

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place



Volume 9, Number 3

November 22, 1997

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

by Elizabeth Braznell

Who's that new kid on the block? The one at the corner of Connecticut and Spring? Why, it's the new member of the property improvement team!

The brainchild of Alderman Marge Vining, Tower Grove South Management Corporation (TGM) is a not-for-profit, value-added property management company whose mission is to improve the quality of non-owner-occupied housing stock and promote decent affordable housing.

Now, what the heck does *that* mean?

Not-for-profit is a designation by the IRS that allows TGM to accept grants and gifts that are tax deductible. That's the easy part. But what's value-added property management?

Our neighborhood has many multi-family units that are non-owner occupied. Some of these owners choose to place their properties under the management of a company designed for that purpose. Many firms do a competent job; others do not. They do not monitor the tenants' behavior, they do not cut the grass or have the trim painted. Trash accumulates in the public spaces and in the yards and alleys. Value-added property management works with the owner to identify ways in which he can improve his property at little to no cost but that will allow him to raise his rents.

TGM will explain to owners that while \$200 to \$250 per month per unit may be covering their mortgage and giving them a bit of net income, it will not allow them to replace the sewer stack, replace

the roof, or make other needed repairs. So when it is time to tuckpoint, they can't afford to do it and the building continues to deteriorate. Then plumbing or electrical or roof problems set in. The building deteriorates further, good tenants won't live there, bad tenants move in and trash the interior and disrupt the neighborhood. Ultimately, the building is not worth anything. Either the City steps in, buys the building and rehabs it, or the building becomes vacant and derelict.

We're hoping to interrupt that cycle.

When an owner signs a contract to put his property under our management, we will manage everything from tenant screening and selection to maintenance, repairs, move-in/out, and, should it be necessary, evictions. Tenants will sign a lease addendum that spells out unacceptable behaviors, such as loud noise, drugs, or derelict cars. Tenants also will join a tenant association through which they will have access to programs on landlord/tenant law, first-time homebuyers programs, etc. Through the association, tenants will feel more connected to the neighborhood, and it may help keep the good tenants here. Furthermore, tenants will have an avenue to report drugs or other illicit behavior without having to contact the police directly.

Each year or so, the Board of TGM will identify a Target Area that will be eligible for special incentives, such as \$2,000 forgivable loans, facade improvement grants, and other programs. The Board has selected the 4000, 4100, and 4200 blocks of Arsenal and Hartford as the 1998

Target Area. Non-owner-occupied multi-family properties, especially four-families, are eligible to apply. While all rental property in Tower Grove South may join the program, only the Target Area properties are eligible for special incentives. If there are unused program funds left at the end of the year, properties outside the Target Area may apply.

TGM is working closely with the Alderman, the Neighborhood Stabilization Officer, the Community Development Agency, the building inspectors, the health department, and the police.

Currently, TGM is funded by Community Development Block Grant Funds through the Community Development Agency. Management services are fee-based, and we hope to be operationally self-sufficient in five years.

Elizabeth Braznell is the Director of the Tower Grove South Management Corporation. Members of the Board of Directors are Phil Duckwall, President; Bev Dougherty, Vice President; Diane Hurwitz, Secretary; John Shivers, Treasurer; Kenny Chafin, Director; and Robert Reed, Director. Working with Elizabeth is Valery York, another Tower Grove South resident, who has taken a position as Grant Writer for the 15th Ward. Valery will be seeking funds for programming, capital equipment, and operating costs for projects in the Ward.

TGM is housed at 3735 Connecticut, in a corner building receiving a major face-lift. If you have questions about the program or would like to volunteer, please call 664-0488.

The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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The Gazette is a non-profit publication that is published bi-monthly by the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. For information concerning advertising call Colleen Santino at 773.5772. Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette. Mail them to: The Gazette/TGHNA P.O. Box 63002, St. Louis, MO 63163

A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSMAN DICK GEPHARDT

One of my most urgent concerns is to make our neighborhoods safe for families and children. That is why I have been – and will continue to be – a strong advocate of the COPS Program.

The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office of the U.S. Department of Justice was established as part of the Democratic Crime Bill of 1994. COPS is responsible for distributing grants to local governments to promote community policing efforts, fund local efforts to put more police officers on the beat, and pay for the high-tech equipment modern police departments require.

Since the program's inception, I have worked with federal, state and local officials to maximize St. Louis City's share of COPS money. As a result, the City has gotten over \$8 million in grant monies from the COPS program. This has put more than 170 additional officers on patrol in our City.

According to a recent FBI report, crime is down all over the region. In the City of St. Louis, murder and manslaughter are down 24%, rape is down 12%, assault is down 30%, burglary is down 21%, larceny is down 60%, motor vehicle theft is down 19%, and arson is down 8%. The COPS Program has worked for St. Louis.

My goal is to see that COPS monies continue to be available to local governments. As part of the "Families First Agenda," I have proposed extending the COPS program through 2002, ensuring additional law enforcement resources for St. Louis.

Until all of our neighborhoods are safe, none of them are safe. We must all work together – government, the local community, and the police department – to accomplish our goal of safe street, safe neighborhoods, safe cities.

Upcoming Events

December

Holiday Exhibit

Through January 2

Floral artists from the community collaborate on fabulous wreaths to create a fabulous holiday exhibit. Free with regular Garden admission.

