

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 30 No. 6

Winter 2019

## Holiday Shopping



By Barbara  
Gilchrist,  
Co-Editor

According to major retailers, the holiday shopping season started in late October. For those of us who still have gifts to buy and for those who have not even begun, there is still plenty of time. How lucky we are that we can find unique and wonderful items on South Grand for friends and family. There are shops that have been here for years and many new ones. If you have not taken a look lately, you are in for a treat. Not only can you feel good about shopping local, you will also be supporting local artisans and others around the world. Here is a list of stores, in no particular order.

**Garden District STL** is a garden-centric shop that is the place to find a gift for the gardener in your life. It offers garden accessories, books and kits, pots, children's items, supplies for terrariums, lotion, candles, beeswax products, and tea. Please note that this is not a plant nursery. <https://www.gardendistrictstl.com/>

**Dunaway Books** is the place to find a gift for the bibliophile in your life. Whatever the reading preference – mysteries, religion, history, science fiction, novels, travel, philosophy, and more – there is a large inventory of used, out-of-print, and rare books. There is also a special section for children's and young adult books. The store also carries small press titles by local authors as well as CDs and vinyls. <https://www.dunawaybooks.com/>

**Eclectica** offers numerous handmade items that include ceramics and pottery, screen prints, jewelry, calendars, cards, bookmarks, beeswax



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## Good Things Can Come in Small Packages

By Ellen  
Wilson  
TGHNA 100  
Neediest Cases Chair

This is the 16th year of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association supporting families in need through the 100 Neediest Cases Program. The center we have used in the past is no longer participating in the program so we have found other worthy south city centers. The new locations do not focus on children as strongly as our past selection did so we have decided to select three small families this year instead of

two large ones as we have done in the past. This year we have chosen single parents who are currently supporting a single child. While families come in all shapes and sizes, being a parent is particularly difficult when you are on your own. The parent must take on every role and be there for every moment. There are very few breaks and it can be emotionally and physically exhausting. This year we wanted to make sure that small families are recognized and know that we see them doing their best and want to help.

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

We are now able to accept donations through PayPal through our website [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com). Follow the prompts for the 100 Neediest Cases Program to the donation link specific to this project.

Choose one (or more) of the following:

Family 1: The mother's stage four breast cancer has spread and this single mother is doing all she can to keep herself and her son afloat. She is hoping for a peaceful and happy holiday this year.

Mother (36): Size (L); pants (18); shoes (9)

Boy (12): Size (men's S); Shoes (men's 8)

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# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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(First Church of Divine Science)

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FEBRUARY 25, 2020

MARCH 24, 2020

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# Couple Combines Talents, Creates Calm Sanctuary

By Tricia Heliker  
Co-Editor

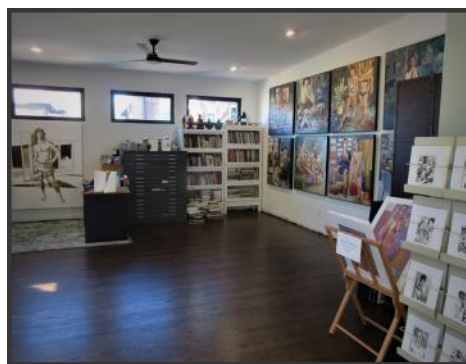
Watching your neighbor back out of her garage while you are scraping a thick layer of ice off your windshield is enough to give anyone a case of garage envy. Metra and Nick, who live in the 3800 block of Hartford, razed their typical vinyl-sided garage and raised that envy to a new high with a magnificent two-story brick “guh-RAZH” where the car spends the night in a climate-controlled environment. And, they raised the bar even higher by including an atrium, a well-powered frame shop, and an artist’s loft.

So how do you pack all that, plus a bathroom and a kitchenette, into the same area that once held a standard two-car garage? The Taylors started by demoing the existing garage, and with vision, lots of careful planning, plenty of patience, and more than a few bucks

they constructed a colonial brick building with one solid wall of windows that faces a newly landscaped yard. Full disclosure: the footprint of the building did increase by about 10’ into the yard and about 4’ towards the property line on the west side. With a waiver, that neighbor now has a beautiful brick wall along that section of the property line. Yes, all this did require the couple to completely overhaul the backyard. With the help of the Missouri Botanical Garden website they did their homework. Together they compiled a three-ring binder packed with research for the new courtyard. The result is a weeping snow fountain cherry tree in the breezeway that sways as the wind catches its branches, concrete seating around a sunken fire pit, a ground level bubbling fountain, and a raised bed for growing herbs. According to plan, the four elements of air, fire, water, and earth are now represented in the Zen Garden.

