

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

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Winter 2020



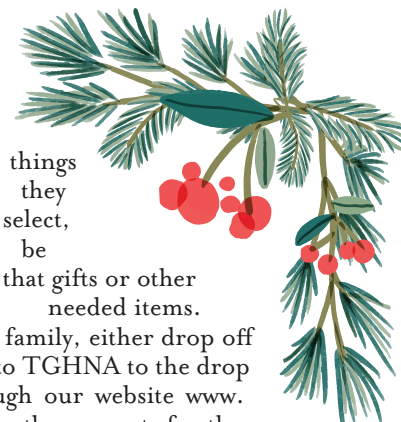
What Can We Do To Help?

"LET'S END ON A HIGH NOTE"

BY ELLEN WILSON

This is year seventeen for Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association supporting south city families in need through the 100 Neediest Cases Program and what a year it has been! We plan to support two families this year, but, not surprisingly, we will have to make some adjustments due to COVID-19. We will collect gift cards and cash for utilities with only a few gifts for the kids to open. I understand this is not nearly as fun, but I am not comfortable asking people to go shopping during this time. We also need to cancel the wrapping party and since I can't possibly wrap everything myself, it just seems reasonable to let the families shop for themselves this year and use our donations for

things they select, be that gifts or other needed items.



If you would like to support a family, either drop off a gift card or check made out to TGHNA to the drop spot or donate directly through our website www.towergroveheights.com. Follow the prompts for the 100 Neediest Cases Program to the donation link specific to this project. Gift cards will be divided evenly between the families as will cash that will go directly to utility payments. Please be sure to include your full name with your donation so I can acknowledge your generosity or indicate if you wish to remain anonymous. This year we selected families who have hardships that have been made significantly worse due to the pandemic. They both have

children who require routine and their lives have been put into a less stable position due to family changes in addition to the changes we have all faced this year.

Choose one (or both) of the following:

Family 1: This family consists of a mother and two sons aged 17 and 12. She is going through a divorce which has disrupted their lives and income. They were recently placed on a month-to-month rental agreement due to repeated late payments. The younger son is autistic and nonverbal. Due to the disruption of their routine, he has become aggressive and has started to wander. She works, but because her son requires constant supervision, she has not been able to get a second job to supplement their income.

Family 2: This family consists of a mother and two sons aged 7 and 1. The older son has ADHD, receptive/expressive communication delays, sensory processing disorder, and emotional regulation issues. Due to the lack of therapy services, virtual school, and social isolation he has started to regress. The father was abusive and is no longer in their lives. She works but is barely making her payments and has increasing anxiety during this tumultuous time.

Both families need the following:

Gift cards for any of the following: medicine; gas; food; cleaning supplies; personal hygiene products; or baby care products, if appropriate. Consider: Walgreens; Target; Walmart; Schnucks; Aldi; BP; or other related store.

Educational Items – Consider gift cards for toy or bookstores.

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

Due Date for Donations: December 11. The date is a little earlier this year to give the families time to shop for gifts once they get the donation.

Drop Point and Contact: Ellen Wilson, 3617 Juniata St., 314-221-8418
efwilson6@hotmail.com or 100neediest@towergroveheights.com.

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Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette.

Mail them to:

THE GAZETTE

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MEETINGS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our meetings will be conducted via Zoom and live on the TGH Facebook page. Everyone is welcome to tune in.

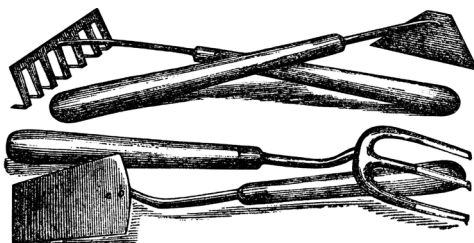
A Zoom invitation will be sent though MailChimp and posted to The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Facebook or contact
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Putting Your Garden to Rest

BY DAN WAEFTERMANN, HORTICULTURIST
GRAND GARDEN SERVICES, LLC

THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO PREP YOUR GARDEN for spring is NOW (mid-November to mid-December). The cool temperatures make garden work easier and more productive. Compared to springtime where, in St. Louis, temps can reach summer-like heat, then add to that allergies and you'll find yourself easily persuaded to stay indoors.