Holiday Flower Show

Through December 29

"Toyland in Bloom" For the Young and Young at Heart, including a 140' track, G-gage model train winding through the show carrying holiday plants, nutcrackers, a giant jack-in-the-box, a rocking horse, a super spinning top and horticulture elves. Admission: \$2 Adults, \$1 Seniors

Carols In The Garden

December 3 - 4

Stroll the Garden or ride the heated tram as the sounds of holiday music and the scent of roasted chestnuts fill the air. Carolers singing favorite holiday songs perform throughout the evening and Santa will greet young visitors with goodies and

treats. Children's activities, special buffet and Santa's helpers are all part of this wonderful holiday event. Admission: \$6 Adults, \$4 Seniors & Members, Children 3 - 12 \$2.50 Admission includes Holiday Flower Show.

Candlelight Tours of Tower Grove House

December 3 - 4

"Henry Shaw" welcomes visitors to his historic country home, richly decorated in all its finery, and warmed by holiday cheer for a Victorian Christmas tour. \$14 Adults, \$12 Seniors & Members, \$11.50 Children 3 - 12 Includes Carols In The Garden.

Holiday Sale

Garden Gate Shop, *December 11 - 14*

Chanukah

December 21

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel. An exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls, 9th copy, an Israeli street bazaar and coffeeshop, folk dancing & music, Kramer Marionettes, Shri Ami singing group, music by Tommy Goldenberg and & Pete Keiser, children's activities, the story of Chanukah, a menorah lighting ceremony & exhibit, a replica of the Wailing Wall, a concert by Circle of Jewish

Music (\$5), & more! Free with regular Garden admission.

Kwanzaa "Festival of the First Fruits"

December 27

Spotlighting the diversity and richness of African-American culture through displays, performances, and cooking demos. Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration of family, community, and culture that combines elements from many African harvest festivals. Central to the spirit of Kwanzaa are the NGUZO SABA, the seven principles which emphasize the heritage, values, and hope of African-Americans. Free with regular Garden admission.

Tower Grove House Holiday Luncheons

December 4, 12, 15, & 16

Special luncheons in founder Henry Shaw's country home. By reservation only. Call (314) 577-5150.



Missouri Botanical Garden

4344 Shaw Blvd.
Call 577-9400 for information.

COFFEE BREAK

by Elizabeth Braznell

Those of you who have been around the Heights for a while will remember that I used to write a Coffee Break article about the perils and joys of rehabbing, based on the rehab my husband, Jay, and I were doing on our own home. "Were" is the operative word here.

Back in '96, we decided that one house just wasn't enough. We were having *so* much fun with one that why not double our pleasure and buy another? So we did. We bought the house next door from Operation Impact. It was a foreclosure, and the poor thing had not been treated gently. You may remember it. The exterior was painted blue. Over beige. Over pink. The Nightmare on Juniata Street.

So, we thought we'd rehab it and sell it for a billion dollars and make some money to start another house. It took us 13 months of agony, but the house is done. And it's gorgeous.

New sewers. New water line. New gas line. New underground utilities. New basement floor. New deck. 2-1/2 new bathrooms. New windows. New roof. New hardwood floors. New zoned heating and air conditioning. Fresh paint and varnish. Gleaming brass.

But while we were doing that one, our own saw not one nail driven, not one screw screwed, not one seam taped. Oh, heck, it never saw the vacuum cleaner or a dust rag either, because every moment outside of work and community activities was spent on the house next door.

So now the project is done. There it sits, clean, gleaming, and new. Even the basement is beautiful! In contrast, our own house is a mess. Walking from the new house into the old is a real bummer. Yeah, you guessed it! We're moving next door.

The script goes like this. Me: Jay, I really think we ought to move into the house next door. Jay: What? Are you crazy? We need to sell that one to get the money for the next project! Me: True. But our own house is a mess. If we move next door, we can get out of our house, fix it the way we want, then decide which one to sell. Jay: That makes incredibly good sense, Beth. Let's do it! Well, it wasn't *exactly* like that. But the results were the same. So, by the time you read this, we'll be ensconced in the new house, still rehabbing the old, and struggling with two mortgages.

By the way, we're looking for a four-family. If two is good, three must be better, right?

ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES

This triple panel doorway is on Utah. It's a statement in simple elegance and craftsmanship. I'll be out and about this winter with my camera taking a new set of photos for "A.T.". If you know of a treasure that I shouldn't miss, let me know.



SPRING HOUSE TOUR

by Don Hardin

April 1998 is when a several neighborhood house tour is planned. We need homes and apartments for the tour. Don't be shy, we are looking for distinctive and interesting more than fancy.

Taking part in a house tour is one of the best ways to "talk up" this great neighborhood we live in. If you are interested in taking part, call Jean at 772-4987.



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FASCINATING NEIGHBORS

by Audrey Anderson

Bill and Loura Gilbert have lived in TGE for the last 16 years - an area bounded by Grand on the west; Shenandoah on the north; Nebraska on the east; and Gravois on the south - quite a bit larger than the Heights. They moved into their classic turn-of-the-century home shortly after their marriage and have always been active in the neighborhood. I met Bill and Loura in 1985 while vacationing in Paris. It was during the World Series and Loura was wearing a Cardinal cap - a sure invitation for a fellow St. Louisan to start up a conversation. (This has nothing to do with anything, except I just love to tell how we met.)

Loura is currently president of the DeSales Community Housing Corporation, which serves both TGE and Fox Park, and Bill is Ways and Means chairman of the Neighborhood Association and is also chairman of Neighborhood Housing Services.

Loura reports that DeSales is helping with the development of five, all new, single-family homes in the 3200 block of Arsenal. These homes will be owner-occupied, and will replace six two-family, non-owner occupied buildings which were in disrepair. The new houses are architecturally compatible with the neighborhood and will bring stability to the area.

