

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 25, No. 2

Summer 2014

## Lulu's Local Eatery - FINDING A HOME ON SOUTH GRAND



**MARILYN BROWNING** You may know Lulu's Local Eatery food truck from Food Truck Fridays, from the Tower Grove Farmer's Market, or maybe because you work at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital /Washington University Medical Campus and have been getting your food fix there this past winter. In any case, Lulu's is vegan food cooked from scratch on wheels. For those less familiar with their menu, I offer some advice: Don't get too hung up on the vegan label. It's just plain delicious food.

Imagine then, that you could get Lulu's food just around the corner from where you live, and maybe even sit down and eat in the comfort of a fun casual restaurant. That's exactly what's happening this May. Lulu's Local Eatery is taking over the space at 3601 South Grand (formerly Natty's Pizza). According to Lauren "Lulu" Loomis and Robert Tucker, it's a perfect fit.

*continued on page 4*

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### IN THIS ISSUE

- Lulu's Local Eatery* .....1
- TGNCDC Focus on Develpmnt*...3
- Message from the President*.....5
- Bargain Benefits*.....6
- Out Back*.....8
- The Seed Library*.....9
- Easy Parking for Grand Ave*....10
- Project Blitz 2014*.....10
- Early Recycling*.....12
- TGHT's Social Media Info*.....15
- Real Estate News in TGH* .....15
- Second Chance/First Impression* 16



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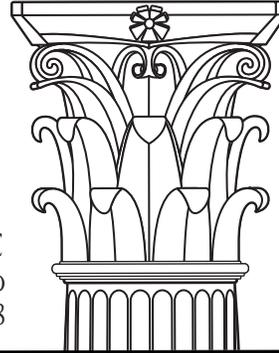
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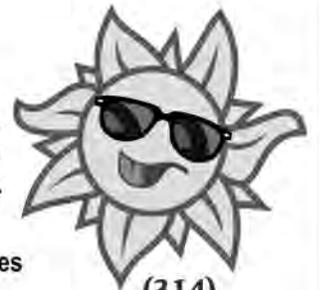
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# New Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC to Focus on Development of Three St. Louis Neighborhoods

By Sean Spencer

In an innovative approach to neighborhood revitalization, three South St. Louis organizations have combined operations to form Tower Grove Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation. TGNDC will focus on housing development and community improvements in the Shaw, Southwest Garden, and Tower Grove South neighborhoods, serving a combined population of 25,000 residents in nearly 12,000 households. It replaces the former Shaw Neighborhood Housing Corporation, Grand Oak Hill Community Corporation and Southwest Neighborhood Housing Corporation.

"The merger signifies a major strategy change with regard to community development in the City of St. Louis. For the first time, we are crossing borders and working together to leverage resources and increase service levels," says Alderman Steve Conway. "We are extremely proud of this collaboration as well as the new CDC, and look forward to the great things it will bring to bear for our communities and residents," adds Alderwoman Jennifer Florida.

TGNDC will partner with stakeholders to implement programs targeting crime prevention, revitalization of commercial properties/Better Block program, neighborhood beautification, energy conservation and landlord training.

Other TGNDC initiatives will focus on real estate development of low-to-moderate income housing and commercial development.

Specific Objectives related to Tower Grove South include:

1. Neighborhood Ownership Model (Crime and Safety) - TGS only
2. Better Block Program (event date is May 14, 2014, 2pm-4pm, Morgan Ford Road and Wyoming Street);
3. Neighborhood Beautification project - Crosswalk enhancements/Landscaping seminar;
4. Energy Conservation Program (Shaw, Tower Grove South, Southwest Garden);
5. Landlord Training (all St. Louis City, south side); and
6. Property Inventory (LRA/Vacant and abandoned properties (Shaw, Tower Grove South, Southwest Garden).

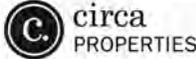
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# ....Lulu's Local Eatery - FINDING A HOME ON SOUTH GRAND

CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 1

"Lots of things drew us to this area," says Lauren. "South Grand is vibrant, eclectic and diverse. Many of our most faithful customers live around here. And it's clear that South Grand is committed to sustainability, which is what we're all about."