I typically begin fall cleanup by straightening out the garden shed/garage. Removing all full and partial bags of topsoil, compost, mulch and dumping them in the garden beds. If you have a vegetable garden, dump soil products there as well. Bagged soil goods left in the garage for winter will attract mice, so it's best to move them out.

"I typically begin fall cleanup by straightening out the garden shed/garage."

- Organize those garden tools and have them ready for spring. Take inventory of what you need. Check your local garden shops for sales on shovels, trowels, pruners and fertilizers that you will need. Markdowns are happening now on those necessary spring products. Take advantage of them!
- Empty out your flowerpots and store them away. I'm sure I'm not the only one who spent a bundle last spring on those glazed ceramic works of art. We paid a premium, but it was worth it so it's worth it to protect that investment. If you can't store them away, cover them with plastic sheathing to keep the weather off. But most importantly, remove the soil in them. The winter temps will cause the potting soil to expand which in turn will crack the pot. Used potting soil can be dumped in the vegetable or flower garden and leveled out.

In the Garden:

- Pull those remaining weeds, and remove annuals that have wilted away.
- Perennials like hostas, coneflowers, daisies, irises, day lilies, black-eyed Susans, etc., should be cut down to about 2 inches from the ground. Divide up those overgrown perennials. Move them around in your garden to fill in bare spots or if you have too many, share them with friends or neighbors.
- Ornamental grasses: cut back to 4-5 inches from the ground.
- Lightly shape up shrubs like holly or boxwoods using hedge shears.
- I like to keep hydrangeas untouched till spring. The dried flowers left on them add substance to the garden and nesting material for wildlife. Shape them up with a pruner or shears if necessary, but overall, they're best to be left alone until early spring.
- Hands off the azaleas! They've set their flower buds for spring so any pruning will diminish them.
- Rake those leaves! Non-composted plant material left whole in the garden bed will suffocate plant life under them. Better to rake and remove them or use a mulching mower to chop them up. If you have an unused back area in your yard where you're not concerned about plant growth, raw leaf material would be fine there but not where you have perennials.

Most importantly, for fall winterizing I recommend a blanket of 3-4 inches of mulch. I prefer organic leaf mulch; it adds organic matter to the soil. You can purchase it by the bag or in bulk by the cubic yard.

Late fall is perfect for spring bulb planting. During the first two weeks of December most garden centers cut bulb prices on end-of-season leftovers. You may not get the best variety but any daffodil in early March is a beautiful thing!



YOU ARE LIKELY READING THIS ARTICLE in early-to-mid December with, normally, plenty of time to complete your holiday shopping. But this is 2020 and COVID-19 has made almost everything different, including how and when to shop for holiday gifts. You may remember that we were warned in October to shop early for the holidays because of anticipated delays in delivery. Good advice, I am sure, but some of us are not that organized. This article is intended to provide options for those of us who have not finished (or started) our shopping. Here are some suggestions that may help you complete your list and make you feel good as well.

We all know that lots of businesses and people have been financially impacted by COVID-19, and not in a good way. This includes restaurants, bars, small businesses of all sorts, musicians and vendors of craft or artistic items. The last category is what I am concentrating on here.

