

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

April 30, 1994

Volume 6, Number 5

GRAND HOUSE TOUR MAY 14-15

By Anne Moore

Tower Grove Heights is one of the five neighborhood that have come together to open the best of their homes for the first annual Grand South Grand House and Garden Tour. From 11 AM until 5 PM, Saturday and Sunday, May 14th and 15th, fourteen homes will be on display to show the grand style of living enjoyed by residents of Compton Heights, Compton Hill Reservoir Squire, Shaw, Tower Grove East and Tower Grove Heights. The homes featured on the tour are some of the finest examples of the grand residences in these neighborhoods.

Tower Grove Heights will show an estate on their tree-lined boulevard, Utah Place, as well as two homes on Hartford. Tower Grove East will feature a beautifully restored home from their Crittenden Historic District as will as homes on Halliday, Sidney and Pestalozzi. St. Elizabeth Academy, which is celebrating the 100th anniversary of their main building, will also be featured as a tour and refreshment stop. Shaw neighborhood will have homes from tow of their oldest and finest streets, Flora Place and Shaw Place. Compton Hill Reservoir Square will showcase not only a wonderful home but a garden that can only be described as a work of art. And, of course, Compton Heights' mansions are not to be missed.

Some of the home on the tour have been lovingly cared for by each subsequent resident, often owned by just a few families over the years. However, other homes had worse fates. Some of the more spacious estates were chopped up into rooming houses and others just fell into terrible disrepair. But the vision and strength of their present owners who saw beyond the dropped ceilings, cheap paneling, falling plaster and leaky roofs, once again realized the beauty of these grand homes. Therefore, the tour will showcase strict

restorations as well as renovations. You will see many imaginative use of space to accommodate more up-to-date lifestyles. There are large kitchens that have been carved out of small spaces, often by incorporating a servant's room or butler's pantry. Baths are probably the most unique additions, created under stairways and off pantries, elaborate master baths replacing small bedrooms. And, decorating in these home run the gamut from contemporary to a Victorian showcase which features an elaborate collection of period light fixtures. There is truly something for every type of tour goer.

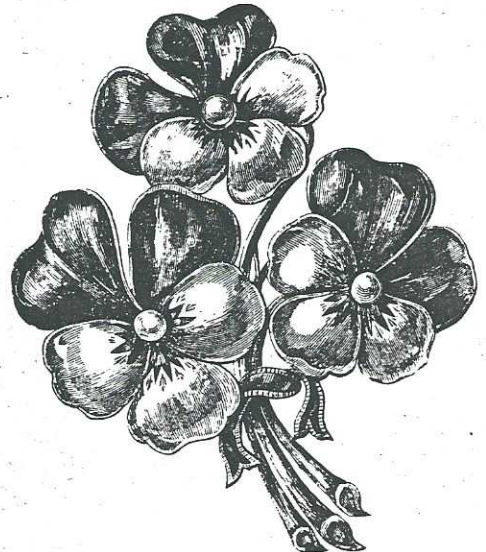
If you want to take a break from touring the homes, you can do a little browsing up and down the Grand South Grand Business District. A special section in the tour book will offer coupons for many of the international restaurants and gift shops that populate this busy stretch of South Grand Avenue. The business district is as proud of the renaissance it has experienced as the home owners are of the renovations. In 1993 alone 15 new businesses opened their doors and five existing businesses expanded their operation. Some of the most exciting young growth-oriented companies in St. Louis, The St. Louis Bread Company, Streetside Records and Kinko's, have made Grand South Grand their home. This area has come to be known a St. Louis's international experience where ethnic restaurants and shops abound. Many of the mainstays of the area, Commerce Bank, Becker's German Imports, Dickman Boulevard Bakery and other continue to do well. The total amount of investment in the area since 1989 has totaled over 8.5 million and as Botanical's on the Park finishes the Park-gate renovations the figure will only go higher.

Though many cities across the United States have experienced a stall-out in the development of their neighborhoods, the Grand South Grand area only continues to flourish. That is why these five

neighborhoods and their business district have come together to show off all that has and continues to develop in this dynamic part of St. Louis.

As these neighborhoods grow they have not forgotten one of their greatest strengths, the national historic registry landmark, Tower Grove Park. The proceeds from this year's tour will go toward a fund raising campaign to renovate the South Grand entrance to Tower Grove Park. The iron work on the gates needs repair, the old plantings are overgrown and dying and the famous griffins and sleeping lions have fallen prey to the elements. But with the help of the revenue from the tour, the gates may be quickly on their way to their old grandeur.

The tour begins in the Grand South Grand business district in the parking lot next to Roosevelt Bank, 3158 South Grand. There is ample parking there and in the Commerce Bank parking lot. Free shuttle busses will be available to transport tour goers along the route, although you can drive the route in your own car. Ticket are \$7 in advance, \$8 day of the tour. You can purchase your tickets from DeSales Community Housing Association, 2799 Russell, (314) 776-5444, from any Ticket Now Outlet or by calling Dialtix, (314) 291-7600.



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 Donna Mayes at 664-5449. Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette. Mail them to:

The Gazette/TGHNA PO. Box 63046 St. Louis MO 63163

ON GRAND

The Book Nook By Elizabeth Braznell

Cliff Kaskie has an amazing memory. I had been to the Book Nook once before, but when I returned some months later, I was greeted with, "Hi, Elizabeth!"

Cliff has created a welcoming atmosphere at his used book store (2237 South Grand, 772-0606) that he opened in September. He considers it important to remember people's names and show them individual attention. He even remembers what author I was interested in!