If you've never seen the Lulu's Local Eatery food truck, you won't mistake it for any other. The truck is painted with faux wood paneling, and during warm weather they grow herbs on the roof of the truck. Their food is all-natural, organic, and locally-sourced whenever possible, and their packaging is 100% biodegradable and compostable. It's the first food truck to receive the Green Dining Alliance's Certificate of Sustainability.

"Our dream has always been to have a restaurant, but just starting out we realized that with a food truck we could establish an incubator for our ideas without the overhead."

Those ideas got their start while Robert and Lauren were living abroad in New Zealand and Australia and working on organic farms. The two learned how to sustainably grow and cook their own organic produce. Back in the US, they were inspired to deliver that kind of fresh, local, and sustainable food in a fast food setting for a reasonable price.

The restaurant will give them a chance to expand the menu, to be open longer for business, and to have a home base to continue their food truck operations. It's also another way to bring a little more green into restaurant life. A moss wall will be featured inside, and the side patio will have raised planting beds of vegetables around the perimeter that will act as a privacy screen and will buffer road noise.

The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner, as well as brunch on the weekend. You'll order your food at the counter, but it will be brought to your table by a server. The plan is to serve wine and beer as well, with an emphasis on locally-crafted brews.

As of this interview, things are right on track for a May opening, according to Lauren. They're still busy buying equipment, getting permits, painting and doing the myriad of other things that need to be done before their doors will open. Farther down the road—much farther—Lauren can see a time when she and Robert are not only operating the restaurant here but actually living in Tower Grove South.

"We love the area. This is where we are supposed to be."

You can follow Lulu's Local Eatery on Facebook and Twitter, and can see a menu at their website at [www.luluslocaleatery.com](http://www.luluslocaleatery.com)

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# Message from the President



Things are heating up in the Heights! We are off to a great start in 2014 and I'm excited to share some updates with all of you.

- **Heights Nights** has officially kicked off for the year. For those of you who don't know what it is, Heights Nights is a monthly gathering of neighbors and friends at a local restaurant or business. So far Café Mochi and Mokabe's have hosted us, but there's plenty more to come. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to see where we'll be on the second Tuesday of the month!
- We hosted our first-ever **neighborhood-wide cleanup day** on April 5. Lots of neighbors were out sprucing up our alleys and sidewalks. A big thanks to all of those who participated. We'll host one more on May 17. Hope to see you out!
- Tower Grove Heights board created a communication committee. The committee is a group of neighbors who are working to plan and execute events and ensure we are getting information out to you, our neighbors! They've got lots of things planned and some really great ideas, so stay tuned!
- We're officially on **Twitter**! Yes, we're a little late to the party, but it's just another way we're working to connect neighbors and inform every one of the great things happening in our community. Follow us @TowerGroveHts.
- We broke an attendance record for our **neighborhood association meeting** with 65 attendees in January. Interest and participation with our neighborhood association is growing and we have had some great guest speakers. I encourage you to come to a meeting if you've not been yet or haven't been in a while. They take place every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Center for Divine Love, 3617 Wyoming.
- **Block Captains** are in place and are listed on our website. Your block captains are a great resource for information regarding dealing with issues, staying connected to neighbors, or planning fun events for your block. Make sure you are on their communication lists. Contact me for more information.

That's a quick look at some of the things I'm really excited about as we near the half-way mark in 2014. But overall, as I talk with neighbors and people from the surrounding communities, I sense there is more energy in the city. Buildings are being rehabbed, new restaurants are popping up, and many people are realizing the advantages of living in the city. Let's keep this energy going by continuing to enhance our community.