The 2800 and 2900 blocks of Minnesota and Michigan were the recent scene of landscaping, exterior painting and minor repairs during the Neighborhood Housing Services Block Aid Project. Over 800 volunteers, mostly from the corporate community, did the work.

Bill would like me to mention that when Roosevelt High School was built in the 1920s it was considered to be the premier high school in the country. Recently renovated, Roosevelt High School with its unique turrets is a standout feature of the neighborhood.

Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association provides a sense of community and supplies information to the residents. TGENA encourages smaller block units which meet on a regular basis. These units keep a closer watch on their immediate area's activities, and if help is needed, they

take their problem to the next level - the Neighborhood Association, Alderman, etc.

TGE's underwrites the expenses of its newsletter with an annual pizza sale (they have an assembly line setup that rivals Henry Ford; and the pizzas they turn out are quite good). And, it's not all work at TGE, this fall they had a hayride and bonfire in Tower Grove Park, they organize pub crawls through the neighborhood taverns and their annual holiday event is a party with Santa Claus at Stupp Memorial and run a beer booth at the Fair St. Louis.

So, all in all, I would say that the news is positive on the other side of Grand, and so say the Gilberts, too.

If you have interesting neighbors (I'm sure you do.) tell us about them.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Joining the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association is easy!

Just call Stacy at 771-1764 for details of our several types of membership. She will provide you with a form to fill out. You will receive six issues of the City's premeir newsletter, the Tower Grove Heights Gazette and the latest neighborhood Buzz Book. Premiums are offered for certain membership levels. Be a part of what's happening. Call Stacy at 771-1764 or contact your block representative.

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KIDS ARE NEIGHBORS TOO!

by Bridget Moss

In Tower Grove Heights, most folks try to be good neighbors. From taking care of your yard to going outside to warning your neighbors if you're having a get-together that may generate a little noise, being a good neighbor takes many forms.

Most of us concentrate on the things that matter to our adult neighbors. But it's just as important to make kids feel like part of the neighborhood as well.

I don't have a degree in child psychology or even have any kids of my own, but I was one once in this very neighborhood and I've got some theories of my own:

1. Kids love attention, especially from adults who are not their parents. (Once you reach a certain age, parents have no chance of being considered cool.)

Kids can be good neighbors, but they need good examples.

Kids and adults aren't likely to give respect unless they get it in return.

Most of my respect for my neighbors

as a child came from my parents and their discipline, but it also came from the way my neighbors treated the children on my block. We were not assumed to be "pests" or bad kids. We were expected to be good, and our parents would hear about it if we weren't. Sometimes, we even got special treatment from our neighbors.

Throughout my childhood, Mr. and Mrs. Kempe lived next door to my family on Humphrey. I had many good neighbors, but I think the Kempes were probably my favorites.

To start with, their backyard was beautiful. In our yard, my mother cultivated daffodils, tulips, ferns and a nice assortment of other plants amongst the swimming pool, family dog, and general chaos of four children, two adults and frequent barbecues.

The Kempes, however, had a lush garden filled with tall, brightly colored flowers that could make our tulips seem pale if

we were to compare them.

While the Kempes took pride in their backyard, it was not off limits to my siblings and me. I especially remember a plant called Lamb's Ear. It was such a funny plant – thick green leaves covered with a dense fuzz. I don't think I could go into their garden without touching the leaves to make sure they were still fuzzy.

The best part of the Kempes' backyard was the raspberry bush. It was planted alongside our chain link fence, so every year it would grow into our yard. Since it was Mr. Kempe's plant, I always figured he would want the raspberries on our side of the fence. When my mom told us kids Mr. Kempe didn't mind if we ate the raspberries off that plant, I knew what good neighbors we had. Every summer, I would watch those raspberries grow. When they were ripe, some we would pick for my mom to use, but we always rinsed a few off with the hose and ate them right then and there.

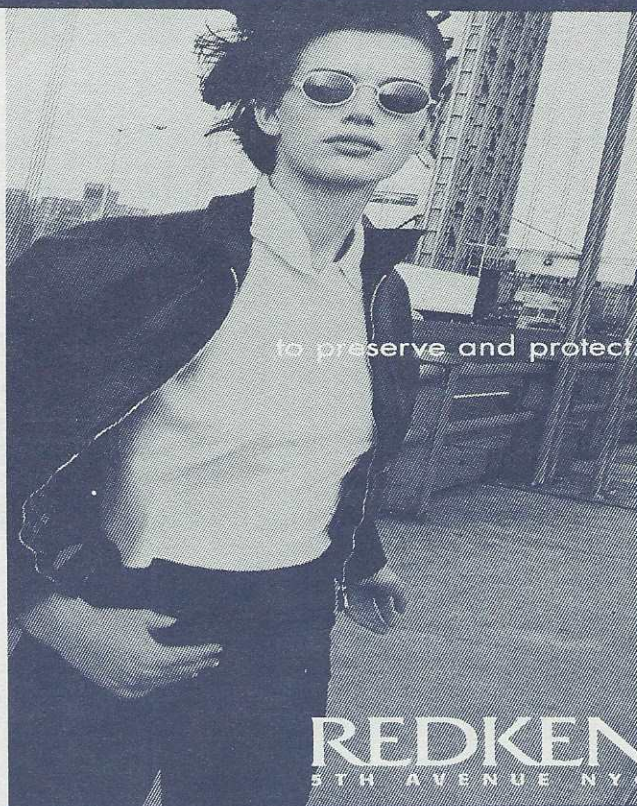
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5TH AVENUE NYC

continued from page 5

The Kempes had two granddaughters who would come to visit. When they were over, the kids in our house would often go over to play with the girls. The Kempes' house was traditionally decorated and clean, just like my grandparents' house. But as I remember the basement, it was fixed up for the kids. There was a swing or two from the rafters, along with a rope to climb. The area was clear, so we could run around and play tag if we wanted. But the *coolest* thing was the movies. Mr. Kempe had a small room, probably previously used for storage, that had a movie projector in it. Unlike the family movies my dad would show, Mr. Kempe had cartoons! I don't know if he ever got tired of showing them to us, but we didn't get tired of watching them.

