



Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting – February 28, 2017

Convened: 7:15 p.m. Adjourned: 8:15 p.m. 45 attendees

Meeting chaired by TGHNA President, Barbara Gilchrist (president@towergroveheights.com)

- **Opening of meeting and welcome**

- **Newcomer recognition**

- Several first-time attendees were recognized including some residents who had received the special flier welcoming neighbors who rent. Welcome to all!*

- **Neighborhood business/announcements**

- A donations portal has been added to the MealTrain website for anyone who would like to contribute towards offsetting the costs to the family associated with the recent homicide on the 3800 block of Juniata. For more information or to make a donation: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/vqwzm8>.

- **15th Ward Aldermanic Report**

- **Board of Aldermen Business:** Alderwoman Megan Green spoke on Proposition S which deals with payday loan businesses. It will be on the Primary Election ballot on March 7. She also spoke about the economic development and use tax which will appear on the ballot in April.
 - **Ward Business/Constituent Service:** In response to a resident's follow-up on a question asked at the November 2016 meeting regarding a significant sidewalk repair at 3624 Juniata that was initially reported to the Citizens' Service Bureau two years ago, Megan again said she would get back to the resident about it.

- **Featured Speaker: Sgt. Justin Johnson, SLMPD**

- Sgt. Johnson conducts the safety trainings associated with the Neighborhood Ownership Model, for more info:

- <http://www.circuitattorney.org/docs/Neighborhood%20Ownership%20Model%20Detailed.pdf>

- Components include:

- **Neighborhood Impact Statement**

- The Circuit Attorney's Office can use information from residents and businesses in court. When residents, visitors or businesses supply Neighborhood Impact Statements about how a particular crime or conduct has impacted them or their neighborhood, that statement can be used to help the Court understand a particular case. The Circuit Attorney uses that information both at bond hearings and at sentencing to help the Court realize the real-life ripple effect of crime. Please note that in order to submit a Neighborhood Impact Statement, you must be trained by a staff member of the Circuit Attorney's Office.

- **Neighborhood Victim Support**

- <http://www.circuitattorney.org/docs/Steps%20for%20Creating%20Program.pdf>

- Barbara said she is working with our liaison officer, Ed Slade, to reinstate the practice of letting the neighborhood know when a court date is scheduled for a defendant's hearing so that residents can attend to show their support for the victim and to show the judge that we are an engaged neighborhood.

- Neighborhood Citizens on Patrol (Neighborhood Watch)

Neighbors are trained to identify problems and engage law enforcement to intervene when they believe a crime is occurring. The members are also trained to understand the needs of the neighborhood and to report back on problems identified during their patrol. Every member must be trained by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD).

- *Address small issues before they become large issues.*
- *Quality of life issues must be addressed immediately.*
- *Report graffiti and other quality of life issues to the Citizens' Service Bureau.*
- *Problem or nuisance properties that are repeatedly reported will receive a cease and desist letter.*
- *Don't leave valuables in plain view in car.*
- *Train yourself to identify suspects by noting their description starting from top to bottom; unique shoes are important to notice.*

- *In response to a question about a drone that was recently observed in the neighborhood, Sgt. Johnson said they are working on policies.*
- *Barbara asked why there recently seems to be such an increase in car jackings and armed robberies. Sgt. Johnson said he doesn't know why.*
- *In response to a question about the top deterrents, Sgt. Johnson replied that alarms, especially ones loud enough to alert neighbors; motion lights; dogs; and switching up when light timers are activated while residents are away from home for longer periods of time are the most effective means to deter break-ins.*
- *In response to a question about who is responsible if a tenant is reported as a nuisance, he stated the owner of the property is ultimately responsible and encouraged landlords to do careful tenant screening ahead of time.*

- *The SLMPD's Safety Workshop that was postponed in February has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2-4 p.m. at Bishop DuBourg High School Cafeteria, 5850 Eichelberger Avenue. (see attachment)*

- TGH Safety Committee

- *Stephen Gregali reports that there are now 19 members. Anyone who would like to join the committee can email safety@towergroveheights.com.*
- *An academic crime analysis of the neighborhood will be conducted by a PhD candidate in criminology at the University of Missouri—St. Louis under the direction of noted criminologist, Richard Rosenfeld.*
- *A survey is in the works to poll residents about safety concerns and to measure support for various options.*

