fun, and thriving neighborhood. Lit up streets communicate that we are proud of these blocks, a valuable message to those interested in these blocks for other reasons. If you are considering skipping the lights this year, I encourage you to reconsider. Let's embrace the season by making our neighborhood merry and (literally) bright! And if it's the actual hanging of the lights that has you hesitant, just call Matt and I. We will gladly help spread the holiday cheer by coming to help!

Secure Shipping

BY **TRICIA HELIKER**

Online buying has taken some of the wear and tear out of shopping, but not all the stress. We have all heard the stories of purchases disappearing from porches when buyers are not available to retrieve them immediately. Now that problem has a solution with ups.com/mychoice. Conveniently located on Grand Blvd., Watkins-Avon Store at 3179 S. Grand (SW corner of Grand and Connecticut) has been a UPS Access Point since early October. That means you may have your packages delivered to this location and pick them up at a time that is convenient for you. Another option is to have UPS attempt a home delivery. If you are not available to accept the delivery it will then be left at the Access site. Watkins-Avon is open M-F, 9-6 and Sat., 9-3. Any deviations from this schedule will be listed on the website. If you are returning a package or sending one, you may also drop them at this location for UPS pickup, with a pre-paid label. Visit ups.com/mychoice to find answers to any questions and to find out more about this service. There are two other convenient Access Points for our neighborhood. Gringo Jones Imports at 4470 Shaw and Will's Copy Connection at 2634 Cherokee. For information on hours and directions go to ups.com/dropoff. You may also Email UPS: UPSAccessPoint@ups.com. Don't let your Christmas presents end up under a stranger's tree this year.

Perseverance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Both families need the following:



Gift cards for any of the following:

medicine, gas/fuel, food, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, or baby care products if appropriate.

Consider: Walgreens, Target, Walmart, Schnucks, Shop N Save, Aldi, Ruler, BP, or other related stores.

Educational Items – Consider:

age appropriate books, family games, school supplies...

Cash – for gifts or utility bills which are paid directly by 100 Neediest Cases (checks to TGHNA)

There is always a need for volunteers to help wrap the gifts **including providing wrapping materials**. If you want to help wrap or just stop by to see the process, contact Ellen.

Due Date for Donations: December 18

Wrapping Party: December 20 at 10:00 a.m. at Ellen's house

Drop Point and Contact:

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**“Enough shovels
of earth
– a mountain.**

**Enough pails
of water
– a beer.”**

– South City Proverb

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

“Winter is Coming...”

BY ELLEN WILSON Can you place the quote? My guess is many of you can because we live in a neighborhood that likes to read. While I don't know why this surprises me, I never knew how many people in the neighborhood really like to read. I see people out and about all the time these days so I don't know when we have time to read, but read we do. Since I installed the Little Free Library over the summer, I cannot think of a single day when the books have not changed. I check the box every day and notice at least a book or two added or removed each day. Sometimes I can just tell that the books have been looked at. I love it when people are outside looking at the books and trying to place the quotes on the library box. The books vary from lofty historical tomes to quick read fictions. We seem to go through young children's books more quickly than young adult (come on teens I know you are out there). Winter is always a time when I see fewer people out and about so before you get cozy with your cocoa and Snuggie, come down and get another book to read. 3600 block of Juniata two houses from Grand.

There are other Libraries in the area one on the 4200 block of Connecticut and one in Shaw that has its own Facebook page. So visit the boxes and keep coming back. Thank you for contributing and taking books and being neighbors who read.



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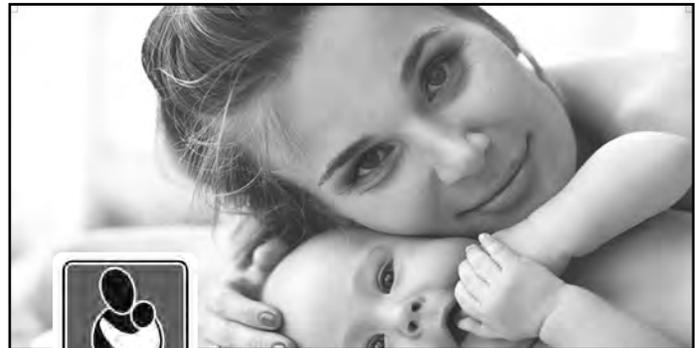
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AUTUMN FEST 2015 REPRISE

BY MARILYN BROWNING

Tower Grove Heights celebrated our 10th Autumn Fest this year on October 10th, and what a great Autumn Fest it was. The weather was absolutely perfect, the crowd was happy and fun-loving, and the food and wine were great.

