

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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Volume 27, No. 2

Summer 2016

## Reach New Garden Heights

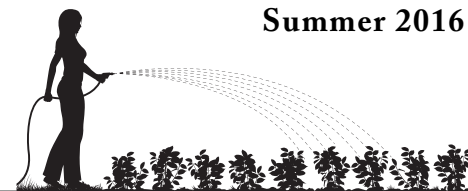
by Betty Greenjeans

**T**ower Grove Heights has enjoyed an exceptional spring and you may be inspired this year to spruce things up around the yard and garden or to take the plunge and make some big changes.

Step one is to know the space you've got to work with. The most fundamental question is: Are you on the sunny or the shady side of the street? Most of us either face north or south and that's going to make an enormous difference in your plant selection. South facing homes typically enjoy more sun and that translates to a wider choice in planting. What about shade from street trees? You may have a south facing front yard but if there's a mature maple sitting on the green strip beside the sidewalk, you're going to be shady.

Don't minimize the role light plays. Delicate leaves like those of Japanese maple will burn in full sun. Junipers will slowly decline in full shade, becoming dull and thin. Yew is a good choice in a spot that receives no direct light, like the north side of the house. If your plants just never seem to look good and grow poorly, consider that they may be ill placed and a replacement might work better for you.

Secondly, dig in and take a critical look at your soil. St. Louis soil is primarily alkaline which isn't hospitable for things like azalea and rhododendron. Boxwood may fare better. We do have the advantage of living on over one hundred years of potential soil improvement however. You may be lucky enough to reap the rewards of previous owners'



good work. Garden success starts with the soil and it's worth every dollar and drop of sweat to dig in valuable organic matter. Choose compost or manures instead of peat moss, the least effective clay buster.

Lastly, think carefully about the size of your selection. No plant ever stops growing. The height and width described are a mere suggestion. A cute, one gallon burning bush will become a monster. This means lots of pruning and disposal of a lot of green waste. There is a carbon footprint to all those trimmings. Composting only

*continued on page 7*

## Stray Rescue Rescues Matt

by Mindy Rouff

**L**ast issue I promised you an exclusive scoop on Matt the Cat. Unfortunately, my teaser prompted some wild speculation. I refuse to comment on whether or not Matt had fur implants. (He is awfully fluffy...) Jokes aside, the real scoop is that Matt the Cat was once a homeless kitten. Approximately seven years ago, Stray Rescue of St. Louis called Matt's mom Maire and asked her to foster Matt and his siblings. Although Maire already had two cats at the time, she agreed to foster all four kittens and ultimately she adopted Matt and his brother, Oliver. Thus, Matt's life has been saved twice by a community of caring people—first by the staff and volunteers of Stray Rescue and second by Maire and her neighbors. Previous Matt the Cat articles have focused on our neighborhood's heartwarming efforts to reunite Matt and Maire, but now I'm excited to draw out some insights from the first time Matt's life was saved.

Misperceptions about homeless dogs and cats hurt adoption rates. (I'm using "homeless" to mean companion animals waiting to be adopted from shelters or rescue groups and dogs and cats who literally live on the streets.) The misperceptions come in two related categories: the first is that these animals have too many emotional problems, and the second is that they have too many behavioral problems. If you've seen the

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# Stray Rescue Rescues Matt

## CONTINUED

commercials where a sad song plays over heartbreaking images of dogs and cats who have known only abuse, hunger, and pain, then you can guess why many people think all rescue animals are timid bundles of fear and anxiety. I can't fault people for feeling ill-equipped to adopt an animal with lots of baggage. However, not all homeless dogs and cats have damaged psyches, and Matt the Cat is a great example of a former shelter cat who is confident, friendly, and affectionate.