Cliff opened his store on South Grand because he lives in the City (in the Soulard neighborhood, where he rides the mobile patrol) and believes in the City. He chose the Tower Grove area specifically because of the kind of people who live here and because of the walk-in traffic.

Grab a free cup of one of the coffees from Shenandoah Coffee Company that Cliff keeps freshly brewed and wander through the aisles of mysteries, science fiction, thriller/espionage, horror, general fiction, and westerns. Or check out the well-stocked romance section. Nonfiction categories include biography, history, art/drama/poetry, true crime, religion, and philosophy/psychology.

There's a children's book section, as well, with a small carpeted area for kids to look through books while their parents wander through the store.

The Book Nook has a lot of coffee table books at reasonable prices. Because they are used, maybe people will think you've read them!

Cliff buys and sells used books singly or by the sackfull, and he purchases and sells entire libraries, as well. Paperback titles needed for the collection and in good condition can be traded 2 for 1, or Cliff will buy them.

The hospitality Cliff offers extends to his customer's dogs, too. Cliff keeps a jar of dog biscuits handy and offers Tootsie Rolls to his human customers. Occasionally there are freshly baked goodies which go wonderfully with the fresh coffee.

The Book Nook is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Friday from 10 to 6, Saturday 9 to 5, and Sunday 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Closed Wednesdays.

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BLOCK CAPTAIN PROFILE--

Marilyn Abbott

By: Stephanie Gavin

As co-chairperson of the block committees/captains, Marilyn Abbott hopes she can make a difference in the neighborhood. And it isn't because she feels Tower Grove Heights needs drastic improvement. In fact, when describing what she likes about living with her family at 3648 Hartford, the superlatives were many. She loves the old houses ("...they feel so...I don't know--strong!"), the great neighbors, and especially being close to work. "I can't imagine sitting in the car for 45 minutes getting to work. That's an hour and a half away from the family every day!"

Marilyn's family consists of her husband, Mark, who was her high school sweetheart back in Indianapolis; her son, Nick who is 11; and her son Neal, who is 3 1/2. The Abbotts have lived at their Hartford home for five years. Before that, they lived in Soulard, which they enjoyed for a while, but "Soulard isn't as much of a family neighborhood as ours," says Marilyn.

Marilyn and Mark both attended undergraduate and graduate school in Indiana. After living a while in Boston, they

settled back in the Mid-west here in St. Louis. Marilyn works in Research and Development for Anheuser Busch, and Mark is a Historian working at Harris Stowe. In fact, his most recent research project is studying the history of Tower Grove Heights as one of the earliest subdivisions in St. Louis. Look for some additional info about the project in a future Gazette.



When not too busy working as a mom, wife, and career woman, Marilyn enjoys gardening and walking to places in the neighborhood. "I would hate not being able to go anywhere without a car," Marilyn says. Being a resident of the neighborhood and an active member of the association is important to Marilyn. "It makes me feel a part of something."

PROGRESSIVE PARTY

3800 Hartford held their annual progressive party on February 19. It was a balmy evening for mid-winter which made tripping from house to house very comfortable without wraps. Don Hardin orchestrated the event again this year. Much of the applause for it's success goes to his thoughtful planning.

Also to be complimented are those who opened their homes to approximately twenty-four guests. The festivities began at the home of Kim Novak and Tom Tobias. When the punch bowl was drained and the delicious hors d' oeuvre dwindled, everyone migrated to the home of Tricia and Jodie Heliker for sandwiches, salad, and potato skins. This was followed by desserts at the home of Tom and Jan Booth. Many guests lingered over Jan's special "low cal" coffee not wanting to end a perfect evening with such good friends and neighbors.



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MY FAVORITE MECHANIC

By Terry Mayes

Hello friends and neighbors. Yes it's your favorite mechanic! Of course you're probably saying, "Huh, how would he know?" I'm sure you all have your own mechanic to take your car to when you need service. At least I hope you do for your own sake.

I would like to tell you a "believe it or not" story about a mechanic who bought a brand new creeper from a tool salesman. If you don't know what a creeper is, it's that gadget that a mechanic rolls around on. This salesman told the mechanic that the creeper rollers had been tested at 80 MPH. Of course this salesman was just kidding. Now you must understand that he was in a very small town in northern Illinois. I'm in no way attempting to offend you small town folk, after all I'm sort of partial to small towns myself. Any way this mechanic took his new creeper and proudly showed it to all his friends where he worked. Now keep in mind what the salesman told this young country mechanic about the wheels being tested at 80 MPH. Just imagine paying \$80 for a creeper. This guy was PROUD. So the story goes that he talked one of his buddies into taking this new piece of hardware for a little test drive down a city

street. The way I understand it is they tied the creeper behind a vehicle and started down the road.

Well the salesman went back about 2 weeks later to see these guys to try and sell them some more tools. This fella comes moseyin' on up to the truck with his new creeper in hand. Only one thing was wrong. The creeper didn't look new anymore. The wheels were all melted off and it was a little scraped up. He told the salesman the wheels started to disintegrate at about 40 MPH. The poor salesman, I would imagine, was laughing by this time and had to give the poor guy a new set of wheels for this \$80 piece of hardware junk. Well this salesman couldn't keep a story like that a secret. I can't imagine going 40 MPH on something I had no control over whatsoever. WOW these guys had rocks in their heads. I wonder what the guy riding the creeper was thinking when those wheels started to melt. I'll bet he was yelling at his partner fairly loudly. It probably sounded something like "stop stop stoooooop. Please God stop!"

The moral of this story is "remember to be sure to wear your helmet when you drive your creeper and buckle up in your car". I'll include some tips for your driving pleasure in my next article.



SINCE YOU ASKED

By Don Hardin

If could be granted three wishes, what would they be?:

Lewis Campfield: "I want to move out of the City. I want to have a new house. I want to enjoy peace and quiet."