Mr. and Mrs. Kempe would make sure to remember us at holidays. For Halloween we would get special treat bags with the quality goods — real chocolate and cookies. I think they hit most of the major candy holidays, including Valentines and Christmas.

The Kempes didn't do anything extraordinary, but it made a big difference to

me. They've kind of become my role model for good neighbors.

When I moved back into the neighborhood after college and a brief stint in West County, I had forgotten the role of kids in a neighborhood. Luckily, my neighbors (the young ones) have brought it all back to me.

For those of us without kids, taking time for the neighbor kids can be a bit therapeutic. After a day at the office, I often come home to find the neighbor kids playing outdoors. They want to know what I'm doing and what I'm having for dinner; they tell me how they are doing in school and that their birthdays are coming up. They rarely fail to ease the day's frustration from work and traffic before I get to my door.

One night the kids next door and I were out front talking. One of them started hanging from the railing of the front steps, and challenged me to do the same. Well, I don't know who thought it was funnier when I accepted their dare. It was quite refreshing to swing from the railing, and they got a big kick out of seeing an adult horse around with them.

When I was tilling my front yard for

seeding in the fall, the kids wanted to help. At first I figured they'd push the hand tiller around for a couple minutes. Well, 30 minutes later, they had tilled the whole lawn — and they were still arguing about whose turn it was and wanted to continue tilling. They had some fun, and I got my yard tilled without any back pain or blisters.

Just like with adults, it's the little things that count in being neighborly.

My own efforts include making treat bags at Halloween, saving seed from my garden for the neighbor kids to plant, and just paying attention to the kids. For someone else, it may be taking the kids to the park, the chance to earn a little money shoveling snow, or helping them with some homework.

Being a good neighbor to kids does make a difference. I have plenty of wonderful memories and probably a good deal of character thanks to my neighbors. Part of the reason I returned to Tower Grove Heights is due to the neighbors I had growing up.

So around this holiday season, and year round, don't forget your littler neighbors. One day they'll probably be remembering you.



Hours:

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December 1997

TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1 Carp. Lib. "Wishing Birds" all month all ages	2	3 Botanical Garden Free Admission til Noon	4 Bot. Garden Tower Grove House Holiday Luncheons Reservation Only call 577-5150 Dec 4, 12, 15, 16	5	6 Botanical Garden Free Admission til Noon
7	8	9 <i>Block Rep Meeting 3735 Juniata 7:30pm</i>	10 Botanical Garden Free Admission til Noon Bot Garden Carols in the Garden and Candlelight Grove House - Henry Shaw Welcomes you!	11	12 Bot. Garden Holiday Sale!	13 Botanical Garden Free Admission til Noon Carp. Lib. "Wrap it Up" make your own gift paper 1:30 - 2:30 grades 6-12
14	15 Carp. Lib. book disc. "Mr. Ives Christmas" 7-8pm Bulk Trash Pickup week thru Thurs.	16	17 Botanical Garden Free Admission til Noon	18	19	20 Botanical Garden Free Admission til Noon
21 Bot Garden Chanukah Celebration	22	23 <i>Gen. Meeting 1st Divine Church 361 7 Wyoming 7:1 5pm</i>	24 Botanical Garden Free Admission til Noon First day of Chanukah	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26 Receyde your Christmas tree Carondiet Park	27 Botanical Garden Free Admission til Noon Bot Garden Kwanzaa Celebration
28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve Happy New Year!!</i>	 		

January 1998

TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



				1	2	3
				New Year's Day		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Recycle your Christmas tree - Carondelet Park			Bot. Garden Free Admission until Noon Camp. Lib. Teen reading group Grades 6-12, 4-5pm Camp. Lib. Preschool Storytime Age 2-6, 10-14:45am			Bot. Garden Free Admission until Noon Join Friends for Board Games! Ages 7-12, 3-5pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Bot. Garden Free Admission until Noon Camp. Lib. Preschool Storytime Age 2-6, 10-14:45am	Bot. Garden Bob Lindhome Photo Exhibit thru 3/6 Camp. Lib. MLK Birthday - Browse our books, films		Bot. Garden Free Admission until Noon Join Friends for Board Games! Ages 7-12, 3-5pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Bulk Trash Pickup week thru Thurs. Martin Luther King Birthday (Observed)		Bot. Garden Free Admission until Noon Camp. Lib. Preschool Storytime Age 2-6, 10-14:45am	Bot. Garden Orchid Sale		Bot. Garden Free Admission until Noon Join Friends for Board Games! Ages 7-12, 3-5pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Camp. Lib. Book Discussion: Anna Karenina 7:00pm	Gen. Meeting 1 st Divine Church 361 7 Wyoming 7-1 5pm	Bot. Garden Free Admission until Noon Camp. Lib. Preschool Storytime Age 2-6, 10-14:45am			Bot. Garden Free Admission until Noon Join Friends for Board Games! Ages 7-12, 3-5pm

CELEBRATING HOLIDAYS OF FAITH

by Janet Crane

Holidays of faith are celebrated in many religious traditions in November and December. In the U.S. and Canada, we also have an interfaith celebration called Thanksgiving, a civil holiday which has its basis in religious belief and practice. This holiday combines many ancient harvest festivals celebrated to thank God for the blessings of harvest and family. Certain customs and foods were associated with these festivals as a way of celebrating what we could easily take for granted.

