

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

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Volume 30 No. 2

Winter 2018



Tower Grove Heights Supports 100 Neediest Cases – 2018 “The time that is given us”

BY ELLEN WILSON
This is the fifteenth year of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association supporting families in need through the 100 Neediest Cases Program. I hope everyone is managing this year; it has been a tough one. Both domestic and international issues are enormous at the moment and I feel the need for community even more these days. While I feel small in my ability to change the issues far away, I feel bigger when it comes to the issues closer to home which is why I still feel it is useful and necessary to help our neighbors when they are in need. We have again adopted two families who need a boost and that is something I can help with; I hope you will join me.



“I wish it need not have happened in my time,' said Frodo.'So do I,' said Gandalf, 'and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.” - J.R.R. Tolkien

Yes, I am a dork.

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PIZZA FOR CAMERAS

By Barb Gilchrist

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Safety Committee held a fundraiser on November 10 at the Black Thorn Pub and Pizza to raise money for security cameras. What a fun and successful event it was! More than 200 people came to eat pizza, salad and home baked cookies to support the camera initiative. Some of the participants were from other neighborhoods (as far away as Bellefontaine Neighbors in north county) and came to find out more about our plans.

A very special thank you must be expressed to Dave and Sally Difani, owners of the Black Thorn. Dave provided the space, all of the pizza and salad, and four staff people. He graciously opened his doors for an event that grew much bigger than any of us anticipated.

Thank you to all of our generous neighbors who not only paid the \$10 ticket price, but also made additional monetary donations. The final tabulations were not complete at the time of writing, but we know that over \$6000 was raised. (Thanks, also, to the many people who donated \$170 for the family of retired SLMPD officer, Sgt. Ralph Harper, who was killed in a recent carjacking in Tower Grove South.)

Many volunteers helped to make the event a success. These include Ann Stanley, Ryan Barry, Melissa Barry, Debra Knox Deiermann, Vicky Dean, Jean Iezzi, Myrinda Grantham, Sharon Angle, Rick Stein, and Barbara Gilchrist. It also helped that

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PIZZA FOR CAMERAS

continued from page 1

Channels 2, 4 and 5 all aired stories about our event. Thanks, again, to each of you!

Thank you to Greg Domian, Tower Grove Heights resident and owner of Olympic Sporting Goods, who contributed t-shirts printed with the TGH logo which were available for purchase at the event.

A very special thank you must be expressed to Dave and Sally Difani, owners of the Black Thorn. Dave provided the space, all of the pizza and salad, and four staff people. He

graciously opened his doors for an event that grew much bigger than any of us anticipated.

The camera initiative is one of the projects the Safety Committee has worked on in the past two years. The plan is to install cameras on homes or businesses at each of the intersections on Spring and Gustine between Arsenal and Utah. If you own a building at one of these intersections and are willing to participate, send an email to safety@towergroveheights.com. If there is additional money available, other camera locations within our boundaries will be explored.



TAKING LOVE TO NEW HEIGHTS

By Abigail
Miller

Recently some fellow Tower Grove Heights residents (who shall remain nameless, but you know who you are) shared their exciting, suspense-filled love story with me. One of the key plot twists was when their true love was sparked on a first date at Mekong. The story, which I am hoping to get full rights to for a future Gazette article, had me reflecting on the fun of dating in our neighborhood. Sure, everyone knows you can grab a great meal, but sometimes you need more than just delicious Chinese food to kindle the romance. Whether it's your first date or your 49th wedding anniversary, here are some date ideas to try:

Lulu's Ping Pong Bar: Show off the skills you mastered as a kid while you enjoy delicious cocktails and take in a great view of South Grand.

Carriage Ride in the Park: Let a beautiful horse do all the work while you cuddle under a blanket and enjoy the beauty of the park.

Board Games at Civil Life: Enjoy some friendly competition with a beer and a board game. Pro Tip: If you want your relationship to last, avoid Trivial Pursuit, Monopoly, and Settlers of Catan.

