

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

GRAND TO GUSTINE

ARSENAL TO UTAH PLACE

Volume 25, No. 3

Autumn 2014

AUTUMN FEST in the Heights 2014

BY MARILYN BROWNING On Saturday, October 11th, 2014, Tower Grove Heights will once again celebrate fall color and cooler weather with Autumn Fest in the Heights. This year three neighborhood locations will host the event which runs from 5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m., with the final site continuing until who knows when! A horse-drawn carriage from Saint Louis Carriage Company will be available for free rides to all the sites, so take advantage of this pleasant and slow-paced way to enjoy our neighborhood the way Tower Grove Heights residents did when its houses were first built.

Marilyn and Wes Browning of 3831 Juniata Street will once again open their home and backyard as the first stop of the celebration. Register at the door or pick up your pre-registered name badge that will serve as your ticket to all three sites. Once inside the door, a vast selection of appetizers donated by Saint Louis restaurants will be yours for the tasting. Many South Grand restaurants, as well as two big favorites—Chimichanga Mexican Restaurant and Hodak's, will be donating delicious and mouth-watering food. A selection of beers and wines, as well as soft drinks for the kids, will be out back to accompany your food.

Kara and David Bailey of 3735 Hartford will be the hosts of our dessert and coffee site this year. David is the mastermind behind Rooster and several other great STL restaurants. If you're a regular Feast Magazine reader, you may have seen Kara and David's kitchen featured in the May 2011 issue. If not, here's your chance to see the fabulous job they did! Our primary baker of divine desserts will once again be Pat Edwards. She has agreed to provide her usual vast assortment of sweets, designed to tickle the taste buds of those smart enough to save room for dessert. Expertly roasted and brewed coffee (both regular and decaf) from Hartford Coffee Company will again be donated to accompany those tasty treats.

A stroll or horse-drawn carriage ride will bring you to Metra Mitchell and Nick Taylor's house at 3883 Hartford, the third stop for those that aren't ready to call it a night. Metra and Nick were our third stop last year as well, and were still in the throes of renovating their home at that time. This year party-goers will have a chance to see the completed remodel, which should be well worth the wait. Wine, beer, snacks, and whatever else Metra has dreamed up will be available to keep the atmosphere festive. Stop by with friends—both old and new—to experience a great end to a lovely night.

Thanks to generous donations, registration for Autumn Fest is once again available for \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door for you procrastinators. Paper-lovers can check out the registration form on the back of the Gazette or pick up a flyer with the registration form and information

at the corner of Spring and North Utah by the big Autumn Fest banner. New this year, online fans can go to www.towergroveheights.com and click on Neighborhood Happenings to register and pay using our PayPal system.

Please remember that all are welcome, whether you live in the neighborhood or not. Don't miss this opportunity to meet new friends, sample great food and beverages, and enjoy a fun and relaxing evening in three of the houses of Saint Louis's best neighborhood!

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The Gazette is a non-profit publication published quarterly by the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. For information concerning advertising rates and layout planning call Susan Newsham at

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ORIGINAL OCCUPANTS

I never pictured myself as one who could become obsessed with – or even all that interested in – genealogy. But with this past winter's severity and limitations on outdoor activities, I found both internet and library family history research pleasant ways to pass some time out of the cold.

My family has St. Louis roots on both sides going back to the mid-1800s, so I have found substantial data of personal interest. What I have discovered is a network of trails meandering backwards through time that overlaps events, people and places (many in South St. Louis) that pique my curiosity about my family's past and local history in general. Some of these trails touch our own Tower Grove Heights neighborhood. In terms of family history, I've been pleasantly surprised to learn that I have ancestors who lived here around the time of WWII, in the 3900 and 4000 block of Hartford. An elderly cousin who is the inspiration for much of my current research grew up in a house that still stands on Texas Avenue at Utah. Going back to the time of the civil war, her great-grandfather was a cigar maker living just northeast of our neighborhood on Magnolia (called "Rappahannock" at that time).

Another find of interest to a wider audience relates to Tower Grove Park and golf. The northwest corner of the park was among St. Louis's first golf courses, a small (4-, then 6-, and finally, a 9-hole) track called "Carondelet Park Links" that flourished between 1898 and 1905. It was organized by and for women, because they had difficulty getting tee times at other area courses. Gould's Blue Book (an early city directory), with its membership listings of local clubs, is responsible for that discovery.

What might be of interest to all Gazette readers is that some editions of Gould's Blue Book have listings of St. Louisans not just by the common categories of surname or business, but by street address. When I first stumbled upon this type of listing, I was perplexed by the format. Once I realized the numbers and names are categorized by street, I felt I had hit a local history mother lode! For the years coinciding with the early development of the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood, one has access to the family names of nearly every resident.