If you're interested in getting more involved in the neighborhood, please contact me. We know everyone has very busy lives so we work to find activities that you're not only interested in, but also fits into your schedule. If everyone does a little, we can make a big difference. But if you're interested in just being in-the-know, here are ways to stay connected:

Facebook – search for Tower Grove Heights Community Group

Twitter - @TowerGroveHts

Yahoo List Serve - send an email to towergroveheights@yahoogroups.com to get on the list

Cheers,

Mike Newsham

President@towergroveheights.com



# .....New TGNCDC to Focus on Development of Three St. Louis Neighborhoods

CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 3

TGNCDC activities will also support the resolution of nuisance property issues, reactivation of vacant or abandoned properties and the redevelopment of city-owned properties. TGNCDC is funded partially by the HUD's Community Block Grant Program grant as well as real estate income, tenant screening services income and private donations. Leadership and staffing of the new CDC brings more than 25 years of community development experience to work for the neighborhoods it represents.

"We're excited about the opportunity to serve three of St. Louis' most diverse neighborhoods, and are committed to enhancing quality of life for all our residents," says Sean Spencer, Executive Director. By combining the resources of three already successful community groups, the new CDC is now positioned for maximum impact. We can accomplish so much more than we would have been able to individually," adds Tom Sweeney, President."



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In addition, TGNCDC will create a Neighborhood Resource Center to provide information on real estate opportunities, tax credit, tax abatement and other incentive programs.

*The Tower Grove Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation is a not-for-profit organization that promotes responsible development, affordable housing, diverse character and vibrancy in the Shaw, Tower Grove South and Southwest Garden neighborhoods of St. Louis.*

By Sean Spencer

## Bargain Benefits

- TRISHA HELIKER

Membership fees to join TGHNA have not seen an increase since the inception of the organization 27 years ago. Where else can you get a deal like that? Ten dollars per year gets you an individual membership and \$100 makes you a lifetime member. Residents new to the neighborhood should really consider the lifetime option. Although I have been a member for 27 years, I paid the yearly \$10. It doesn't take a math whiz to figure out I paid over two-and-a-half-times the lifetime fee! A household membership is \$15 and a business membership is \$25. And for those who need further convincing, think about what the organization does for the quality of life in Tower Grove Heights. The Gazette is one of the finest newsletters in the city. The monthly meetings offer interesting and informative speakers. They also provide the forum for meeting and exchanging information with neighbors. The board serves as a link to information regarding

*continued on page 8*

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# OUT BACK

**Rich Iezzi** Anyone who drives our Tower Grove Heights alleys will agree that we have a lot of garages. When I counted them, I came up with 484 garages of various sizes representing 903 parking spaces. With all that parking available, how come it's so hard to park on our streets?

An obvious reason is that a lot of residents don't use their garages for parking. And it's not all their fault. A 1,200 sq. ft. ranch house has a 1,200 sq. ft. basement but even a 2,400 sq. ft. home in TGH will have a basement of only 800 sq. ft. due to its small architectural footprint. With that in mind, a two-car garage out back is gold. When you drive the alleys in the summer, you'll see garages being used for complete woodworking shops, pottery making, machine shops, full car repair and, of course, storage.

So why do we have so many garages when the majority of Heights homes were constructed by 1910 before we had cars? According to Andrew Wanko, of the Missouri History Museum, most of our garages were built during the 1920s and '30s to accommodate the new automobiles. Before cars, residents used the city's extensive streetcar system to get around (not horse-drawn carriages).

Luckily, the founders of Tower Grove Heights wisely foresaw trouble with the use of alley buildings and initiated restrictions in 1905 to control "nuisance use" (butcher shops, candle making, livery stables, etc.). TGH old timers recall the infamous three-story broom factory in the rear of 3826 Arsenal which obviously pre-dated the 1905 restrictions.

Our garages have many uses but parking our cars in them is a beautiful thing. "You always go out to a clean car," reports a garage owner. "I've always got a parking place!" beams a resident in the impossible-to-park 3600 block of Wyoming.

Sometimes a garage can be TOO nice. Over a period of weeks, I noticed one being cleaned out, insulated, wired, roofed and painted. Then I thought I saw a big-screen TV in there. When I asked the neighbors, they confirmed my suspicions. "Yep, he's living in there." Oops. Might be time for a mailbox...

