

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 12, No. 6

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

November 2001



Working for the Mann

By Jan O'Leary

What do you get when you combine a progressive elementary school principal, a community-focused church, and a group of wacky neighbors? The Mann Village People, of course!

Those of you who missed the Tony Award-winning skits at recent TGHNA meetings (as well as those too bemused by the bad acting to understand what the point was) will be excited to learn that a neighborhood initiative has been launched to partner with Mann Elementary School (located at 4047 Juniata). So far, the Mann Village People consists of representatives from the school, Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, Mann School parents, and random neighborhood do-gooders. Anyone is welcome to join in the fun!

As you may know, Mann is one of the few true neighborhood schools in the St. Louis Public School System. All the students attending Mann School live within walking distance of the school. By partnering with the school, we are truly working to leverage one of our important neighborhood institutions.

Activities thus far have included sponsoring an Ice Cream Social at the school's fall Open House for parents. Blue Bunny Ice Cream and Schnucks were kind enough to donate provisions, which were gladly enjoyed by parents and children alike. While performing one of our much-acclaimed skits, we explained to parents our goals and invited them to join us in our endeavors. The response was enthusiastic.

An ongoing monthly event is Wonderful Wednesdays, when Village People volunteers go to the school on the first Wednesday of each month to show appreciation for the hard-working teachers there. We deliver treats, posters, and sometimes even poetry, to thank the teachers on behalf of the community. Only into our third month, the teachers already look forward to this event and have been absolutely delightful in their response. We're not sure whose day it brightens more – theirs or ours!

A third initiative is to get a playground built for the school. Village People volunteers have been working closely with Sally Bloom, Mann's Principal to research and apply for grants. Depending on the outcome of the grant process, community fundraising may also be conducted.

Box Tops for Education, a personal crusade for TGHNA President Brian Marston, is also underway at Mann School. We are asking the neighborhood to save the stamps available on General Mills and other food products and bring them to the monthly TGHNA meetings for collection. These stamps are then used by the school to fund initiatives such as buying computer equipment.

Other possible ideas include organizing after-school activities, tutoring, collecting books for the library or students, reading at the school, and assisting with parent events. The sky is limitless and we welcome any good ideas you might have!

Anyone interested in joining the Village People or learning more about our fun activities, is encouraged to contact me at jan@thecave.com or (314) 773-2907. We meet on a regular basis and would love to have you there too. We're having a lot of fun and contributing to our neighborhood at the same time – how can you beat that?! (You can't, so join us!)



A Mann student enjoys the Ice Cream Social (or at least the ice cream)



Tower Grove Heights residents helping out at the Mann Elementary School Ice Cream Social

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

www.towergroveheights.com

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The Gazette is a non-profit publication published bi-monthly by the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. For information concerning advertising rates and layout planning call Mark or Julia at (314) 771-5885 or email GazetteAdvertising@towergroveheights.com.

Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette. Mail them to: The Gazette/TGHNA, 3735 Connecticut, St. Louis, MO 63116 or email GazetteEditor@towergroveheights.com.

TGHNA General Meetings are held at 7:15PM on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) at the First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming. Everyone is welcome to attend.

H O L I D A Y J O U R N E Y S

**"GRANDMA'S TOYCHEST:
WHIRLIGIGS AND JUMPING
JACKS"**
HOLIDAY FLOWER SHOW*
Nov. 21 to Jan. 1

**HOLIDAY WREATH
EXHIBITION**
Nov. 21 to Jan. 1

**TOWER GROVE HOUSE
HOLIDAY TOURS***

Nov. 27 to Dec. 31
9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**DRIED FLOWER
DECORATED TREE DISPLAY**
Nov. 26 to Jan. 1

**"CHANUKAH:
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS"**
Dec. 2, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**TOWER GROVE HOUSE
HOLIDAY LUNCHEONS***
Dec. 4, 10, 12 & 13

Reservations required;
call (314) 577-5150

**GARDEN GATE SHOP
HOLIDAY SALE**

Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Dec. 6 & 7, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Dec. 8 & 9, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

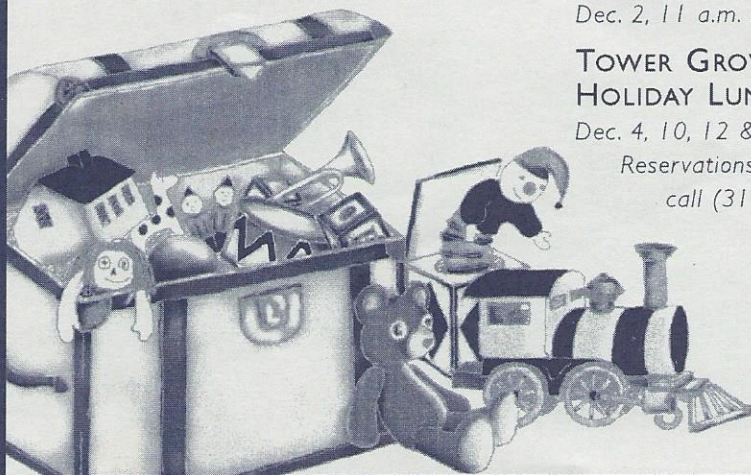
CAROLS IN THE GARDEN*
Dec. 6 & 7, 5 to 9 p.m.