BY
**TIMOTHY
BARKER**



Naturally, my first priority was to find the original owners of my house in the 3800 block of Juniata. Though families are listed in 1907 at all my neighbors' addresses, no listing exists for ours. Perhaps it was the last home built or purchased on the block? (Given more time, I'll try to confirm in the deed books at City Hall). My disappointment at this absence only lasted until I was able to find the directory for 1913. There, on page 514 I saw it:

"3818 Mr. and Mrs. C. Werner"

Once I had the name, my monthly subscription to Ancestry.com and a lot of legwork helped me fill in many details. Cuno and Adelia Werner were German, second-generation immigrants. The young couple had a house at 2016 Hebert at the time of the World's Fair, upgrading to the brand new, 2-1/2 story single-family south of Tower Grove Park in late 1907/early 1908. Cuno's father, also named Cuno, was an architect who practiced in Wurttemberg, Germany and in New Orleans. The original owner of my house grew up in the 3300 block of 7th Street and began as an apprentice tinsmith. Most of his working life was spent on Washington Avenue as a dry goods salesman. I can picture him catching the Tower Grove Line streetcar workday mornings at Arsenal and Spring, riding to Pine and what is now Tucker, and walking the remaining four blocks north to Carleton Dry Goods.

Cuno and Adelia raised three boys in "our" house and apparently cared for her brother, Robert, whom I speculate was disabled.

Prior to 1930, the Werners sold the Juniata house and moved to a smaller, single-story in the 5200 block of Tennessee. I'm sure their neighbors on Juniata missed them when they moved, but shortly grew accustomed to the next family who moved in, to raise yet another generation. Ours is, I believe, the sixth such family at this address. Like the Werners and all who have gone before us, we're very happy and proud to live in such a fine neighborhood. My research makes me feel I know a little more about the history of our home and city, though I recognize I know only outlines of the Werners' lives. I wish I could have met Cuno and Adelia, to share stories about raising families in this place. One thing I know for certain: They had good taste in residential architecture!

Cuno and Adelia Werner standing in front of what is likely 3818 Juniata, ca. 1920



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Prize Money Awarded

By Tricia Heliker, Membership Secretary

With the theme, *"Every member makes a difference,"* the board of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association initiated a contest to spur membership in the association. A purse of \$150 was offered to the street with the most members on July 31, 2014. The money was to be divided equally between the 3600-3700 and 3800 block that street, and could be spent on anything that would benefit the street as a whole. Hartford rallied during the last week of July to bring their count to 39 members—surpassing Utah by four members—and ran away with the prize. Juniata came in third with 26 members. Next in line was Humphrey with 20, Wyoming with 16, Connecticut with 12 and Arsenal with four. Congratulations Hartfordites—it's time to start planning how to spend your winnings!

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
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Message from the President



Oh Yeah, Which Neighborhood?

When I meet new people I normally hit them with a barrage of questions in an attempt to find some common ground. This conversation certainly includes the St. Louis tradition, “What high school did you go to?” Since my high school days are drifting further and further into the distance, often times the question that transitions into a more interesting discussion – Where do you live?

More and more I am meeting people that respond “South City” with a sense of pride. This answer is always followed by, “Oh yeah, which neighborhood?”

Last time I was asked by a south city resident which neighborhood I live in, my response was surprisingly followed by... “So you guys do that beer wagon thing right?” I was ecstatic. You’ve heard of the beer wagon!?

So where am I going with this?

Building relationships with people from other neighborhoods is important. We can learn from them, they may be able to learn from us, and we can help each other. These relationships not only make for great discussion but are important for the St. Louis region as whole.

So let’s work on this. You may have heard our most recent Heights Nights at Tower Grove Creamery included an invite to our friends in Tower Grove East. This was a great opportunity to meet some new friends on the other side of South Grand. At our last Heights Nights of 2014 we are inviting our friends from Grand/Oak Hill with whom we share Tower Grove South. It will take place at Civil Life Brewery on September 9th. Nobody is ever excluded from our events, so invite your friends. No matter where they are from.

Lastly, we will have a great opportunity to work with adjacent or nearby neighborhoods at the South Grand Fall Festival on September 20th. So come up meet some new people and make sure you ask...

“Which neighborhood?”

Mike Newsham

president@towergroveheights.com



The Secret of the Beer Wagon

- Rich lezzi

Metra Taylor-Mitchell has a great article in this issue about our Tower Grove Height’s Stoop Night Thursday with accompanying shots of the famous beer wagon. But she didn’t reveal its secret.

I always thought the purpose of the beer wagon was to haul beer. It does carry beer but it also enables the stoop night celebration to become mobile. As Metra mentioned, the beer wagon with its little flag sails through our Tower Grove Heights streets looking for jumpin’ stoops. When a hot stoop is discovered, its location is revealed via our social media so the beer wagon entourage can swarm the site. That’s when the magic happens. Names are exchanged with the new stoopers, neighborhood issues are discussed and contacts are made.

I witnessed firsthand what happens when a newcomer gets within the gravitational pull of the stoop group as I watched my 22-year old neighbor approach the wagon. She simply vanished into the mix. The beer wagon/stoop group people are like a neighborhood black hole—people go into the group but they don’t come out.