Spice It Up at Jays: Browse the aisles of Jay International Foods and try to find something you've never cooked with before. Look up a recipe to take home and try!

Scoot to Your Food: Rent some Lime Scooters and explore the neighborhood! Looking for a long-term commitment? Go scooter shopping at South City Scooters.

Ready to take your relationship to a new level?

Flu Shots at Urgent Care: For the couple who wants to share everything but flu germs, stop by Total Access and show off how brave you are while you get vaccinated together. Holding hands strongly encouraged.

Matching Tattoos at TRX Tattoos: Nothing says forever like a tattoo! Test your trust and pick out each other's tattoos. Bonus points if you don't tell them before they get it.

Private Pole Dancing Lessons at Mynx Academy: Need we say more? Note – So your dinner doesn't end up in the routine, the Academy recommends making dinner plans for after.



ORPHANED HOME IN THE 'HEIGHTS

By Ryan
Barry

Every neighborhood has one, an old abandoned home with a story. In our case, the home at 3619 Humphrey has a long story that's just beginning. At Grand and Humphrey, a few houses down on the right you will notice a beautiful brick home with decorative trim. You will also notice the scaffolding, broken windows, overgrown yard, piles of mail and flyers left on the porch, and lots of open storage. I will admit, when I first noticed the home, I thought it was being rehabbed. If you look a little closer, you will notice the scaffolding has a tree growing on it. That's because it's been there for over 30 years. It's the kind of home George and Mary Bailey might dream about living in one day in "It's a Wonderful Life." Unfortunately, this home has become a long term nuisance and a potential danger to the neighborhood.



After 30 years of unresponsive action by the city, neighbors stopped filing complaints. In fact, until recently, the only violations on file were for open storage. The reality is, the city is overwhelmed with vacant and abandoned properties. Attempts

I will admit, when I first noticed the home, I thought it was being rehabbed. If you look a little closer, you will notice the scaffolding has a tree growing on it.

to work with city officials have yielded no results. The building inspector refuses to even talk about the property. The court system is vague in its current legal status with the homeowner. The city had given up on this property.

For too long, city code enforcement and small fines for violations have served as an invitation for owners to game the system, keeping property taxes low and letting the home decay. A 2016 change in Missouri law makes it possible for residents to seek damages against negligent property owners. The law "empowers city neighborhood organizations and property owners to take direct action against noncompliant properties." This takes the burden off the city, and gives neighborhoods like ours the resources to follow through where the city could not.

Earlier this month the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association voted to send a letter to the out-of-state owner to correct the violations. The owner has a set time to respond and come up with a plan to correct the issues. If the letter is not answered, or if the violations continue, a formal lawsuit will be filed. The ending to this story is yet to be written. One day the scaffolding will come down, the broken windows replaced, the storage removed. Until then we'll continue to hear passersby talk about what a great old home, and it must be undergoing renovation. And maybe one day they will be living in that wonderful old drafty house.

2018 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS

By Patrick Weber

A visit from the beer wagon. Giant yard games. A chance to climb on a fire engine. Delicious pot-luck snacks and bar-be-que shared with neighbors and long-time friends. Closed streets providing a rare opportunity for kids to unleash their inner speed-demons. What's not to love about National Night Out?

For years Tower Grove Heights has celebrated National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign begun in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch [source: natw.org] as an opportunity for neighbors to get to know their neighbors and first-responders, an important step in creating safe, healthy neighborhoods with residents looking out for each other. With block parties, food and fun across the Heights, 2018 was no exception.