Pat Donnelly: "Better mail delivery. Less crime in the city and everywhere in the country. A summer with a top temperature or 80 degrees."

Joann Knollhoff: "Peace all over the world. Too be well and healthy. I want to win the lottery."

Betty Ault: "I want to be whole again. I suffered brain damage as a result of a heart attack. I would like my heart and head to be healthy. I would like to own my own home again."

Kate Hartz: "I would wish for less crime, financial security for my family, and I would wish to stay healthy."

Don Price: "I would wish for good health. I would like to win the lottery. Lastly, I would wish for perfect golfing weather year round."

Rita Willey: "I would wish for a new leg and continued neighborhood improvement. I would like to wish a happy birthday party for my husband who will be celebrating his 86th birthday."

Rachel Williams: "I would wish for good health. I wish my son does well in his profession and continued improvement in the crime situation."

Brenda Hayes: "I wish my patio was finished. I wish all my flowers were planted. I wish I had a new job."

Len Hayes: "My first wish would be for one million dollars. My second wish would be for one million dollars. My third wish would be for one million dollars (to pay for the patio and flowers)."

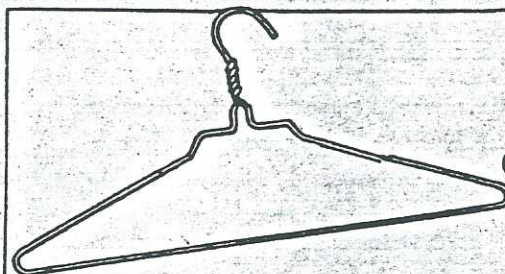
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TWO FAMILY FLAT CONVERSIONS

By Rich Iezzi

When we bought our house, I thought I was seeing double. It had 2 of everything -- 2 water heaters, 2 gas meters, 2 electric panels, 2 furnaces, 2 addresses and 2 front doors. Built in 1896 as a single residence, the house was divided into a 2 family in 1913 by the new owners who lost their breadwinner to the 1896 tornado.

We turned it back to a "single" in 1978 and the house has been happy ever since. "Conversions", as they're now called, are one of the best things that can happen to a 2 family flat.

What does everyone want when they buy a house? Value, potential and that coveted downstairs bathroom. Tower Grove Heights' 2 family's have it all. When our neighborhood was planned, not only were the flats built large enough to be homes, they were interspersed with single family residences. A converted 2 family won't stick out as the only home on a block of 2 family's or vice versa.

So, where do you start? The easiest way to convert you flat might be by doing

nothing. When their tenants move out, some owners begin to creep into the other half of their buildings and like the feeling.

The building remains unchanged but as an owner, your square footage has just doubled. And, you have an ideal arrangement for out of town guests, etc.

If you choose to do a pure conversion from a 2 family to a single residence, you have lots of advantages on your side. I think the best is the ability to contain whatever work you do from the area in which you live. We were able to continue to rent our downstairs while we ripped into the upstairs unit. You also don't have to live without a bathroom or kitchen just because you're taking one out of service. When you finish your work, EUREKA, you have a downstairs bathroom.

Another obvious incentive for using Tower Grove Heights 2 family's for conversion is the incredible amount of charm and goodies these buildings were born with. Many have beautiful free standing staircases just waiting to peek around that dividing wall in addition to carved mantels, stained glass and other amenities we have taken for granted. And, what about that "zoned heating and cooling" you automatically inherit with the building. We have kept ours that way and find it comforting

to have dual fail safe power, heating and cooling systems.

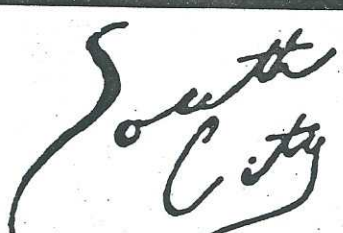
Right now, value has got to catch your eye. Flats with 1200-1800 sq. ft. per unit sell for less than a house with 1/2 the total sq. ft. and that's a lot of brick for the money. As a part of the package, you also end up with a building containing a rear staircase, downstairs bathroom and other staples you would have to spend big bucks to install.

Creating more owner occupied property and lowering the neighborhood density isn't a bad idea either. Density wasn't much of a problem before cars were invented but now we'll take all the extra parking spaces we can get.

Maybe you love older homes but can't handle those little bitty closets. Think big -- you have just gone from 4 - 6 rooms to perhaps 10 - 12. Dedicate one for a closet, one for an office, one for exercise, etc. and see what fun that is.

Still lukewarm on conversions? Lucky for you Tower Grove Heights has residents who have gone through it and others who are doing it right now who will share their experiences. Give Jean a call at 772-5982 and start seeing double.





SOUTH CITY DINER


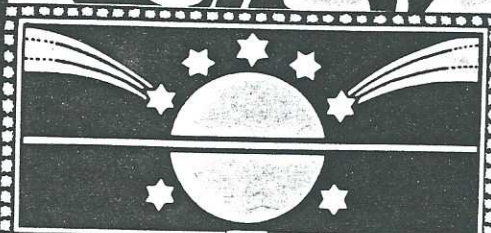
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Growing Tomatoes and Other Yummies in Tower Grove Heights Gardens

by Richard R. Clinebell II

In medias res. In the midst of things, on this Easter Sunday, I reflect upon the high cost and poor taste of produce in our supermarkets. These two factors are amplified by a sense of wastefulness and a New Year's resolution to recycle as much as possible. Actually, recycling in the garden began last spring. It is amazing to contemplate how many pots-worth of coffee grounds, banana skins, eggshells, potato peels, salad leftovers and so on -- even catfish bones -- have prior journeyed to the dumpster to add to the problem of waste in our urban society, yet now are merrily building soil for delicious, wholesome and healthy organic vegetables in the backyard. Though Don and I pretty much just pitch all of the above into the garden, they can be buried by the more tidy. We pitch them on the surface because they are also used by our neighborhood songbirds.