Some people think that kittens and puppies are the only "safe bet" for adopting a happy, healthy animal. (In fact, if Matt the Cat had wound up at a shelter instead of being reunited with Maire, this awesome boy would have been overlooked by many adopters due to his age.) I know from personal experience that adult shelter dogs make fantastic pets. Nearly seven years ago, I adopted an adult dog who has always been confident and well adjusted as well as an absolute joy. (If you see me walking Delilah, remember, I said she was well adjusted, not well trained.) My husband and I searched Petfinder.com for a dog who was listed as "good with dogs, cats, kids," the holy triumvirate of adoptability, and Delilah is definitely as advertised by her foster family. Of course, one special dog and one celebrated cat can't disprove the idea that adopted dogs and cats are difficult to live with because they are scarred. On the other hand, thousands of stories about amazing rescue animals might change some minds and a company called Project Blue Collar is attempting to collect such stories. In addition to collecting stories, they're also

trying to generate conversation about animal adoption by creating a visible symbol (a blue collar) that a dog came from a shelter. They write, "People who haven't had a personal interaction with a rescue dog may not appreciate what wonderful companions they can be—and that's costing over three million shelter dogs a year their lives."

Another way to dispel the myths about rescue animals is by teaching people that dogs and cats are surrendered or abandoned

for a multitude of reasons from divorce to job loss to a new partner's allergies. In other words, not every homeless animal was abused or neglected so not every homeless animal bears those scars. Understanding that dogs and cats lose their homes for an infinite number of reasons also helps combat the misperception that all shelter animals are badly behaved problem children. In fact, Delilah was house-trained when we adopted her, and neither of my dogs has ever been destructive when left alone in the house.



At a Stray Rescue adoption event with Billy Bob who still needs a forever home.

## **not all homeless dogs and cats have damaged psyches**

Stray Rescue, the organization that saved Matt the Cat and my other dog, Kiwi, is primarily focused on rescuing dogs (and to a lesser extent cats) from the streets. As such, many of their animals have lived through nightmarish conditions, but they too make rewarding companions. I'm encouraging people to see homeless animals as diverse in background and temperament (not to mention breed and appearance) rather than just as characters in a sad ASPCA commercial, but I'm not suggesting that only the trauma-free or easy going ones are worth adopting. In fact, Kiwi, who we adopted after Delilah, was once called "complicated" by a trainer, but I wouldn't trade her for anything. As a Stray Rescue volunteer, I take dogs from the shelter and bring them to adoption events,

*continued on next page*

## Stray Rescue Rescues Matt

### CONTINUED

and I always marvel at how sweet the dogs are. I love volunteering in this capacity because I get to interact with dogs and help them find their forever families or the next best thing, their foster families.

This leads us to the final lesson of Matt the Cat's story: Maire saved Matt and his siblings' lives by fostering them. When you foster, you save two lives—your foster animal who is spared death on the streets or in an overcrowded kill-shelter and a second animal that was given a bed because you freed up shelter space. As a foster parent, you can help make a wonderful yet less well-adjusted animal become more adoptable. Fostering is also the best bet for finding your perfect companion animal. Yes, it can be hard to part with your foster pet, and yes, you sometimes end up adopting your foster, but there is no better tool, aside from adopting, for saving the millions of dogs and cats who still die needlessly every year. The animal you foster or adopt might not turn out to be a famous cat who unites a neighborhood, but I promise you will enrich each other's lives.

### Some resources:

[projectbluecollar.com](http://projectbluecollar.com)

Search engines for finding adoptable pets at a variety of shelters:

Petfinder [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com);

Adopt a Pet.Com [www.adoptapet.com](http://www.adoptapet.com)

[www.strayrescue.org](http://www.strayrescue.org)

Email: [valerie@strayrescue.org](mailto:valerie@strayrescue.org) for questions about fostering or call 314-771-6121.

Groups that are dedicated to cat rescue include: Tenth Life Cat Rescue

[tenthlifecats.org](http://tenthlifecats.org);

Animal House Cat Rescue and Adoption Center [www.stlcats.org](http://www.stlcats.org)

Groups that are dedicated to dog rescue include: Love A Golden Rescue

[www.loveagolden.com](http://www.loveagolden.com);

Even Chance Pitbull Rescue

[www.evenchance.org](http://www.evenchance.org);

Senior dogs 4 Seniors

[www.seniordogs4seniors.com](http://www.seniordogs4seniors.com)

Groups that handle dog and cat rescue:

Gateway Pet Guardians

[www.gatewaypets.com](http://www.gatewaypets.com);

Humane Society of Missouri

[www.hsmo.org](http://www.hsmo.org)



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– a mountain.  
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of water  
– a beer.”**

**– South City Proverb**

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# Growing a Community



by Tricia Heliker **H**ave you thought about offering to serve in some capacity to enhance the quality of life in your neighborhood but felt you couldn't commit to monthly board meetings as an officer of the association? Have you ever had an idea for an article that seemed perfect for the *Gazette* but just never contacted anyone on the staff about it? Have you wished that more people would decorate for Halloween or that there would be an organized block party on your street? It's a common phenomenon to hold back ideas and wait to be asked before volunteering. In an effort to make participation in the neighborhood events and happenings more inclusive, the board set a goal to provide opportunities to contribute in ways that would accommodate all levels of commitment.

Serving on the board is certainly an option for anyone. Some board members have served for multiple years and are ready for a break. The position of Membership Secretary is open for 2017, and as is true every year, the position of President-Elect needs to be filled as well. The board meets on the first Thursday of the month eleven months of the year.

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# Growing a Community

CONTINUED

The *Gazette* Staff produces an excellent quarterly newsletter that contributes to making our neighborhood stand out as a great place to live. There are a variety of ways to help with this publication from writing articles, to distribution, to soliciting advertising. Our current editor, Rich Iezzi, is always interested in new writers even if it is one article a year. Various writing styles and fresh perspectives are what give the *Gazette* a strong pulse.

Being a block captain is another way to ensure your block members are informed and included. It's an opportunity to welcome new neighbors and keep in touch with ideas and events that have worked well with captains of the other blocks.

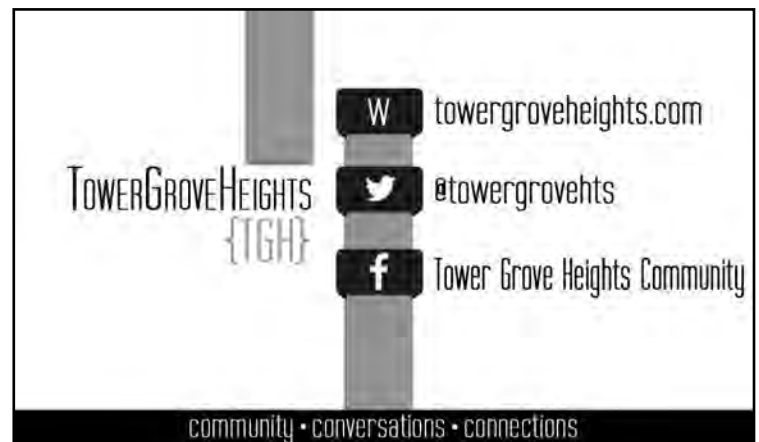
Autumn Fest, our big event for fall, has had some very successful years with Marilyn Browning as chair. This event requires volunteers every year and only requires a two-to-three hour commitment.

In addition to the above, there is a Communication Committee and a Social Committee.

The Communication Committee is about keeping members of the neighborhood informed as well as promoting our neighborhood via our website, Facebook, and Twitter.

The goal of the social committee is to plan events that enhance interaction among residents. This year those events include, a neighborhood alley garage sale, a Halloween event, and an alley clean up. Based on many other ideas brought up at the first meeting of this newly- formed committee, it is evident this group needs many volunteers to plan, organize, and execute events.

Most people, when asked to help, are very willing, but sometimes people who are willing are never asked. It's not because we don't need your participation. It's because we are not aware of your willingness to serve. So we ask that you speak to one of the board members at a general meeting or contact them by email. Explain where your interests lie and I assure you, we will find a place where your time and talents will be put to good use. Email addresses are available in the Buzz Book and also on our website, [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com).