This year's move from August to October 2nd was heralded with summer-like temperatures and clear skies, which brought the neighborhood's residents out in full force. 3600-3700/3800 Juniata, 3800 Connecticut and 3600-3700 Utah all hosted family-friendly block parties on their streets with yard games, pot-lucks and a visit from the St. Louis Fire Department Engine House No. 32, always a favorite for kids of all ages. Neighborhood

Association board members, TGH block captains, and St. Louis Police Department District 2 officers stopped by to introduce themselves and visit with neighborhood residents. A long-time tradition for the adults, two decorated beer wagons canvassed the neighborhood providing and collecting beer to be shared. Special thanks to Michael & Tiffany Taylor for their help walking a wagon, and for everyone who donated beer to this annual tradition.

This year, the neighborhood association Social Committee sponsored a Stoop Spirit Contest with categories for most neighbors in a picture and best-decorated stoop. The social committee encouraged neighbors to post their picture entries to the neighborhood group on Facebook or pose with signs when the beer wagon stopped by. The winner for most neighbors in a picture went to the 3600-3700/3800 blocks of Juniata, and best-decorated stoop to Lauren Thayer of 3800 Utah.

National Night Out and the annual block parties are an important event on the Tower Grove Heights Social Calendar as it provides an opportunity for the neighborhood's residents to meet and get to know their neighbors. Thank you to all the block captains, volunteers and residents who made this year's block parties a success.





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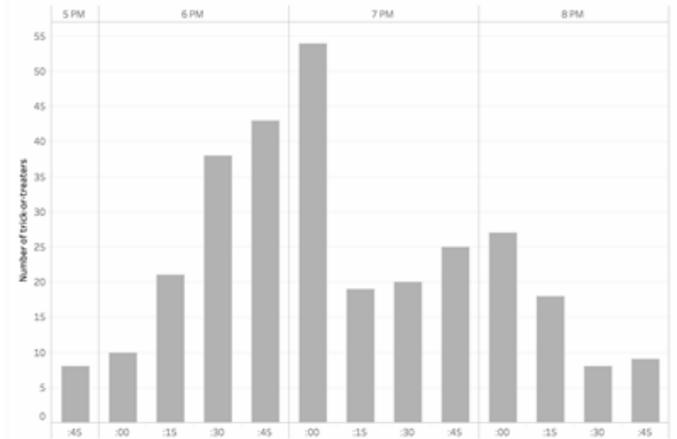


HALLOWEEN IN THE 'HEIGHTS, STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

By Greta Reitenbach **I**t's that time of year again! The Halloween decorations are just coming down, and the Hallmark Channel is already playing Christmas movies. This Halloween was quite a rainy one, though that did not make much of a difference to residents of the 3800 blocks of Connecticut and Juniata. There was quite literally a party in the street. The tone was set by Mr. Jeff Clyne with a knife and a zombie that even took off its own head! The games being played included football and sardines, rain notwithstanding. At the other end of the street, people were taking advantage of the

Halloween 2018

Time distribution of trick-or-treaters at 3875 Connecticut, n=300



street shut down also. There was a line of about twenty people in lawn chairs, each with a bag of candy. This was to save us from having to walk door to door, I suppose. We need to burn those calories! In case you were wondering, our area of Tower Grove Heights got 300 trick-or-treaters. Mr. Brian Marston counted the people and even made a graph. There were also six people giving out full-sized candy bars, and nobody with apples or oranges. When my family brought our candy home and sorted it, there were five gallon-sized ziplock bags filled! Granted, we do have four children. But that is more than a gallon of candy to each kid, and we only went to two blocks! The jokes were also very good this year. The best costume I saw was Charlie LeBlanc, who was a hot dog stand. Why be just a hot dog when you can walk around with a cardboard box on your head and be a hot dog stand? I will also have to give credit to my block of 3800 Juniata because the residents on the corner of Spring and Juniata had the best-decorated house of the year. There was even a ghost in the upstairs window! The decor out front was also incredible. This Halloween was a very fun one and I hope that will be the case in the future.