There are two stores on South Grand, Garden District STL and Urban Matter, that carry many items from local artists and crafters – jewelry, clothing, candles, leather goods, tea, and more. This means, of course, that purchasing items in either store will support the artist/crafter, the store itself, and you will have the item in hand, rather than waiting at your front door everyday hoping for delivery. We asked each store to name a few of the items they carry made by local crafters. Kathleen Witek, owner of Garden District STL, mentioned the following: candles by Urban Candle, cement and concrete decorative art by Greenearth Art, dried fruit by Veteran Dry Goods, tea by Insideout Tea, soap and skin products by Tendresse & Sage, terrariums and small plants by White Stable Farms, jewelry by both True Jewelry and Knot Thinkers, kid's items by T & E Treasures, flowers by Carol's Corner, and local honey by DB Honey. Mary Hennesy, co-owner of Urban Matter, provided these: pottery/ceramics by Carmelita Nunez, jewelry by both Jenny Walker and Beltshazzar Jewels, bath soak by Heartland Fragrance, essential oils by Aurelia Aromatica, lotion bars by Seed Geeks, STL cutting boards by Looking Glass Designs, and Journals by I Canoe 2. Of course, both stores stock many more items than this sampling. Another store on South Grand that carries handmade items, albeit from other countries, is Zee Bee Market. The range of options includes accessories, jewelry, apparel, kid's items, and home goods. All of the items on offer are socially and environmentally conscious products. Of course, you can also shop online at zeebeemarket.com.

Crafters and artists often sell their products at annual outdoor events such as the Best of Missouri Market hosted by the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Shaw Art Fair. Both had to be cancelled this year, but the Garden has created a way to shop virtually. Go to events.missouribotanicalgarden.org/Best-of-Missouri-Market and click on "Shop our Virtual Market Directory." You will find each vendor on the left-hand side of the page. Clicking on a specific icon pops up more information on the right-hand side about that vendor's products which you can then order. It is possible to sort by ten different categories such as "art," "jewelry," or "food" if you do not want to browse all vendors. If the vendor is in the St. Louis area, you may be able to arrange to pick up your purchase rather than having it delivered.

Another virtual shopping option can be found at The Women's Creative, thewomenscreative.com/about. At the top righthand side of the page, you will see "the list." Click on that and you will be taken to a list of artists and crafters divided by category. Choose a category

Holiday Shopping in 2020

BY BARBARA GILCHRIST

to bring up a list; click on a name to find out more about that person and how to purchase items or contact the individual. Again, you may be able to arrange an in-person pick up.

A third option is the St. Louis Art Museum where it is possible to shop online or in-person at the gift shops.

Of course, the featured artists are likely not local, but there are many interesting possibilities, and you will be supporting a St. Louis institution that also had to close its doors for a period of time. To shop virtually, go to slam.org/shopping/ and click on "shop online." I did a little searching and saw many wonderful possibilities. These days, the collection of face masks with famous paintings printed on them might be fun and practical.

If none of the above appeals to you or the people on your list, remember that there are gift cards available for all of the wonderful restaurants as well as Dunaway Books and Apotheosis Comics & Lounge on South Grand, Blackthorn Pub and Pizza, The London Tea Room and other restaurants on Morgan Ford. These businesses need our support as well.

HAPPY SHOPPING!





Note from the Editor

BY BARBARA GILCHRIST

I AM WELL PAST AARP MEMBERSHIP AGE, AND this has been the most extraordinary year in my lifetime. I truly hope it is never repeated (or rhymed as some say about history). You do not need me to recap all the ways in which COVID-19 has upended our lives. What I do want

to emphasize is that difficult times often bring out the best in us.

Tower Grove Heights has long been known for its generous residents and 2020 is no exception. Rachel Witt, executive director of the South Grand Community Improvement District, credits us with helping the restaurants and businesses on South Grand stay afloat. When a neighbor's house was destroyed on the inside by tear gas because of a stand-off between the police and a person who tried to hide there, after, allegedly, shooting and killing a police officer, we stepped up with emotional and financial support. Several residents on Utah Place arranged for bands to play in front yards to both benefit the band members and provide an evening's respite from the pandemic. I am also thankful for everyone who helps us produce the *Gazette* – writers, photographers, copy editor, Block Captains and other deliverers, businesses that advertise, the designer and printer, and my co-editor.