In the midst of things, the garden also received as mulch all the lawn clippings, as well as the leaves from our neighbor's trees. In warm spells throughout the winter, I was often out with pruning clippers clipping all of last year's dead plants into 4-6 inch pieces, and these were left on the garden surface. Finally, the lawn itself, in the area which became garden beds last year, was stacked as a 2-inch "peel" that reached about one hundred fifty cubic feet in a Monet-esque haystack sort of aspect. This composted for a year and was sifted through a wooden-framed screen back onto the garden, which now looks pretty much like a large devilsfood cake. Appearing as yummy as the veggies to come.

Lest all of the above sound insane, consider the effects of removing all the goodies from soil for a century, as has occurred here and elsewhere in our culture. What is left is essentially clay, largely devoid of organic matter. Some of the problem, of course, is that when the basements of our neighborhood were excavated,

much subsoil was moved to the topsoil layers, but the truth is that building soil is a worthwhile and rewarding enterprise. Even without all of the above, our clay will grow wonderful vegetables. With all of the above, each year's garden grows more bountiful than the last.

We start our plants indoors under fluorescent lights set over shelves on the south-facing kitchen window, and on a workbench in the basement during the Christmas holidays. The fluorescent lights are left on 24 hours per day, because it is really a weak source of light, and the plantlets do not grow tall and spindly. A couple feedings of "Miracle-Gro" keeps them happy in their four months in the house. They must be watered and misted frequently, and they must also be grown in a mixture of something like 1/2 potting soil and 1/2 traction gravel, or traction sand, both of which we buy at Oak Hill Hardware. The gravel prevents the seedlings dying from a fungus disease called "damping off" or "dampoff fungus." **It is not possible to grow baby tomato plants in Tower Grove Heights clay indoors, and such attempts are likely to result in failure. Our soil lacks the needed humus and soon dries to concrete.**

The seeds themselves come from seed savings from the garden, the January or February 1/2 price seed sale at Frank's Nursery, or from the seed display at Schnuck's. Most of our tomato varieties are hybrids. We did save seed of the six varieties we grew last year to see if they would produce. The answer is probably a variety by variety issue. Last year we grew a variety called "Delicious," producing 1-pound fruits; "Bonnie Best," a small red tomato; Roma pear-shaped Italian red tomatoes; Cherry salad tomatoes, Big Boys and Lemon Boys, a wonderful medium-sized yellow tomato. This year, we did not find seed of "Delicious," and substituted Better Boys, Beefsteaks and several other "whopper" red tomato strains. We also found yellow cherry and

Roma tomatoes, and an early variety called "Early Girl." Because the tomato flesh itself is genetically identical to the mother plant, these can all be mixed up in the garden and will grow true to form. Seeds, on the other hand, will produce such hybrids as the bumblebee pollinators have created. All of the tomato varieties we have tried are terrific, and remind us that the Midwest is one of the great tomato-growing climates of the world.

With the first warm spells of winter, I often move the seedlings out onto the deck for a day here, a day there, and this continues until earliest May. This process is called "hardening off," and is best accomplished in a shady, wind-sheltered spot. Ideally, a lath frame could be made, but the dappled shade of a garden shrub will suffice. The first young plants, 4-6" tall by Easter, can be set out by the brave in early April. These need to be ringed by a coffee can with both ends cut out. Otherwise, the hungry birds and rabbits will make short shrift of them. Post April-1 frosts can be mitigated and tomatoes carried through if the cans are draped in plastic sheeting. This needs to be done on frost-predicted eves until earliest May.

By the first of June or so, tomatoes will have begun to vine, and given the size constraints of our urban yards, the best way to exploit our abundant sun and limited space is to stake them. Four- and six-foot tomato stakes can be reasonably purchased from Frank's nursery. We ended up with over 100 of them last year, supporting about sixty plants, many purchased on the several sales the nursery had. These are stored in the basement over winter and should last for years. The vines should be loosely tied up with twist-ems, 6" long or so, and these are also available at garden centers, and can also be saved for future years. Tomatoes are heavy feeders, and we fed ours a couple times during the summer with Miracle-Gro, maybe one or two boxes for the whole season.

We used no toxic pesticides in our garden. Something "nailed" all the Cosmos (an old-fashioned Victorian garden flower in the Sunflower family), and we found only one Tomato Hornworm caterpillar (these will shear off the stem of whole plants). Otherwise, we seemed to attract a balanced mix of insects -- including many butterflies, praying mantises, and colorful bees which seemed to coexist in harmony with the garden plants. Possibly the diversity of the garden, including pest-repelling plants -- such as dozens of marigolds -- had something to do with this. Squirrels or other critters gnawed on a few tomatoes, but this was not a serious loss.

We ended up giving away a lot of surplus tomatoes, but still filled the freezer with frozen fruits. These can be microwaved, after which the skins peel right off, and save a buck every time you make chili or spaghetti sauce. As if this were not enough, if you harvest the green tomatoes before the first killing frost, they will ripen in paper bags indoors. This extends the fresh tomato season until Christmas. Even one killing frost will kill the green tomatoes and they will rot rather than ripen. So they must be harvested before the first killing frost.

There is something magical about a garden. And something empowering about being able to detour past the pro-

duce section at the supermarket for at least part of the year. We are very fortunate here to have such ideal climate for growing such wonderful yummys, including as described here, the best tomatoes in the world.



TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS DESSERT RECIPE BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

In each issue of the Gazette, we plan to print one of the many taste tempting recipes that can be yours in the Tower Grove Heights Dessert Recipe Book. Profits benefit the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. Call 772-5982 to place your order.

BLACK RUSSIAN CAKE

Gretchen Arnold
Hartford

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1/4 cup Kahlua
1 cup vegetable oil
1 cup powdered sugar
2 eggs
1 pkg. instant chocolate
pudding mix
3/4 cup water
1/4 cup vodka

Combine cake mix, pudding mix, oil, eggs, vodka, Kahlua and water. Beat 4 minutes. Pour into greased and floured tube pan.

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A MESSAGE FROM REP. PAT DOUGHERTY

Legislation (HS HCS HB 1568, 1293, 1301, 1446, 1601 & 975) containing numerous provisions relating to merchandising practices and consumer protection received initial approval from the House.

One of the bill's provisions would protect wheelchair customers against defective products and faulty repairs by requiring wheelchair manufacturers to warrant wheelchairs for at least one year against defects.

Manufacturers would be required to repair any defects while under warranty and replace a wheelchair or refund its price if they cannot make repairs.

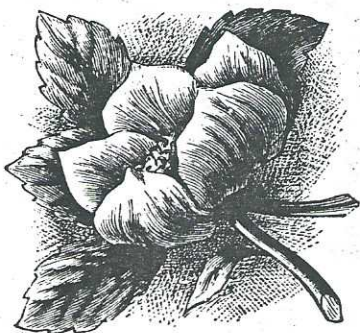
Telephone users would be able to access a live operator by dialing 0 under another of the bill's provisions. Supporters say this is especially important for young children and the elderly who may need immediate emergency assistance.

In an effort to ensure that customers get their money's worth when attending professional musical performances, advertisements and programs must state that the performance includes mechanically reproduced music if five or more minutes of recorded music are used during the performance.

The bill also contains provisions relating to charitable solicitation that would require persons soliciting for charitable organizations to disclose the percentage of solicited funds that were spent on the charitable purpose in the past 12 months.

Organizations currently exempt from the state's charitable solicitations registration law would be exempt from this provision.

If you would like copies of these or other pieces of legislation, do not hesitate to contact me either in Jefferson City at 1-751-3599 or home at 772-1948.



THE WAR ON GANGS STARTS WITH YOU!

by Judy Johnson

It CAN happen here!

Even though we don't want to admit it, gangs have emerged in many St. Louis neighborhoods. According to St. Louis Police undercover intelligence, 578 gang members have been identified in the city, and most of them are "hard core."

To raise neighborhood awareness of this problem, Grand Oak Hill sponsored a Gang Awareness Workshop in February at Holy Family Church. Over 200 people attended to learn more about what they can do to stop gangs from gaining control of our neighborhood. The *Post-Dispatch* printed an article summarizing the meeting in the February 10 edition.

For those of you who were unable to attend or didn't see the article, here are some things to remember:

- Denying a gang the attention it seeks is a good way to keep it from gaining power.

- Graffiti is the first sign of gang activity in a neighborhood, and it is used to mark territories.

- The longer gang graffiti is left up, the more confident and stronger gangs become.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Attend police community relations and neighborhood association meetings.

This will increase your awareness of the current situation and identify actions you can take to help keep our neighborhood a wonderful place to live.

2. Discuss gangs with your children.

Help them understand the realities of a criminal record. They need to know the finality of death, which is often the result of gang violence. They should be encouraged to identify and report other youth who are pressuring them to become involved in gang or other illegal activities.

3. Look for warning signs in your child.

Changes in behavior, truancy, declining grades, change in friends, late hours, graffiti, tattoos, and sagging pants or new clothing styles are "watch-outs." Discuss your observations with your child. You can also seek guidance from the St. Louis Police Department's CRASH unit hotline,

444-5716, before the situation gets out of control.

4. Become involved in the Mobile Patrol Program.

Tower Grove Heights and Grand Oak Hill residents drive the streets and alleys looking for signs of dangerous activities. For more information on how to become involved, contact Darlene Rich at 865-5530.

5. Become involved in or start a Neighborhood Watch on your block.

Watch for signs of suspicious activity and work with your neighbors to report any observations. Neighborhood watch programs are active on some blocks of Tower Grove Heights, but many do not yet have a Watch program. To learn more about the program on your block, contact Tower Grove Heights at 772-5982.

6. Encourage immediate graffiti removal.

If you see gang graffiti on public or private property, contact the Citizen's Service Bureau at 622-4800. Provide them with the color and type of surface the graffiti is written on so they may come prepared to remove or paint over it.

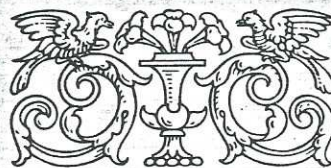
7. Provide information to the Police Department about gang activity.

The police department has a Gang Unit Hotline Number -- 444-5716. Leave your name and number so the police can call you back for details.

PLEASE DO NOT REMAIN ANONYMOUS when you call the police. Only by becoming involved and showing that we care can we put a quick end to this activity.

Tower Grove Heights is a beautiful neighborhood filled with wonderful people. Each and every one of us needs to take ownership of this problem to be sure Tower Grove Heights stays that way.

(Note: Portions of this article are taken from the *Gang Awareness* brochure prepared by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and Operation SafeStreet.)



The ReHabber

PORCHES

By Jay Rosloff

I love our porches. Outdoor life in the suburbs revolves around the patio, in the rear, in private. Inner urban life may include a balcony, but it's usually more decorative than functional, and also quite private. It's life on the front porch that makes our neighborhood safe and neighborly. But porch neglect can result in a drastic alteration of your home's appearance and your bank account!