Historical Data

- 2018: 300 trick-or-treaters, Wednesday, 53 degrees at 7PM, light rain
- 2017: 369 trick-or-treaters, Tuesday, 42 degrees at 7PM, cloudy
- 2016: 370 trick-or-treaters, Monday, 71 degrees at 7PM, mostly cloudy
- 2015: 277 trick-or-treaters, Saturday, 61 degrees at 7PM, light rain
- 2014: 257 trick-or-treaters, Friday, 42 degrees at 7PM, clear
- 2013: 208 trick-or-treaters, Thursday, 55 degrees at 7PM, light rain

Tower Grove Heights Supports 100 Neediest Cases – 2018

continued from page 1

If you would like to help, either donate a new, unwrapped gift that fits one of the family members or general needs or donate cash (PayPal or check – made payable 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 so that 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. Follow the prompts for the 100 Neediest Cases Program to the donation link specific to this project.

Please be sure to include your full name with your donation so that I can acknowledge your generosity or identify if you wish to remain anonymous.

Choose one (or more) of the following:

Family 1: After 12 years of a toxic relationship, this mother left with her infant girl. She is working, but has debt that keeps her from catching up. Her childcare costs eat up much of her income and she needs a break. A boost could get her back on her feet and provide the stability she is struggling to keep for her child.

Mother (29): Does not request clothing.

Girl (1): Size 24 mo; Shoes (T-7); Diapers size 5

Special Requests: Toddler bed (gift card option); toddler bed sheets and blanket – purple; Fingerling toys; playpen; potty chair; wagon; dresser (gift card option); coffee pot; vacuum; winter clothes and gear for child; age appropriate toys, books, and child development supplies.

Family 2: This mother is raising five children. She lost her job because she could not afford the child care. She has a mortgage, but also a leaky roof and is behind on most bills. She has debt from previous dental work and is unable to catch up or get ahead.

Mother (39): Size: Medium; Shoes (7.5)

Girl (11): Size L (16-18); Shoes (6)

Boy (10): Size (8-10); Shoes (5)

Girl (8): Size: 9; Shoes (3)

Girl (7): Size 8; Shoes (2)

Boy (6): Size (T 7-8); Shoes (1)

Special Requests: Queen Bed frame (gift card option); Twin sheet/comforter set – Disney's Frozen theme; Queen sheet/comforter set - Disney princess; Full sheet/comforter set - Disney Cars; Elf on the Shelf; spy gear; Bey Blades; Fire or police cars; jumbo Squishys; other age appropriate toys; Tablet (even used) for kids; TV, winter clothes and gear for all; roof tar sheets (gift card option)

Both families need the following:

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

Educational Items: age appropriate books; family games; school supplies, etc.

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 14

Wrapping Party: December 15 at 10:00 a.m. at Ellen's house

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



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TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS TRIVIA

By Rich Iezzi

1. **What is the only street that doesn't make a jog when crossing Gustine?**
2. **Why do all the blocks from Grand to Spring have both the 3600 and 3700 addresses?**
3. **What is the only street from Grand to Gustine that never had a 4-family flat?**
4. **What street has the most 4-family flats?**
5. **Why did an otherwise normal married couple throw their mattress out of a second floor window in the middle of the night?**

Answers to the above:

1. Hartford goes straight across Gustine, all other streets jog
2. Nobody knows. If you know, tell the Gazette
3. Humphrey—not one 4-family flat from Grand to Gustine
4. Juniata—it has seven 4-family flats
5. The normal married couple discovered they were sharing their mattress with brown recluse spiders



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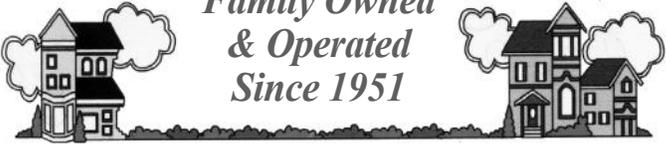
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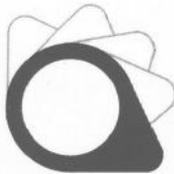
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Airbnb Hosting in Tower Grove Heights—without the Disco Ball

By Ann Stanley A year ago, I contacted a friend who owned rental property in the neighborhood to ask about his lease agreement. I had a new tenant moving into my property and wanted to know how he worded his lease to prohibit tenants from listing his apartments for rent on Airbnb. His response was “what’s an Airbnb?” I laughed, remembering I had once asked that same question.