I am confident we will continue to order from our restaurants, shop at our stores, and give generously to the 100 Neediest Project that we have supported for 16 years.

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'Tis the Season



Well, Almost

BY GRETA REITENBACH

'TIS THE SEASON – WELL, ALMOST. CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE corner! Feels like just yesterday we were reading about the new virus in China and hearing about the fires in Australia. Fast forward a couple months, and 2020 has been no joke. These past 11 months have been anything other than normal. Even though there might not be big family gatherings this Christmas, there are still other ways to have fun this winter.



Drive around and look at the Christmas lights. Or better yet, put up some yourself!



Shop locally (online) for Christmas gifts. Remember to get something for yourself, too!



If your family gathering is going to be online, take the opportunity to invite those relatives living out of town!



Take a walk in Tower Grove Park and enjoy the (I hope) snow-covered trees.



Mask up and head out to Eureka for Six Flags' holiday festivities!



Bundle up and head to a nearby drive-in movie!



Bake some cookies and deliver them to relatives.



Head over to the Botanical Gardens and experience the beautiful Garden Glow!



Pack up the car for a trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of Snows light festival.



Have a gingerbread house contest with your neighbors!



Take a family trip to the St. Louis Zoo for the lights display and other fun activities.

And finally... stay safe, TGH!

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NEARLY EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO, when we were first looking at houses in St. Louis, I had a set of criteria that our future house and neighborhood must have. We were moving from Chicago with a new baby and only one car. I was planning on staying home with our daughter, so I wanted a house within walking distance of a park, restaurants, library, coffee, post office, and a bookshop. Tower Grove Heights and South Grand ticked all of those boxes.

For a house, I wanted something old and rich in character with fine woodwork, beautiful and unique features, and plenty of nooks and crannies to delight a growing child. When we first toured our house, I was immediately struck by three things, first, there was an awful lot of floral wallpaper, but it was surrounded by original, largely unpainted woodwork. Second, the quarter-sawn oak mantel with beveled glass in the dining room was exquisite and intact despite the previous owner raising nine children in the house, and third, there was a small round safe in the wall of an upstairs bedroom that delighted and intrigued me. The owners of the house had never tried opening it, so it had remained unopened and intact for at least 30 years, possibly more.

After buying our house, I would frequently wonder about the safe. We looked up the name of the company and discovered it had gone out of business decades earlier. Unreliable internet searches told me that the only way to open such a safe was to drill into it and damage the lock, and I didn't want to do that. I preferred to live with the mystery rather than destroy the safe.

Some years later, my kids and I were visiting a friend in Shaw and noticed she had a nearly identical safe in her living room. She said she'd hired a lock and safe company that was able to figure out the combination, and when they opened it, they found a wrench. But now they had the combination, a usable safe, ...and a wrench.

The next day I called the Bates Street Safe and Lock company. They sent a man who looked up the manufacturer and style of safe to find out what type of combination it required. Once he knew that, he said for \$200 he should be able to open it within a couple of hours. My kids, who were about three and seven at the time were very excited and began speculating about what type of treasure we would find. The man from the lock company told them not to get their hopes up as the most he'd ever found in one of these safes was an old beer can.

It took him under an hour to open it. I was down the hall when he called out that I might want to take a look at something. He had opened the door, and inside the safe that is about the size of a shoebox, was a stack of five small cardboard boxes of varying sizes--the kind jewelry might come in--resting on top of a silver cigarette case, and tied together with a faded

Safe on Juniata

BY LYNNE CASEY



The business card read: Joseph L. Rehme, Vice President of Lafayette-South Side Bank and Trust Co., and the obituary was for Vincent H. Glosemeyer, father of Olivia Glosemeyer Rehme, wife of Joseph Rehme.