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When you're working to achieve your financial objectives, you will encounter obstacles — some of which can't be easily anticipated. Nonetheless, you need to be aware that these challenges are out there — and plan for them. For starters, to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term emergencies, such as a major car repair, consider establishing an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, held in a liquid account. In looking at the bigger picture, if you were ever temporarily disabled, the loss of income could be devastating. To protect yourself, consider disability insurance. And to guard your family's future should anything happen to you, you'll need life insurance. And if you ever need an extended stay in a nursing home, the cost could mount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. You may want to "transfer the risk" to an insurance company. As an investor, you can take positive steps to prepare for the unexpected — and those steps should lead you in the right direction as you move toward your important goals.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

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# Secret St. Louis

BY GAZETTE  
GHOST WRITER

# Places

**M**y secret place is hidden in plain sight but very few people know it's there. That's why it's a secret.

A friend called recently saying he needed help loading things from 101 Chouteau. He said I couldn't miss it – just take Chouteau east until it stops. I did but then it got weird. I was in the middle of the city but no one was there. It looked like something out of a movie set. It was strangely quiet with the foot prints of night creatures all over the place. We even saw deer tracks.

**The entire area  
is under a  
confluence of  
steel girders,  
pipes, train  
tracks and  
overpasses.**

As my friend and I loaded his stuff, I kept hearing an unusual sound. It came from the locomotives pulling east bound freight trains. Their engines sounded like they were under full load but the trains appeared to be on level track. Then I realized there was an uphill grade from where the

tracks crossed 7th Street at the Birdcage Bar to the top of the railroad bridge. Hearing those locomotives at full power coming up the grade was definitely a bonus.

On the way down to my spot, I passed 3rd Street, 2nd Street and ended up on 1st Street which looked vacant. The entire area is under a confluence of steel girders, pipes, train tracks and overpasses. Continuing east, Leonor K. Sullivan becomes Wharf Street right at the opening of the mysterious St. Louis flood wall. I turned left and passed through the flood wall and immediately saw the mighty Mississippi. Two normal looking guys were just leaving with their boat after fishing the river. Fishing in the Mississippi? At this point, the flood wall blocks any view of the city. All you see is the river and the cobblestone levee the way it was 100 years ago.

The flood gate, Wharf Street, the Mississippi river, night creatures and train engines at full power? What other spot can be so much fun?

If you've got a secret St. Louis spot, contact the Gazette and tell us about it. We promise we'll keep it a secret.



# Reach New Garden Heights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lessens the impact of green material decomposing in landfill but it's still a carbon emitter. In our part of town where space is tight, look carefully at dwarf varieties and plants with forms that will fit in well.

## dig in and take a critical look at your soil

Remember that plant tags contain general and vague information. Sometimes they're flat out wrong! To be really sure, do a little research and get a better idea of what the true size and requirements are. The Missouri Botanical Garden website, [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org), is outstanding. Websites from universities with horticulture programs are also reliable. Look for sites in your search results ending in ".edu." The best specimen from the finest garden center won't survive bad siting or basic neglect. Happy gardening!

# GOOD NEIGHBOR Garden Tip

by Betty Greenjeans

Consider clearing your sidewalks year round. Sticks and gumballs create real hazards for walkers.

Whether you own or rent, this kind of neighborly consideration helps foster community ties.



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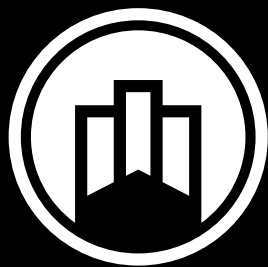
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# SO LONG TO THE SCHOEMEHL POTS

BY  
MARILYN  
BROWNING

On Friday, April 28th, Rachel Witt, executive director of South Grand Community Improvement District (CID) bid a not-so-fond farewell to the concrete pipes that were being used to direct traffic on Juniata and Hartford east of South Grand. These pipes are often called "Schoemehl pots" after a former mayor, since the city was rife with them during his time in office.

The Schoemehl pots were put in place years ago when the South Grand parking lot was constructed, and were used to mark the transition from one-way to two-way traffic on a portion of each street. This was a compromise reached between South Grand CID and the residents of the streets to improve access to the parking lot.

At the time the pots were placed, it was a cheap and temporary alternative to a costly bump-out, an alternative selected so that in the future the streets could be made entirely two-way if the needs and desires of the area changed. The area has changed, of course, with the addition of Rooster to our South Grand complement of restaurants, but the residents remain, at least for now, committed to the idea of keeping part of each street one-way.