When I moved back to St. Louis in 2014, I was in the market for a two-family residence in a walkable neighborhood. With the help of a knowledgeable realtor, I found a perfect location across from Tower Grove Park – two apartments with a large room

From its start in San Francisco, in 2007, when two guys found a way to earn extra money with a few air mattresses on a living room floor, Airbnb has grown to a network of over 3 million hosts worldwide.

in the basement that had a door to an exterior stairway. The 300-square foot room had a mosaic tile floor and a crude bath and shower. A half-finished bar was located at one end of the space and “pho,” as in photographic, wood paneling ran

halfway up the walls. A round plate in the ceiling once held a disco ball. I was thinking about converting the space into a studio apartment but, by then, had started hearing about this business called “Airbnb.” Formulating a plan, I decided to renovate the space and give the Airbnb thing a try. If it didn’t work out, I would opt to install a kitchen and rent the space as a studio apartment. In the City of St Louis, Airbnb occupies this nebulous category of rental space that is currently unregulated. As I planned to eventually turn the space into a studio apartment, I went ahead and submitted drawings and pulled building permits.

In January 2016 I began renovating. I removed the bar and the paneling. I had a wall built to partition the space into sleeping area, sitting area and work space. I gutted the bath, installing new walls and fixtures. I combed architectural salvage yards, second hand shops and clearance sales to give the space a cozy but trendy ambiance. Finally, on December 3, 2016, I listed my place on Airbnb and I waited.

The next day, I got my first booking. Admittedly, I was nervous about this new venture. Did I create a livable space? Were there the necessary amenities for guests? Did I cover all contingencies? The Airbnb process allows for guests to publicly critique their experience online. With one bad review, this whole experience could be over.

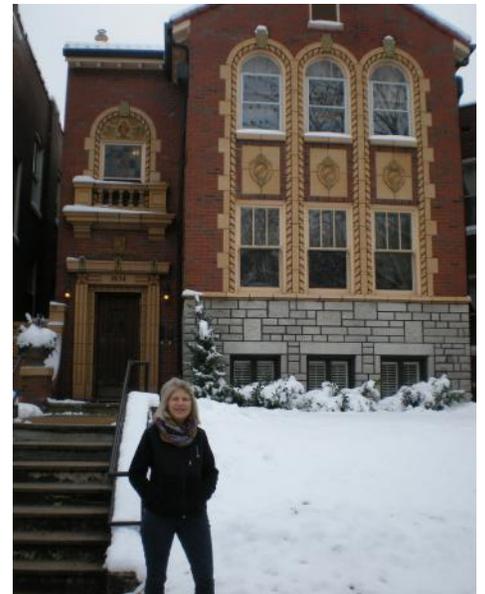
In the past two years, I have accommodated over 250 bookings in durations of one to four nights. My guests have traveled from

as far away as Australia and as near as Ballwin. Their reasons for travel are diverse – business, weddings, family events, a baseball game, concert, or simply coming as a tourist. I’ve had couples book a night away from the kids, away from the fumes of a newly varnished floor and even a place to get away from rowdy roommates.

From its start in San Francisco, in 2007, when two guys found a way to earn extra money with a few air mattresses on a living room floor, Airbnb has grown to a network of over 3 million hosts worldwide. From the early days, in what amounted to little more than sofa surfing or renting out the kid’s room when they went to college, Airbnb has morphed into a sophisticated social media platform where today over 83% of guests are looking for a private place all to themselves and less than 5% are willing to share a room. It used to be that a host could get away with furnishing their spaces with old attic relics and Goodwill finds, but Airbnb is constantly evolving and, just this year, added Airbnb “Plus” to reflect guests’ desire to stay in places that look like the interior of a house flip on HGTV.