The cigarette case contained three very old filterless Lucky Strike cigarettes, and the boxes an assortment of watches, rings--mostly settings without the stones, pins from fraternal organizations, pince-nez glasses, and a watch fob with a dragon holding an amethyst stone. Individually, nothing is particularly valuable, but each item tells a story and offers a glimpse into the life of this family.

Joseph Rehme was prominent in banking in St. Louis serving as president of Lafayette-South Side Bank and Trust Co. and Southside National Bank. He was married to Olivia Glosemeyer and had four children. From census records and city directories, I can tell that they lived in what is now our house for some period between 1931 and 1938, and they were likely renters. They next lived on Kingsbury before settling in a home on Waterman in University City in 1940. Olivia Glosemeyer Rehme died in 1942, at the age of 44, and Joseph Rehme died in 1960, at the age of 70. By all accounts he quit smoking sometime in the early 1930s.



I often wonder about the reasoning behind the placement of these particular items in the safe. There was nothing rushed or haphazard about it--they were carefully boxed up and arranged--almost as if they were left behind intentionally with the business card and obituary meant as clues and have been waiting all this time to be discovered.

The connection I have to this family extends beyond the contents of the safe, however. When I was growing up in St. Louis county, my family had neighbors named Rehme, and their daughter was one of my babysitters. I've since discovered that Mr. Rehme was the much younger cousin of Joseph L. Rehme. My parents recently gave me some things they were clearing out of their house including an old Radio Flyer sled someone had given us when I was young. I carried it down to the basement and propped it against the wall with the underside facing out. Written in large black letters is "this sled belongs to Cindy Rehme."

If we ever move from this house, we'll leave the treasures in the safe and the sled in the basement as a mystery for the next family to ponder.

Tower Grove Heights and South Grand ticked all of those boxes."

Jennifer Florida, Realtor

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REAL ESTATE NEWS

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Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights this quarter

Street	Listed At	Days on Market	Sold Price
3802 Connecticut	\$169,900	3	\$190,000
3829 Hartford	\$350,000	26	\$342,500
3725 Humphrey	\$344,000	5	\$385,000
3820 Hartford	\$375,000	2	\$390,000
3727 Juniata	\$379,000	0	\$420,000
3818 Hartford	\$425,000	2	\$441,500
3652 Hartford	\$465,000	7	\$465,000
3875 Juniata	\$489,000	22	\$489,000
3877 Utah PL	\$500,000	29	\$490,000
3811 Juniata	\$499,000	3	\$510,000
3892 Humphrey	\$495,000	30	\$495,000
3845 Wyoming	\$239,900	53	\$239,900
3715 Wyoming	\$309,000	3	\$312,000

Currently there are five pending sales with only two active for sale properties in Tower Grove Heights!

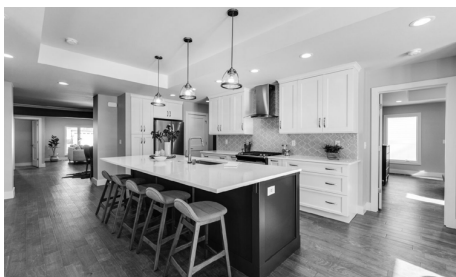


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MY WIFE, JEAN, AND I MET ANDREW Habern and Karen DeMatteo while waiting in line at the Tower Grove Creamery in 2017. After they invited us to their home in the 3600 block of Arsenal, I wrote an article about them in the 2017 Summer issue of the Gazette titled, "Not Ordinary People." The article discussed how Karen works with an ongoing carnivore conservation project where she and her dog, Train, travel extensively looking for "scat" (animal poop) while Andrew takes on enormously complex projects in their home. Check out the *Gazette* article to see a picture of Train and Andrew's impossible dining room ceiling project.*

Lately, I noticed Andrew and Karen were re-painting their front porch. As usual, it was an impossibly complicated and detailed undertaking. Not wanting wife Jean to covet their beautiful work and ask, "Why can't we do that?" I drove quickly past Karen and Andrew's home when Jean was in the car. My efforts actually worked and I felt I was in the clear.