What are some of the autumn and winter holidays of faith?

Kwanzaa is a multi faith and cultural celebration among many African-Americans families. The holiday which extends for seven days from December 26-January 1 follows a different principle or cultural value. Particular foods are eaten and rituals enacted to strengthen the cultural identity.

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday celebrating the ancient rededication of the Temple. For eight days, the Festival of Lights commemorate the ancient victory which restored religious liberty to the Jewish people. Children love this holiday because of the candle lighting, special songs and treats.

Christmas is a Christian holiday that honors the birth of Jesus Christ. The many denominations of Christians celebrate in many different ways. Some Christians have special Church services. While this holiday is a religious holiday, it has become very commercial because it has become a civil holiday.

Ramadan is a religious observance for Moslems. For thirty days, Moslems fast from food and water from sun up to sundown. While this is not a holiday, these days of fasting are holy days. A celebration follows when the fast is over.

Buddhists celebrate Bodhi Day, a day of Enlightenment.

Sikhs remember the Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji.

People who do not observe religious beliefs often use holidays to re-establish relationships with family and family or to relax from their daily routine.

The holidays celebrated by different people of faith have many things in common and practices and beliefs that are unique. Holidays give us an opportunity to look and our lives in the light of our beliefs about God, family and what we may ordinarily take for granted such as food and friendship. I like to know how other people celebrate to appreciate the gifts of our cultural and religious heritages. **Happy Holidays!**



TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS RENTAL REFERRAL SERVICE

by Don Hardin

Did you know that TGH has its' own rental referral service? My son has used it and so have many of my friends. Do you know someone wanting to rent an apartment or house? Do you have an apartment or house you would like to rent? Call the Tower Grove Heights Rental Referral Service (Jean) at 772-5982 or 772-4987. She will be glad to help. By the way, the service is FREE!!!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Do not follow where the path may lead...go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Unknown

Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists of the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.

Josh Billings

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is to try to please everyone.

Bill Cosby

Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.

Victor Borge

Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail.

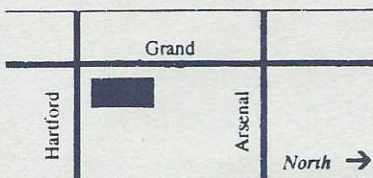
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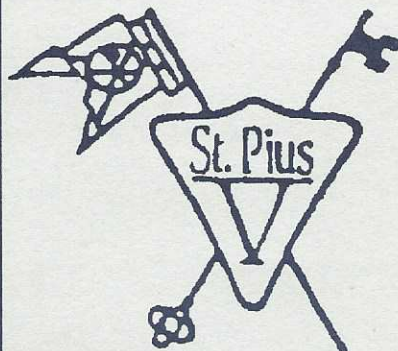
7:30 & 10 AM - Sunday

8:00 AM - every weekday

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Ministry to children



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government lunch program

Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts



"YES, TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS"



by Donna Branca

Advent, Christmas, Holiday; that special time of year for singing, carols, spreading food cheer, and when dreams come true. In preparation for this, my favorite season of the year, I interviewed Santa Claus and Vice Estrada.

When Santa Claus chose the job he currently accepted, he knew it would be a challenge. After all, how many position in today's world involve the flexibility Santa Claus requires?

Just what kind of people sit on Santa's lap these days, and what requests do they ask of Santa and his North Pole helpers?

According to Santa, high school kids, grandmas, and even dogs sit on his lap. Requests range from dolls and fire trucks to baby brothers.

When dogs sit on Santa's lap and Santa must be careful to be sure their heads or raised to face the camera.

Families of five and six have sat on his lap at one time, and his own children have even given Santa their wish list.

One of Santa's most thrilling experiences was having his own mother sit on his lap and have her picture taken. Santa admits his most unusual request was from a child asking for a "man for aunt Mary."

One child asked Santa for a most touching request "Please bring me a mommy; mine has just died."

Santa is often asked to meet children at an orphanage, a professional club, at department stores, at homes of families and friends, and most importantly at some churches.

Santa's job is often to remind all of us of the story of Christmas and to spread the hope of this joyous season throughout the year.

Then there are lists and letters. Most children don't leave return addresses knowing that Santa and his reindeer have full knowledge of where they live and where to leave the presents. If children leave addresses, Santa will respond.

Tower Grove Heights' own Vince

Estrada age 5, offers us some insights into our relationship with Santa this season. "Santa lives at the North Pole; sort of far away. He lives there with his elves and his wife. From there, he rides to our houses on his flying sled and brings toys."

How, I asked does he know what toys to bring? "The note," he replied, "he looks at the note." Vince offered us his strategy: "I'll bring the note to the store." Of Santa's Christmas sled, he states, "It flies in the sky, slides in the snow, and had reindeer."

Vince reminds us all of the true joy and wonder of the Holiday season.

BARB POTTS ON THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

by Donna Branca

This holiday season will be most special in Tower Grove Heights. Barbara Potts has her very special new addition. Barb reports all are doing well and she's looking forward to a restful Holiday season.

For the remainder of the Tower Grove Heights residents, she encourages us to start dressing up our homes, lawns, porches and light our trees in preparation for the Holiday season.