For those who stand behind a capitalist approach to the economy, Airbnb is the epitome of both a macro and micro market. At the macro scale, Airbnb is a behemoth that is immersed in technology, constantly tweaking the brand and sending out analytics to hosts about booking trends, pricing suggestions and demand. Airbnb knows who is in the business casually and who is committed to be a full-time host. As soon as you block out a night for personal reasons (a family member is visiting or the host needs a vacation) Airbnb immediately sends messages about potential guests that are specifically looking for those nights to book. They want your space sold.

On the micro level, it’s really up to the individual host to find their niche and market their property. I am what is referred to as an owner-occupied Airbnb; I live onsite which some guest consider a plus. My guests are looking for a neighborhood with charm and proximity to attractions within walking distance to restaurants. I offer a private space that sleeps two with its own exterior entrance and key pad door lock. It’s furnished with all the amenities you would expect in a hotel suite with mini fridge, microwave and coffee maker. Being an onsite host enables me to “flip” my space within a



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Board Games Redux

By Adam
Conners

Build roads! Gather resources! Expand your civilization! Like so many others, my wife and I got into the world of modern board games starting with Settlers of Catan. I got this game in college, and we started playing it with friends. It didn't take long until we searched out other games, building castles and roads in Carcassonne, expanding our medieval family in Dominion, and exploring a haunted house in Betrayal at the House on the Hill.



Board games provide the same escape that people enjoy with books, movies and video games, but they add an element of social interaction. They let you forget about the world and focus on solving a problem, telling a story, or negotiating and bluffing your friends. The world of modern board games has so many options for such different tastes that there is something for everyone. Sarah and I have a pretty diverse collection, with games that take 10 or 15 minutes to go on Arthurian quests and betray your team, to games that take four hours to build a civilization from antiquity to the modern era. Most games take 1-2 hours, and everyone is in the game until the end, unlike some Milton Bradley games, where players can be eliminated in the game. There are cooperative board games, where you are all on the same team trying to beat the game, such as Pandemic, where you are curing disease around the world, and there are games with varying levels of competition, either directly attacking other players, or just trying to do something better than the other players with little game interaction.

Sarah and I have a pretty diverse collection, with games that take 10 or 15 minutes to go on Arthurian quests and betray your team, to games that take four hours to build a civilization from antiquity to the modern era.

In May, we are going to "Geekway to the West," a four-day board game convention for about 2800 people, where we will get to try new and unreleased games, talk to game designers, and possibly win some games to take home. Most importantly, however, we will be spending time with friends we don't get to see enough, enjoying a hobby we all love. My wife and I have met several groups of people at this convention through the years, including my regular gaming



group, friends who travel from out to town and stay with us during the convention, and others whom we see only once a year at Geekway.

We have built up a collection of about 150 games that we keep in a walk-in closet, but exploring the hobby is very easy. There is a Meetup group that meets at Mokabe's on the first Friday of each month. I personally would recommend that you check out our friendly local game store, Miniature Market, in Manchester. They have a great store, with good deals, regular events, and a great area to play games. They have the 1500 game library that is at the "Geekway" convention, which you can use for a nominal fee. There is also the board game café in Soular, "Pieces." It combines food and drink with a game library that can be accessed for a fee. All of these opportunities let you play games and explore without investing much more than time.

Odd Sights in the 'Heights

By Rich
lezzi

Even though we've lived in our house at 3809 Hartford for 40 years, we still discover new things. Recently, my wife, Jean, noticed that our house has the only living room bay window in all the 'Heights.

Bay windows originated during the Middle Ages in Europe and the Middle East as "Oriel Windows." These were thought to originate from a "Bartizan" which is an overhanging wall mounted turret.

Today's bay windows provide additional light and space while breaking up our otherwise rectangular floor plans.