My efforts actually worked and I felt I was in the clear. But then disaster struck."

But then disaster struck. Andrew sent me a shot of the new tile project they just completed on their front porch floor. I left the picture up on my computer screen and Jean saw it. I heard, "Wow! Why can't we do that?"

When I talked to Andrew about the tile project, I learned that he and Karen had the idea on their wish list for a long time and that the front porch painting was all Karen's doing. They came up with a floor design and ordered everything from American Restoration Tile two years ago but couldn't find anyone to do the work. Frustrated, Andrew and Karen thought, "What's the worst that can happen?" and decided to take on the project, themselves.

The existing porch surface consisted of 4" x 4" brown tiles with a pattern of smashed tiles in the center. Removing them was the hardest part of the job. "You'd hammer away and just remove small pieces," recalls Andrew. When the old tiles were finally removed, 1/4" concrete board was secured by using a hammer drill and Tapcon screws.

The new tiles came on 14" x 14" sheets so they could be dry fitted for sizing. Unfortunately, the pattern was too big and had to be adapted to fit. "We took out sections of the field to make it work," Andrew explained. It didn't help that the porch was more of a trapezoid than a rectangle but when flaws were pointed out, I didn't even notice them.

The pattern came with numbered sections to make the layout easier. In theory, you'd take up a 14" x 14" section from the "dry" layout, spread some thin-set mortar mix and lay it back down. Making the border fit was the hard part. "I had to use nippers to cut some of the tiles because they were too small to cut on a wet saw," adds Andrew.

Andrew & Karen Go Crazy

BY RICH IEZZI

This reminds me of Andrew's dining room ceiling project I referred to earlier. It had to be so precise that halfway through the installation, the new ceiling was removed because it was off center. When I asked how far it was from being perfectly true, Andrew dejectedly replied, "One

quarter of an inch."

When I saw the new tile, it looked original and that's always a compliment. How the heck did the builders install our intricate front porch floors a hundred years ago without wet saw tile cutters and computer design? Andrew's new tile also included the half size pieces that came in different shapes. Nice.



After seeing what a beautiful job they did, I asked Andrew to do our porch floor. Before I even got to the end of my question, Andrew said, "No."

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When I asked to meet with Andrew Habern to write a story about his front porch floor project, I got an offer I couldn't refuse. "I'll pick you up in the Buick," Andrew answered. But not just any Buick. This was a 1956 Buick Special two-door hardtop that Andrew lovingly keeps in his garage. He's had the car for about a year and invited me to see it last summer.

It's a beautiful car. **At 4,000 pounds, it glides comfortably instead of jostling you about.** The seats are as soft as a sofa and who doesn't enjoy hearing the door close on these classics? Solid.

Andrew had been looking for a classic car for about 20 years but the time was never right. And, there were specifications to be met. The new family member had to fit in the garage and be drivable. When I asked if this was a mid-life crisis thing, Andrew replied, "I hope not."

It Found Me

BY RICH IEZZI

After passively looking for something so long, Andrew said, "The car found me." One look at it on a website revealed

that this was the car. It's a perfect mix of old and new. Power steering was added and the drivetrain upgraded but everything you'd expect to find in a classic car (ashtrays, opposing windshield wipers, bench seats, etc.) was there. I found myself looking at it when I was trying to take notes for the related porch story.

While Andrew drove me through Tower Grove Park, we attracted a constant stream of "Nice Car" comments.

Somewhat disappointed, I remarked, "So those girls aren't looking at us, are they?" "Nope," Andrew confirmed.



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Disco Inferno? Yes.

BACKYARD INFERNO? NOT SO MUCH

BY KATIE WOLF, NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST



WE ARE HEADED INTO THE HOME STRETCH OF 2020 AND INTO THE NEW year. And we are facing cold weather and holidays. If you are like many people I know, you are thinking about how you will keep warm, possibly see some family and friends, and visit while home and outdoors to avoid COVID-19 transmission.