A porch is really a miniature house. It has a roof, walls, floor, and foundation. Some even have windows and electrical systems. Now that warm weather is here, take a few minutes to see how the thing is holding up.

The upstairs windows or doors give you access to the porch roof. Is the flashing still intact or does it need resealing?

Are the shingles or roofing materials lying flat? Are the rain gutters clear? Remember, the fastest way to ruin wood is to subject it to wet or damp cycles. This means that all joints around wooden components should be kept caulked. Use a good grade of siliconized acrylic caulk, the type rated at least 25 to 35 years.

Rule #1: Paint is cheaper than wood. Rule #2: Good enamels are ultimately less expensive than cheap paint. Rule #3: See Rules 1 and 2. Got it? Don't forget that peeling paint is a violation of ConServe District regulations.

There are a few places you should not seal, however. There should be provision for air circulation and drainage from the hollow sections of columns or corbels. Weep holes or drains at the bottom of these should be free of debris and paint.

Naturally, a wooden porch must have plenty of free air circulation under it. Closing off lattice work can trap moisture, allowing rot and attracting insects. Keep

bushes and other plants trimmed well back from porch vent areas. Of course, you should maintain any lattice or stair risers in order to keep debris out from under.

Masonry porches need the type of care given the rest of your brickwork. Shifted foundations or deteriorated tuck-pointing will allow moisture to enter your basement or rust the beams supporting the porch floor. Feel free to water-seal all masonry, mortar, and grouted surfaces. Don't seal limestone or sandstone elements.

Most of our turn-of-the-century homes look pretty strange when "modernized". To stay on the safe side, replace like with like, or at least as close as you can afford. Fix a slate roof with slate or a synthetic simulation of slate. If you replace rotten or split wooden columns, consider a synthetic substitute before using iron or aluminum. Although it can be worked much like wood, a composition column is stronger than wood, less expensive than wood, holds paint better than wood, and simply will not rot!

Outdoor-rated urethane decorative elements such as corbels, brackets, mouldings, etc. can save you much money and aggravation. Vinyl or fiberglass lattice (often made from recycled plastics) is a good idea from a maintenance point of view, but your color choices are limited and the material doesn't take paint that well. Timber repairs last longest with pressure-treated lumber.

Remember that a sagging porch can not only pull down the value of your home, but can take a lot of your brickwork with it.

Tool Tip: Our old timbers eat up standard spade bits at an alarming rate. The "Wood Eater" electric drill spade bit by Vermont American will last if you remember to keep the drill to 600-800 rpm.



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RESIDENTIAL PROFILE--

JIM AND DIANE SEARS

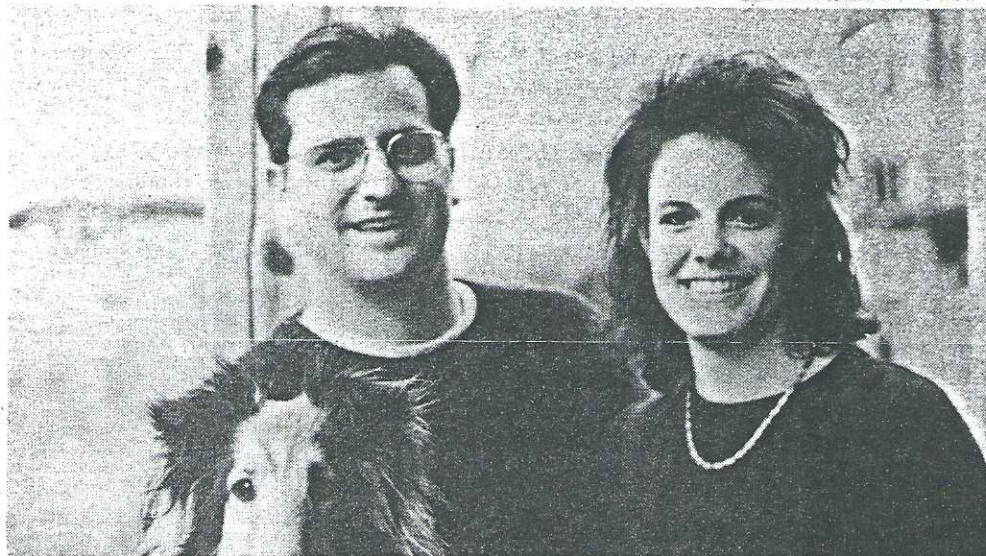
BY STEPHANIE GAVIN

A young married couple with a recent addition to their family (daughter, Lea, born this past November); Jim and Diane Sears represent an important part of our neighborhood population. They are renters affiliated with St. Louis University-- which ultimately brought them to Tower Grove Heights

First of all, Jim wanted to attend St. Louis University Medical School because his father, Dr. William Sears, is an alumnus to the institute. Dr. Sears is the well-known pediatrician/author of several books: *The Baby Book*, *The Fussy Baby*, and most recently *The Birth Book*. Jim's mother, Martha Sears is co-author of the books. Diane, before working full-time as Lea's mother, worked as a Public Relations Account Executive here in St. Louis.

Once discovering they were definitely moving to St. Louis, how did they end up

and minds are torn. Diane says, "It depends on who you ask. I miss the beach and the mountains." In the next breath, however, she says, "But I love the ethnicity of this neighborhood--it reminds me of southern California... and we love our apartment... there are no places like this in California." Jim, an avid sailboat racer (a countdown to sailing season was on the refrigerator), has mixed feelings. "I just want to be near water. I've done more sailing here on Lake Carlyle than I did at home. And this area is so accessible to the East Coast and the Great Lakes." In the meantime, Jim and Diane do have a few more years to definitely enjoy the neighborhood. They love taking Lea on walks in Tower Grove Park, and eating at the St. Louis Bread Company. "It was so exciting to see that go in," says Diane. And they are working as recruiters-- Diane's brother is considering St. Louis Medical School, also. And if he ends up there, he'll be looking in the neighborhood, too!