This year our first site was the lovely home of Elaine and Peter Haynes, and their spacious backyard comfortably accommodated the crowd. Our dessert maker extraordinaire Pat Edwards and husband John Papa put on a beautiful spread of desserts and coffee at their place. Finally, Metra Mitchell-Taylor and Nick Taylor opened their beautiful home and garden to the crowd with plain and spiked hot cider, wine, beer, s'mores, snacks, the music of Jim McClaren and a bonfire. It was a terrific end to a great evening.

Our pedicab drivers took their delighted passengers to all three Autumn Fest sites, to their parked cars, and even to their houses in the neighborhood. The drivers were so taken with us that they visited the party site at the end of their shifts and enjoyed themselves tremendously.

The only real tragedy of the evening was the failure of the Cards to beat those Cubbies, but even your fearless Autumn Fest chair can't deliver that!



From top to bottom: Peter and Elaine Haynes, John Papa and Pat Edwards, Nick and Metra Taylor-Mitchell

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- Hartford Coffee Company
- Hodak's
- Jimmy John's
- King and I Restaurant
- Mokabe's Coffee House
- Rooster
- Treehouse
- The Vine

AND TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIRS:

- Pat Edwards and John Papa
- Peter and Elaine Haynes
- Kent Householder
- Metra Taylor-Mitchell and Nick Taylor
- Rachel Witt
- Jim Zakibe
- All of the great Autumn Fest volunteers!

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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.

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WAY UP THERE

BY RICH IEZZI **F**or the past two years, Katie Rice-Guter and Lev Guter have lived in the top two floors of an Arsenal 2-family flat facing Tower Grove Park. The apartment has an interesting design and feel to it---Katie described it as 'quirky'. The third floor is completely open and attached to their favorite part---the roof deck.

Roof decks are fun. Years ago, my wife, Jean, and I used to gather with friends on a Lafayette Square roof to watch the VP Fair fireworks. There are so many things to like about being way up there---the view, the privacy, the extra space, etc. And, it's relatively quiet.

When I went to visit Katie and Lev, Katie was thinking I'd be disappointed because their roof deck wasn't enormous. But square footage has nothing to do with it. Once you step onto the deck, you're in a fairy tale land with a view of treetops, roofs and chimneys. It's so removed from terra firma----their deck surface is at least 25 feet straight up. Even better, their building enjoys one of the highest elevations in Tower Grove Heights.

But you have to want to get to that roof deck. I counted the steps---47 from the street. "By the time you get up here, you need a beer", Lev confessed. Being up that high provides a great view but unfortunately there's no access to that ubiquitous city living convenience we enjoy---the garden hose.



Katie and Lev made the most of their sky spot by growing vegetables throughout the summer. Katie told me they grew tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, chives and basil.

Sometimes the cucumbers would grow down the wall and have to be pulled up to be picked. But watering them was tough. "We had to fill buckets from a small sink and carry them to the deck", Katie explained. "Those plants took a lot of water in the summer."

Katie and Lev have gotten a lot of mileage out of their roof deck. They've slept out there (OK, not in winter) and rigged up a table and canopy so they could throw a dinner party. Such fun.

Their roof deck is a bit unusual because the brick walls from the back of the house were extended to enclose the deck on the east and west sides. The south portion of the deck has heavy metal tubing that provides a secure feeling.

Lev said that nights on the deck can be interesting. "We can stargaze and see bats at the same time." Katie showed me photos she took of some incredible sunsets that would be blocked by trees at ground level and mentioned an added benefit of the deck was watching illegal city fireworks being shot off during the 4th of July. "It's quite a show", she smiled.

Sadly, Katie and Lev have to leave their rooftop nest to buy their first home. "We'll really miss it but then someone else can enjoy it", Katie rationalized.