I accused President Mike Newsham of using the beer wagon to cull energetic, talented people from their porches to join the pool of energetic, talented people that are Tower Grove Heights. He didn’t deny it. It’s such a great secret that we might not want to let it out. Oops, guess I just did. ###



FTF IN TGP



BY TRICIA HELIKER Tower Grove Heights is just one of several neighborhoods that has the good fortune to border the four-mile perimeter of Tower Grove Park. The multiple opportunities to enjoy the amenities of this park are an integral part of the lives of the residents of these neighborhoods. Jogging, biking, bird watching, or just walking the dog brings many to the park on a regular basis. Other times it might be the draw of the Farmer's Market, the tennis courts, the wading pond, or the yoga sessions. Softball, soccer games and seasonal events like the free Concert Series attract crowds as well. But there is one event that draws huge crowds one evening a month from May through October.

Food Truck Friday reported crowds of 20,000 during the 2013 season. For anyone who loves to 'people watch' while listening to great live music in a relaxed atmosphere, this is the place to be. The crowds arrive before the scheduled 4 pm start time to plant their umbrella chairs and smooth out their blankets for a delightful evening of great food and lively conversation. Kids, dogs, and all ages mingle in a way that shouldn't work, but does. The accoutrements for this event are as varied as those in attendance. There are those who bring their own folding tables, chairs, tablecloths, and coolers and others who are just as happy to find a shady spot on the grass to enjoy a beer and their food of choice.

And choices do abound. Twenty-something food trucks are stretched front to back along the southwest drive of the park, and helpers are dishing up delectable servings non-stop for four hours straight. The lines might get a little long at the prime dinner hour but no one seems bothered by the wait.

It's all part of the ambiance of just hanging with the crowd, letting the music relax you from your work week, and anticipating that first bite of savory Seoul Taco or BBQ pulled pork from Smokin' Monkey.

I attended in July to do a little firsthand research for this article, and indulge in a salted caramel rum cupcake from The Sweet Divine. I conducted a brief survey to find out what neighborhoods were represented. Imagine my surprise when the first group I asked reported being from Wildwood. My eyes grew a little wider when the next two people said Alton and O'Fallon, IL. From there it went to: Hillsboro, South County, Fenton, Affton, Texas, House Springs, and Granite City—I am not making this up! I was so astounded that I had to keep asking until someone said Shaw or Tower Grove East. It didn't happen. I chose two women walking towards me as the final responders to my query. Woman #1 had driven from St. James to Lambert where she picked up her friend who had flown in from Minnesota. They chose this event because, as woman #2 put it, "We have all kinds of festivals where I'm from, but we don't have Food Trucks."

So next time you take a youngster to watch the ducks in the pond, pick up your fresh produce at the Farmer's Market, or stretch out on the grass to listen to a live band, just remember, this is not everyone's normal. Remind yourself that having this little jewel of a park in your backyard is a valuable asset. There are others who are willing to come a long way to enjoy what is walking distance for us.



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Back in the Day

- Ellen Wilson

Several neighbors have brought up the idea of sharing stories about our neighborhood's past. The Tower Grove area has been through many changes over the years and some of the current residents have lived here long enough to have experienced them first-hand. This column will highlight some of the fun, funny, crazy, and/or strange things that have happened here over the years. If you have suggestions for future topics, please send in your ideas!

On May 29, 1985 a fire broke out in the three-story building on the southeast corner of Grand and Juniata, currently the location of the parking lot next to Jay's International. The building that burned down was the old Tower Grove Turnverein building, a St. Louis landmark. It was a German "Turner's Hall" and was subsequently re-established at a new location on Gravois. (For information on turnvereins, see "The Glories of Germanhood: A History of the Turnverein in St. Louis: Chapter Two" by Andrew Wanko.)



Demolition begins today for building that burned

Neighbors feared wall would collapse

Ruth Brooks has lived in or very near Tower Grove her entire life and both she and her husband, Bruce, remember the fire well. The Brookses, as well as most of the other neighbors, came out to watch the fire and remained watchful all night, fearing that it would spread to their own houses down the block.

Demolition of the old Tower Grove Turn Verein building at 3160 S. Grand Blvd., a roofless, empty shell since fire gutted it on May 29, is scheduled to begin Monday, according to its owner.

Kevin Long of West St. Louis County pleaded not guilty last week to a charge of failure to repair or tear down a condemned building. City Judge Bernard Edwards set a trial for Oct. 31.

Prior to entering the not guilty plea, Long told The Globe-Democrat he has signed a demolition contract for removal of what remains of the old three-story brick structure. Residents of the area and owners of nearby businesses on South Grand had been concerned that one of the walls, left virtually unsupported, might fall and hurt someone.

LONG SAID HE had no definite plans for selling or redeveloping the lot, which is at the corner of Grand and Juniata Avenue.

City Building Commissioner Martin Walsh took Long to city court over his failure to repair or tear

down the building, which was condemned immediately after the fire.