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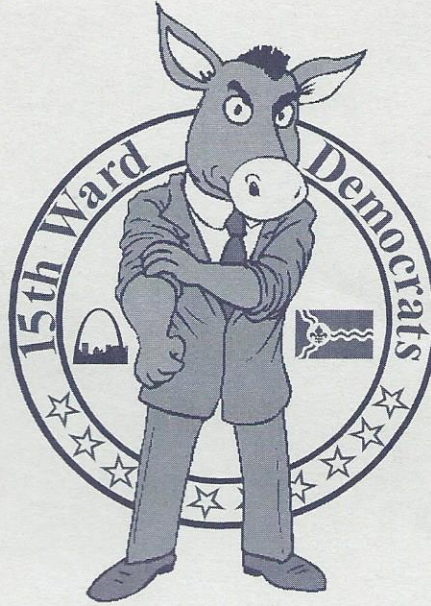
New Ward Organization Invites You to Make Your Voice Heard

By Jan O'Leary

Interested in finding out more about your government and really being part of the political process? You're in luck - there's a new Democratic ward organization in the 15th Ward and you're invited to join!

What is a ward organization, you ask? A ward organization functions as the most local branch of a political party. Its goals are to educate voters within the ward on issues and candidates affecting them, as well as to encourage and facilitate voter participation in the political process.

The 15th Ward Democrats (a.k.a. The New Democrats) ward organization was formed earlier this year by a group of residents interested in making politics in our ward more participatory. The older ward organization (The Democrats of the 15th Ward) is what is known as a "closed" ward organization, with all endorsement decisions made by



only two people (the elected committeeman and committeewoman). The new ward organization is an "open" one, meaning that candidates and issues to be endorsed will be voted on and selected by all eligible members of the ward organization.

For this year's April election, the members of the organization voted to endorse a slate of candidates, which included current 15th Ward Alderwoman Jennifer Florida.

If you are interested in learning more about the issues and candidates directly affecting you and your interests, you are invited to get involved with the 15th Ward Democrats by contacting me at 773-2907 or jan@thecave.com. In March, we will be holding a General Meeting with everyone invited to attend - more details will be coming.

Get involved, learn more about the neighborhood and city you live in, and help make sure that the issues and candidates important to you get the attention they deserve!

* * *

Note: TGHNA does not endorse political candidates or political organizations. This column is provided for informational purposes only.

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A Note from Your Alderwoman

By Jennifer Florida
Alderwoman, 15th Ward

For the past six months, the Tower Grove South Executive Committee (a committee comprised of our neighborhood association presidents) has been meeting to make decisions about how we can better serve you. What we have come to recognize is how important it is that we serve the whole 15th Ward with our Housing Dollars. It is also important that we work together as a neighborhood. As part of our funding plan for 2002, I am funding the Grand Oak Hill Community Corporation as a full service housing corporation, specifically to administer the Targeted Assistance Home Repair Program. In the past, the program run through the CDA has had a long list of applicants and processed 3 grants this year. Our goal is to administer 30 grants in the first year. We will also offer management and tenant screening, to be known as Grand Oak Hill Management Assistance Program. This free service will be used as a tool to deal with nuisance properties. We will continue our senior programming. We hope to restore and fully utilize the Grand Oak Hill building at Juniata and Bent.

Development: *Gravois Plaza timeline*

I expect demolition to begin sometime in early January.

South Side National Bank

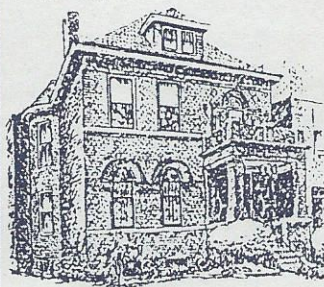
Allegiant Bank has acquired South Side National Bank. They intend to continue full service banking at Grand & Gravois. They are



currently investing 1.5 million into the 1980's addition of the bank and adding a drive through window. They intend to facilitate redevelopment of the tower.

at the Board of Aldermen (622-3763).

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you.



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Host: Kendall Winter

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Report from the Capitol

Rep. Pat Dougherty announced that members of the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives have reached a compromise agreement on a prescription drug bill that will assist the elderly with the rising cost of prescription drugs.

"We were able to come together to give many of Missouri's elderly the help they so desperately needed," Dougherty said. "I hope that we no longer will have seniors making decisions between meals and medicine."

The measure, SB 4, creates a state-funded, privately administered program known as the *Missouri Senior Rx Program*. Pharmaceutical benefits will be extended to seniors 65 years or older that do not have access to health insurance with a drug benefit. The plan has coverage for two different income levels. It covers individual seniors making \$12,000 or less or couples making \$17,000 or less. Another provision extends limited eligibility for certain individuals with incomes up to \$17,000 and couples with incomes of up to \$23,000. The plan does not cover Medicaid recipients.

Here is how it will work. A commission within the Division of Aging will oversee the program. Those wanting to be in the program must be over 65 and without access to a health program with a prescription benefit package for at least 6 months prior to application. Applicants will have to apply annually and will have to pay a coinsurance of 40% after enrollment fees and any deductibles. Participants of the program will be required to meet a deductible and pay an enrollment fee based on income. An individual with an income of \$12,000 or less or couples

making at or below \$17,000 will have a \$25 enrollment fee and then will have a deductible of \$250 per year to meet.