## ..... *Bargain Benefits* CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

South Grand businesses, Tower Grove Park, City Hall and greater St. Louis. Various committees within the organization are responsible for annual events such as Autumn Fest and 100 Neediest Cases. But there are many other projects, such as the acquisition of the Tower Grove Heights signs, that were a one-time event and Heights Nights, featuring local businesses, that add to the value of living in a well-loved and cared-for neighborhood.

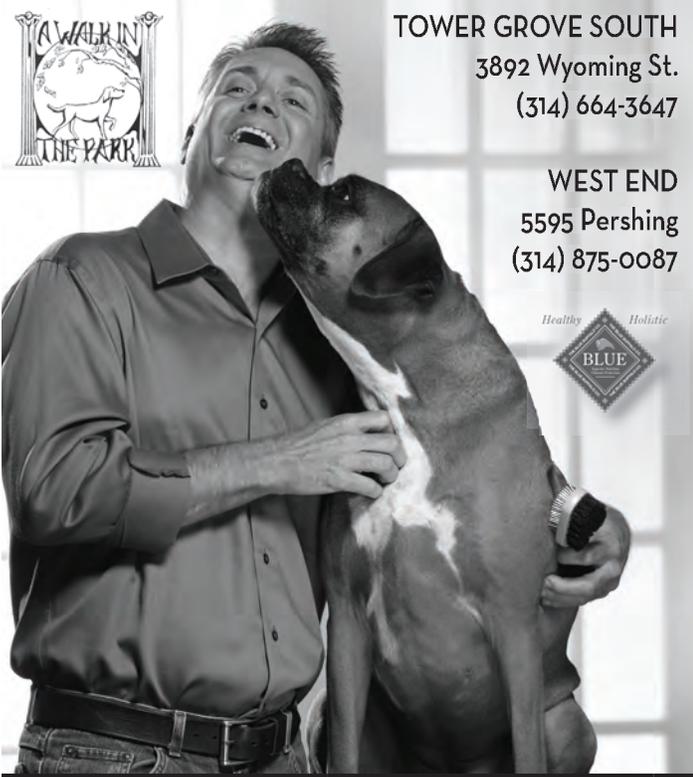
The board is adding one further incentive to joining the association now. A prize of \$150 will be awarded to the street with the highest number of households as members. Half of that amount will be given to the 3600-3700 block, and half will be awarded to the 3800 block. The block captain will have the option of spending this prize on a block party or some other function that

benefits the entire block. Since Arsenal is limited to the houses on the south side of the street, their total memberships will be doubled for the final tally. Utah Place currently holds the lead by three households so they will have to scramble to maintain that lead. You will find a membership form at [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com).

If you are already a member, then encourage others to join. There is much more on the planning table for the year, and with your support, we have the opportunity to



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- Metra Mitchell-Taylor

## The Seed Library of Local Harvest

Local Harvest demonstrates their commitment to being a positive part of our community by using green practices, supporting small local farmers and producers, and donating to educational and environmental charities. With the unveiling of the Local Harvest Community Seed Library, they are truly reinforcing their mission.

Of course, a basic principle of any library is that you return what you take out. Since last summer, the seed librarians have been lending out packets of seeds, allowing people to plant them, and checking them back in, all on the promise that the borrower will return as many seeds (or more) for the next season. By that standard, the seed library may seem to be a roll of the dice because with seeds, as any gardener knows, there's a strong chance nothing at all will come back.

However, libraries have another goal as well – archiving and preserving knowledge. On this front, seed libraries see themselves as an important part of a bigger movement – to bring the issue of global plant diversity down to the community level, where many believe it belongs. Local Harvest offers up the seed library as a completely free community resource. According to Becca Widzer, one of the seed librarians, “The seed library will allow us to continue to cultivate and develop strong plants that produce well in the St. Louis area and pass them along to future gardeners. Saving our seeds as a community frees us from the grip of powerful commercial interests, allows us to truly personalize our crops to our climate, and promotes biodiversity on a large scale.”