The former German "Turner's hall" has been a South Side landmark for several decades. Beginning about 1920 and until the end of World War II, the building had an indoor swimming pool that drew people from both the city and the county.

WHEN IT BURNED, it housed a bowling alley, a delicatessen-pizza shop, and a restaurant and bar. The swimming pool was not being used.

"Once the building is down, that's a good piece of property for someone," 9th Ward Alderman Martie Aboussie said.

Aboussie repeated his determination that the property would not be used for a fast-food restaurant.

If anyone tried to use it for that, he said, "I won't go along with it," even if zoning laws would permit it. He said he would fight such a use through action by the Board of Aldermen if necessary.

At the time of the fire, the building had retail shops on the ground floor including a pizza shop, restaurant, and a bar. Upstairs was a bowling alley and an indoor swimming pool. Apparently, the linseed oil used on the bowling alleys made the fire burn especially

continued on page 15





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Our Grand Rachel - Rich Iezzi

Anyone who's been on South Grand knows there's a lot happening on the street. The last time Rachel Witt, South Grand Executive Director, spoke at our neighborhood meeting it took almost ten minutes for her to bring us up to speed.

Rachel is enthusiastic about the South Grand Business District because all the hard work done over the years by various neighborhoods and by Rachel herself is paying off. When I spoke with her recently, she emphasized neighborhood involvement. "Nothing on Grand happens in a vacuum," she explained and gives full credit to the surrounding neighborhoods working together. "I love attending the neighborhood meetings and seeing the collaboration that occurs between them," she adds.

Tower Grove Heights residents sometimes forget that Tower Grove East, Compton Heights, Compton Hill and Shaw also have an interest in "our" South Grand. Rachel mentioned the "tweet up" nights as an example of how the surrounding neighborhoods are starting to communicate with each other. She also encourages the piggy-backing that occurs when neighborhoods emulate each other's ideas. Our "Stoop Night Thursday" has become a Sunday night "Stoop and Stroll" in Tower Grove East.

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A WALK IN THE PARK

When Rachel began working on South Grand eight years ago, she felt its image was a problem. "It's what you see when you get out of your car," she explained. That included infrastructure in need of repair, dirty windows and unattractive businesses. To make positive changes, she went door to door like a block captain to find out the needs of the businesses. "You don't come here and make changes without hearing what the businesses want," she said.

When asked about the impact of the new pocket park, "Ritz Park" and Rooster South Grand, Rachel used Lulu's Local Eatery as an analogy. "Lulu's takes up a small space but they have a large following. The people who have followed Lulu's to Grand have eaten and shopped in other Grand locations, the same way people will do when they come here for Rooster and the pocket park."

But it could be bigger than that. Not only does Rachel feel that Rooster will encourage people to shop on South Grand but also move into the area. Explaining further, Rachel thinks that other developers and entrepreneurs will look at the South Grand Business District in a whole new light after the multi-million dollar investment of Rooster. "The 63116 zip code contains more people than any other zip code in the City and I think that Rooster will also give exposure to other developers in South St. Louis," contends Rachel. She feels the impact could even affect the Morgan Ford area in a positive way.

When asked about the old Post Office building on Hartford just west of Grand, Rachel said that the property is being renovated into condos upstairs with incubator space downstairs for businesses to rent. "Just having the building renovated is exciting," adds Rachel and stresses that additional office workers can only help the restaurants on South Grand.



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With all the work done on South Grand, there's still plenty to do. A lot of things were put in place and now they have to be maintained. The pesky irrigation system—known, not-so-affectionately as the "irritation" system—has to work to prevent plants from dying and trash still has to be picked up.

Rachel told me she still has time for fun and enjoys ultimate Frisbee, craft beer and running. Actually, I think she walks South Grand for fun. I've never been there without seeing her.

- Rich Iezzi

Stoop-Endous Nights

- - - Metra Mitchell-Taylor - - -

It is no secret – in Tower Grove Heights we adore our urban architecture and with its history, there is always a story to tell. One of the most inviting features of a historic home is the portico, or as we like to casually refer to it, *the stoop*. Stoops come in all shapes and sizes.

Some include triangular pediments supported by wooden columns with neoclassical motifs; solid St. Louis-style brick defines some; and others have graceful iron-wrought designs. When you approach the steps leading to the doorways of homes in Tower Grove Heights, the high entrance stairways gives these historic houses a true sense of grandeur.

Stoops have served many different functions: projected outward into the great theater of the street, these elevated platforms were ideal for observation, courting, a chat, or gossip, states Mario Maffi in *New York City: An Outsider's Inside View*. Our early neighborhood thus assumed an identity, and for over a century later, still retains and charmingly so, a history beckoning you in from the street.

“Traditionally, in North American cities, the stoop served an important function as a spot for brief, incidental social encounters. Homemakers, children, and other household members would sit on the stoop outside their home to relax and greet neighbors passing by. Similarly, while on an errand, one might stop and converse with neighbors sitting on their stoops. Within an urban community, stoop conversations helped to disseminate gossip and reaffirm casual relationships. Many times, it was the place where children could congregate to play games” according to Wikipedia.