So I'm wondering---when the founders of our neighborhood decided on the 'Tower Grove Heights' name, were they on a roof deck?



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A Shifting Commute

by Sarah C Truckey

In the rain, snow, heat and wind you've seen them trudging along, some in spandex, many wearing helmets and others donning neither. They pedal down Arsenal, glide through the park or hustle up Gustine. They don't sit in traffic or worry about finding a parking spot at the office. They get exercise and fresh air. And they do it because they have to; they do it because they want to.

"Bike commuting is just a part of who I am. Also, I hate cars."

—Brian Marston

take their kids to school, and some of our neighbors are taking to their bikes to make those things happen.

As a one-car couple, my boyfriend and I share custody of our Honda, forcing one of us to bike or bus at least half the week. We've been doing this for 2.5 years and neither of us has ever had an issue, an argument or a moment of single-vehicle regret.

Introducing the bike commuter—an unfamiliar concept to some but one that's becoming more popular as gas prices fluctuate, insurance premiums rise, property taxes exist, and major road closures cause congested reroutes. People need to get to work, run errands, and



Among the many people who do the same in St. Louis, our alley neighbors Brian Marston and Amanda Doyle seem to be doing pretty ok, too. The 18-year veterans of TGH have two kids and a full-time job apiece but somehow manage to get where they need to go using just one car and one bicycle.

Brian's been bike commuting to work year-round for 7.5 years straight, with daily distances varying from 13 to the current 6.5 miles, and says he wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's cheaper, healthier, and better for the environment. Those are all pretty obvious. I also like being in touch with the seasons. Bike commuting is just a part of who I am. Also, I hate cars."

Brian's favorite part about it?

"Getting where I need to go under my own power always makes me feel gloriously self-sufficient. There's a simple elegance to human-powered transportation. There are days when my commute is the best part of my workday. There aren't many drivers who would say that."



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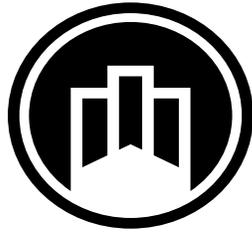
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Hartford House? Nope!

BY
JASON
HENSLEY

“Nope! Noooooooope!” Those were the first words I said when entering 3826 Hartford. The realtor and my husband were already inside; I had been distracted by a clearly sinking wooden porch footing and was lagging behind to check it out. The realtor was already in the dining room and Jeff was examining an unfortunate (and not code) brick fireplace addition in the living room by the time I got in the door. I just stood dumbstruck in the foyer.

When looking at homes we’ve always had an attitude that decor can be fixed. Don’t like the color? Paint. Wallpaper? Take it down. It’s just a matter of time and effort. Luckily, we’d been through this process more than once so we had an idea as to how much time, effort and money tasks like that would take. But this house – it smelled of stale smoke and had a mustiness that could overtake just about everything – well, except the smoke. Everything seemed to be impregnated with it.

As I walked around, I just kept looking at things that would need to be changed or fixed. Living room - the 70s fireplace needs to go (how long will it take to hammer that out?). Dining room - all of the plaster fell down leaving “exposed brick” (what caused that?). Kitchen - needs to be gutted (and why was there a bathroom IN the kitchen?).

Very quickly it became apparent why all of the online pictures were taken of the new carpeting the bank had installed and nothing else.

It didn’t get any better upstairs. Very quickly it became apparent why all of the online pictures were taken of the new carpeting the bank had installed and nothing else. The plaster walls had been covered in cheap paneling we would later find was installed in 1966. And the paneling had been covered in wallpaper and what hadn’t been covered in wallpaper had been sponge painted. This was a lot more decor than I wanted to tackle and then there was always the smell. I was ready to go.

When we got back to the first floor the realtor and Jeff bounded off to the basement. I refused, saying that I’d seen enough and went back to look at that wonky porch again. Nothing else was said in the car about 3826 on our way to the next house. And after another day of looking we had come up empty again.