Despite the possibility of losing inventory along the way, seeds present another challenge to librarians: they can come back, but different. “Self-pollinating” plants like beans, tomatoes, and lettuce have both male and female parts in the same flower, so they tend to predictably produce seeds that grow the exact same kind of plant. But “open-pollinating” plants like squashes and corn require pollen to travel from one plant to another. Within this category of plant, there is a significant chance that pollen from some other variety, travelling by wind or insect, will get in and create an unwanted hybrid. Do not save seeds from hybrid plants or genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Since it is important to save seeds from the healthiest true-to-type plants, the basic seed-saving guide provided by Local Harvest suggests you should try to reduce cross-pollination by using isolation distances. It will be less of a concern if you plant only one variety and are sure your neighbors have not planted others. It is suggested for beginners to start with self-pollinators such as beans, lettuce, and tomatoes, since cross-pollination is less likely with these plants.



Beginners will want to refer to this guide come time for harvesting their seeds since each plant family is unique. For instance, when harvesting tomato seeds it is suggested you choose a ripe tomato from a healthy plant and ferment the seeds by squeezing the seeds and pulp into a covered jar with air holes so it can breathe. Let this sit for two to three days until a mold forms. Skim the mold off, rinse, drain, and dry seeds. For hot peppers, you only need to extract seeds from a fully ripe pepper, no mold needed. However, you will want to make sure you wear gloves and not rub your eyes after handling these seeds!

The library is broadly organized into three sections: edibles, herbs, and ornamental plants. The edibles section is the largest and is categorized by plant family. Posted at the library is a basic guide to some common plant families; labels indicating level of difficulty; and a comprehensive index of all available seeds.

*continued on page 14*



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# Easy Parking added for Grand Avenue - TRICIA HELIKER

The strategic planning committee for South Grand Business District recently adopted the concept of 15 minute parking in 8 locations adjacent to Grand Ave. I give them a *thumbs up* every time I pull into one of the two unmetered spots on Wyoming next to Orpheum Cleaners. I dutifully engage my flashers and head to the Gelateria to pick up an espresso. This *no hassle* parking, in my opinion, is a big plus and something Grand Ave. has desperately needed.

There's another spot on the opposite side of Grand next to Natasha's that works great if you need to dash into the post office or grab carry out from Natasha's. Just remember to use the hazard lights. It lets other drivers know the spot will be available shortly. The other non-metered spot is on Humphrey next to Café Mochi.

The remaining four spots are metered, but the meters have been limited to 15 minutes. One is in front of Domino's, two are on Hartford next to Mekong, and one is on Juniata next to King and I. Using hazard lights at these locations serves to prevent abuse of the short term meters and signifies to meter patrol that you are parking legitimately. Ticketing can, and might happen even in non metered spots.. all the more reason to follow the restrictions. The signs designating these spots specify 15 minute parking from 7 AM-8 PM. Hopefully, residents utilizing these spots overnight will respect the 7 AM deadline, as this is often the time customers are dropping off dry cleaning and grabbing a coffee.

And don't forget, for longer term parking, there is the new parking lot behind Commerce Bank. Rachel Witt is on a campaign to educate the public about the advantages of using this lot. Businesses have the advantage of providing their employees with free parking while keeping parking spots on Grand open for patrons. It is also a great lot for those who hesitate to parallel park on a busy street or, as was the case in January, wanted to avoid the snow clogged spots along Grand Ave. It is just a half block from six restaurants (soon to be seven) and several other establishments on the north end the district.

Easy parking is the American way. So hat's off to those who have made parking in the South Grand Business District easier.



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## GOODBYE WINTER GRIT... HELLO GORGEOUS SPRING! Project Blitz 2014

*Anita Barker* **O**n a recent trip to New York City, my husband Tim and I were struck by the amount of grit and trash we saw almost everywhere we went. Don't get me wrong. We love NYC and have always enjoyed visiting our daughter there. But the contrast to Tower Grove Heights made us appreciate even more the quality of life here and inspired us to get more involved with our neighborhood's clean up.