In *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, author Jane Jacobs includes the stoop as part of her model of the self-regulating urban street. “By providing a constant human presence watching the street, institutions such as stoops may prevent street crime, without intervention from authority figures. In addition, they motivate better street maintenance and beautification, by giving it social as well as utilitarian value.”

Stoops reflect our own perception of the rhythms of the city—of its ever-changing, fast-paced nature. They provide a great outlet for creativity when it comes to entertaining—that’s why some of the imaginative members of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association decided to kick-off *Stoop Night* every Thursday evening in the summer.

My husband, Nick, and I had the most eventful evening walking back from dinner on South Grand during the first *Stoop Night* kick-off—beginning with Steven and Mimi Haag who invited us up to their stoop while other neighbors snapped pictures and offered us



The first embarkation of the Stoop Night beer wagon #wheresthewagon. Photos by Kelly Stout



Chardonnay. Later, we were welcomed beyond the stoop and into their home. We learned that Steve and Mimi have been host-home parents to Japanese exchange students and I discovered Steve’s love of Navajo rugs as he introduced me to their beautiful artwork.

After we left their house, we ran into an old friend of Nick’s whom he had not seen in 20 years—it’s amazing they even recognized each other in the dark of night! Once we arrived back on our stoop, we noticed our next-door neighbor’s son, Cullen Gerber, hanging out on his stoop with his friend. Despite our exhaustion from all the previous activity, we decided to make this first *Stoop Night* the night that would never end. It was our first time really getting to know Cullen, his interests, and his charming wit. We found out that we were his favorite neighbors that night. The clock struck midnight and stooping came to an end.

continued on page 10

Greetings from
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LIGHT UP THE HEIGHTS

BY RICH IEZZI



Hartford may have won the membership contest but the 3800 block of Utah Place is the undisputed winner of the 'Heights porch light contest. At least 85% of their porch lights are lit.

Porch lights do more than just illuminate the front of your house. Many prospective buyers and renters drive neighborhoods at night and find that porch lights soften up otherwise darkened streets and show that residents care about night time curb appeal. Without porch lights, many sidewalks would be completely dark because the canopy from our trees blocks out street light illumination.

Keeping your porch light on cost almost nothing. A 60 watt CFL bulb that's left on 24/7 for an entire month costs just \$.96 (96 cents!).

The next time you're fumbling in the dark with your front door key, promise you'll flip that porch light on and keep it on to light up the 'Heights.



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Stoop-Endous Nights

continued from page 9

The following week we hosted *Stoop Night* at our portico. We pulled out our stoop furniture and invited our dear friends Emma Obata and Claire Cole to join us for some summertime beverages and hors d'oeuvres. We drenched ourselves in bug spray and lit some citronella candles. Lighting candles proved to be a good idea for *Stoop Night* as they repel bugs but attract neighbors—the Gerbers to be exact—who were coming home from a date night. As darkness fell, we noticed a few weaver spiders spinning webs to catch their nighttime meals. Fireflies were out in full force, providing a wonderful, nostalgic backdrop to a casual evening with friends.

It didn't take long to realize that it would be difficult to decide whose stoop party to visit each week. It was apparent that stooping needed to become mobile. The idea of a *Stoop Party* on wheels aka the Beer Wagon evolved at one of the local Heights Nights events. TGHNA President Mike Newsham, partner Susie Newsham, and Kelly Stout of the Communications Committee suggested #wheresthewagon could be used on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram so neighbors could request a wagon stop from the stoop in-transit. Within 48 hours, I designed the TGHNA #wheresthewagon flag, which we attached to a Radio Flyer wagon to promote the event.

Despite all the effort in organizing the event, fortune was not on our side as it began to rain at the onset of that evening's stooping—but we weren't going to let it rain on our parade! We met at the corner of Hartford and Spring with umbrellas in hand, commandeered Tricia Heliker's stoop and chatted until the rain subsided. More people showed up and we sailed down Hartford.

Our first stop was the home of Jennifer Florida and Stephen Gregali, who was so excited he called his friends to join the fun. One neighbor requested that we stop by since it was his birthday and other neighbors requested a stop just so they might donate beverages to the wagon. We decided to get a little fancy and play music as we promenaded the wagon down South Grand.

The first embarkation was a phenomenal success—the wagon never slowed down. Absolute proof that around here we don't *stoop low*, we *stoop to conquer* because Tower Grove Heights is *stoop-endous!* ###



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IT'S A SIGN OF A STRONG NEIGHBORHOOD

- TRISH
HELIKER

Black and white street signs customized with our logo debuted mid-July in the Heights. It all started with an idea Rich Iezzi shared with Tricia Heliker in early April. The words, "Wouldn't it be cool if..." were no sooner uttered than they became a mission statement.