Individuals with incomes up to \$17,000 and couples with incomes up to \$23,000 meeting other eligibility requirements will pay a \$35 enrollment fee and have a \$500 deductible.

The new program will provide up to \$5,000 worth of benefits per year to each participant.

Senator Dougherty was a leader in the legislation to provide coverage for those who were not only senior citizens, but who were under age 65 and who were disabled or blind. "There was a major battle to eliminate the disabled and blind from any sort of help during the

Special Session. We kept fighting until they were provided with new and improved Medicaid coverage. It would have been a sin to not provide better medical help to some of the most needy in our State. I would not turn my back on them," said Senator Dougherty. Under the provisions agreed to, Medicaid will now increase its eligibility to those at 100% of the poverty level and below. "This will mean that 10,000 medically needy persons will have access to Medicaid," said Senator Dougherty.

The program will begin enrollment in the Spring. Those seeking information can call Senator Dougherty at (573)751-3599 or e-mail him at pat_dougherty@senate.state.mo.us.



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Arts in the 'Hood:

Dennis Fortna, Photographer

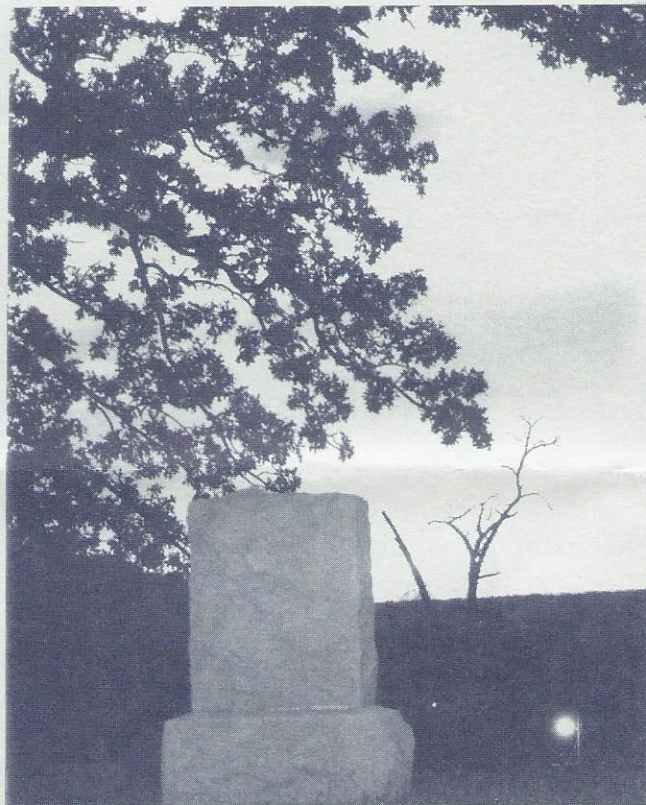
By Suzanne Rhodenbaugh

Dennis Fortna is an evolving person in an evolving house. This could probably be said of most of us (hopefully), but it seems a particularly striking aspect of Dennis' story. This gentle-spoken, prematurely-grey-haired man, whom many know as the Neighborhood Association's block captain for the 3600/3700 block of Arsenal, came to St. Louis and the neighborhood and his work and an intense interest in photography after an evolution that began in a kind of *Easy Rider* scenario.

He grew up in the small town of Denver, Pennsylvania, outside Philadelphia, in a house near the Pennsylvania Turnpike. There, he says, he found soothing "the sound of trucks rolling by in the night," and "the wash of the highway." In 1978 he rode his motorcycle to St. Louis to visit a brother working at McDonnell-Douglas. A year later he repeated the trip, extending it to Oregon, then came back here to settle, though he didn't know it as settling at the time. He worked at a range of jobs, including fighter jet mechanic for the Air National Guard at Lambert, and began taking community college courses so he could better his job possibilities in the aircraft industry. He also started taking photos, mostly images of his motorcycles. After a friend's daughter suggested he take a photography course at Florissant Valley Community College, he came under the stern mentoring of a man named Kim Mosley. Mosley, he says, continually pushed him to do more and better with his photography. No matter what he tried or accomplished, Mosley pushed him to take his art further.

In 1993 Dennis moved to Kirksville, Missouri, to study at Truman State Uni-

versity. There he met Deana, who would be his wife, and earned a BA in art with a concentration in photography. In 1997, back in St. Louis, they rented half of what was then a two family house on Arsenal. They wanted an apartment in the city, with a garage, and they had a friend in the area. They got involved with the



A photo by Dennis Fortna.

Neighborhood Association after seeing a copy of the *Gazette* at Domino's on Grand.

They didn't know the extent of work their building needed, that the other tenant would soon move, or that the California owner would soon put the house up for sale. But when faced with the facts, they decided to stay put if they could. Through the assistance of Justine Peterson Housing, a non-profit housing corporation particularly helpful to first-time buyers, they were able in 1998 to buy the house and begin the daunting re-

hab needed to bring it up to codes, convert it to a single family home, and change its configuration to accommodate a dark room, and a matting and framing room, for Dennis' photography. (The spaces have also been realigned somewhat toward the purpose of separating dogs Maynard and Murka (rottweiler-mastiff and rottweiler, respectively), from Manx cats Sakkara and Hapu.)