The thoroughly researched shrubs, trees and flowers are located where they will prosper and can be viewed from the house, but also through that wall of glass opposite the house. With the yard in upheaval, for practical as well as aesthetic reasons, it made sense to eliminate low hanging wires and bury the power lines. There are countless extras that make the structure unique. Attention was given to the very top of the building by finishing the last rows of brick in a decorative cornice supported by a row of soldier

bricks and a stone band that mimics the window sills. The windows and double door are framed in black metal. The floors on the ground level are polished concrete. Not only are they perfect for the atrium where potted plants must be watered, but are also easily swept clean in the framing shop. Even the tires of the car are reflected in the glossy finish. The interior colors were chosen to blend with the vegetation outside, separated only by the wall of glass. The atrium hues vary from a soft hint of green to a luscious deep verde that spans the two levels along the stairs and complements the emerald green velvet sofa and ottoman flanking the library on the opposite wall of the second level. A custom iron banister, fabricated by Metal Impressions, begins with a tapered lambs tongue and rises with the stairs. The oak floors of the second story are stained ebony as is the wood trim and wide staircase. A five-globe lighting fixture hangs from the 21’ ceiling and cascades next to the stair rail in dramatic fashion.





Although this building serves more than one purpose, it was created to move Metra and her painting world out of the third floor thus creating a guest room in the house and giving Metra a fabulous place to expand as an artist. The studio space has five clerestory windows on the alley side that allow the north light to illuminate the room. The gallery walls in this area are painted white and a raised platform at one end accommodates models who are often used in Metra's work as a figure artist. A large black slop sink is backed by green hex tiles that mimic fish scales. Dark cabinets with an ebony butcher block top, a mini fridge and open shelving complete the kitchenette. Black ceiling fans complement the black, white and green color scheme. It sounds wonderful and it absolutely is! But, like any project big or small, there are always setbacks and this project was no exception. One of those obstacles came early and was a major showstopper. The bricklayer was set to start; the pallets of carefully selected brick were on site. Excitement was in the air. The wrap was pulled back on the first pallet...disbelief, the second pallet...dismay, the third pallet...disappointment beyond belief! Sadly, the type and color of brick that the couple had hunted down in an epic search turned out to be a defective lot. To order another shipment meant a six-month wait. Fortunately, a close match was found and the delay was reduced to two months. Metra and Nick took this in stride along with other challenges, and it is all now part of the story they share with friends around a crackling fire in the pit.



## Good Things Can Come in Small Packages

continued from page 1

By Ellen Wilson

TGHNA 100 Neediest Cases Chair

Special Requests: Legos; teen games; Queen and full-sized sheets and blankets; bath and dish towels; gift cards; winter clothes and gear for child; Hover Board; age-appropriate toys, books, and teen development supplies.

Family 2: A first time father is on his own with his young son and doing his best to find his way without support from his family. His job only gets them so far. He is trying to create a good solid environment for them both.

Father (22): Size (XXL); Pants (44); Shoes (11)

Boy (3): Shirt (2T); Pants (3T); shoes (T-8)

Special Requests: Kitchenware (pots, pans, utensils); Bath/dish towels; cleaning and hygiene items; washer and dryer (gift certificate); toddler bed and bedding (gift certificate); king sized bedding; remote control vehicles; hot wheels; balls; Lego; Leapfrog tablet.

Family 3: This single working mother has no support from her daughter's father and got into credit card debt trying to make ends meet. Her car is paid off, but is now in need of repairs. She is doing her best, but could use support for the holidays.

Mother (34): Size (M); Coat (L); Pants/jeans (7) Sketcher- slip resistant Shoes (6.5)

Girl (11): Size (Junior S (12-14); Shoes (6)

Special Requests: Queen bedding (purple, black, or gray); clothes; winter gear and boots for both; plug in heater; Office supply, cleaning, and personal products (gift cards); hair scrunchies;

Fortnite, Stranger Things; family games. All 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: age-appropriate books; family games; school supplies.

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

There is always a need for volunteers to help wrap the gifts as well as wrapping materials such as paper, tape, ribbon, name tags, and bows. If you want to help wrap or just stop by to see the process, contact Ellen.