Back to the MLS to look for more houses and a few days later we were back at it with a fresh batch of houses to see. None of them were quite right. It was a pattern we’d run into with our other outings – either they weren’t in just the right area or they had already been done by developers who were seeking a premium for their effort. After the third house that day I was getting discouraged because we’d been in about a dozen and nothing was working. And since we were moving back to St. Louis after being gone for 10 years, finding someplace to live was pretty important.

The final house on our list that day meant there was nothing on the market left to see and after we all piled in the car, Jeff pipes up from the backseat, “You know, that house on Hartford could be perfect.” If he had said “You know, when I was little I had a set of tentacles for hands but then they fell off,” it wouldn’t have surprised me as much as hearing him say that 3826 could be perfect for us. Then he broke it down for me. We’d seen a ton of houses that had been done by others and we weren’t happy with any of them. The Hartford House, as we came to call it, was way beyond a cosmetic update and likely needed to be gutted. We could then do it any way we wanted and rent someplace while a contractor did the work for us. As a bonus, he pointed out that the house had been stripped of just about every historical and architecturally interesting thing over its 110-year lifespan which would give us guilt-free reign to do whatever we wanted with it. And besides, it was something he’d always wanted to do with a house. Sold.

continued on page 10



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A WALK IN THE PARK

Hartford House? Nope!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Once we'd negotiated the sale of the house from Fannie Mae in August 2014 – a nightmarish process I won't bother to describe – it was a matter of finding someone who could plan out the spaces and draw up plans. We settled on a local architecture firm and they did a great job creating plans for a modern home on the inside with all of the historic exterior touches intact on the outside.

The general contractor we selected couldn't begin for three months so we ended up gutting the house ourselves. The GC cautioned us that everyone thinks demo is easy and fun but that it's in fact, dangerous. Needless to say, this wasn't our first time at the rodeo and we'd done plenty of demo in the past. I highly recommend it. It is in fact, fun but also extremely therapeutic and satisfying at the same time. We ended up going a bit further than we originally planned but that was due largely to the 20-yard dumpster a friend made available to us. In the end we removed 95 percent of the walls and 100 percent of the ceilings, all of the electrical, plumbing and HVAC so that we could start with an empty shell. The few original things we kept were the staircase, stained glass window, and original panels under the windows and all of the pine floors.

When we started the project there were three other houses on this block or just adjacent to it that developers began after we'd started Hartford House. They all finished before us. This made it look like our house was the never ending project and I'm sure people kept walking by it thinking, "When are they ever going to finish?" The short answer to that is, likely never. However, we ended up doing things a developer would never ever consider. We had a new entry door and sidelight made using our next door neighbor's entry as a template; we built an addition on the back to accommodate a bathroom on the first floor; we cut an additional door on the east side of the house to allow for more light and improve access to the yard; we cleared every chimney of debris so we could run the flues for appliances and fireplace inserts out of them instead of punching holes in the walls; and many more things that would never occur if the home wasn't rehabbed by an owner-occupant.

It's come down to just a few more things to complete and the house will be exactly as we'd envisioned. Well, on the inside anyway. Our apologies, but the outside will take a little longer.

And that wonky wooden support leg that was sinking into the ground and pulling the top of the porch away from the house? It's been completely replaced with a new brick porch that will likely outlast the house.

The two questions I've been asked the most through this entire project have been, "Would you do it again knowing what you know now?" and "Would you change anything?" The answer to both is, "Nope!"



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WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING IN THE HEIGHTS

BY
CAREY UXA
MORGAN

You may have noticed that some of us are moving a little slower in the neighborhood these days. And no, we aren't just gaining a little winter weight; we're in the midst of a full-blown baby boom in the Heights. I'm expecting a baby boy this February and he'll have plenty of baby neighbor friends. Seriously, we should consider having the water checked.

Seriously, we should consider having the water checked.

Now that I have a few months' experience with this whole pregnancy bit, the fine editors of the Gazette deemed me reputable to comment on the matter and I thought I would share a few tips for the other expectant Heights parents out there.

When you've hidden your pregnancy those first few months, be prepared for a "where have you been?!" upon returning to the Gin Room at Café Natasha. After a brief scolding, followed by hugs at your happy news, let the restaurant's namesake make you a fabulous mocktail with one of her homemade tonics.