Though Deana works hard (virtually non-stop, since September 11), for the Federal Protective Service, which assesses security risks and provides law enforcement for federal buildings and facilities, and Dennis likewise, maintaining data systems for the Brentwood School District in what is now his day job, they have accomplished a lot on their home-in-progress, including a gut rehab of the first floor kitchen and bath, a repouring of concrete in the basement, and redoing of all the outside trim and gutters, all of which they did themselves.

Home, job and neighborhood responsibilities notwithstanding, Dennis' focus, so to speak, is clearly photography, mainly black and white, and including still lifes, figures, and

landscapes, particularly of the industrial detritus and other wastage of a lifestyle that gives us all very much, and also takes a heavy toll on land, people and animals. Some of his most affecting photos are powerful black and white glossies of dead animals on roads; and, paradoxically, purportedly neutral kitchen objects such as toasters and glass bowls. These images ask something from the viewer; they in fact demand it. They are hard to look at, real, and beautiful, which by anybody's definition means Art.

Baseball has been bery, bery good to TGHNA!

By Patty Schneider

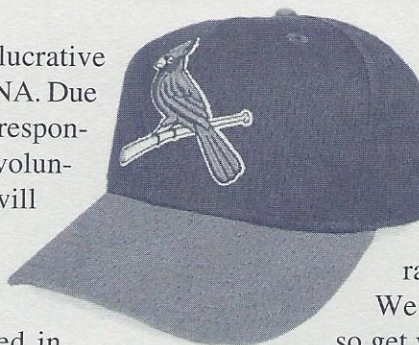
To borrow a line from Garrett Morris's Saturday Night Live character, baseball has been very good to the neighborhood association. As the changing colors of leaves have ushered in Autumn, baseball is but a memory in St. Louis. But it was a good memory for the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association's fund-raiser at the Busch Stadium. Again this year, the neighborhood association participated Cardinals concessions fund-raiser. This is a fund-raiser that only requires time from its members. The neighborhood association receives 9% of the total stand profit for night games and 12% for weekend day games. The benefit of this type of fund-raiser is that, other then time, it does not require any other resources.

This year the association worked four games including a day game. The fund-raiser raised approximately \$1,600. According to TGHNA's Jodi Heliker, the money will go to support activities such as the Gazette, materials for meetings and social activities for members.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with this project. Your neighbors heeded the call to make hot-dogs, nachos and pretzels and sell peanuts and Coke. A heart felt thanks goes out to Virlene Reicherts, Kurt Cummysky, Diane Hurwitz, Jodie Heliker, Mervin Crigler, Michael and Meg Renner, Amanda Dole, Tom Rhodenbaugh, Ross Hammond, David Gibson, Joe Ogier, Rick Armstrong, Tod Martin, Sara Langan, David Gray, Sue Roberts, Pam Hardy, Patty Schneider, Cory Liembach, Mark Berry, Julia Engelhardt, and Jan and Tim O'Leary for giving up an evening or two to assist with this project. A special thanks goes out to Ross Hammond, David Gibson and Patty Schneider, who worked all four games.

The concessions stand at Cardinal

Games has been a lucrative fund-raiser for TGHNA. Due to a change in work responsibilities and other volunteer obligations, I will no longer be able to coordinate this fund-raiser. If someone is interested in



coordinating this effort next year, I would be happy to discuss the details.

* * *

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President's Column

By Michael Renner
President, TGHNA

For better or for worse (I'm staying out of that discussion), my term as president will be over by the time you read this, and I'll have moved into the most desirable position for all TGHNA presidents, that of "past president."

So desirable is this position that many people want to run for past president and just bypass the whole president-elect and president thing. I know we'd have more people interested in serving on the board. Since I can't personally speak to everyone in the neighborhood I thought I'd take a hint from Mark McGwire and use this space to announce my retirement as president of the board (well, actually, the bylaws dictate one year terms). Don't expect a fax though.

The past year has been pretty good. Our general meetings were informative and well attended. In January, Pat Adams presented on the history of the Tower Grove area. In February we held our first forum for candidates running for 15th Ward Alderperson. In March we followed up with another first when we featured all candidates running for city school board. Our fundraising efforts working at Cardinal baseball concession stands paid off handsomely. In the meantime we awarded our annual Garden and Pride in Place awards, published this excellent newsletter, held an essay contest and a design competition to replace the old neighborhood banners.

On a broader scale, several board members and residents are involved in area-wide issues. Brian Marston, president for 2002, sits on the committee analyzing parking for the South Grand Business District. He and several other neighbors were involved in efforts to halt the destruction of the two Hartford houses behind the Bread Company. Other neighbors (including past-president Cheryl Jones) organized the 15th Ward Democrats as an alternative to the current ward committee. Still others

initiated a fund-raising campaign to build a new playground at Mann School. Others serve as block captains, who drop off important announcements to your doorstep (not to be confused with the pizza coupons) and serve as a major link between you and our Neighborhood Stabilization Officer. And then there are countless others in Tower Grove Heights who put in time at their school or house of worship, keep a watchful eye on their street, attend a general meeting when they can (4th Tuesday of each month, you know) or just pick up trash when they take a walk. This is

what builds strong neighborhoods.