Due Date for Donations: December 13 Wrapping Party:

December 14 at 10:00 a.m. at Ellen's house. Drop Point and Contact: Ellen Wilson, 3617 Juniata St., 314-221-8418

[efwilson6@hotmail.com](mailto:efwilson6@hotmail.com); [100neediest@towergroveheights.com](mailto:100neediest@towergroveheights.com)



### 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

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 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  
the TGHNA Buzz Book...  
\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Join online at [towergroveheights.com](http://towergroveheights.com) or mail this form to:  
TGHNA • P.O. Box 160069 • St. Louis, MO 63116  
TGHNA is a 501(c)(3) organization

# Brrr... Here Comes Winter

By Katie Wolf

Neighborhood Improvement Specialist/NSO

Get out your pumpkin spice and dust off that snow shovel. But before all that, let's make a leaf and trash plan for the season.

## Leaf Collection Info

Apparently you can mulch them up and use them as compost. Yep. Google it. Free money right there.

But for those extra leaves, the city can help you get rid of them. From Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, your street cleaning day is also your leaf collection day. Follow your regularly scheduled street cleaning schedule and rake your leaves into the street just prior to sweeping time. Try to make sure the leaves are about a foot and a half from the curb. And pick out any branches or trash that will clog the machines.

And of course, remember not to park on the street on street cleaning day or you will be the one causing stinky piles of wet leaves to linger on your block. Speaking from experience (sorry, neighbors).

That's it! The more people who take care of the leaves, the fewer leaves blowing around in your snowman pile (the worst). Be nice to your sweeper, s/he might get behind schedule. Frosty will thank you later.

Of course, you can also bag your leaves in paper bags, place them in the tree lawn, and call the CSB for a pick up at 622-4800.

## Winter Trash Reminder

I hate dealing with trash. And then when it is cold and yucky outside, that's when someone's trash (possibly mine) is grossing up the alley, prohibiting snow and ice melt, and sticking to the bottom of my boot. I know, there are worse problems for sure. Still.

When it gets snowy and icy, refuse vehicles have a harder time getting to some alleys/ dumpsters. And then the dumpsters start to look like sagging Matterhorns stuffed full of leftovers, wrapping paper, and appliance boxes. So I also need to remember to recycle as much stuff as I can AND remember to empty my recycling before it weighs a million pounds. Avoid putting ANY plastic bags in the recycling bin – even if they are marked, “recyclable.”

**Avoid putting ANY plastic bags in the recycling bin – even if they are marked, “recyclable.”**

Break down boxes. For real. Saves so much space. And boxes placed outside the bin won't be picked up. Even if they are broken down. No wet papers or boxes – soggy recycling fails. It's a cruel world for sure.

Now for the bulk. Third Monday of the month. Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17. Put it on your calendar and thank me later. You will feel amazing about yourself.

Yes, that means that you cannot throw your old TVs in the alley until almost a month after Christmas. Can I interest you in a

trip to the transfer station? Take the whole family and get a treat afterwards. Christmas trees can be dropped off from Dec. 26 to Jan. 13 at Forest Park, Carondelet Park, or O'Fallon Park. Kill two birds with one stone and take your tree to the park and your bulk trash to the transfer station. Then treat yourself to a responsible reward. I prefer cupcakes.

And please, when discarding bulk, remember the simple rules. Three items per household. Behind your own house, at least 3-4 feet from the dumpster, not leaning against it. Do not block gates, garage doors or anything that you or a neighbor might need.

Ok! I feel better about my abilities to manage my leaves and trash this winter and still be able to look my neighbors in the eye come spring. I hope this list has helped you, too. Of course, if you need me, feel free to call or write! (314) 657-1374 or wolfk@stlouis-mo.gov.



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## 3800 Connecticut Rocks Halloween



By Brian  
Marsten

Ever since I moved to Tower Grove Heights in 1998, I dreamed of living on a block that does Halloween bigly. It's my favorite holiday because it's a communal, public celebration rather than a familial, private one — a night of pure, goofy joy and goodwill for trick-or-treaters and neighbors of all ages.

Over the years, support for Halloween on the 3800 block of Connecticut has coalesced around a group of like-minded neighbors. It seems like more kids live on the block now than any other time in the last 21 years. We close off the street from 6 to 9 p.m. Halloween has become something our block is known for. Kids from outside the neighborhood come in for it, and former residents

**This year, we had 286  
trick-or-treaters, even  
though it was 33°F at 7 p.m.**

remember past October 31sts wistfully.

The Morrises get the street permit and go head-to-head with the Clynes for the most elaborate decorations.