Three dominating questions were running through my mind before I had the opportunity to sit down and chat with Jim and Diane over afternoon tea. From California, what brought them to St. Louis and St. Louis University? How did they discover our neighborhood, knowing very little about the city? And would/will they be sticking around once Jim completes his medical degree? I found the answers to the my questions to be very interesting... and Jim and Diane a very enthusiastic and fascinating couple (Lea was asleep during the interview and the picture-taking session; however, Chloe, their St. Louis native Sheltie, was around for both!).

here? "We wanted to be near the university," says Diane. "So we drew a two mile radius circle on a map of the city," says Jim. "When visiting friends from the area before we moved here, we showed them the map, and they quickly ruled out certain areas within our circle." So Jim and Diane began looking in Tower Grove East and Tower Grove Heights. The low rent prices really impressed them. "We were paying \$875 a month in California for a smaller apartment than this," says Diane with a sweeping hand motion. Obviously, their rent is much lower now.

So where will they want to be when Jim graduates in three years? Their hearts



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BRIGHTSIDE REVISITED

By Tom Booth

The annual neighborhood cleanup is again to hit our neighborhood on May 14th when "Project Blitz" makes its return. As in previous years, the cleanup blitz is earmarked for 8 regions, 2 regions on each of 4 weekends, starting April 30th and ending on the weekend of May 21st. On our blitz weekend, May 14, the city trucks will empty both the trash and yard waste dumpsters, and will also be picking up bulk items from the alleys. The trucks will be making repeated trips down our alleys all day. Anyone with bulk items they wish to have picked up should have those items in the alley by 1 p.m. at the latest.

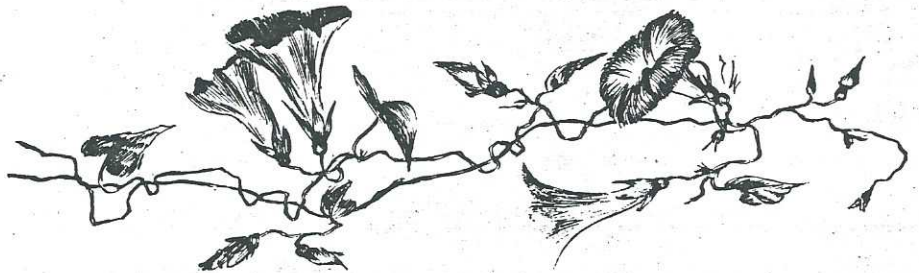
The city will also be making wood chips available to residents at no charge. As of May 9, the city will stockpile wood chips in McDonald Park, at Utah and Bent, for pickup by any interested resident.

Project Blitz provides flowers for any neighborhoods desiring to beautify their

landscape. In addition, tools and trash bags are available through each area's block captains.

A truck from the Homeless Resource Bank will also be available to pick up "gently used" items that are NOT in need of repair. Their trucks will be picking up items separately from the Project Blitz pickups. At the present time, the organization does not have the wherewithal to handle items that need repair. These items: furniture, appliances or clothing will be provided to homeless shelters in the St. Louis area. Anyone interested in having items picked up by the Homeless Resource Bank should call 241-8803.

Your block captains should be contacting you soon with the time your neighbors will be assembling for your cleanup group. Remember to bring gloves, a rake and broom, energy and good humor.



Botanicals on the park

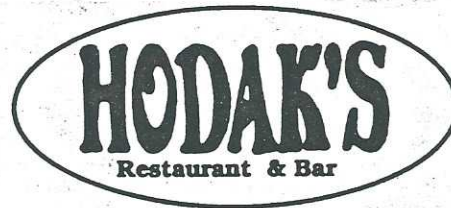
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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Goals and Objectives

Before we invest, we should determine what we want our investment to do for us. When we invest, we're using money in the hope of making more money. One seldom receives any argument over this. However, the money we use for investing should be extra money - money that represent surplus savings or income not needed for essentials.

We might choose to invest these funds in mortgages, real estate, life insurance or securities (stocks and bonds). They're all basically different, and no one fits the needs of every person.

Since we're discussing mainly securities, let's focus on some of the reason why we might want to invest in stocks or bonds. Many people prefer them because they can readily be bought and sold. They represent variety and flexibility of interest, as well as absentee ownership or creditorship. Securities are obtainable at varying prices, from very low to very high, and small sums of money can be invested at convenient intervals. With the help of a good broker, securities can be selected, sometimes with excellent results, by persons having limited investment backgrounds.

When investing in a security, you can profit from it in two major ways. First, you may receive dividends or interest payments which, in theory, are paid to compensate you for the use of your money and any risk you assume. Since the market value of securities fluctuates, you also may profit by buying or selling them.

TGHNA-BBS

by Don Hardin

The impressive collection of letters above stand for Tower Grove Height Neighborhood Association Bulletin Board System.

If you would be interested in having access to neighborhood news and events via your computer, if you would like to meet and chat with other Tower Grove Heights residents via the keyboard, then call Leanne Lis (771-2421). Leanne would like to see how many of us would be interested in the formation of a neighborhood BBS. Your ideas and inputs are being eagerly awaited.

Investment Term of the Week

Investment - The use of money for the purpose of making more money to gain income, increase capital or both. Safety of principal is an important consideration.