Tower Grove Park will be in full fashion this Holiday. The trees will be decorated with lights. The park will also offer old fashion carriage rides for our romantic Holiday wishes.

Happy Holidays from Barb to all her Tower Grove Heights Neighbors!

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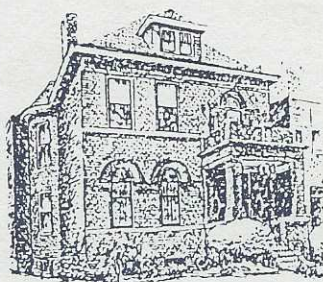
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MR. MANNERS TALKS ABOUT.....HOLIDAY ETTIQUETTE

Dear Mr. Manners: You can call me Scrooge, but I detest Christmas Carolers. Every year it seems that a group comes by around 8:30 at night, interrupts my TV viewing, and has the nerve to ask for some kind of donation. Should I turn on my stereo and blast them out?!

Dear Gentle Reader: Not only are you a Scrooge, you are a Grinch as well! Personally, Mr. Manners appreciates people who do not disturb you during the dinner hour and call upon you between 7 P.M. and 9 P.M. (Dinner is much more important than Melrose Place) However, Mr. Manners does feel that it is necessary for carolers 1) to request permission to carol and 2) to suggest that a donation would be appreciated, but is not expected. In a neighborhood such as ours, it would be insensitive to assume that everyone comes from a Christian background and would not find caroling "religiously" offensive. As for donations, Mr. Manners strongly feels that to demand money or can goods is extortion—which Mr. Manners does not approve. Having said that, it is the Holidays, and rude behavior—such as blasting your stereo—is more than ever, not an appropriate response.

Dear Mr. Manners: My neighbors put up the most garish Christmas display I have ever seen. They have enough lights to do "brain surgery" plus they have a big Santa and reindeer in their lawn. What can I do?

Dear Gentle Reader: While my own tastes in Holiday decorations are rather simple, I feel that this is the time of year which we should be tolerant and welcome eclectic expression. Mr. Manners is quite aware that his own tastes reflect his class and ethnic background and he should not impose his likes and dislikes upon others. Indeed, we as a community should openly encourage our Asian neighbors to celebrate the Holidays in their traditional style as well as supporting African-American residents, if they so desire, to celebrate Kwanzaa in the manner in which they are comfortable.

Dear Mr. Manners: One of my neighbors last year gave me all kinds of grief

for sticking my Christmas tree in the yard waste dumpster. What's the big deal?

Dear Gentle Reader: I am afraid I have to side with your neighbor. First of all, not everyone's tree would fit into the dumpster even if those dumpsters were picked up in the winter—which they are not. So what happens is that some people leave their trees next to the dumpsters to make a huge mess that lasts for months. Secondly, the City provides two convenient drop off sites—Carondelet Park and Forest Park—where the trees can be shredded and turned into mulch. Clearly, taking one's tree to one of the City's parks is the "neighborly thing to do."

Dear Mr. Manners: One of my new neighbors is Bosnian. What would be an appropriate Christmas gift?

Dear Gentle Reader: Because the majority of Bosnians are Moslems, Mr. Manners is not sure that a "Christmas" present per se is appropriate. What he would suggest, though, is that the best gift which you could give, would be to warmly welcome him into our community. Isn't that what the Holidays are suppose to be all about?

WANT TO INVEST IN THE HEIGHTS?

by Mark Abbott

Have you ever looked down your block and thought, "if only I had the money to buy that "dump" across the street" or "I sure bet I could manage this place better if I was the landlord"?

Thoughts like these have prompted a group of Tower Grove Heights residents—homeowners and renters—to form a real estate corporation that will give fellow residents a chance to cooperatively purchase and rehabilitate properties in need of attention. The goals of the corporation are straightforward:

1. To improve the physical condition of the neighborhood's housing stock
2. To promote owner-occupancy
3. To facilitate renters in the Heights in becoming homeowners
4. To foster a greater sense of community

The primary characteristic of the corporation is that it is community owned and managed. While the corporation will look to outside sources for financing, only residents of the Heights will be able to become stockholders. And because the aim is to make the corporation as inclusive as possible, shares in the corporation are reasonably priced to encourage broad based investment.

(continued on page 14)

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THE TOWER GROVE TATTLER

Jenny Young has accepted a new position in Atlanta, Georgia. Jenny besides doing an outstanding job as Block Representative for the 3800 Block of Hartford coordinated Cookies for Cops. We'll miss her!

TGH is looking for a replacement Block Rep on 3800 Block of Hartford.

A lot is happening in Tower Grove Park! The south Palm House, built in 1877, is undergoing extensive renovation. John Karel hopes to be able to open it the public in the upcoming year complete with bathroom and kitchen facilities. It will be used as a "welcome center" and be available for rental to large functions which can not be accommodated at the Stupp Center. Renovation is being funded by a capital campaign and donations are welcome.

As you know, Tower Grove Park is one of 3 parks in the US that is designated as a National Historic Landmark. The entrance at Magnolia, the Old Playground Pavilion and the Pool Pavilion are also undergoing renovation and hopefully will be finished before the snow flies.