The Holmans help block off the street and host a big party. The Kratschmers

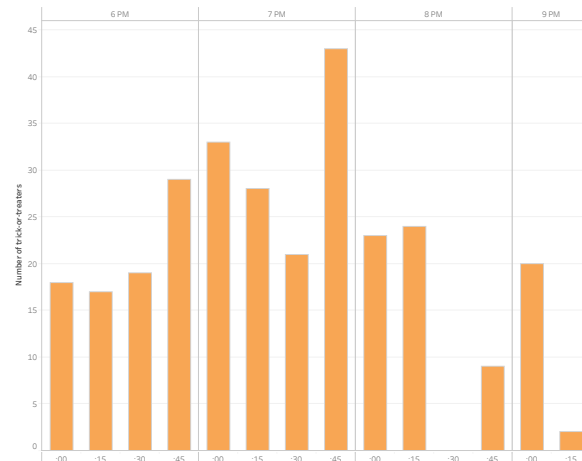
use their printing press to create beautiful flyers and (new this year) keepsake posters. Lots of other people put up decorations and hand out candy. I particularly love to see renters participate in the festivities. Then at 9 p.m., the Liquor Treat crew, the self-described "Zamboni of Halloween," comes through to distribute miniature bottles to candy purveyors.

Everyone should be devoted to something ridiculous. For me, it's creating overly elaborate charts of the time distribution of Halloween traffic. In my opinion, the number of trick-or-treaters is a direct measure of community vitality. This year, we had 286 trick-or-treaters, even though it was 33°F at 7 p.m.

Next year, it'd be great to have even more households handing out candy. There's been discussion at 3875 Connecticut about setting up a dance party canopy in middle of the street. Residents of the block can get in on the planning and a lot more fun by joining our Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/38xxConnecticut](https://facebook.com/groups/38xxConnecticut).

Halloween 2019

Time distribution of trick-or-treaters at 3875 Connecticut, n=286





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# Party in the Heights 2019

By Patrick Weber  
Planning Committee Chair

What better way to spend a warm, sunny early-Fall afternoon than with 250 neighbors at the Heights' biggest event of the year?

This year's biennial Party in the Heights neighborhood-wide block party took place the afternoon of Saturday September 7.

The closed-off intersection of Spring and Connecticut was the setting for year's event. An art show featuring the work of the neighborhood's own Metra Mitchell and Justin King, street Zumba, the Four Hands beer truck and a visit by a St. Louis Fire Department Engine were new highlights this year. Giant yard games and neighbor bingo once again kept kids of all ages busy and a table space-busting potluck made sure everyone was well-fed.

Party in the Heights could never have been as successful without the help

of our hard-working planning committee; all of the volunteers who took time out of their Saturday to help set up, take down and make the event run smoothly; our sponsors; in-kind contributors; and the local businesses that provided prizes for the neighbor bingo winners including Hodak's, Apotheosis Comics, Aesh Design and the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. Even though the next Party in the Heights will not take place until Fall of 2021, we are always happy to hear suggestions for improving the event. And look out for information on next year's progressive dinner party, Autumn Fest, starting early next year!



## Safety Committee Update

By Ryan Barry  
Safety Committee Chair

It's been almost a year since our pizza for cameras fundraiser. Since then we have installed 18 cameras around Tower Grove Heights. The intent of these

cameras is to act as deterrent for crime and provide the police with any information they may need after a crime has been committed. The cameras are accessed by the home or business owner and only they have access to the camera. In the event of a crime, the police would survey the area to see if a camera may have captured footage of the suspect(s). The Safety Committee will continue to monitor and check in with home owners hosting cameras and provide service and maintenance. We will continue to add cameras, safety-related signage, and distribute light bulbs for front porches. Please remember to keep your porch light on all night as the extra illumination provides a welcoming environment for our neighborhood and has been shown to act as a crime deterrent.

# Annual October Block Party Celebrated on 3800 Hartford

By Tricia Heliker  
Co-Editor

The festivities began with a run for those who like to start their day that way. Donuts and coffee followed for those who prefer to start their day a little later. The rest of the day included a bike parade and a bounce house for the kids followed by a movie at dusk. In between, residents enjoyed the potluck and catching up with neighbors. The chili cook-off was a hit with ten participants who knocked themselves out on very different but equally delicious recipes. Kieran Gaughan walked away with top honors for his Tailgate Chili and Sarah Fieser won the baked goods contest with her pumpkin gooey butter cake. Matt and Abigail Miller did another bang up job of organizing the event for the sixth year in a row. Several others pitched in to help with set up and clean up, closing the street, picking up donuts and the keg, and making sure the movie projected successfully. Until next year!