At a recent Town Hall meeting, police chief Joe Mokwa said that it's imperative that the entire neighborhood be a livable and comfortable place to raise children. Our biggest problems are, according to police present at the meeting, youth congregating at night, car thefts (up 14% since last year) and problem properties (vacant, ill-kept or tenants). But with increased awareness and vigilance and the level of neighborhood involvement we enjoy now I think we can all make our little spot livable and comfortable.



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Resident Profile — Tom Tobias

By Erin O'Reilly

Tom Tobias was gracious enough to let me interview him for the *Gazette's* "Resident Profile" on short notice. As it turns out, this profile sets a bit of a trend. Tom is of German heritage, speaks German, and belongs to a German club as does Rocky Keel, who I profiled last issue! I also received a call from another resident who lived in Germany and speaks fluent German. Tom was pleased to find other residents with whom he could practice his German! So, this neighborhood has the makings of its own *Stammtisch* (a German club), and that seems appropriate in light of this area's German settlers.

Tom and his wife, Kim Commack, are both from St. Louis and have kin here, but they met at SMSU in Springfield, Mo. (my hometown!) Tom received his undergraduate degree in art and went on to pursue a graduate degree in printing and drawing from SIUE. After getting his degrees, he returned to school for a year to obtain a teaching certificate.

For the past 17 years he has taught art to middle school students in the gifted program at McKinley School. He finds the challenge of teaching developing kids invigorating! He speaks well of his students and of his job at McKinley. However, he has a problem getting the art supplies he needs for his classes. (Oh, what a shame that not only do city teachers have to endure lower compensation for their work but also a lack of supplies!) Besides teaching and facilitating the creation of multi-dimensional art projects, Tom tries to communicate the importance of art as a clear and wonderful indicator of what life is all about. Although he assigns projects to his students, he allows for a lot of choice in the expression of their art work. (I was impressed with the artwork adorning the halls of McKinley school when I was there!)

Tom and Kim, who has a degree in special education and works in administration at an alternative education school in Collinsville, Illinois, have three kids. Emily is 14 (and she is a baby-sitter, she states), Nathan is 12 and Leah is 7. They all attend different schools as well! That's

enough to keep a family in the fast lane—being involved with 5 different schools! All three children are native "Tower Grove Heightians" as the family has been here since 1986.

Kim and Tom wanted a big house and they found one on Hartford Street in its original condition, for the most part. They rehabbed the house themselves over the years and just finished redoing the kitchen a second time around! Their house was built in 1899 and they have found some dated items as they have rehabbed: a newspaper dated 1896, the hallway mirror dated May 1900, an old address book with 5 digit phone numbers, and a 1920-30's Valentine's Day greeting card.

Tom's hobbies, in addition to rehabbing, include camping, hiking, and mountain climbing. Last summer he and his family went mountain climbing in Colorado on Long's Peak and Mount of the Holy Cross—both 14,000-footers. He also stays fit by running in TGP and playing basketball two times a week with fellow teachers at McKinley and at his church, The Holy Cross Lutheran Church. For fun he belongs to a *Stammtisch* which gathers at the Tap Room weekly.

Although he has let his membership in TGHNA lapse, he plans to renew it now that I have sparked his memory. He'll want to see what I write about him, of course!



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Midwest Chorale to play at Messiah Lutheran Church

The Midwest Chorale will present "A Celebration of Martin Luther King," January 18, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, Grand at Tower Grove Park. There will be no admission charge.

The Chorale will be joined by charismatic African American director Dello Thedford and his Gospel Symphonic Choir and Roosevelt (High School) Chamber Ensemble.

According to the Chorale's press release, "It is our desire to live out Dr. Martin Luther King's wishes for unity by joining our voices in song at a site which will encourage a diverse audience. Messiah Lutheran Church on South Grand has such a pull and credibility with all cultural populations in South St. Louis. TMC plans further community outreach with additional performances for high school students and for various community Martin Luther King celebrations."

The Midwest Chorale is now in its seventh season with its director, Mary Sutherland. This select and small ensemble offers the St. Louis region unique opportunities to hear a broad range of choral music sung with rare vocal and musical beauty. Among other varied venues, they have frequently performed at the Missouri Historical Society, the Cathedral-Basilica, and at The Sheldon. In May 2001, the Chorale performed on invitation in Kansas City, Kansas at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. They delighted audiences there and in Kansas City with Mystics and Other Creatures, with music by Britten, Tavener, Barber, Lauridsen, and Vaughan-Williams as well as the usual friendly discussion by the director. An audience-friendly approach is a hallmark of this fine choral group.

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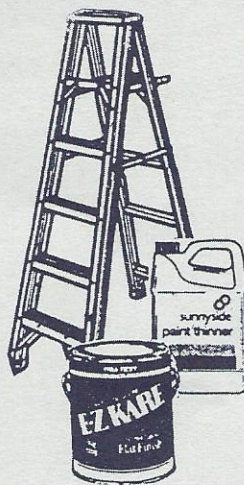
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Tower Grove Park in Winter

Several years ago, a south side man, Robert Knittel, and his dog, Herb, spent the seasons walking in Tower Grove Park. From their adventures came a walking guide to the park. The following is a short excerpt from the chapter "The Park in Winter." The book may be purchased at the Missouri Botanical Gardens gift shop.