The Schoemehl pots had changed as well, and not for the better—trash- and weed-filled with flaking paint. "It just isn't a good first impression for visitors to South Grand," says Rachel. "We needed an attractive alternative!"

Enter Patrick Weber, co-founder of Aesh Design architecture firm based in Saint Louis and Nashville. (By the way, Patrick's offices sit on the corner of Spring and Connecticut in our own neighborhood of Tower Grove Heights.) He and Rachel struck up a conversation by chance, and she explained her problem and asked if he had any ideas on what could replace the pots.

As it turned out, Aesh Design had done a similar project in Nashville, and Patrick shared their approach there, and some ways to implement attractive but functional traffic control. The plan they settled on included cedar planters to replace the Schoemehl pots, along with stripes and bollards (the flexible plastic rods attached to the ground) around the perimeters of the two areas.



The project has been installed and it only remains for the planters to be filled with plants. A further addition, still in the planning phase, is to further define the two planter areas by painting designs on the street. Rachel is currently working with area artists and residents, and envisions a color-in-the lines painting project which will involve the two streets' residents.

What both Rachel and Patrick want to make clear is that when faced with a problem like traffic control, it's important to think beyond the usual solutions. As Rachel says, "Don't limit yourselves. Let your imaginations go to work on the problem." Planters are only one of a number of attractive solutions that can not only address a neighborhood concern, but also beautify the neighborhood.

## - STREET SWEEPER READY -

Here's a shot of the 3800 block of Hartford showing how it's done (or supposed to be done) on street sweeper day. Yea for the alert Hartford residents! Yea for the street sweeper!



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# Doggie Doos and Don'ts



BY ANONYMOUS

The City of St. Louis requires: "Any person owning, keeping, or harboring a pet within the City is responsible for removing and disposing of any feces left by the pet whether on public or private property." This means that even if your pet fouls the no man's land along the sidewalk of a corner lot, you're required to remove the offending deposit. Given the state of affairs along certain stretches of Gustine, this is news to some people.

A home security camera on my street captured a dog defiling the sidewalk and the owner looking over her shoulder before slinking off. Leaving a steaming pile on the sidewalk is the pinnacle of rudeness. I will extend the benefit of the doubt and assume she was bagless. We've all been there at some point. Mark the offense, go home, get a bag and return to the scene of the faux pas. It's the right thing to do.

## Please do your duty with the doodie.

Some studies indicate that only 60% of owners scoop the poop. This unpleasant but important part of canine caregiving is based on ensuring human and dog health. Dog doo-doo can harbor bacteria, viruses and parasitic worms. It also attracts critters. Furthermore, these calling cards do not decompose quickly. Even little piles from little dogs add up quickly, and yes, my dog will try and eat your dog's leavings.

On multiple occasions this writer has stepped in another dog's poo trying to pick up her own pet's handiwork. It's a cruel irony. Remember there are children playing in the neighborhood and they're particularly good at finding land mines and tracking them inside.

Hopefully this plea will inspire many to resolve to do better. But resist the marketing ploy that is biodegradable pet waste baggies. These bags will not degrade in landfill in a good way. Unless composted they decompose producing methane – the other greenhouse gas.

If you're really interested in environmentally responsible disposal, alternative methods include flushing (recommended by the EPA) and dooleys (in ground digesters similar to composting).

Please do your duty with the doodie. If you're not picking it up, I guarantee someone else has – usually in the treads of their shoe.

# Turkish Dining at Sheesh

BY JOHN PAPA

There was much amusement in our household when the resident (professional) "foodie" heard the request that I reprise past contributions to the *Gazette* with a review of an exotic restaurant new to the neighborhood. To be fair, a person who considers ketchup (catsup) and mustard as the only spices necessary for a well-stocked cupboard probably shouldn't critique any cuisine more complex than a hot dog.