## BULK RATES - -

100 pc. Wings Appetizers.....	\$78.00
50 pc. Fried Chicken.....	\$69.00
Chicken Strips 5lbs. ....	\$35.50
Mostaccioli (Full Pan) .	\$62.00
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# Holiday Shopping

By Barbara Gilchrist, Co-Editor

*continued from page 1*

products and honey, leather goods, textiles, and candles. Perhaps you know someone who wants to learn a new skill? If so, take a look at the offerings of classes such as jewelry making or flower arranging. <https://www.eclecticastl.com/>

**Zee Bee Market** works with the Fair Trade Federation to support artisans in under-developed countries. This shop offers accessories, apparel, jewelry, cards, toys, books, hats and gloves, gifts for children, and many more items. <https://zeebeemarket.com/>

**Urban Matter** is a store filled with home accessories, leather goods, cards, books for adults and children, clothing for adults and children, and furniture. There are many more gift items on display and it offers a wedding registry. <http://www.urbanmatterstl.com/>

**Apotheosis Comics and Lounge** is the perfect place to find a gift for someone who loves comics and graphic novels. Comic books are sold individually and in collections. There are also accessories such as sweatshirts emblazoned with comic book characters. It also offers children's art classes and other community events.

You can take a break from shopping and enjoy coffee, beer, or wine and snacks in the lounge area. The owner wants this to be "not just a store," but a "community gathering place." <https://apotheosiscomicsstl.com/>

**Botanicals Design Studios** is the place to go if you want fresh or artificial plants and flowers. It offers items for all occasions and, for that special someone, you may want to consider their fresh floral gift program. You can be assured that flowers will arrive each year on the date you do not always remember or even every month. <https://botanicalsdesignstudio.com/>

**Parsimonia Vintage** offers vintage clothing for women including dresses, skirts, blouses, sweaters, coats, suits, and night wear. There are vintage accessories such as purses, hats, belts, shoes, scarves, and costume jewelry. New handcrafted jewelry, body products and cosmetics are also on display. <https://www.shopparsimonia.com/>

**Found by the Pound** is another option for clothing and accessories. It has a wide selection of handpicked vintage and modern clothing. You will find denim jackets, jeans, cowboy boots, T-shirts, socks, sunglasses and more. Please note that these items are sold by the piece, not by the pound. <https://foundbythepound.com/>

**Cheap TRX – TRX Tattoos & Piercings** is likely best known for its tattoo services. It also offers many unique gifts, clothes, shoes, and body jewelry. There are "adult" items in the downstairs Dungeon. <http://trxtattoos.com/>

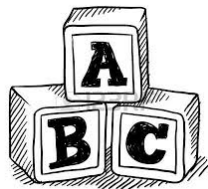
Take a short trip from South Grand to the west and you will find **The London Tea Room / The London Tea Merchant** at the corner of Morgan Ford Road and Hartford St. This authentic English tea room serves and sells many varieties of loose leaf tea, as well as a wide selection of tea-related merchandise including Laura Ashley blue and white china. Two special holiday varieties, Earl Claus and Nutcracker, will be offered through January. <https://thelondontearoom.com/>

If you need a break during or after your shopping, South Grand also offers ice cream, gelato, cookies, coffee and other beverages as well as the many places to enjoy lunch or dinner. Gift cards from many of the restaurants are also available.

# Block Captains

The TGS-TGH Block Captains is an organization of volunteers who live in Tower Grove Heights or Tower Grove South. The group works with, but is independent of, either neighborhood association.

Many blocks have one or more of these good neighbors who help to enhance the lives of people in our area. Block Captains help to establish a safer, friendlier place to live by welcoming new neighborhoods and sharing information and resources. Some blocks share email addresses so that information can be communicated electronically. Some Block Captains organize or assist other neighbors to organize block parties. Alley clean-up events are also organized by Block Captains. Each of these efforts



helps to build a sense of community pride that contributes to the well-being of all our residents.

Block Captain meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, except December, at the Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. These meetings offer an opportunity to learn about resources, to share ideas, and to communicate issues or concerns to the Neighborhood Improvement Specialist.

If you are new to the neighborhood and would like a Welcome Packet, contact your Block Captain. Updated contact information can be found under the Block Captain tab on [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com). If you want more information about the organization or if you would like to become a Block Captain, contact [blockreps@towergroveheights.com](mailto:blockreps@towergroveheights.com).



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# Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC offers Tenant Screening, Financial Coaching, and Rent Reporting through HomeScreen

By Ella Gross

**H**ave a property you'd like to rent? Tower Grove Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (TGNCD) has developed a service that will help

you find and maintain good tenants. It's called HomeScreen and is a free Fair Housing-compliant tenant screening system.

Using the most current and comprehensive credit data through Equifax, HomeScreen pulls a full credit report and conducts a national criminal background and national eviction search. The credit inquiry is a "soft" pull, so it won't impact their credit scores. Next, HomeScreen verifies the applicant's income and rental history, and will make a recommendation to the property owner.