* * *

"It's a Monday in late December and I am on the path by Roger Place and Arsenal Street in a grove of Osage orange trees, looking eastward toward the playing field, near three other Osage orange trees which are close to a bench. Those trees, along with two hackberry trees to the south of them, present a very grotesque scene to me, for some reason, this morning. Their limbs are curved, twisted in many different directions. I notice now that the limbs of the Osage orange tend to bend toward those of the hackberry, and those of the hackberry towards those of the Osage orange. It's almost as if they were beckoning together, with those crooked gnarled fingers of their limbs, for me to approach this playing field, where there are dozens of the Osage orange fruits, or monkey-brains, as the kids call them. Perhaps there is a game to be played in the Winter time that none of us knows about, and if we could somehow communicate with these venerable trees, with their playing equipment which they create from their own life sap, perhaps, we could learn a new game to play with the trees, and the fields and the fruit of the trees. As I stand here looking at them, and the playing field with its goals, I think of how we are barricaded from experiencing some of the things we might experience because of such barriers as the playing goals which put us into a particular categorical frame of mind. And we think, yes, it is a soccer game. That is what is played here now. Or maybe some touch football. So, perhaps, we shall never know the game to which the Osage orange and the hackberry trees are beckoning us, and we will live in our ignorance and miss a great deal of experience.

"As I think these thoughts I wonder about Winter thoughts. Are Winter

thoughts different than Summer thought? Or Autumn thoughts? I think they are. We think different things and feel different things in the various seasons of the year. It's one of the reasons we long for one season over the other. We feel these things, and speak these things because of the difference in the seasons.

* * *

"Two days after Christmas I am on the south side of the park, west of the traffic circle, in a little forest of trees. I notice how the shadows seem to fall softly across me as I walk by the trees, and it is a nice feeling of the sunlight and the shadows. It kind of embraces me. Makes me feel good. And that is one of the things you must learn in life, what makes you feel good, and pursue those things in some fashion, on some pattern, in order to round out your life, otherwise you'll always be feeling bad.

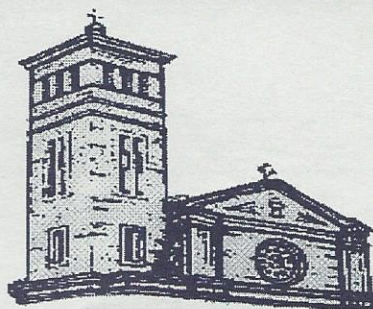
"Part of the problem, I think, we have in modern life is not simply a matter of not having enough time, but being able to

make the transitions from one mode of brain activity to another. We are in a rational, linear task and suddenly we want to move to another mood, and we walk in the park, but we don't enjoy it because we are still in the rational, linear mode. And we need little rituals to shift gears. Not just walking through the sunlight and shadows of the trees here, but thinking about that, and getting a feeling of how that sunlight and shadow feels on you, is, for me, and possibly for you, a little ritual of transition from one moment to the next. I can walk out and feel refreshed, rather than simply being in this new environment, a lovely environment, such as Tower Grove Park, and staying in my old mood which takes away from me some of the enjoyment and beauty that I should be experiencing.

* * *

From **Walking in Tower Grove Park: A Victorian Strolling Park** by Robert E. Knittel. Published by Grass-Hooper Press.

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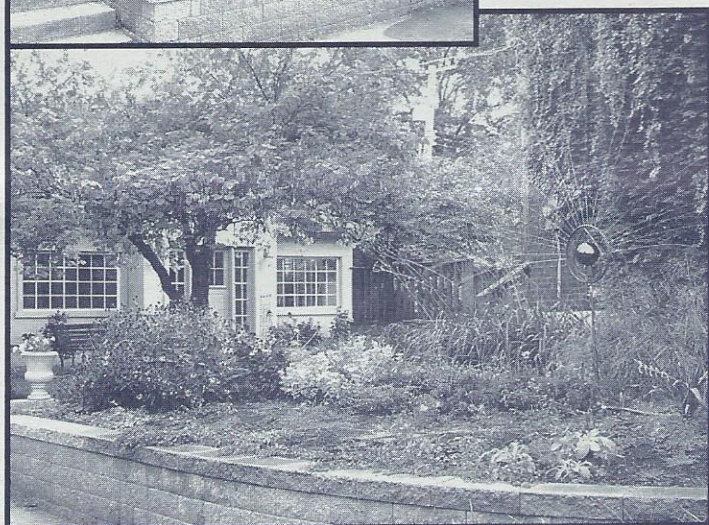
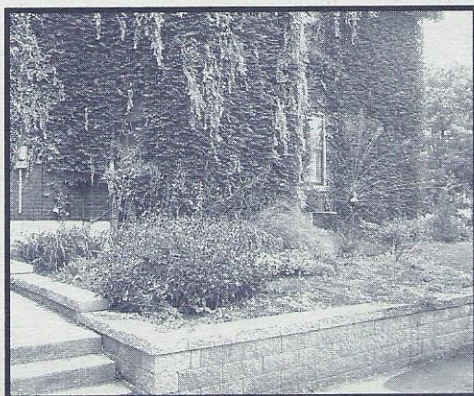
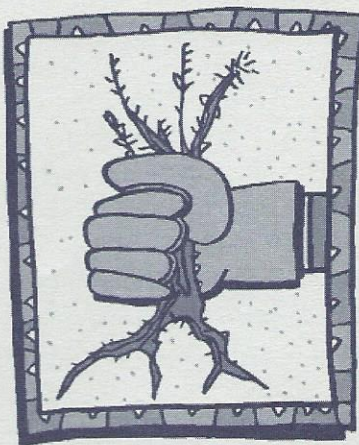
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2001 Tower Grove Heights Garden Awards

Congratulations to all the winners of the 2001 Tower Grove Heights Garden Awards! The top three winners were Tricial Heliker of the 3800 block of Hartford, Sandy and Henry Osborn of the 3800 block of Humphrey, and of the 3700 block of Arsenal. Each of these winners will receive a sign to place in their garden recognizing their award.