- Block Captain Report

- *Debra Knox Deiermann reported Vontriece McDowell, Director of Community Based Intervention, Alive and Well STL spoke about their program at last month's meeting.*
- *Ashley Morris, Block Captain of 3800 Wyoming has plans to step down. We'd like to thank Ashley for her service. Anyone interested in becoming a Block Captain is encouraged to email blockreps@towergroveheights.com. Attendance at all meetings is not required and there are lots of resources and a training packet to help new Block Captains get started.*
- *The Citizens' Service Bureau is expected to soon announce the new Neighborhood Improvement Specialist (the position formerly known as Neighborhood Stabilization Officer) for Ward 15.*
- *The next Block Captain meeting will feature gardening expert, TGH resident, and Gazette contributor, Beth Austin.*

- *Block Captains meet on second Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, 4111 Connecticut at Oak Hill.*
- *The complete and updated list of all TGS-TGH Block Captains is located on www.towergroveheights.com and all Block Captains can be contacted through the website.*
- **Treasurer Report**
 - *Rick Stein reported we had a net worth of \$14,852.79 at the end of January.*
- **TGHNA 30th Anniversary Block Party**
 - *Save the date! Saturday, September 23. Details to follow.*
 - *Photos and memorabilia are requested from residents for display during the afternoon event – please contact president@towergroveheights.com if you have any to share.*
- **Social Committee**
 - *Vicky Dean recognized members of the Social Committee.*
 - *There will be a social hour following the next TGHNA meeting at the home of one of our residents.*
 - *The opening Heights Night will be on Tuesday, March 14 at Tower Grove Creamery, 6-8 p.m. Thanks to Dave and Beulah Ann McCreery for opening their ice cream shop for us on a Tuesday. Young families are especially invited to attend but everyone is welcome!*
 - *There will be more Heights Nights which will be of interest to our neighbors who rent and young families.*
 - *Locations for 2017 Heights Nights:*
 - *March: Tower Grove Creamery, 3101 S. Grand*
 - *April: Aesh Design, 3735 Connecticut*
 - *May: Pizza Head, 3196 S. Grand (pending availability)*
 - *June: VP2, 3609 Juniata (pending availability)*
 - *July: Rooster, 3150 S. Grand*
 - *August: King and I, 3155 S. Grand*
 - *September: Civil Life Brewing Company, 3714 Holt*
- **New/Old Business/Announcements**
 - *The Social Committee recognized resident, Ann Stanley, as the next recipient of the Matt-the-Cat Award. To nominate a resident for this “good neighbor” award, visit our website. (see attachment)*
 - *“Tower Grove Stands Together” yard signs and magnets were available for purchase with proceeds benefitting the International Institute.*
 - *Due to a scheduling conflict, the South Grand Business District has postponed the Police and First Responder Appreciation event on April 19.*
 - *The next TGHNA meeting on Tuesday, March 28 will feature Sean Spencer, Director of Tower Grove Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (TGNCDC) and Rachel Witt, Director of the South Grand Business District.*
 - *Tower Grove South Neighborhood Association meeting: March 15, 6:30 p.m., Oak Hill Presbyterian Church*

- **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Knox Deiermann

[*secretary@towergroveheights.com*](mailto:secretary@towergroveheights.com)

[*www.towergroveheights.com*](http://www.towergroveheights.com)

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association values and seeks a diverse membership. The TGHNA Board recognizes and values the importance of diversity.