Another applicant benefit of HomeScreen is the opportunity to participate in free one-on-one financial coaching with the local



**VERIFICATION  
& SCREENING**

non-profit, Prosperity Connection which has been coaching since 2012. Nearly 300 HomeScreen applicants have taken advantage of this relationship over the past year.

Finally, HomeScreen has an important new partnership with financial tech start-up Mobility Capital Finance, Inc (MoCaFi), which brings to HomeScreen convenient and reliable rent collection and monthly rent reporting to Equifax. By using MoCaFi, tenants making on-time rent payments can raise their credit score and boost their economic mobility. Plus, the landlord no longer has to wait for checks to deposit!

For more information: <https://www.myhomescreen.org/>

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# Time to Plant a Tree!

By Peggy  
Hoelting

The basic rule of when to plant a tree is simple: newly planted deciduous or evergreen trees need enough time to establish strong roots before being exposed to the stress of high heat, low water or frigid temperatures. Planting in mid-March thru May gives the new tree plenty of time to settle in and grow healthy roots before the heat of summer arrives. Late September or October is also a good time to plant deciduous trees. When the air temperatures are cooler than the soil, new root growth is encouraged without new top growth. The result is a stronger, better developed root system.

**“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.” – Chinese Proverb**

Trees provide shade, beautify the landscape and add value to property. Environmentally, trees improve air quality by filtering dust and pollutants such as carbon dioxide, while providing the oxygen we need to survive. They reduce the amount of storm water runoff which reduces erosion and water pollution. Trees provide a canopy and wildlife habitat. Trees give us beautiful spring blooms, lush green foliage in summer, amazing fall color, structure and form in winter.

Trees come in all shapes and sizes and perform different functions in the garden. They also thrive in different environments. Some trees prefer full sun, while others will flourish in filtered sunlight. Some trees require protection from wind and cold, while others will withstand harsh conditions. Water drainage is also a big factor as some trees can tolerate wet feet, while others cannot.

To properly plant a tree, dig a circular area five times the diameter and slightly less than the root ball's height. Place the tree in the planting hole after removing all plastic or wire from the root ball. Check that the tree is straight, gently backfill, compact the soil and water. Spread three inches of mulch (no more) over the planting hole. Leave the area where roots meet the stem exposed.

Every garden should have a few of our beneficial native trees. Native trees have evolved with the local wildlife. They support more pollinators and beneficial insects. They also yield more fruit than non-native plants, providing greater amounts of food for native birds. These are some of my favorite Missouri native trees:

The Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) grows 15 to 30' tall and wide. It is the state tree of Missouri and prefers full sun to part shade and has an attractive branching habit. Flowers appear in April or May, burgundy-red foliage in autumn and red fruit in winter. 'Cloud Nine' has huge white flowers. 'Cherokee Chief' has red flowers.

Pagoda dogwood (*Conus alternifolia*) grows 15 to 25' tall and 20 to 32' wide. It thrives in shade. Fragrant blooms appear in May or June, giving way to bluish-black fruits. Leaves turn reddish-purple in the fall.

Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus*) grows 12 to 20' tall and wide. The delicate, white hanging flower petals appear in May or June. In fall, clusters of berries ripen to dark purple and are loved by birds. Fall color is bright yellow.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) grows 20 to 30' high and 15 to 20' wide. Multi-trunked tree has white blooms in April.

Flowers give way to edible purplish-black berries. Fall color ranges from yellow to red.

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) grows 15 to 30' tall and wide. Large edible fruits taste a lot like bananas. This understory tree will tolerate part shade, but the best fruiting occurs in full sun.

Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) grows 30 to 50' and 20 to 30' wide. Grown best in moist to wet soils in full sun to part shade. The insignificant flowers offer pollinator benefits, and the small, dark fruits are loved by birds. Fall color is red.

Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) grows 30 to 50' tall and 40 to 55' wide. Best sited in semi-dry locations, protected from strong winds. The dangling clusters of fragrant, white flowers appear in May. Fall color is bright yellow.



Whatever your favorites are, don't let another 20 years pass you by. Plant a tree this spring!

Read more on these and others of Peggy's favorite trees at [gardeneditstl.com](http://gardeneditstl.com)



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## There are Pipe Organs Among Us

By Rich  
lezzi

I've loved pipe organs since I was eight years old. I thought everyone did. The power and glory of "The King of Instruments" has always rocked my world.

Fifteen years ago, all the stars lined up for me and I was able to get a free pipe organ. Not just any organ but a fire-breathing, 17-rank instrument that was so powerful I had to reinforce the ceiling after I installed it because of constantly

falling plaster. It lives on the 3600 block of Connecticut.