If you're crippled with I've-been-hit-by-a-bus exhaustion at the end of the workday, take refuge in the King and I's takeout entrance. So sick you can't even think about entering your kitchen? The herbaceous broth and rice noodles in a bowl of hot pho from Pho Grand are sweet relief.

Oh, you're really sick? Hate-your-partner-for-doing-this-to-you sick? Try the Turmeric Ginger tea from the London Tea Room. Brewed strong it can cut through the worst of nausea and even vertigo.

Speaking of being sick, I'd like to take this forum to publicly apologize to the neighbor on Juniata whose yard I yacked in. You may have thought that was a dog or an over-served CBGB patron, but nay, it was solely the result of my forthcoming maternal bliss. If I'm taking it back to the tips, the trunks of the majestically large trees in Tower Grove Park are also an excellent location for such activity.

But if you can muddle through those first months of illness, there is much to enjoy in this fine neighborhood. I'm pretty sure it's scientifically proven that if you walk to the Gelateria Del Leone, it is a caloric wash. It's just science.

And on a more serious safety note, the Parenting Resources at Wyoming and Spring offers a full calendar of preparedness classes – including Infant CPR and car seat fittings.

While I'm not a parent quite yet, I can't think of a better place to bring home baby to than the Heights. We're looking forward to baby-friendly brunches at Rooster, birthdays at Tower Grove Creamery and even the clatter of basketballs and bikes in the alley. And perhaps most importantly, I can't wait to introduce him to his neighbors.

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AN INTERESTING HOUSE FOR AN INTERESTING WOMAN

BY MINDY ROUFF **S**urely you've driven down Arsenal and noticed the home with the elaborate terra cotta in a Moorish design. Maybe the home's ornate cantilevered balcony caught your eye or maybe it was the imposing medieval (board and batten) style door. Perhaps, like me, you thought, "Wow. What is that place? Is it a church or a library?" By the way, you don't need to know words like "cantilevered" to have noticed 3634 Arsenal, but you do need to know such words to write an article. My thanks go to homeowner, Ann Stanley, for giving me the proper terms to describe her eye-catching home – because "pretty thingy" and "cool door" *aren't* architectural terms.

According to the National Register of Historic Places, the house at 3634 Arsenal is in the Spanish Baroque style and it has been a two-family flat since it was built in 1932. Interestingly, though, Ann guesses that there once was a doctor's office in the home's basement. She has solid evidence: "Dr. Ramos" is printed on a paper label on the internal basement door and there is a separate entrance from Arsenal to the basement.

The house is more than just visually interesting – it is of historic interest because it was the last home to be built in Tower Grove Heights.

Ann Stanley has owned 3634 Arsenal since August 1, 2014. Ann told me that her favorite thing about the house is being across the street from Tower Grove Park. She kindly gave me a tour of her home, but I'd be hard pressed to pick one favorite thing. One big contender: the Spanish galleon ship engraved above the fireplace. Another galleon ship is etched in stained glass in the bathroom. She's lucky to have quite a few intact historic features, including lovely stained glass windows on either side of the fireplace; hammered metal on the door knobs and backplates (reflecting the Spanish style of the house); and plaster roping over the door frames and archways between rooms (reflecting the Baroque style).

The house is more than just visually interesting – it is of historic interest because it was the last home to be built in Tower Grove Heights. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the Missouri History Museum's Andrew Wanko, not much is known about the house's history besides that one cool piece of neighborhood trivia. From Andrew's preliminary research, it seems likely 3634 was an empty lot until Ann's beauty was built.

Although much is unknown about 3634 Arsenal's past, I learned a lot of fascinating stuff about Ann's history. Ann lived in the St. Louis suburbs until she went to college in Indiana where she got a degree in Fine Arts. Then, she was drawn to historic preservation—the perfect passion for the owner of the last home built in a nationally-recognized historic district! However, she switched her Masters studies to Urban Planning because, as she told me, she'd rather be a planner with a "historic conscience" than a preservationist constantly



Photo credits Ann Stanley

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Going, Going, SOLD

BY
TRICIA
HELIKER

Real estate was the hot topic in the Heights this fall. Commercial dumpsters took up more than a few spots of precious street parking. Back hoes, flat beds and other construction vehicles were scrambling for places to load and unload their equipment. Ladders and scaffolds dotted much of the landscape as contractors took advantage of mild weather to complete the exteriors of the houses under rehab. Vacant homes were being swept up quickly knowing a well done rehab would be resold within days of completion and sometimes before.