The Big News for the Park is the upcoming "Kiwaniis Fantasy of Lights." Greg Gelzinnis who coordinated the lighting display in Alton, IL has been recruited to spearhead the transformation of Tower Grove Park into a holiday light show with a Victorian theme. A half a million lights will be hung along the center drive from Grand to the Ruins. Trish brown from KMOV, the Suburban Journals and WIL radios signed on to provide press coverage. Over 20 Kiawanis clubs in the region will provide manpower, hoping to raise money for charities and the Park. Besides driving through the park, visitors can enjoy visits with Santa, carriage rides and weekend performances of choral groups. The suggested \$5 donation will support a variety of charities. The display will open November 29 for press and the neighborhood. It will be open to the public Nov 30 to Dec 28. Monday to Friday 6 PM to 9 PM, and Saturday and Sunday 5PM to PM. John Karel is very sensitive to neighborhood issues and vows that the lights will be turned off by 10 PM each night. There will be a full time policeman and ranger on duty each night. This display along with Tilles Park, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, The Alton Celebration of Christ-

mas and O'Fallon Park is being marketed nationally as "The Stars of Lights". Bus tours have expressed an interest in a package tour of all 5 displays.

A garden planted on July 29 reaped a big harvest at the corner of Humphrey and Spring. The Lis family was giving away eggplants, tomatoes, pole beans, squash, cucumbers and zucchini this fall.

The light bulbs are coming!! Delivery date is the TGH November General Meeting on Tuesday, November 25th at 7:15 PM. Here is a block by block count of "doors", number of bulbs requested and the results of Alice Taylor's porch light count in June. Alice drove around the neighborhood on 2 nights in June—a weekday and a weekend—and actually counted the number of lights burning. We plan to do a recount in Jan to see if the UE program has had an impact.

Block	Door Count	Bulbs Req.	Light Count */**
36-3700 Arsenal	45	10	na/na
36-3700 Hartford	62	18	32/33
36-3700 Juniata	60	21	29/28
36-3700 Conn.	120	14	21/19
36-3700 Wyom.	90	11	11/11
36-3700 Hump.	90	28	26/25
36-3700 Utah	40	15	28/28
3800 Arsenal	52	4	na/na
3800 Hartford	60	14	29/30
3800 Juniata	94	8	21/21
3800 Conn.	80	6	27/28
3800 Wyom.	120	21	18/18
3800 Hump.	95	34	24/25
3800 Utah	80	36	32/30
Totals	1088	240	151/152

* Week day/**Week end

Lighted areas feel and are safer. Encourage your neighbors to use their porch lights! HOLIDAYS!!!

ONE HUNDRED YEARS YOUNG
by Don Hardin

Our amazing neighborhood not only has beautiful homes, but also contains many homes that are 100+ years old.

What about yours?

Mark Abbott has compiled a list of the construction dates of most of the homes in the Heights.

In each issue of the Gazette we will publish a list of the members of the current 100+ club. The following list takes us to the end of 1997:

3802 Arsenal - April 18, 1894; 3806 Arsenal - April 18, 1894; 3810 Arsenal - April 18, 1894; 3809(3811) Hartford November 13, 1897; 3801 Hartford - February 28, 1897; 3805 Hartford - February 28 1897; 3806 Hartford - April 7, 1897; 3810 Hartford - April 7, 1897; 3856 Hartford - October 16, 1897; 3860 Hartford - October 16, 1897.

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VET VIEWS

by Cinder Wilkinson

The holidays are just around the corner, and lots of kids are begging for that Christmas puppy. Or the college student with the new apartment thinks a dog would be a great roommate. Or Grandma, who's a little lonely, might be happier with a little pup. My best advice to you is this- DON'T DO IT! It's true, there's nothing cuter than a little Golden Retriever ripping up wrapping paper, with a bow around his neck, unless it's the same Golden Retriever, in January, just staring at you with that look that says, you've got to be nuts, it's WAY too cold to pee out here, I'd rather go in the hallway, on the carpet as you freeze your own rear off in your bathrobe, running late for work and school because the @#darn dog won't hurry up and go to the bathroom! Puppies on commercials, in magazine ads, on the December page of calendars, are so sweet, so beguiling, you just know a puppy would be the perfect holiday gift for that special someone. Wake up! Those sweet little bundles of joy walked right off of that beautiful set and back into their breeders kitchen, mud room or laundry room. There the floor is covered with newspapers and towels, there are no gifts or bows, or anything else a puppy could chew, choke on, or destroy. This includes things like furniture, electrical cords, telephone cords, area rugs, or baseboards! Some of the many reasons why a puppy is a lousy holiday gift include:

- 1) Won't stay wrapped
- 2) Eats all other gifts, then visits emergency hospital, vet is closed on holidays, costs \$300.00
- 3) Poops on X-mas tree skirt
- 4) Knocks over X-mas tree
- 5) Sleeps all day, won't wake for pictures
- 6) Cries all night, keeps kids and guests awake until 2 a.m.

7) Wakes everyone at 5 a.m., crying to eat and go outside

8) Ski trip gift canceled because kennel is full and there's no one to pet sit

These things might seem funny, but this is only one day in the life of a holiday puppy.

A puppy is a lot of work, and each drop in the windchill must be multiplied exponentially by amount of time spent outside to find the amount of work a winter puppy will be. Seriously, there are more important reasons not to get a gift puppy for someone:

1) Children shouldn't be given the impression that a dog is just another toy, to be played with now, and ignored and forgotten, or thrown away, when they become tired of it.

2) It is difficult to housetrain a pup in the cold. You don't want to take the dog out as often as you should, and the dog probably doesn't want to go out in the cold, either.

3) There are too many other obligations during the holiday season, dinners out, trips, guests, shopping, cooking, wrapping, cleaning, putting away decorations, etc. to be able to devote the time you really need to the puppy, and establish a relationship and a routine at the most critical time for the dog.