**Then, the crabby organist left. Within a week, the organ purred like a kitty cat.**

A few years later, I picked up a 4-rank pipe organ for \$50 from a church in a rough neighborhood. I

wasn't worried until the pastor said, "We need to leave." My wiring genius friend hooked both organs together so now I'm at 21 ranks (one rank = 61 pipes so over 1,200 pipes).

Next, I saw another 4-rank church organ for sale on the 3600 block of Fairview. The price was \$7000. I told the guy I was good for \$425. Sold. I installed this one at 3650

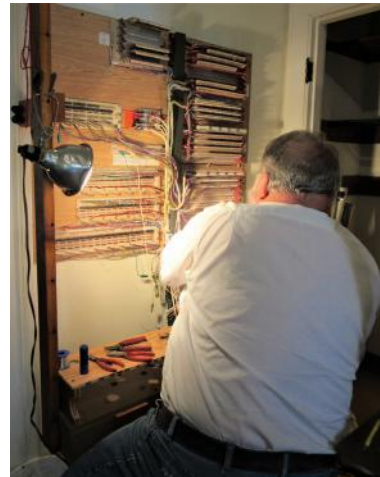
Wyoming. My poor wife, Jean, walked in during installation and asked, "Why is there a hole in the floor?" Oops. Playing and installing pipe organs is fun but so is buying organ treasures from unused instruments. I stopped at the church on Morgan Ford just north of the Bevo Mill and asked if they had any organ parts. The answer is usually, "I don't know." At that point, you climb into the pipe chamber for a look. Sadly, all the metal

pipes were stolen but there was still plenty of gold. I paid \$100 for egress/ingress privileges and retrieved a \$5,000 relay assembly. So much fun.

Another time, an organ friend told me there was a complete rank of 16' Tuba Profundo pipes in a dying church on Utah. The Tuba is the most powerful stop in the organ and a rare find. New, this rank would cost over \$15,000. I chased the pipes for months

(and months) and finally procured a \$300 cash purchase. I'm sure I drove the neighbors on Wyoming crazy when I used my shop vac to tune and voice the 16' pipes. (Sor-ry). Low CCC speaks at 32 Cycles Per Second (CPS), 12 ticks above low hearing range. Sweet.

Most organ parts are "come and get it" because only people with pipe organs can use them. Sadly, I was the last person to play a wonderful instrument that was up for grabs in North County. I chose Bach's



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“Come Sweet Death.”

It’s impossible to explain pipe organ addiction. Poor Jean knows I’m happiest when holding an organ pipe. They’re alive. Once, I spent all day trying to tune a trumpet rank but got nowhere. I put them all in a trashcan (with other trash) and told them they’d stay there until they were ready to behave. The next day, they tuned right up.

Same thing at my church. We had an organist who didn’t appreciate our magnificent instrument and always complained. The organ threw inexplicable tantrums every week. We even had it looked at to no avail. Then, the crabby organist left. Within a week, the organ purred like a kitty cat.



When I play the Wyoming organ, things usually happen. Since the organ is only three feet from the open front window, it’s not unusual to see phones in the air recording the beast. The best is having people walk through the door with small kids. I immediately put them on the bench. Some kids actually get it. Feel free to pop in when I’m playing. It’s magic. There’s a different

pipe for every note and, yes, the floor does shake. You can also feel the wind from the large pedal pipes when you’re at the console and I’ve been told the organ can be heard on South Grand (again, sorry).

See you on the bench.

## TGHNA Board Elections for 2020

Elections of officers for the Board were held at the November general meeting of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. Each of the officer positions is a one-year term, with the exception of President-Elect. That person automatically moves to the position of President. Thus, Ryan Barry moved from President-Elect to President. Patrick Weber was voted in as the new President-Elect and Sharon Angle was elected to fill the position of Recording Secretary. Rick Stein and Jean Iezzi were re-elected to their positions of Treasurer and Membership Secretary, respectively. The new board will begin its duties in January, 2020.

Congratulations and a big thank you to each of the officers. We appreciate your commitment to our neighborhood.





# At Home on Hartford

By Rich  
Iezzi

When I knew I'd be interviewing Nigel Holloway and Diana Regan for this article, I drove by their house in the 3700 block of Hartford. The first thing I noticed was their front door with its two adjoining sidelights.

Everything is original quarter sawn oak including the transom. Nigel told me the refinisher spent two weeks "chiseling away" on the old woodwork to reveal the original patina. Everything looks as good as it did 100 years ago.