Immediately Rich and Trish dove into exploring the possibility of new signs for the intersections. The research involved driving the city looking for signs that were other than the norm—very few, as it turns out. Next came exploring *Pinterest* for examples and scrolling through hundreds of fonts until "Chocolate Box" jumped off the screen. With a "thumbs-up" on font, they knew the next step was to meet with Rich's contact at A-1 Sign. A-1 provided all the specifics on reflective qualities, gauge of aluminum, and a life-sized laminated sample.

Following approval by the board of TGHNA on June 5, President Mike Newsham initiated an email that produced a street department contact. Armed with a copy of "Manual for United Traffic Control Devices," the regulations were scoured to make sure the design was within the parameters laid out in the latest update. Next, a meeting was arranged with the street department contact to gain approval. After a 30-minute meeting, Rich and Tricia were high fivin' each other in the parking lot. They had expected some push back and they got "Go for it!" Now it was time to talk money.

Initially, the plan was to seek funding for Spring Avenue with the hope that once those signs were in place, the idea would pick up steam and there would *maybe, hopefully, possibly*, be enough to do Gustine Avenue. It is hard to describe the fantastic response to the request for donations. The enthusiasm, generosity, and excitement generated by this request was absolutely mind blowing. In one week there was enough funding for signs on Spring, and contributions were still coming. In a blink it was evident that the signs for Gustine were covered. Even before the second order could be placed, it was clear that the funding was available for the large overhead signs at Spring and Arsenal. At \$73.90 each for the 31 small signs and \$162 each for the two large ones, the total needed was \$2615, and in less than two weeks—thanks to the generosity of the following residents—it was there!



Anonymous
Tim & Debbie Allen
Robert & Pauline Ashton
Chris Bronson
Carolyn & Chris Campbell
Susan & Gary Davis
Debra Knox Deiermann & Barbara Gilchrist
Dayna Evans
Gustine Market
Mimi & Steve Haag
Elaine & Peter Haynes
Tricia Heliker
Kay Hildenbrand
Andy Holman
Rich & Jean Iezzi
Gary Kushinski & Mark Froese
Justin & Sherry LeBlanc
Ray Marklin
Todd Martin
Nick & Metra Mitchell
Dan & Rowena Morgan
Mike & Susie Newsham
Rob & Beth Phillips
Ben Reagan
Rich & Claudia Siefert
Laura Stadelman
Rich Stein
Zach & Kelly Stout
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**Tower
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Urban living
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The British are Here and They've Brought Tea!

by Debra Knox Deiermann



If you've shopped at Local Harvest Grocery or eaten at Three Monkeys recently, you may have noticed there's a new business on the corner of Morgan Ford and Hartford: The London Tea Room.

Located in the old Hyde Park Beer building, The London Tea Room is a retail tea shop and event space as well as a charming tea room that has a coffered ceiling, exposed brick walls, and black and white accents that are echoed in the Carrera marble-topped bistro-style tables. A large wall of black shelves holds shiny silver canisters of teas and stylish black and white umbrellas shade outside tables.

Jackie James, her sister, and parents, Alan and Pat Richardson, opened the first incarnation of the tea room in 2007 in downtown St. Louis as a place for customers of their now-shuttered furniture store, English Living, to enjoy an authentic British spot of tea. Because they needed a larger space to accommodate events such as tea education classes, Afternoon Teas, bridal showers and other private parties, they sought a new location. Renovations on the building at 3128 Morgan Ford were already well under way and when they saw it, they proclaimed it "ideal" for their vision and a short time later, made the eagerly anticipated move to the Tower Grove neighborhood.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 22, 15th Ward Alderperson, Jennifer Florida, commented to the capacity crowd on how far the place had come since the days when the space was occupied by the old Mugs and Jugs bar!

The London Tea Room presently sells over 80 varieties of high quality loose-leaf teas, many organic and free trade including black, green, white, pu-reh, oolong, rooibos, herbal and house blends such as "The London Tea Room Blend," made from high-grade, single-estate black teas, and their best-selling "Naughty Vicar," a combination of black tea, blackcurrants and vanilla. Most of their teas are delightful either hot or iced and if tea is just not your "cuppa," they also serve coffee.

continued on page 14

THE LONDON TEA ROOM



High Quality Loose Leaf Teas | Huge Range of Teas & Fabulous English Pastries | London Eats
Enjoy afternoon tea in our lovely Hyde Park Room

Reservations for Group Bookings: 314-241-6556 or info@thelondontearoom.com
WWW.THELONDONTEAROOM.COM 3128 MORGANFORD, ST. LOUIS MO 63116

The British are Here and They've Brought Tea! *continued from the previous page*



"Tea is our mantra—it's who we are" says Jackie. Her goal is to have people think of The London Tea Room not as a restaurant—a common misconception when they were downtown—but as a comfortable place to relax and escape while enjoying a perfectly-steeped cup of tea.

After you choose your selection from their comprehensive menu at the counter, they bring it to your table in an attractive, gracefully-shaped white china tea service. You'll be entertained by the sounds of Harry Connick, Jr.'s big band recordings or the jazzy stylings of Ella or Billie. One recent afternoon, live music provided a pleasant backdrop.