Tricia Heliker's garden



Sandy and Henry Osborn's garden



Suzanne and Tom Rhodenbaugh's garden

Tower Grove Heights Apartment Referral Service

By Rich Iezzi

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association offers a free referral service to landlords in the neighborhood and prospective tenants. This success-



ful service has been matching tenants with landlords for several years. To participate, landlords need to call 772-5982 to register their apartments. Jean Iezzi, the referral service coordinator, will ask several questions about the rental unit which will include name, phone, unit address, rent, deposits, size, air conditioning, garage, other amenities, etc. Upon completion of the questionnaire, Jean places the information on the list of available apartments in the neighborhood. When prospective tenants inquire about a place to live in Tower Grove Heights, the referral service tries to match the tenant to an apartment. If a match can be made, the landlord's phone number is given to the tenant and it's up to the tenant and landlord to connect. Jean Iezzi suggests that all landlords use an application to screen prospective tenants, and tenants should ask important questions of their future landlords.

Presently, there are not enough apartments in the referral system for the amount of tenants seeking apartments. If any landlords would like to participate in this free service, call 772-5982 to register.



TheCommonSpace.org

The Common Space is a 1-year old progressive, monthly, online magazine dedicated to grassroots civics and culture in St. Louis. You can find it at www.thecommonspace.org. Tower Grove Heights residents Amanda Doyle and Brian Marston are the site's co-editor and webmaster.

The content is a mixed bag, from reviews of local books to essays written by former St. Louisans; from writings by activists in the field to previews of upcoming events; toss in some media criticism, historical photography and words from kids and you have an eclectic mix of 13 original articles every month. Stories from previous issues are also archived

on the site.

The goal of The Common Space is to stimulate both conversation and action. The articles reflect the ideals of advocacy journalism, with writers allowed (and encouraged) to express a point of view.

The volunteer staff of The Common Space hopes to use the Web site as a springboard for opening a physical common space to house an archive of St. Louis publications and recordings and to serve as classrooms, performance space, an art gallery, and a shared meeting place for groups that don't have an office. They would also like to sponsor a speakers series and offer a civics program for high school students.

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GARY SCHUVER
Happy Holidays!

Tip for Year-End Tax Planning: MO\$T – (Missouri Saving for Tuition)

By Mark Berry

In late 1999, the State of Missouri passed a law creating a tuition savings plan, sometimes referred to as a Section 529 plan, which complies with Federally mandated guidelines. Anyone can participate in this plan by contacting the State of Missouri through its web-site at www.missourimost.org. The web-site is user friendly and contains all information and forms that you need to participate. Contributors may be family and friends. The contributor can designate only one beneficiary; however, there are no restrictions on age, relationship to account owner or state residency. There is a \$100,000 lifetime contribution limit, which applies to the beneficiary.

All accounts will be managed by a company affiliated with TIAA-CREF, a New York financial services organization. Several investment options are available including guaranteed low-risk and a more aggressive investment. There are no start-up fees, annual fees, or application fees; however, there is a yearly minimal account management fee assessed on net asset value.

The benefit of these plans is the tax-free status of contributions, and the earnings thereon (the earnings became tax-free only a short time ago), both of which will grow tax-free for Federal and Missouri tax purposes until a withdrawal occurs. The reason why a contribution is effective tax planning is that the contributor will be eligible for up to an \$8,000 Missouri tax deduction for eligible contributions made each year. Thus, if you know someone who has experienced an addition to their family, instead of giving the traditional baby clothes gift, think about helping to provide for the child's education, and at the same time, help yourself to a deduction from the State of Missouri. It is also a convenient gift for the holidays and does not require leaving the home.

It is important that the plan proceeds be used solely for educational purposes. If a non-education withdrawal is made, state income tax may be imposed on both the deducted contribution and any earnings thereon subject to various exceptions such as a beneficiary's death, disability, or scholarship receipt. Additionally, federal tax will apply to the earnings, which will also be subject to a 10% excise tax unless exceptions similar to those above are met.



The lily pond in Tower Grove Park

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Block in TGH boasts 100% attendance at National Night Out event

The 36-3700 block of Connecticut, normally the lowest-ranking of Tower Grove Heights's 14 blocks in categories other than litter and loud cars, stunned the neighborhood August 7 when 100 percent of its residents showed up at the annual block party.

Block captain Shelly Williams, who had hoped to attend a Cardinals game that night, scratched her plans when she was unable to maneuver her car through the crowd.

"The neighborhood association wanted me to drum up enthusiasm about the event, but, frankly, I didn't see much hope in that," said Williams. "I thought everyone, like me, would be too busy to attend. Once I decided to stay, I had a blast!"