Spring Clean Up 2014 in TGH had its first round on Saturday, April 5. About 60 neighbors came out to clean alleys and other public spaces. It was a great success that will hopefully be matched in Round 2 on May 17, the Saturday before our neighborhood's monthly bulk pick-up date.

Project Blitz is a city cleanup program run by Brightside that was started 30 years ago. Project Blitz has the main goal of connecting city residents in the common effort of maintaining clean and beautiful neighborhoods. Unlike former years, in which the city set one annual clean-up date for each region, Project Blitz 2014 allows each neighborhood to choose one or more

*continued on page 13*



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# Early Recycling

- Rich Iezzi



This article describes a time that was much different than today. Years ago, buildings were being torn down throughout the city but their materials weren't being salvaged. Without places like the Re-Store to receive donated items or craigslist to sell things, beautiful 100-year old doors, woodwork and even our prized St. Louis bricks went into landfills. You could, however, strike an agreement with the company doing the demo and pretty much have anything you wanted—for free.

When the old Monkey House at the St. Louis Zoo was being razed to make way for the new Sea Lion House, I got the nod to recover the roofing slate. I gleefully removed and stacked the slate for a later pickup. But when I tried to leave with the slate, I noticed that a construction-type guy was standing in front of the exit gate. Back then there were opportunists eager to profit from your situation. After a few seconds, I offered, "Twenty bucks to open the gate?" Lesson number one—always carry cash. By the way, the Monkey House slate now adorns the Mansard of our 3627 Connecticut two-family flat.

In a similar incident, I was removing a beautiful china cabinet from the second floor of a building being torn down for the new Schnucks at Grand and Gravois when I noticed the back stairway get dark. A man was coming up the stairs—a very large and angry man. "What are you doing?" he demanded. "Taking out this china cabinet?" squeaks me. I had permission but that didn't stop him from squeezing me for some cash (it was common to have numerous people claim to own the building, looking for a payday). "How 'bout \$5 bucks for the cabinet?" Always carry cash.

Early recycling could be ruthless. Years ago, a six-family building called the San Juan was being torn down on Juniata and the owner practically begged me to take what I wanted. I was re-doing a kitchen at the time so I'd go to the San Juan and remove whatever woodwork I needed. It was that simple and that easy. When I peeked in the basement, I saw that another "recycler" was ahead of me and had removed the nails from a neatly-stacked pile of woodwork. There were also brass light fixtures and beveled mirrors ready to be picked up. I took it all. Lesson number two—never leave anything behind.



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## Tower Grove Homes

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Beer was also a bargaining tool. When I worked at Bell Telephone, I learned that the top two floors of mighty 1010 Pine were being "renovated," meaning that miles of solid walnut trim and dozens of incredible doors were going into the dumpsters. When I asked the contractor if everything was available, he said, "Yup." But then there was a strange silence. "What kind of beer do you drink and where will your truck be parked at 5 PM tonight?" was my offer. For a case of Bud and a case of Busch, I got access to the enormous freight elevator and truckloads of original walnut doors, molding and panel-work from 1925.

There were other sorties involving the Memorial Home at Grand and Magnolia and the former LaMerite building on South Grand but the rules were always the same: don't get hurt, carry cash, know the name of the person granting access and, most importantly, take it all.

As for me taking another recycler's stuff from San Juan? I've had my pile swiped plenty of times. That's how I learned lesson number two.

- Rich Iezzi

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# .....Project Blitz 2014

continued from page 10

clean-up dates that work best for the blocks involved. Bulk item pick up will be done as usual on regularly-scheduled bulk pick-up days once a month. This is a change from past years when Blitz days included extra bulk pick-up runs by city trucks.

Why the changes? As Brightside staff member Gwen McFowland explains, "In many areas, Project Blitz started to become nothing more than an annual bulk pick-up day. Instead of meeting and working with neighbors, residents just took their household bulk items to the alley without interacting."