Almost all of their food items are made in-house and include delectable pastries and confections, creamy tomato soup, savory meat or vegetarian quiches, filled croissants, Cornish pasties (a puff pastry with root vegetables and beef), but be prepared—it's not easy to pass up the offer of clotted cream or jam on a warm scone.



The staff is very friendly, knowledgeable and passionate about tea. I brought in an old favorite with an ambiguous name and one of the helpful staff members, James, a red-haired young man with just a trace of an Irish accent, was able to identify it as a black tea with notes of vanilla and caramel. At a recent tea education class I learned about the many health benefits of different varieties and sampled some teas that are not only delicious but contain significant amounts of antioxidants and anti-inflammatory/antiviral flavonoids. Other classes are "Tea Rarities" and "Tea 101." Full disclosure: I signed up for both on the spot!

Want to know the secret to brewing the consummate cup of tea? Correct water temperature and steep times. The London Tea Room sells electric kettles and other tea-related items so you can make a proper cup at home. Did you know that many teas can be successfully re-steeped?

Hours are posted as 9 am - 5 pm every day, however, back in early spring - the day before an expected snow storm - a sign taped on the door stated, "We will be closed tomorrow due to the weather. We don't like snow and that's why we let you win the Revolution." The British and their sense of humor are alive and well in our neighborhood!

The London Tea Room
3128 Morgan Ford 63116
314-241-6556
www.thelondontearoom.com

You can follow The London Tea Room on Facebook and Twitter.

St. John's Episcopal Church Welcomes You!

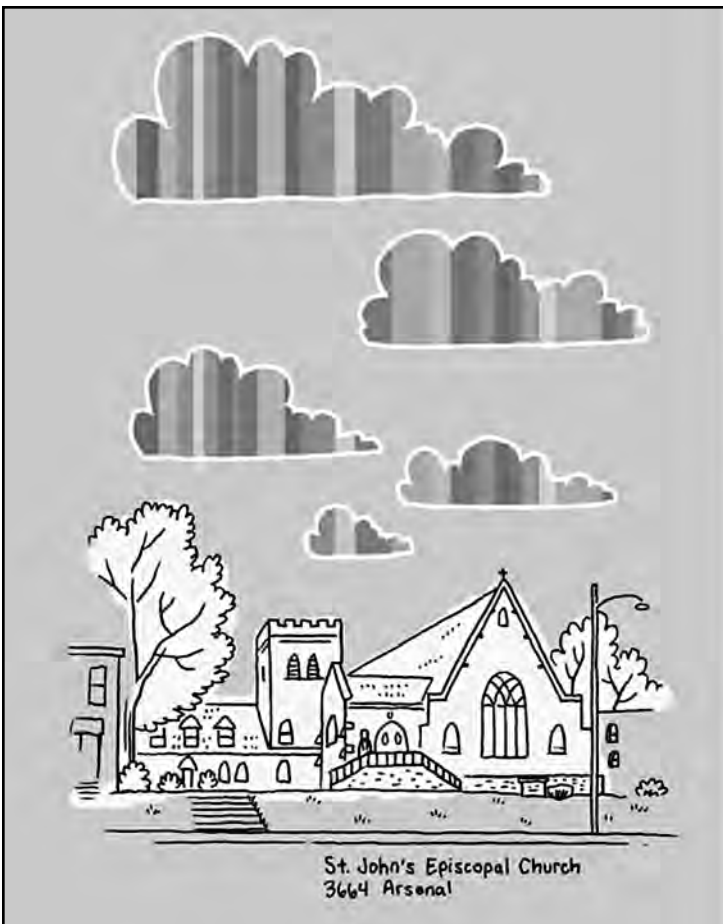
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Adult Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
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at 10:30 a.m. in our New Classrooms
Sunday Communion Services at
10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

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Back in the Day - continued

efficiently and the flames shot 20-30 feet in the air, according to witnesses. Flames and sparks were flying all over the other buildings and those watching were afraid that the fire would spread. No one got much sleep that night.

Current residents Dave and Sara Langan were also there that night and they got out the garden hose, ready to douse any sparks that flew too close. Dave recalls neighbors standing outside watching the fire until the sun came up the next morning. Because of the size and intensity of the blaze, multiple alarms were struck, and there was a lot of fire equipment on the scene. Fire trucks with their hoses connected to all the nearby fire hydrants blocked Grand Boulevard and Juniata Street. Anyone with a parked vehicle down the block was "fire truck and fire hose bound" until late the next morning.

No explanation of what caused the fire was given in the *Globe-Democrat* newspaper article about it, but the building was a total loss and after months of stalling, it was eventually torn down. Then-Alderman, Martie Aboussie, is quoted as saying that the location would be "a good piece of property for someone." I think he was right about that. He also adamantly opposed the space being used for a fast-food restaurant. And for that I thank him.