## Sheesh has attempted to capture an authentic foreign dining experience.

Sheesh has attempted to capture an authentic foreign dining experience. From the round, metallic tabletops, pressed metal tableware and the wait staff wearing colorful vests and pill-box sized fezzes decorated with sequins, it was easy to imagine the Bosphorus being nearby.

Soon after being seated the staff delivered complimentary bowls of traditional Ezogelin. The steamy soup consisted of red lentils, rice, bulgur and spicy tomato sauce with a hint of mint. It was delightful and delicious.

Recently, my wife, Pat, and I (along with some friends who recently returned from a cruise down the Nile) visited Sheesh at 3226 S. Grand.

Sheesh has attempted to

The menu has many appetizers listed. We shared a variety of offerings. My favorite was the yalanji - grape leaves stuffed with rice, walnuts and Turkish spices. It was a pleasant surprise that the spices were mild and did not overwhelm the blended flavors of the other ingredients or the clear coating that made the leaves glisten.

The Turkish Kibeh were three balls of fried bulgur stuffed with ground beef and walnuts. It had a stronger flavor than the yalanji but still not overwhelming.

A wonderful compliment to the appetizers and main courses was the Sheesh special salad. With a fried eggplant base, a mixture of diced onions, tomatoes, chickpeas and parsley with a very light oil dressing, this salad was exceptional.

One could have been satisfied easily by the soup, appetizers, salad and ample servings of flat bread, but to best serve our *Gazette* readers, our company pressed on. The Sheesh menu offers several varieties of Kebabs, Biryani and Tawook with an emphasis on lamb and chicken, marinated and grilled with delicious rice and grilled vegetables.

My main course was a chicken doner plate with grilled tomato, onion and french fries, perhaps in recognition of my Indo-European appearance. The portions were ample and quite tasty.

Do leave some room for the Turkish Knafeh. A sweet cheese pastry soaked in sweet syrup and sprinkled with pistachios. It looks like a delicate bird's nest and the flavors are heavenly.

All in all, our trip to Sheesh was a wonderful experience and very entertaining. The staff members were polite, attentive and knowledgeable. It is a great destination for adults with an atmosphere that kids would enjoy.

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# THE HIDDEN HOUSE

BY RICH IEZZI In the last Gazette, I mentioned that my daughter and son-in-laws' pristine 2-family flat on Connecticut had burned. As I write this, the Connecticut Castle is completely gutted down to its wall studs.

But then a friend mentioned that her neighbor's house might be coming up for auction. I've driven by 3728 Arsenal hundreds of times and only known it as 'the hoarder house'. Jean and I stopped by for a look and when I tried the front door, it swung open.

I'm not sure I've seen a prettier entry. Everything is quarter sawn golden oak---the staircase, pocket doors and entry walls. We trespassed a bit and went through the house. 'Stuff' was piled three feet deep on the first, second and third floors but not the basement. Nope, the basement was piled over five feet high. We made our way to the kitchen but items were stacked so high we couldn't see if there were appliances or a sink. There was a mysterious kitchen door that we couldn't identify or open---trash was up past its doorknob.

It took an effort to see the house but what a house it was. Built in 1905, it's original in every way down to its speaking tube, fireplace mantles and pocket doors. Skeleton keys were still in door locks and light switches were the original turn type.

Daughter Carolyn and son-in-law Chris also liked the house and since they're presently 'homeless', we all attended the auction at the Civil Court House. We went to the auction intending to buy the house but right before the auction began we were told that the house just sold. Nooooo! For whatever reason, the auctioneer for this property was outside, with one lone investor, while the rest of the buyers were inside. Hmmm. We were devastated.

But Carolyn can be a bulldog. She tracked down the buyer of the house along with his phone number. When she introduced herself, he said, 'How did you get this number?' Incredibly, he agreed to sell the house and we were all set to buy it from him at 1 PM that same day---until everything fell apart. Things continued to fall apart over the next few weeks but eventually we held the keys to 3728 Arsenal.



Upon getting possession, Chris was unable to properly carry his bride across the threshold---the front door wouldn't open more than 12 inches because of the junk behind it.

Removing the unwanted material resembled an archeological dig. We wondered if the entry had a parson's bench but it was impossible to know without digging way down through the debris. Then we found it! But did the bench open? More digging revealed it did.