With this in mind, Project Blitz 2014 represents an even better opportunity for all of us to make Tower Grove Heights a fantastic place to live. The city still provides tools, bags, promotional supplies plus flowers as needed and available. But now, we also have more control over date(s) as well as more incentive to get to know neighbors and share in the satisfaction of living in a quality environment.

April 5 was an initial "quick hit" block clean-up day in preparation for Round 2 on May 17 when residents can also put out bulk items that will be picked up the following Monday. By then, the city will also have flowers for planting in public spaces if and where residents can take care of them.

Whether or not you were able to participate on April 5, we hope you can join in on May 17. For more info. on the May 17 cleanup, visit [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com) or call Anita at 314-776-1839.



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**MEXICAN RESTAURANT**

## ...The Seed Library of Local Harvest

*continued from page 9*

Through generous donations from Gateway Greening, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, and donations from neighbors, the Local Harvest Community Seed Library is already full of seeds that will thrive in our area. You should get involved! Seed donation directions are posted at Local Harvest Grocers. It is most important to remember to label and mark all seeds. Keeping good notes ensures accurate cataloging and purity of specimens.

Seed libraries may seem whimsical and unlikely on their own to reverse the long trends in commercial agriculture. But when it comes to expanding agricultural diversity, there's a sense in which every little bit helps—a great lesson for life. The Local Harvest Community Seed Library encourages you to play a role in the cycle of life, which is romantic and DIY-inspired. One teeny-tiny seed that's so small you can hardly see it could produce so much! What could be more poetic and life-sustaining than a seed library?

# MokaBe's

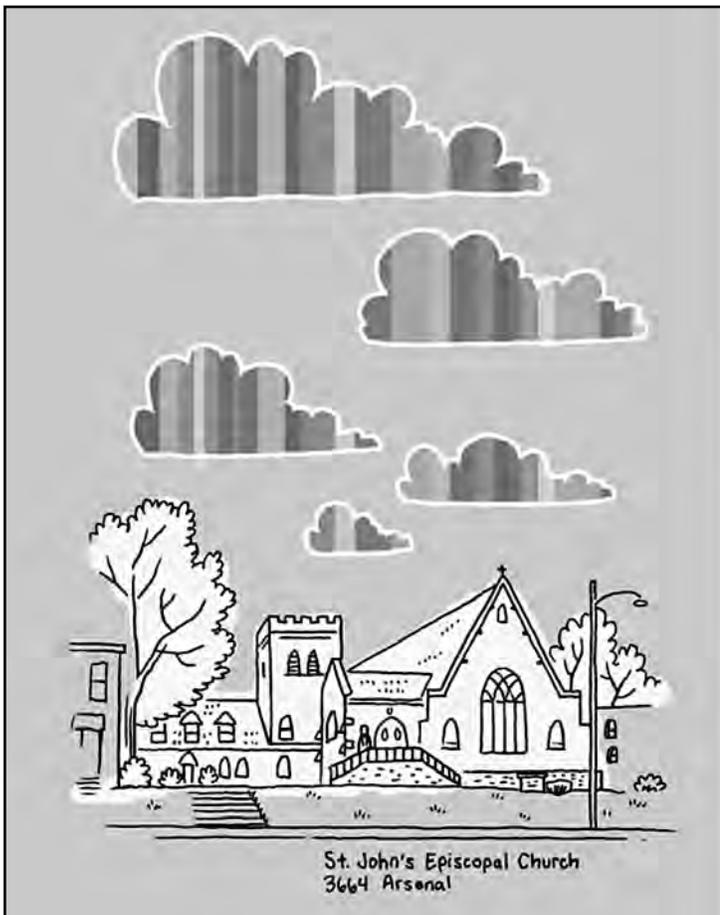
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# AUTUMN FEST in the *Heights*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## TGHT's Social Media Info

### Connect with your Neighbors via Social Media

We are happy to announce the launch of Tower Grove Heights' official Twitter Account. We are working to provide more avenues for you to interact collaborate and get involved with your neighborhood and community.