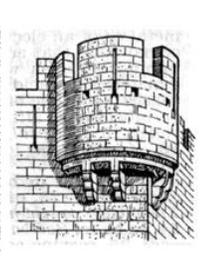
For whatever reason, our house is the only house in all the 'Heights with a bay window off the front room instead of the more popular dining room option. Our 1896 house was one of the first built in the 'Heights and perhaps the front bay window option didn't catch on. We sure like it, though.



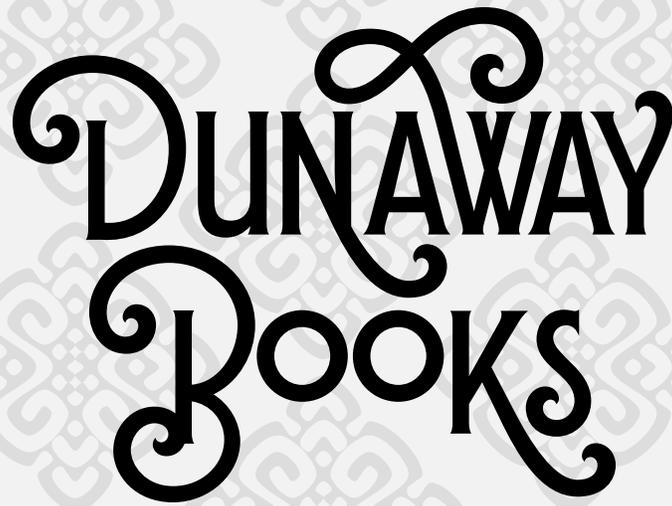
Bay window



Oriel



Bartizan

The logo for Dunaway Books is centered within a decorative banner. The banner has a light gray background with a repeating pattern of stylized, interlocking geometric shapes. The text 'DUNAWAY BOOKS' is written in a large, black, serif font with elaborate flourishes on the letters.

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Tower Grove Heights

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Center for Divine Love (First Church of Divine Science) 3617 Wyoming (near S. Grand)

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For the latest neighborhood news and events; receive a Welcome Packet; contact your Block Captain; join TGHNA; nominate a neighbor for the Matt-the-Cat Award; read our bylaws, meeting minutes or past issues of the Gazette; and much more, please visit: www.towergroveheights.com

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Airbnb Hosting in Tower Grove Height's—without the Disco Ball

continued from page 11

few hours. I have multiple sets of sheets (which I iron), duvets and towels. I learned to stick with white linens allowing me to bleach away the makeup, nose bleeds, purple hair dye and wine spills. No grey face cloths or dark linens to hide stains.

After two years I've gotten a pretty good grasp of the seasonality of the business. The spring and summer months are when you can expect the most bookings. In the fall, bookings start to drop and is a time to deep clean, repaint and make any necessary repairs. The winter is a great time to go on vacation and stay in someone else's Airbnb, preferably someplace warm.

An Airbnb is not something you can walk away from and just let happen. It requires a significant amount of planning and effort on a daily basis. You have to be scouting the competition, staying abreast of the trends, listening and responding to your guests. With that understanding and effort, you can ultimately become a "superhost," which is a designation I have earned.

My plans for the studio apartment are still on the table. I had really only planned to do the Airbnb for a year but decided, after the success of my first year, to keep it going. However, the market is getting saturated with new Airbnb units every month which depresses prices and reduces revenue. With regards to my friend and his lease agreement, after our talk, he logged onto the Airbnb website and discovered that one of his tenants had his apartment listed on Airbnb. With the influx of new apartments in Soular, the Grove and along Grand I only see the trend of people signing leases on multiple apartments and then listing them on Airbnb continuing. So far, though, it's been an exciting ride and it will be interesting to see how it all plays out in the year ahead.