A couple of days later I noticed a previously unseen oval window on the west side of the house but the window wasn't visible from the inside. Where could it be? It took the removal of two 30 yard dumpsters of material before we found a partially hidden door in the rear of the entry. When the door was opened, we saw the mysterious stained glass oval window with a spider web design.

We also discovered the story behind the unknown kitchen door---it was the bottom of the back staircase. The staircase was exactly as it was in 1905 with its' original wallpaper and gas wall sconce.

Buying these old houses takes a lot of work and money but also creates great memories. Like the one of Carolyn using a broom to shoo pigeons out of the second floor and husband Chris becoming almost unrecognizable after dealing with 100 year old dirt.

BTW, the 'hoarder house' was renamed 'The Park Palace'. The Connecticut Castle and the Park Palace---nice touch.

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# THE UNCLUTTERED HOME PART 1 – *The Uncluttered Garage*

BY MARILYN BROWNING

For those of you that have a garage, here's an interesting statistic for you: it is estimated that 25 % of American two-car garages are so full of stuff that there's no room to park a car. Don't get me wrong. It makes perfect sense to store yard tools, potting soil, bicycles and such in the garage. But does it make sense to store the items that you never got around to unpacking/ haven't decided what to do with/ cleaned out of someone else's house/ meant to donate or recycle/ got left behind by grown children/ were given by a well-meaning relative? Meanwhile, the car or cars, with a value many times that of the items in the garage, are parked out in the elements and subject to possible theft or damage.

Here's a second statistic to ponder: 50% of homeowners consider the garage the most disorganized place on their property. We all know the popular solutions. They're featured in every organization article and home improvement show on television. Color-coded bins, pegboard, shelving systems, and ingenious pulleys that lift those pesky bikes off the garage floor. There's a reason why the Container Store does a huge business. Let's face it though, here's an area where a few clever storage ideas aren't going to help the problem of TMS—too much stuff.

So before you race off to get the items designed to magically contain and categorize that mound of stuff, do the hard part. Decide whether what you have is even worth organizing. This is where a few searching questions are in order. Let's start with those cardboard boxes you never

unpacked. How long have they languished there? Do you even know what's in them? My motto is if I've lived without it for a year, I can live without it for a lifetime.

Then comes the fix-it project that you somehow never got around to. "But it's going to be great when I've stripped/painted/glued/re-upholstered it!" I hear you say. Then again, you've probably heard yourself say it plenty. Here's a case where the word is definitely not the deed. Let this go out into the universe. Put it out in the alley just before bulk pickup day. Yes, it may wind up in a landfill, or it may wind up in the hands of someone who knows just what to do with it.

**50% of American homeowners consider the garage the most disorganized place on their property.**

Your garage, like many others, may be filled with the just-in-case. Just in case the other one breaks, just in case they ask about it, just in case I get a wild hair to finally start using it, just in case I haul it to Antiques Roadshow and find out I was sitting on a million dollars. I could go on, but you get the picture. Chances are good that even if the need or opportunity crops up, you'll forget you have it or can't find it in the clutter. A garage sale, Craigslist, or a charitable organization may be the perfect destination for these items.

In the end only two questions are important. First, is this item put to regular use? Second, is the garage the appropriate place for it? If the answer to both questions is yes, then go ahead. Put up the shelves, screw in the wall hooks, and get a plastic tub or two to move it out of the middle of the garage. Then open the garage door and at long last, drive right in!

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# New ways to give!

by Rick  
Stein

Here are a few ways you  
can give to TGHNA:

- **Amazon Smile** – next time you order something on Amazon.Com, start off by going to smile.amazon.com. This is Amazon's program where nonprofit organizations receive a small portion of the proceeds of orders. The first time you go on, it will ask you to select your charity. If you select TGHNA, then each time you order – if you start off at smile.amazon.com (just “smile” instead of “www” at the beginning) – a portion of the order will go in as a donation from Amazon to TGHNA. You can also get set up automatically by clicking on the Amazon Smile link on our website.
- **Donate button** – there's now a button on our website, [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com), where you can give a simple donation through PayPal
- **Coming Soon: eScrip from Schnucks** – this is the program through Schnucks that is similar to Amazon Smile. We're in the process of getting approved. Once we are, we'll announce it and put a link on our website to explain how it works.