Renters - Get Involved With Your Neighborhood Association

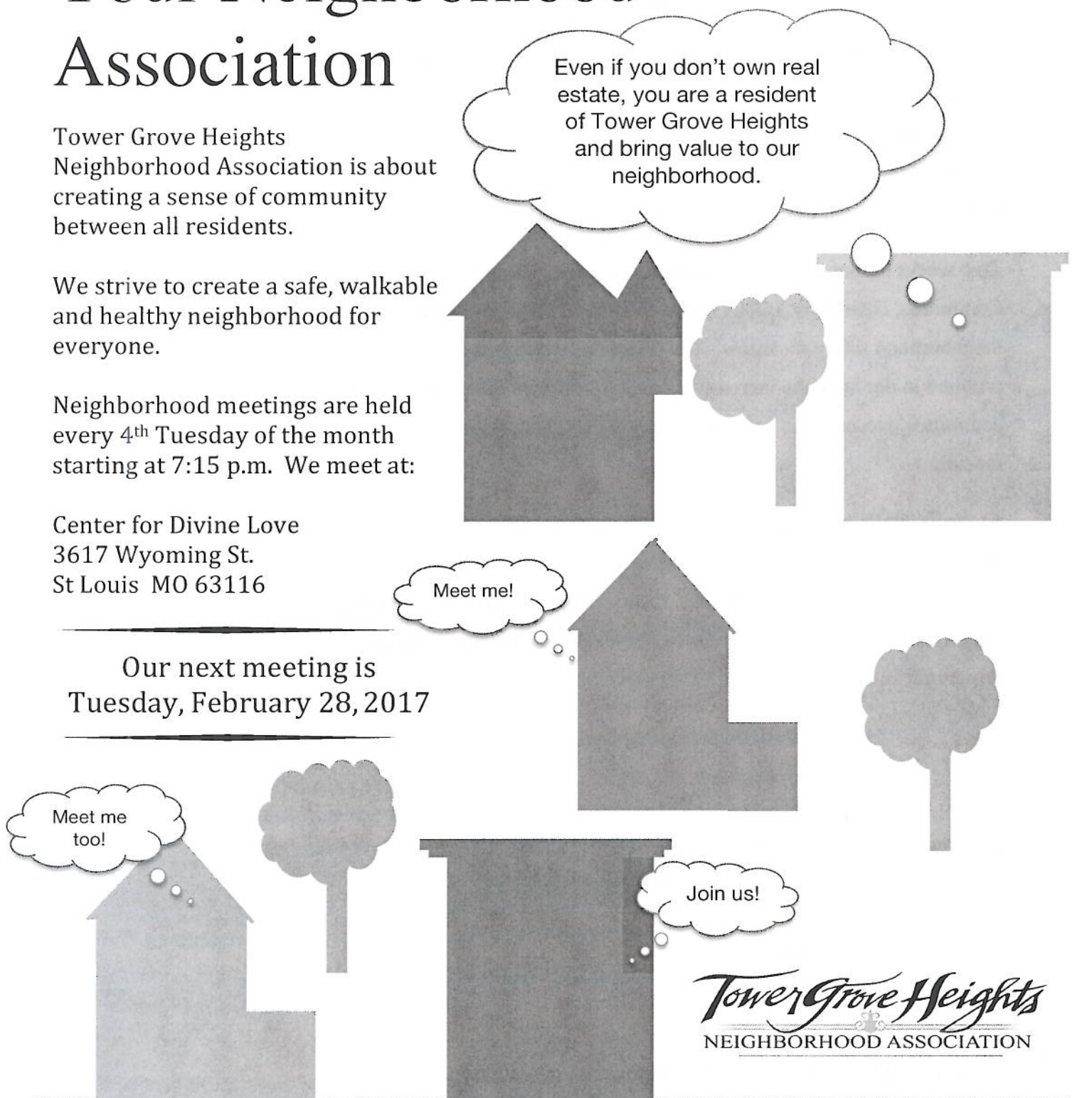
Tower Grove Heights
Neighborhood Association is about
creating a sense of community
between all residents.

We strive to create a safe, walkable
and healthy neighborhood for
everyone.

Neighborhood meetings are held
every 4th Tuesday of the month
starting at 7:15 p.m. We meet at:

Center for Divine Love
3617 Wyoming St.
St Louis MO 63116

Our next meeting is
Tuesday, February 28, 2017



Even if you don't own real
estate, you are a resident
of Tower Grove Heights
and bring value to our
neighborhood.

Meet me!

Meet me
too!

Join us!

Tower Grove Heights
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Find out more - Visit us online
towergroveheights.com

KIDS OF ALL AGES WELCOME!



Tower Grove Heights
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Please join us for HEIGHTS NIGHT at Tower Grove Creamery
on South Grand & Arsenal for ice cream and conversation.

Tuesday, March 14, 2017
6 to 8 p.m.