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Email me your real estate questions at: DeborahErvin@att.net

Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights this quarter

Type	Address	Sold Price	Year Built
Res	3879 Juniata	\$277,000	1902
Res	3806 Connecticut	\$301,000	1907
Res	3884 Connecticut	\$346,000	1908
Res	3726 Arsenal	\$465,000	1906
Res	3826 Arsenal	\$604,900	1904



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Tower Grove Heights NEEDS YOU!

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association can only be YOUR association if you join. With your participation, TGHNA will be a reflection of what YOU want the Heights to become. So please don't delay in joining or rejoining.

- To find out what is happening in the neighborhood
- To make the Heights a cleaner and safer place
- To have a liaison with City Hall and other agencies
- To better protect our property values
- To make TGH a more interesting, fun place to live

Indicate your membership level choice: _____

- _____ INDIVIDUAL (1 vote) \$10/year Include my name, address and contact information in the TGHNA Buzz Book. . . Yes No
- _____ HOUSEHOLD (2 votes) \$15/year
- _____ ASSOCIATE (non-voting) \$10/year
- _____ LIFETIME (1 vote) \$100 single payment Please add my email address to the Neighborhood Forum Email notification list. . . Yes No
- _____ BUSINESS (1 vote) \$25 /year (entitles member to a 10% discount on TGHNA Gazette Ads for one year)

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

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Join online at towergroveheights.com or mail this form to:
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 (TGHNA is a tax exempt 501c3 organization)

AN AUTUMN FEST TO REMEMBER

By Carey Uxa
Morgan

The leaves have turned, all the Halloween candy has been handed out and we pause to reflect on an amazing night with neighbors at Autumn Fest 2018. This year's party boasted a record 170+ guests – all contributing to a hefty donation to the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association! The young and old, new to the neighborhood and longtime residents mixed and mingled on a crisp evening filled with delicious foods, festive music and beautiful Tower Grove Heights homes.

The evening began at the home of Jeff and Carey Morgan on Wyoming, where guests dined on a true smorgasbord of diverse food donated from more than 10 local restaurants. This year's beer was also generously provided by neighborhood favorites Alpha Brewing and Civil Life. Tunes from the bluegrass quartet, Bates Street Band (whom you may know from their regular gig at the Soulard Farmers Market), made for a jovial atmosphere.

Guests were eager to make their way to stop #2 of the evening, the home of Dave and Sally Difani, above Black Thorn Pub & Pizza. As if the eye-popping array of desserts weren't impressive enough, neighbors were wowed at the beautiful renovation the Difanis recently completed on their second floor home. What a warm welcome they gave to everyone!

Guided by a luminary path through the neighborhood, guests meandered to the final stop of the evening. Ever the entertaining pros, Nick Taylor and Metra Mitchell Taylor reprised their role as hosts at what has lovingly become known as the "party house." And it certainly lived up to its name, with a perfect-for-fall bonfire, hot cider and even hay bales. Metra brought a festive flair that made for the perfect nightcap!



This night of community would not have been possible without the generous support of sponsors, donors and volunteers, including:

Sponsors: AESH Design, St. Louis Real Estate Society

Donors: Alpha Brewing, Beast Craft BBQ, Brasilia, Cafe Mochi, Civil Life, Gustine Market, Hartford Coffee, Hodak's, Mangia, Meskerem, Mokabe's, Pizza Head, Rooster, The Vine, VP Square

Volunteers:

- Claire and Ryan Byrne
- Kristy Carothers and Steve Wich
- Lisa Carpenter and Duncan McArthur
- Vicky Ann Dean and Myrinda Grantham
- Debra Knox Deiermann and Barbara Gilchrist
- Pat Edwards
- Emery Gloe
- Tricia Heliker
- Scott Jackson and Shane Mills
- Carey and Jeff Morgan
- Dawn Ottensmeier
- Rachel Witt

Autumn Fest 2018 was the perfect occasion to meet new friends and reconnect with others from the neighborhood. The generosity, friendliness and festivity exhibited reminds us all of why we love living in the Heights!