Invariably, the topic of outdoor fires may come up. So, I wanted to point you to the ordinances and codes that help St. Louis residents decide what sort of outside fires are allowed, and the rules around them. I apologize, I realize the topic is rather dry. 😊

There are two City Ordinances that speak to outdoor burning: Ordinance 70932 which defines and outlines “Recreational Fires,” and Ordinance 70796 which adopts the 2018 International Fire Codes (IFC).

There are juicy tidbits in both of these documents, and I encourage you to grab a cup or glass and read them in their entirety should you be so inclined. Google “City of St. Louis Ordinances” and you will come to a page where you can enter the Ordinance number or keyword and read the whole thing.

Ordinance 70932 speaks to outdoor fires that are NOT in fireplaces, fire pits or BBQ pits. Think bonfires. If you are having a recreational bonfire on your property, please think twice and then read this Ordinance. This includes fires for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes. It will give you the distance from structures, etc. that are mandated to avoid unintentional incineration of properties. Ordinance 70796 refers you to read the International Fire Code to get some guidance about fire pits. The basic message is that in terms of placement, “follow manufacturer’s recommendations.” That is all that is mandated for single and 2-family dwellings. For larger or commercial use, see section 307.4.3 of the IFC.

“If you are having a recreational bonfire on your property, please think twice and then read this ordinance.”

Section 307.5 of the IFC reminds one to never leave an outside fire unattended – and have a fire extinguisher, dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose, or other approved fire extinguishing material/device available.

There are other guidelines included in the IFC: Fire pit use inside a retail mall. Storing cryogenic fluids. Using ethylene gas to ripen fruit. Rooftop heliports. And of course, the recommendations to not host fire pit fires in windy conditions, keep your fire pit at 30” wide x 18” tall or smaller, and only burn clean, dry, seasoned firewood. And finally – it wouldn’t be an article from Katie Wolf without some mention of trash. Burning trash, that is. And survey says: don’t do it. City Code Chapter 11.34.150 will give you all the information. Essentially, no to burning trash, leaves, or construction debris and the owner of the property is liable should tenants or visitors partake in this sort of burning.

I’d like to thank Captain John Walk, Assistant Fire Marshal, for pointing me to these documents and Ordinances. He has been super helpful in handling resident questions about best fire practices.

To everyone: be safe. Enjoy the quiet of winter. Help your neighbors. Snuggle extensively. And call me if you have any questions. Thanks, Katie

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Homescreen Partners With Employment Connection To Create A Landlord Database For Not For Profit Social Service Providers From The TGNCDC Blog

BY ELLA GROSS

TOWER GROVE NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Corporation (TGNCDC) has over a decade of tenant screening service experience and has completed over 12,000 applications since 2014. HomeScreen™, TGNCDC's non-discriminatory, Fair Housing-compliant tenant screening service, quickly delivers objective and thorough information to landlords looking to find and maintain good tenants. HomeScreen was specifically designed to reframe the traditional tenant screening model and to fill vacancies in an equitable way.

We know that, for decades, systemic injustice has disproportionately affected low-income renters and people of color as they search for affordable housing. In St. Louis alone, an estimated 38% of all households could not afford the median rent before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Unfortunately, this year, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn, have further accelerated the affordable housing crisis. As unemployment spiked and additional federal unemployment benefits expired, many renters fell behind on their rent. Although the City currently had an eviction moratorium in place until November 6th, we are working now to create tools to curb a wave of evictions expected when the moratorium does expire.

Nonprofits all over the region, including our partners at Employment Connection, have the very difficult task of finding landlords who are willing to rent their properties to people with recent evictions, who are unemployed or are low income, or have past criminal convictions. Employment Connection (EC) is a 501(c)(3) founded in 1977 with a vision to break down barriers to self-sufficiency and create a safer and more inclusive community. EC helps clients with job training and has helped over 4,000 individuals find gainful employment, but they also focus on housing. Each year, EC helps 120 homeless individuals and their families find affordable housing through homeless prevention programs, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing.