# REAL ESTATE NEWS

Email me your real estate questions at:  
[DeborahErvin@att.net](mailto:DeborahErvin@att.net)

## Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights

Type	Address	Sold Price	Bdrm	Bath	Sq Ft
Residential	3806 Arsenal	325,000	2	3	
Residential	3662 Humphrey	366,975	4	3	
Residential	3818 Hartford	340,000	4	3	1,950
Residential	3862 Humphrey	374,000	4	3	2,482
Residential	3661 Hartford	330,000	4	3	
Residential	3819 Juniata	211,000	2	3	2,221
Residential	3664 Hartford	390,000	4	4	2,700
Residential	3870 Wyoming	384,000	3	3	2,508
Residential	3711 Juniata	251,000	3	3	2,200
Residential	3639 Juniata	345,000	5	3	
Residential	3877 Hartford	275,000	4	2	1,948
Residential	3878 Juniata	195,000	3	3	1,650

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## Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Membership Registration Form

### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

There are two ways to join TGHNA:

1. You may join TGHNA online. Go to [towergroveheights.com](http://towergroveheights.com) under the Get Involved tab. Online payment is done through PayPal.

2. To join by mail, complete the bottom portion of this form and return to P.O. Box 160069, St. Louis, MO 63116. Make checks payable to: Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

All membership fees are set by the board prior to each calendar year. With the exception of Lifetime (individual or household), each membership is renewable annually and due on the yearly anniversary of the initial registration.

Only members who meet the requirements for voting privileges and are current in membership fees may vote at TGHNA meetings. Voting eligibility for newly-admitted members will commence 60 days following receipt of membership fees.

Membership fees are tax deductible as allowable by law.

### **FEES AND LEVELS**

**Regular (individual) Membership (\$10):** To be eligible for membership at this level, an individual must reside in or own property within the boundaries of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood (TGH). Individual members are entitled to one (1) vote at TGHNA meetings and can stand for office in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws. By-laws can be found on [towergroveheights.com](http://towergroveheights.com).

**Household Membership (\$15):** This level of membership provides for a single annual membership fee to cover multiple people residing in or owning the same residence in TGH. A Household Membership carries a maximum of two (2) votes at TGHNA meetings.

**Business Membership (\$25):** This level is for local businesses that have an interest in Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood. A business located in the neighborhood is entitled to one (1) vote. Business memberships located outside the neighborhood are not eligible to vote. This membership level entitles members to a 10% discount on TGHNA *Gazette* ads for one year.

**Associate Membership (\$10):** This level is for individuals who have an interest in the Neighborhood but who don't meet the requirements to be a Regular member. An Associate Member may attend Neighborhood meetings, serve on or chair a Committee, but may not vote or be an Officer.

**Lifetime Membership (individual) (\$100):** At this level, an individual may become a member of the TGH Neighborhood Association for his/her lifetime. A Lifetime Member must meet the requirements of a Regular Member to be eligible to vote or stand for office.

**Household Lifetime Membership (\$200):** This level of membership provides for a single lifetime membership fee to cover multiple people residing in or owning the same residence within TGH. This level carries a maximum of 2 votes at TGHNA meetings. Any resident or owner of the household 18 and older is eligible to stand for office.

*Each membership expires one year from the date of registration, except lifetime memberships.*

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- ☐ Regular membership (individual) - \$10  
☐ Household membership - \$15  
☐ Business membership - \$25  
☐ Associate membership - \$10  
☐ Lifetime membership (individual) \$100  
☐ Lifetime membership (household) - \$200

\_\_\_\_ yes Include my/our names, address and  
\_\_\_\_ no contact info in the TGHNA Buzz Book.

\_\_\_\_ yes Please include me/us on the TGHNA  
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**Thank you!**

### **Please print legibly.**

☐ Check this box if this is a membership renewal

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