4) The holiday season hold a lot of expense for most families, you don't need to add to that the vet visits every 3 weeks until the pup is 4 months old, then spaying or neutering, food, crates, collars, leads, toys, obedience classes, grooming supplies, etc. These expenses are constant, but on the heels of the holiday bills, they can be a problem.

5) Most reputable breeders do not have puppies available at this time of year, which means you will have to acquire the pup

from a backyard breeder, shelter, puppy mill or pet store. These, with the exception of the shelter, are all less than ideal situations. Pet stores are an absolute no-no, and no one would consciously choose a puppy mill. (Look for more on this next issue-Where DO I get a puppy?)

6) Many people would prefer to choose their own puppy, and may never bond with the one you've chosen for them.

If you feel you MUST have a dog for the holidays, please consider an adult dog, or 6-8 month puppy. Breeders sometimes have older, trained pups available who were not sold as small puppies because of their show or performance potential. This means that you could be getting the pick of the litter puppy at a reasonable price, already finished with the puppy shot series, housebroken and with decent manners. Breeders also have adult, trained, dogs available occasionally, who are not going to be bred, but are finished showing, or competing in performance events.

Rescue groups always have nice, trained, spayed or neutered adult dogs, and sometimes puppies, available in nearly any breed you can imagine. If a specific breed is not important to you, go to a shelter, Open Door, Martha's Animal Sanctuary, the Humane Society and the APA all have sweet, trained, altered, adult dogs available. If you MUST, simply must, have a PUPPY-make an agreement with a reputable breeder now, get all the supplies you need, crate, food, bowls, etc. and give a stuffed puppy with a picture of the real puppy around it's neck, or give a gift certificate to the shelter or from the breeder. then the recipient of the pup can choose one he or she wants, and the pup can avoid the stress of being in a new place during the crazy holiday season. When life gets back to normal, or in the spring, then go get the puppy. For help in

finding a dog or puppy, feel free to call Best Friend Pet Care at 664-8607.

Cinder Wilkinson is owner-operator of Best Friend Pet Care, a pet-sitting, training and referral service, a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, Vice President Elect of Mound City Obedience Training Club, Co-coordinator of Alaskan Malamute Protection League of Greater St. Louis, volunteer for Belgian Breeds Rescue, former veterinary Technician and all around animal lover. She can be reached at 664-8607.



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TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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President Elect: Mark Abbott
Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
Asst. Secretary: Jodie Heliker
Treasurer: Suzanne Golemb
Past President: Joe Thele

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Block Representative: Marcia Recks
Fun and Fundraising: Jeffrey Blunt
Prom. & Marketing: Susie Gudermuth
Publications: Don Hardin

BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES

3600/3700 Arsenal
Diane Hurwitz
3800 Arsenal
Elliott Blevins
Fredric Rissover
3600/3700 Hartford
Rocky Keel
Kathleen Pfeiffer
Cinder Wilkinson
3800 Hartford
Chris Cleeland
3600/3700 Juniata
Fran Armstrong
Rodney Dillon
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Marcia Recks
Robert Reed
3600/3700 Utah Place
Doug Harding
Robyn Schrager
3800 Utah Place
Susie Gudermuth
Veda Lynn

(continued from page 11)

Initial shares are being offered at \$25/share with a first time buy-in set at \$100.

Consequently, even though the primary activity of the corporation will be tackling "problem properties," its real aim is to give everyone an opportunity to participate in the shaping of the Heights' future. So while it seeks neighborhood control of the Heights, the Tower Grove Heights Development Corporation will be a reflection of the community's diversity. The corporation welcomes homeowners and renters, rich residents and poor residents, European Americans and African Americans, longtime members of the community and newcomers.

To hear more about the corporation, come to an informational presentation at the next Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association meeting on November 25. There will also be a number of block meetings after the first of the year to give residents an in-depth look at the corporation.

While the Corporation will probably not make anyone rich, it will give everyone a real voice in shaping the Heights. So get on board! This is going to be exciting!

PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF TGHNA COMMITTEE SYSTEM

by Mark Abbott

Ever since Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association was reborn in the mid-eighties, the association has had a number of committees to carry out various charges. These committees, however, have been rather dormant the last few years—a situation that the Executive Board has decided to change. Wanting to get more residents involved in the neighborhood and the association, the Board is considering a scheme to restructure existing committees and to add new ones. The proposal under consideration would give existing committees the following expanded charges:

1. Fundraising—development activities and grant writing
2. Neighborhood Improvement—beautification, coordination of Operation Brightside, code enforcement, the awarding of annual Garden/ Pride in Place Awards and the development of a neighborhood plan
3. Promotions and Marketing—tours, house shows, media promotions, real estate relations, tracking of sale prices/rents and maintenance of the neighborhood "world wide web" site

4. Publications—publication of the *Gazette* and other occasional publications

In addition to the existing committees, the Board would like to propose the creation of the following new committees with the attached charges:

1. Membership—recruitment, member services (buzz books, welcome packs, etc.), maintenance of member rosters, and collection of member/neighborhood data
2. Neighborhood Safety—maintenance of crime statistics, representation on the Third Police District Advisory Board, development of community juvenile justice program, and creation of appropriate traffic calming initiatives
3. Business Relations—representation on the South Grand Business District Board of Directors, and neighborhood liaison with the Festival of Nations
4. Social—coordination of Holiday in the Heights, the summer picnic, and other social functions that the committee may choose to initiate

If you would like to serve on one of these committees or would like to suggest other committees/charges or have comments on the proposed restructuring, please call Mark Abbott (776-5354). *ASK NOT WHAT TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS CAN DO FOR YOU. ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS!*

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