Nigel and Diana bought their house in March of 2017. As a couple and separately, they've lived in a lot of interesting locations such as Hong Kong and London along with Denver and New York. They moved to St. Louis to be with Diana's grandchild. Diana is an interior designer who loves working with old houses and Nigel is a business writer. It's an understatement to say that they like everything about our area and the

surrounding neighborhoods. Nigel told me they only looked at 10 houses and Diana added that she knew "this was the one" when she walked through the front door. Talking to them reminded me of all the things we enjoy and tend to take for granted. "We love the integrity of the neighborhood with all the houses being original," Diana revealed, then added, "they're not cookie-cutter." They also love Tower Grove Park and South Grand along with the people they meet walking in the neighborhood. I mentioned that house buyers were saying the same thing about our area 100 years ago. Nigel's only complaint concerned the problem with City services not keeping up with the increased tax rate.

I've visited this house on numerous occasions when it was for sale and knew it was a wide house with an incredible entry. What I didn't expect was to see the house completely done when Nigel and Diana had me over.

"We didn't move into the house for three months after we bought it so we could have a lot of the work done," Diana remarked. The work mainly consisted of ceiling repair and painting but also a re-do of the second-floor bathroom. "We

cannibalized some of the bedroom space to maximize the bathroom area," said Diana.

Sitting in their front room, I also noticed an extremely wide crown molding around the entire ceiling. "We had a smaller crown molding already but decided to go over it with the larger design," Diana declared. It's impressive and looks like it's always been there.

My favorite room is still the entry—it's got everything. There are large columns framing a curved bannister over a staircase with so much detail that it takes a while to see it all. Original stained-glass windows accent the west wall and the quarter-sawn oak floor is in perfect condition. Nigel told me the floor must have always been



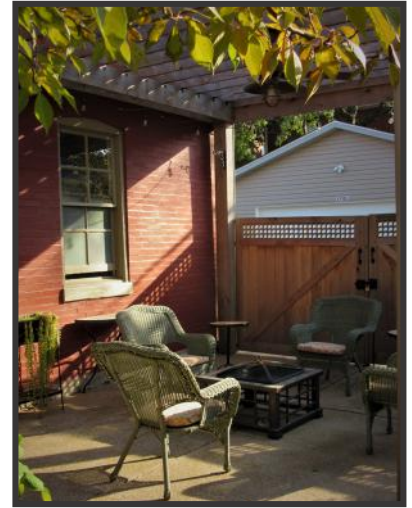
carpeted.

There was only one slight hiccup in their cheery report. "We had a bat in the house that swooped my grandbaby," reported Diana. Oops. Although they never met Harry Witt, the house's former owner, Diana told me she wrote Harry a note thanking him for leaving so many good house things for them. Along with a well-cared for house, they also found receipts for all the work Harry had done.

My biggest surprise was how much Nigel and Diana loved our St. Louis dirt. They harvested 13 cantaloupes and gave me an apple-size Chinese radish. "The St. Louis alluvial soil grows everything," Nigel confirmed. They even like the outside bugs and Diana thought their backyard opossum was "gorgeous." I imagined them being happiest at their outside dining table. These are people who enjoy life.

When I asked about "fun," Nigel talked about his love of the river—the Mississippi river. Last summer he canoed from the Chain of Rocks Bridge to Mosenthein Island and—and wait for it—actually swam in the river, claiming, "It's not dirty."

Tower Grove Heights is happy to share its alluvial soil and gorgeous opossums with this exotic couple. Welcome to the neighborhood!



## REAL ESTATE NEWS

E-Mail your real estate questions to: [jfloridastl@gmail.com](mailto:jfloridastl@gmail.com)

### Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights this quarter

Type	Address	Sold Price	Year Built
Res.	3626 Humphrey	\$212,100	1924
Res.	3646 Wyoming	\$259,000	1905
Res.	3627 Juniata	\$268,000	1908
Res.	3736 Connecticut	\$295,000	1907
Res.	3625 Juniata	\$329,500	1905
Res.	3718 Arsenal	\$322,000	1909
Res.	3726 Juniata	\$345,000	1905
Res.	3716 Juniata	\$376,500	1905
Res.	3662 Humphrey	\$413,000	1905
Res.	3661 Juniata	\$417,000	1905





Victor Pham accepts the 2019 Business of the Year award from Mayor Lyda Krewson during a luncheon in the Majestic Ballroom of the Marriot St. Louis Grand Hotel. Mr. Pham owns and operates VP Square and Café Mochi, two restaurants in the South Grand business district that borders Tower Grove Heights. He was recognized, along with six other business owners, for their significant contribution to furthering the economic development in the city.

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