'It's only the porch falling off the house next door.'

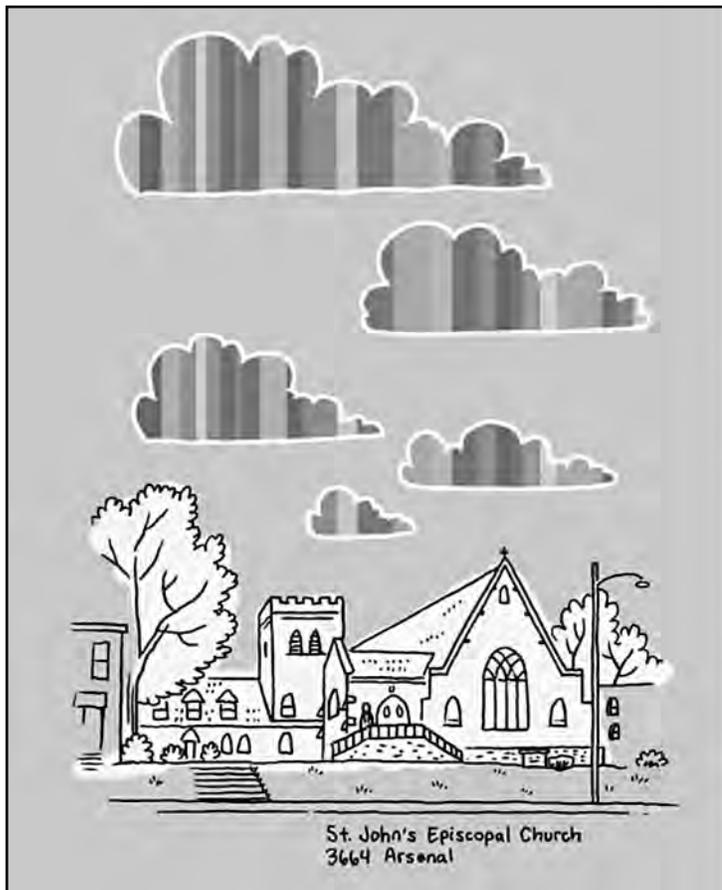
But one house stood like the last child on the playground to be chosen for a team. There was always plenty of interest in the corner property but due to a death, no will, and disinterested heirs, this house was governed by law to continue to deteriorate for three years before being put up for auction.

The time passed slowly for the neighbors who were watching the house go from bad to worse. One neighbor was awakened during the night to an unusual sound but rolled over and went back to sleep thinking: 'It's only the porch falling off the house next door.' And indeed that's what had happened. Unobserved, the second story porch just released and dropped to the ground.

But finally, on a bright October morning, auction day arrived. Approximately 100 people gathered in the lobby of the Civil Courts building to bid on this house or others on the docket. Spectators were there too, with coffee cups in hand, to observe and be the first to know who walked away with the deed to this coveted location.

Lot numbers were called out over the PA system until someone called out, "stop." The bidding would then begin and continue with minimum required increments of one hundred dollars. Many properties were skipped over for lack of interest, but not Lot 180-088. When that number was called, at least 20 bidders hollered in unison, "STOP!" The participants kept up with the fast-paced bidding until their maximum limit was reached, and one by one the paddles were lowered. The process moved rapidly from a beginning bid of \$4781.39 to a final gavel call at \$100,000, with only three bidders left in the race at the end.

Many shook the hand of the new owner and congratulated him on his purchase of 3801 Hartford. I was one of those eager to let him know the neighbors have high expectations for this house. He assured me, "The house will be beautiful!"