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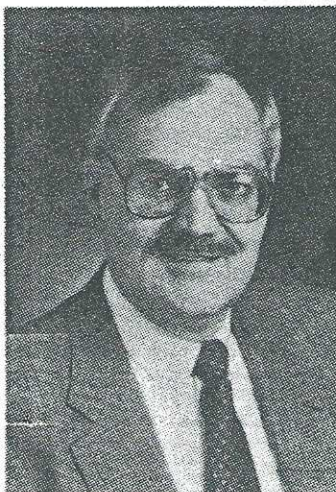
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POLICE BEAT

By Edward Schroeder

March's meeting was held on March 10, 1994 at S. Marcus Church, United Church of Christ, 2102 Russell.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Chuck Poe at 7:10 p.m. He mentioned that State Representative Pat Dougherty would be at the meeting to talk about bills pending in Jefferson City, particularly those relating to juvenile crime, and the juvenile code. Poe said he wanted to share some information about Senate

Bill 180 which says that if a person commits the offense of distribution of a controlled substance near public housing or within 1000 feet of public or government assisted housing (Section 8), it is a class A felony, meaning that time will have to be served. Poe said, "it is vital that the police be aware of this law when making an arrest near public or government assisted housing, as it will add time to the crime... if you have a drug house operating in your neighborhood and you report it to the police, YOU should also tell them if it's within the 1000 feet borderline." At this point, Captain Eugene Reece introduced the Officer of the Month of January 1994, Officer Steve Borawski, who's been on the force for 3 years.

Captain Reece then gave a recounting of the efforts of the SCAT team: 18 search warrants on drug houses this year. He encouraged residents to call the hot line, (621-4333) since "you are the only way the police know of an operating drug house."

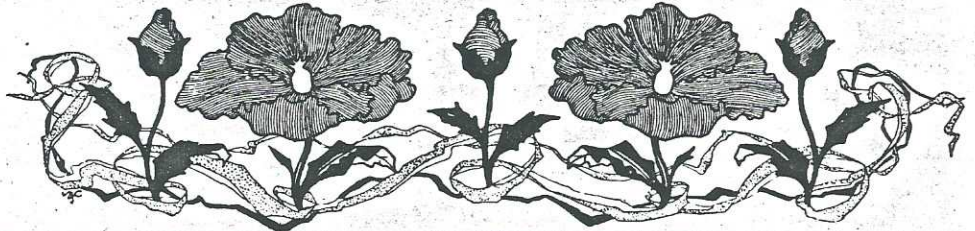
Citizen's COPS training certificates were awarded to neighborhood leaders Greg Johnson and Diane Driscoe.

Detective Latricia Allen showed a video of the SCAT team in action, which was followed by a question and answer session.

State Representative Pat Dougherty talked of a Senate bill being considered that would change juvenile laws, certify juveniles as adults, concerns juveniles and firearms, juvenile records, fingerprints, secure detention, and intoxication-related offenses. He mentioned that other bills being considered relate to truth in sentencing and serving 80 - 90% of time given.

Alderman Geraldine Osborn said Alderman Mary Ross is backing a bill to put control of guns under the jurisdiction of the city of St. Louis. Presently state law prohibits the city from passing hand gun controls.

The meeting ended at 9:07 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 14th at 7 p.m. It will be held at the Gibson Height Church, 1075 S. Taylor at Gibson. The third district police community fair is June 5th, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. It will be in Tower Grove Park, and volunteers are needed.



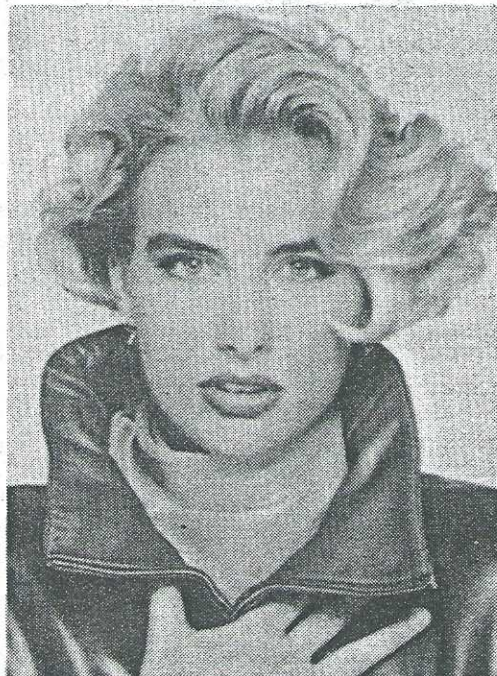
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Treasurer: Don Detsch
Past President: Jay Rosloff
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Block Captains: Marilyn Abbott, Lou Jenneman

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Publications: Don Hardin
BLOCK CAPTAINS
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 Diane Hurwitz (3640)

3800 Arsenal
 Jean Iezzi (3809 Hartford)
3600/3700 Hartford
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3800 Utah Place
 Susie Gudermuth (3834)
 Veda Lynn (3855)

WANTED: ASSISTANT HISTORIANS!!!

Hi! My name is Mark Abbott (Marilyn's husband and a fine person is my own right!) and I need your help. I am an urban historian at Harris-Stowe State College and have begun a history of Tower Grove Heights. While I plan to trace the evolution of the neighborhood all the way from the turn of the century to the present, I am currently working on the early years from 1904 to approximately 1916. If you have photographs, letters, news clippings, family stories, etc. about the Heights in this period, I would love to talk to you., My number is 776-5354. I anticipate this being about a ten year project and will keep everyone up-to-date. If all goes well, I plan to give a lecture on my research by the end of the summer. Thanks!!!

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