This happened long before I moved to the neighborhood in 2001, but I wish the bowling alley and swimming pool were still here. We are sorely lacking a local pool and to have one at the end of the street would be fantastic.

Thanks to Ruth and Bruce Brooks who saved the *Globe-Democrat* clipping about this event and provided the picture and to Dave and Sara Langan for other details.

If you have a story about the neighborhood from "back in the day" I would love to hear from you! Contact me at efwilson6@hotmail.com or call 314-221-8418 with your ideas.

REAL ESTATE NEWS for Tower Grove Heights

- It is now a seller's market.
Good time to get your home up for sale
- Property values are on the rise
and so are mortgage rates

*Send me a real estate question and answer
may appear in the next issue of the Gazette.*

DeborahErvin@att.net

MpKaBe's

coffee house

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ST. LOUIS, MO 63116
314-865-2009

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BRUNCH • SUNDAY 9 AM

2014 Single Family Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights

**April 11 –
August 11
2014**


Sold Date	Address	Price	Bedrooms	Bath Full/Half	Sq Ft	Type
4/11/2014	3822 Hartford	\$162,500	5	1,1	1850	Single
4/14/2014	3728 Humphrey	\$142,000	6	1,1	2000	Single
4/15/2014	3708 Juniata	\$340,500	4	2,2	2142	Single
4/17/2014	3722 Juniata	\$215,000	4	1,1	1670	Single
4/24/2014	3838 Humphrey	\$168,000	4	1,1	1756	Single
5/09/2014	3822 Wyoming	\$216,500	4	2,0	2730	Single
4/30/2014	3705 Wyoming	\$150,000	0	0,0	2804	2 Family

Please note: There are five pending sales in the neighborhood, four of which are on Hartford, that have not closed yet. They will be included in the next Gazette.

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WILD BROTHERS REALTY



Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

PRESENTS

AUTUMN FEST in the Heights

SATURDAY
October 11th, 2014
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Event begins at:
3831 Juniata Street

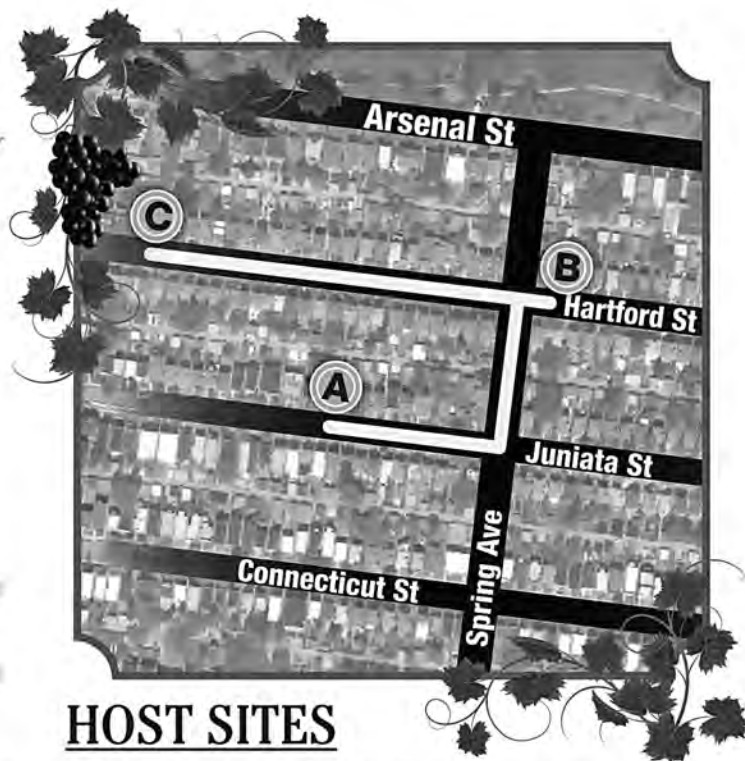
REGISTRATION

IN ADVANCE: \$15⁰⁰

AT THE DOOR: \$20⁰⁰

PRICE INCLUDES

- Carriage Rides
- Appetizers
- Desserts & Coffee
- Wine Tasting
- Soft Drinks & Beer



HOST SITES

- A 3831 Juniata St.** - Registration, wine tasting, beer, soft drinks & appetizers from 5:00-8:00pm
- B 3734 Hartford St.** - Desserts & coffee from 5:00-8:00pm
- C 3883 Hartford St.** - Party to continue the conversation with new & old friends 8:00-10:00pm

IN ADVANCE: \$15.00 - Use the form below or go to www.towergroveheights.com and click on Neighborhood Happenings to register. (Pick up your pre-registered nametags the night of the event at 3831 Juniata Street.)

AT THE DOOR: \$20.00 (Registration closes at 7:30pm)

Autumn Fest in the Heights 2014 **ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Names in your party...\$15.00 each

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Please make your check payable to:
Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

Total amount enclosed: _____

Mail advance registration form and check to:
Marilyn Browning, 3831 Juniata St., Saint Louis, MO 63116

TGHNA is a tax-exempt 501c3 organization