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AN INTERESTING HOUSE FOR AN INTERESTING WOMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

fighting city planners. With her city planning background, she has held some interesting jobs. While living in Maryland, she worked for an engineering firm as a planner assisting communities that were rebuilding after natural disasters. In this capacity, she traveled to Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina and to New York and New Jersey after Hurricane Sandy. She's also held some exciting jobs outside the urban planning field, including interior designer and owner of a carryout gourmet restaurant. As if all of this didn't make her interesting enough, she's lived all over, from Indiana to Toronto to Maryland. (Her son and soon-to-be-born first grandchild live in Toronto.) She moved back to St. Louis a year ago to help care for her mother and she's glad to be home. She noted that St. Louis has all the amenities of a big city. She also said that she loves St. Louis, with its beautiful architecture and rich history. Tower Grove Heights is lucky that a kind, neighborly woman with a "historic conscience" is the new caretaker of one of its most historically and architecturally significant homes!

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	Address	Sold Price	Bedrooms	Baths	Square Feet
Residential	3843 Connecticut	\$207,000	3	2	1,584
Residential	3847 Connecticut	\$344,500	4	3	2,442
Multi-family	3710 Connecticut	\$125,000	0	0	2,708
Residential	3818 Hartford	\$122,500	3	2	1,634
Residential	3836 Hartford	\$365,000	4	3	2,552
Residential	3671 Humphrey	\$282,500	3	2	2,400
Residential	3666 Humphrey	\$316,000	4	3	2,232
Residential	3841 Juniata	\$210,000	3	2	1,612
Residential	3841 Utah	\$429,900	4	3	2,992
Residential	3831 Wyoming	\$364,000	3	3	
Residential	3806 Wyoming	\$373,000	4	3	3,183
Multi-family	3847 Wyoming	\$152,000	0	0	2,450

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Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Membership Registration Form

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

There are two ways to join TGHNA:

1. You may join TGHNA online. Go to towergroveheights.com under the Get Involved tab. Online payment is done through PayPal.

2. To join by mail, complete the bottom portion of this form and return to P.O. Box 160069, St. Louis, MO 63116. Make checks payable to: Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

All membership fees are set by the board prior to each calendar year. With the exception of Lifetime (individual or household), each membership is renewable annually and due on the yearly anniversary of the initial registration.

Only members who meet the requirements for voting privileges and are current in membership fees may vote at TGHNA meetings. Voting eligibility for newly-admitted members will commence 60 days following receipt of membership fees.

Membership fees are tax deductible as allowable by law.

FEES AND LEVELS

Regular (individual) Membership (\$10): To be eligible for membership at this level, an individual must reside in or own property within the boundaries of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood (TGH). Individual members are entitled to one (1) vote at TGHNA meetings and can stand for office in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws. By-laws can be found on towergroveheights.com.

Household Membership (\$15): This level of membership provides for a single annual membership fee to cover multiple people residing in or owning the same residence in TGH. A Household Membership carries a maximum of two (2) votes at TGHNA meetings.

Business Membership (\$25): This level is for local businesses that have an interest in Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood. A business located in the neighborhood is entitled to one (1) vote. Business memberships located outside the neighborhood are not eligible to vote. This membership level entitles members to a 10% discount on TGHNA *Gazette* ads for one year.

Associate Membership (\$10): This level is for individuals who have an interest in the Neighborhood but who don't meet the requirements to be a Regular member. An Associate Member may attend Neighborhood meetings, serve on or chair a Committee, but may not vote or be an Officer.

Lifetime Membership (individual) (\$100): At this level, an individual may become a member of the TGH Neighborhood Association for his/her lifetime. A Lifetime Member must meet the requirements of a Regular Member to be eligible to vote or stand for office.

Household Lifetime Membership (\$200): This level of membership provides for a single lifetime membership fee to cover multiple people residing in or owning the same residence within TGH. This level carries a maximum of 2 votes at TGHNA meetings. Any resident or owner of the household 18 and older is eligible to stand for office.

Each membership expires one year from the date of registration, except lifetime memberships.

Please detach the bottom portion and mail to P.O. Box 160069, St. Louis, MO 63116

- Regular membership (individual) - \$10
- Household membership - \$15
- Business membership - \$25
- Associate membership - \$10
- Lifetime membership (individual) \$100
- Lifetime membership (household) - \$200

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