Make sure to follow us @TowerGroveHts and you can find us on Facebook at the Tower Grove Heights page. Use #TowerGroveHeights to tag your pics & posts across all social media platforms.

-Kelly Stout



## REAL ESTATE NEWS for Tower Grove Heights

- It is now a seller's market.  
Good time to get your home up for sale
- Property values are on the rise  
and so are mortgage rates

*Send me a real estate question and answer  
may appear in the next issue of the Gazette.*

**DeborahErvin@att.net**



## 2014 Single Family Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights

January 1  
– April 9  
2014

Sold Date	Address	Price	Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Days on Market
2/17/2014	3736 Connecticut	\$225,000	3	2.5	16
2/14/2014	3860 Wyoming	\$233,000	3	2.5	103
3/14/2014	3715 Humphrey	\$322,500	4	2.5	105
3/25/2014	3626 Juniata	\$330,000	4	2.5	24
4/9/2014	3828 Utah Place	\$379,900	3	3.5	14

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**WILD BROTHERS REALTY**

# A Second Chance to Make a First Impression – South Grand

BY **MARILYN BROWNING** In 2012, South Grand Community Improvement District enlisted the help of PGAV Planners, an independent consulting firm, for a fresh look at South Grand businesses. The firm noted their first impressions of the interior and exterior of each property—a windshield survey, according to executive director Rachel Witt.

All of the items in the survey are things you'd notice within the first couple of minutes, and a couple of minutes are more than enough to decide whether you want to eat or shop at any business. And whether you decide to eat or shop in a business is exactly what determines the success of the business—the bottom line.

Everything from walls to windows, signs, the condition of the paint, the entrance, lighting, trash on the block, and whether the store was clean and inviting, came under scrutiny.

What happened next? All the businesses got a sheet that rated them on a scale from 1 to 10 on all the items of the survey, and gave them a letter grade. Any helpful comments, such as “Could use a new paint job” or “The store window is cluttered” were included in the sheet. Each business also received another sheet showing the letter grades for all the businesses on South Grand, so businesses could see how they did compared to others.

Motivated by both the individual feedback and the South Grand summary sheet, many businesses have taken action. It may have involved something as simple as taking down flyers in the window, or as complex and costly as a complete renovation.

One great example would be Café Natasha. As you can see from the photos, the inside of the restaurant was completely renovated, and became lighter and brighter as a result. A new sign on the front of the building, attractive and highly visible, was part of the makeover as well.

BEFORE



AFTER



Photos courtesy of Rachel Witt

King and I Restaurant took up the challenge as well. They extensively renovated both inside and out, resulting in a cleaner, more modern appearance. And let's not forget about Café Mochi, which now has a second addition to the building, still in keeping with the original architecture of the building and the neighborhood.

Grand BP's new paint job and awnings, a sprucing up and new sign for Mokabe's, the Tree House Restaurant that replaced Petra—let's face it, plenty of improvements to the impression that each of these properties, as well as other businesses on South Grand, make to visitors and residents alike.

One program that's been helpful to business owners is the city's Façade Program, that covers 50 percent of the costs of renovated the front of a property. The other 50 percent of costs, as well as the fee for the required architect, are covered by the property owner. South Grand Community Improvement District will be offering some additional financial help to business owners that choose to improve their property. Details are still under discussion, but the goal is to help property owners attract and keep quality businesses in the area.

Since the renovations to South Grand and to individual businesses have started, fourteen new businesses have been attracted to the area. In consequence, sales tax revenue is up due to the increase in business from South Grand. Sometimes it's not just “If you build it they will come.” Sometimes if you make it attractive, even more will come!

## 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

\_\_\_\_\_ HOUSEHOLD (2 votes) \$15/year

\_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATE (non-voting) \$10/year

\_\_\_\_\_ LIFETIME (1 vote) \$100 single payment

\_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS (1 vote) \$25 /year  
(entitles member to a 10% discount on TGHNA Gazette Ads for one year)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

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