**I scream, YOU scream, we ALL scream for
ICE CREAM!**

Questions? Contact us at social@towergroveheights.com

Court Advocacy

Neighborhood Impact Statement

-Writing a letter to a judge to explain how a suspect's criminal activity has had an effect on your community

Court Attendance

-Showing up to court as a group during key phases of a trial involving a suspect that committed crimes in your neighborhood

-can speak if you desire

-allows court to know the impact the crime has had on your neighborhood

Citizens on Patrol/Neighborhood Watch

Citizens form a group to counter negative impacts on their neighborhood

-Crimes

-Suspicious Persons

-Quality of Life Issues

-broken windows

-graffiti

-Nuisance Behavior

-Neighborhood Safety Concerns

-Street Lights out

-unsecured building

Program is non-confrontational, you are simply to observe and report

Training classes focus on the following

-Who to call

-911 versus 231-1212

-Citizens Service Bureau

-Neighborhood Improvement Specialist

-Problem Property Officer

-What to look for

-How to give a good description

-How to safely observe and report your incidents

There will be a 2nd District Safety Workshop for the Citizens on Patrol with Captain Deebe and me on March 11th at 2p.m. The location is Bishop DuBourg High School located at 5850 Eichelberger.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 11th, 2017 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bishop DuBourg High School Cafeteria (5850 Eichelberger Ave)

Are you concerned about the number of break-ins?

What is Citizen's Patrol? How do we handle social media?



The St. Louis Hills, Lindenwood Park, Princeton Heights, and Southampton Neighborhood Associations invite you to a community Safety Workshop

“Conducted by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department”

Topics to include:

- Citizens Patrol Training – with Sergeant Justin Johnson
- Q & A Session with Captain Michael A. Deebe, Sr.(bring your questions)
- Safety Product Info. & Vendors will be available. (View early, from 1:00 to 2:00)
- Basic home maintenance tips to make properties safer.

For more information:

St. Louis Hills – Nancy Vordtriede or Helen Abbott – slhnablockcaptains@gmail.com

Lindenwood Park – Janet Desnoyer – Janet@lindenwoodpark.org

Princeton Heights – Bev Bremer – bbremerphna@yahoo.com

Southampton – Adam Wright – SoHaAmbassadors@gmail.com

All 1st and 2nd District Neighbors are welcome to attend.

IF YOU OBSERVE ANY OF THESE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES, CALL THE POLICE

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CONCERNING PERSONS	POSSIBLE CRIME	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CONCERNING VEHICLES	POSSIBLE CRIME
Going door to door in a residential area, especially if one or more persons goes to rear of residence.	Possible burglary suspects or trespassers.	Slow moving vehicle, with out lights at night, around schools, residential streets, or playgrounds.	Possible drug dealer, sex offender, or burglar.
Waiting or loitering in front of a house or business, if business is closed or unoccupied.	Possible burglary suspects.	Parked or occupied vehicle containing one or more persons, especially significant if observed at an unusual hour.	Possible lookouts for a burglary or robbery.
Forcing entrance or entering you neighbor's house, when it is unoccupied.	Possible burglary, theft, or trespassing.	Vehicles being loaded with valuables if parked by a closed business or unoccupied residence.	Possible burglary or theft in progress.
Person running, especially if something of value is being carried.	Possible suspect fleeing the scene of a crime.	Abandoned vehicle in your block.	Possible stolen car.
Person carrying property that is not wrapped, at an unusual hour.	Possible suspect fleeing the scene of a burglary or robbery.	Vehicle containing weapons.	Owner may engage in illegal activity
Pedestrian traffic to and from a certain residence and occurs on a regular basis.	Possible drug house or stolen property being sold for drugs.	Vehicle where someone is being forced into it, especially females or juveniles.	Possible assault, kidnapping, attempted rape or child sex offender.
Person screaming.	Possible assault taking place.	Vehicle where a business transaction is being conducted, around schools or parks.	Possibly selling stolen items or drugs.
Person loitering around cars or going car to car peering into the cars.	Possible car thief.	Locked vehicle that someone is attempting to forcibly enter, especially in a parking lot.	Possible theft of a car or its contents.
Persons offering items for sale at low prices.	Possibly selling stolen property.	Objects thrown from a vehicle.	Possible disposal of contraband.
Persons loitering around schools, parks, or secluded areas.	Possible sex offenders or drug dealers.		
Strangers loitering or driving	Possible burglar suspects or vandals.		