HomeScreen was uniquely positioned to partner with Employment Connection as they applied for CARES Act Funding to help those at risk of losing their homes this year. HomeScreen has an existing database of over 1,000 landlords who believe in supporting our mission. Together with EC, we will make updates to our software so that HomeScreen acts as a central database of landlords interested in working with non-profit social service providers to rent to their clients most in need of housing.

Landlords using HomeScreen will have the opportunity to

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list their available rental units exclusively to non-profit social service providers (SSPs) at no cost. Landlords will build a profile within their HomeScreen account so that they can fill their vacancies quickly, with an applicant and program that meets their predetermined requirements.

SSPs will log in to their own HomeScreen accounts, browse listed apartments, review the landlord's requirements, and reach out to schedule showings or ask additional questions. The HomeScreen database will give SSPs a modern, easy-to-use system to submit and to securely store apartment applications for their clients. HomeScreen will only charge the SSP for one screening per month, resulting in savings for the SSPs overtime. By tapping into our large network of existing landlords and leveraging the technology we have in place, we expect this tool to be available to use by January 2021.

Revenue generated through HomeScreen is used to support community development activities and is directly invested back into the City of Saint Louis. TGNDC is a real estate-focused community development corporation that has facilitated 100s of redevelopment projects with a focus on eliminating blight, created 78 affordable rental units (owned and managed) in the last six years, supported infrastructure projects, delivered landlord/rehabber training seminars and advocated for energy efficiency programs for low-income renters.

For more information, please contact Ella Gross, Tenant Screening Manager at info@myhomescreen.org.

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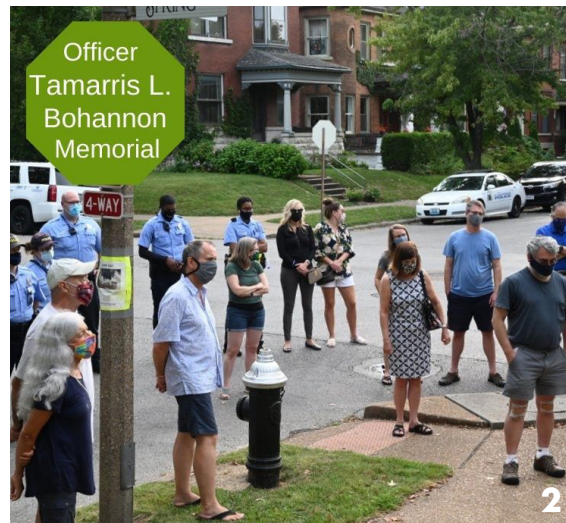
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1. Nigel Holloway and Barbara Gilchrist, with help from the League of Women Voters, staffed a voter registration and information table in Ritz Park on four Saturdays and Sundays in September. Catherine Stenger from the League is also pictured here. Other neighbors helped as well.

2. Neighbors gathered in memory of Officer Bohannon who was shot on Aug. 29th near the intersection of Hartford and Spring.

3. Home of Mimi and Steve Haag that is undergoing repairs from damages that occurred during the stand-off.

4 & 5. Although trick-or-treating was down in the Heights this year, there was no shortage of great decorating.

6. Sweeping up glass from the broken windows in Mimi and Steve's home is Barbara Gilchrist.

7. Debra Knox Deiermann assists in the clean-up of the Haag's yard.

8. Gail Planer and Bill Breithaupt danced the night away at a yard concert on Utah Place.



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

Include my name, address
and contact information in
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Join online at towergroveheights.com or mail this form to:
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TGHNA is a 501(c)(3) organization

Tremendous thanks to our TGH family. We are immeasurably blessed to have so many kind neighbors who have cared and supported us following the destruction of our home.

-MIMI & STEVE HAAG



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