Despite Williams's complete disregard of her organizational duties, block residents displayed their solidarity by eating, drinking and vowing to "watch each others' backs" to prevent crime.

"It was a slammin' party!" exclaimed Lucious Jackson, who drove in from Cincinnati the day of the event. "When my woman told me there was going to be a party on her block, I said, 'Damn! why didn't you tell me?' I called in sick and cruised."

"Usually we're lucky to drag 10 people out - and that's with the promise of free food" said former block captain Sandy Newman, 51. "But this year it was so packed, I was having Woodstock flashbacks."

The food contributions were impressive as well. Nary a hot dog or potato chip could be found as residents brought forth dishes such as sushi, lobster and cioppino.

Unexpectedly, a group of Hawaiians, who happened to be visiting homeowner Joe Dorfman, attended the party. To the delight of all, the Hawaiians held a traditional Lahaina Luau. They buried and cooked a 125-pound hog right in Dorfman's front yard. The hog was later enjoyed by all!



Neighborhood residents party hard on Connecticut.

Dog sets new neighborhood barking record.

A troubled German Shepherd established a new TGH neighborhood record last Sunday after boldly and relentlessly barking for 54 straight hours.

"Ollie," of the 36-3700 block of Hartford, decided to pursue the record upon realizing that his master and his family would be going out of town for the weekend.

Ollie was left for the weekend in his master's 60-square-foot back yard with five jumbo-sized bowls of dog chow and a 27-gallon bowl of drinking water.

Ollie's master had set up a hose that was to drip fresh water into the bowl throughout the weekend. During the first hour, however, Ollie, while frantically exploring his weekend surroundings, bumped the hose out of position and onto the grass.

Frustrated by his constricting environs, Ollie barked at a steady pace of 24 barks per minute from 4:07 p.m. Friday until 10:15 p.m. Sunday.



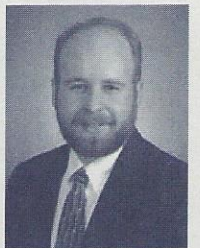
Ollie

Predictably, the barking ceased upon arrival of the master, who reported a pleasant weekend with his family.

The previous record of 39 ° hours was set in January of 1978 by Humphrey Street resident Buckshot, a now deceased rottweiler.

Mike Daus thanks 21 area voters for their non-support

State Rep. Michael Daus has reportedly identified and called 21 area voters who backed Jennifer Florida in the March 6 aldermanic primary, thanking them profusely for not supporting him.



Daus

In May, Daus was chosen by Democratic Party leaders to fill State Sen. Pat Dougherty's vacant seat — just two months after suffering a heartbreaking, 21 vote defeat to Florida.

The Gazette has confirmed that 21 voters received phone calls from an overjoyed Daus, in which he heaped his thanks and praise upon them.

"He was beside himself with joy about what would have been a crushing blow for most politicians," said Fran Jennings, of Juniata Street. "I thought it was cute, but a little bizarre."

The stories on this page use invented names, except in cases when public figures or establishments are being satirized. Any other use of real names is accidental and coincidental.

TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Monthly meetings 7:15 PM on 4th
Tuesday, First Church of Divine Science,
3617 Wyoming St.

President: Michael Renner
President Elect: Brian Marston
Past President: Cheryl Jones
Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
Asst. Secretary: Margaret Prichard
Treasurer: Jodie Heliker

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Block Representatives: Sara Langan
Fun & Fundraising: Vacant
Gazette: Matthew Fernandes
Membership: Margaret Prichard
Neighborhood Improvement & Safety:
Joe Ogier and Andrew Haberern
Telephone Inquiry Service: Jean Iezzi
Webmaster: LeAnne Lis

BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES

3600/3700 Arsenal

Dennis Fortna

3800 Arsenal

Elliott Blevins

Fredric Risover

3600/3700 Hartford

Bobbie Ohmer

Sue Stefanski

3800 Hartford

Ross Hammond

Joe Thele

3600/3700 Juniata

Jill Nissen

Robin Vannoy

3800 Juniata

Kim Cole

Lucinda McNary

3600/3700 Connecticut

Larry Handlin

3800 Connecticut

Chris & Diane Howard

David Nothmann

3600/3700 Wyoming

Janet Golitko

3800 Wyoming

Laura Stadelman

Pat Strawhun

3600/3700 Humphrey

Sue Clavin

3800 Humphrey

Erin L. O'Reilly

Cathy Vanderheyden

3600/3700 Utah Place

Mary Duggan

3800 Utah Place

Veda Lynn

Susie Gudermuth

TGHNA Holiday Card sales! See page 7!

Buy yours before we sell out!

Please remember the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association when you are making donations this year. 100% of your donation to TGHNA is tax deductible and the money will be used to improve the neighborhood. If you would like to donate, send a check made out to "TGHNA" to Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, 3735 Connecticut St., St. Louis, MO, 63116 or call Michael Renner at 773-2527.

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, January 22 and Tuesday, February 26
First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming St.

Tower Grove Heights Needs You!

If you have not been mailed a copy of this Gazette, you are not a member. Join today and you will be mailed *all 6 issues* of the Gazette. Membership dues raise more funds for the neighborhood than any other activity. Please show your support for your association and your neighborhood by joining today!

Memberships are as follows, please check ONE:

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Please check ONE:

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