Helping Youth after Community Trauma: Tips for Educators

Traumatic events such as a natural disaster; school violence; traumatic death of an educator or peer can impact students' learning, behavior, and relationships. Here are some reactions you might see and how you can help.

Keep in mind, not all students will feel the same way.

STUDENTS WANT YOU TO KNOW THEY MAY:	YOU CAN HELP WHEN YOU:
1. Feel sad, scared, empty, or numb. Younger students may be clingy. Older students may be embarrassed to show their distress, and may hide their feelings or share more on social media.	1. Provide support by listening to concerns and feelings. Educate students about different trauma reactions. Don't assume all students feel the same or need help but try to accommodate students' different responses.
2. Have behavior problems that are new or worse (e.g., have outbursts, be irritable, break rules). Some may engage in serious or harmful behaviors (e.g., drug or alcohol abuse, self-injury, or risky sexual behavior).	2. Have patience with minor behavior problems. Stay calm when setting limits. Return to predictable school routines and activities as soon as possible. <i>Refer students for professional help for any concerns about self-injury or dangerous behaviors.</i>
3. Have trouble concentrating, paying attention, participating, or getting work done on time.	3. Understand that attention and doing classroom activities may be affected. Focus on the present with gentle reminders about daily tasks. Consider modifying work or providing extra structure and instructions.
4. Appear sleepy or irritable due to having sleep problems.	4. Realize that sleep difficulties are common and can lead to fatigue and poor participation. Suggest healthy sleep habits (e.g. a break from screens before bed) and calming coping strategies. Consider adjusting deadlines until sleep is stabilized.
5. Have physical trauma reactions like stomach aches, headaches, a pounding heart, body aches, or fast, shallow breathing.	5. Recognize physical reactions may confuse or scare students, making them even more afraid. Encourage students to use relaxation strategies such as slow breathing, stretching, or physical activity.
6. Startle more easily in response to everyday noises (e.g. a pencil dropping, door slamming, the P.A. system crackling, kids yelling) and become scared.	6. Identify the sources of everyday noises and that these are not dangerous. Reassure students that they are safe. Explain that physical responses (e.g. feeling startled, tense muscles, fast breathing) are common after a trauma when they are on high alert. Suggest using calming strategies such as slow breathing.
7. Think life is meaningless, or withdraw from family and friends. Even students who are typically outgoing may become withdrawn. They may retreat to social media, gaming or online activities.	7. Suggest engaging in positive activities (e.g., volunteering, hobbies). Discuss ways to cope with sad feelings and the value of in-person support, talking with family or friends, rather than connecting via media. Discuss ways to support students with other adults they trust.
8. Believe that school isn't safe, that the trauma will recur, or have other negative trauma-related thoughts. Students who think their future will be cut short may react by not studying or skipping school.	8. Create a sense of safety by returning to normal, predictable routines as soon as possible. Remind them that such events are rare. Point out ways adults make school safe.
9. Feel responsible for not taking action before, during or after the event to prevent or minimize the outcome. They may feel guilty for not being harmed.	9. Discuss that people did the best they could at the time. Give honest, accurate, and age-appropriate information. Let students know you will tell them the truth.
10. Search the media for information about the event in an attempt to find answers.	10. Suggest they limit the use of media to maintain balance and perspective. Offer to help find answers to difficult questions.

If any of these problems interfere with student functioning, find out how to refer them for specialized help. Educators and professionals should also be aware of their own reactions and seek support as needed.

Matt-the-Cat Award Nomination
2-2017

"Ann Stanley has stepped up in a big way to become involved in Tower Grove Heights. Not only is she a regular attendee at neighborhood events such as Autumn Fest, Heights Nights and TGHNA meetings, she has volunteered to serve on the Social, Safety, AND Communications Committees. As a single person who has previously rented in various neighborhoods, she knows how rental tenants are sometimes discounted. Because of this, Ann suggested TGHNA reach out to our neighbors who rent. Recently she walked the entire neighborhood hand-delivering over 400 flyers that she created to invite our neighbors who rent to get involved with TGHNA.

As a city planner, Ann has lent her knowledgeable background on the Safety Committee and she has also volunteered to work on our website, www.towergroveheights.com, with plans for updating to make it more dynamic and visually interesting. "