

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place



June 25, 1994

Volume 6, Number 6

GRAND NEIGHBORHOODS WIN 5-1

By Tricia Heliker

Five neighborhoods banded together in a wonderful spirit of cooperation to pull off a delightful house tour consisting of 13 single family homes and one historic high school. In spite of some drizzly weather on Sat. the tour brought out over 100 guests. Sunday brought sunshine and another 400 visitors. The crowds were a delight to homeowners as they peered into each room with ooh's and aah's. Owners were questioned about paint colors and techniques. Tour goers left with smiles and words of praise. The compliments seemed to settle the nerves of families who had raced to remove all evidence that anyone actually showered, slept, or

ate in these houses. For 12 hours of the weekend no one did! Thanks to a hard working committee, the behind the scenes scrambling made everything click. There was little that the committee had not prepared for in advance. Each volunteer had their appointed task from putting up yard signs to hanging ribbons in doorways. Jean Iezzi served as the liaison for the TGHNA as well as the house captain for the home of Dana & Jack Winter. Diane Hurwitz served as house captain for the home of Tricia, Jodie, and Scott Heliker. Suzie Guder-muth and Tim Hayes acted as their own house captains for their Utah home. The committee arranged two pre-parties for home owners and

house captains to get acquainted and iron out any foreseeable problems. Following the tour the committee threw a dinner party at Stupp

Memorial for homeowners, committee members, and house captains. At this time small plaques were given to each home owner that were miniature replicas of the poster designed by Jim Dickinson. The attractive plaque was made to affix to the brick on the outside of each home. The house and garden tour was the perfect opportunity for many people outside the neighborhoods to see the wonderful housing stock and beautifully landscaped city gardens. Peggy Magee and Anne Moore co-chaired the five neighborhood event and to them and their committee we give a standing ovation for a job well done.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I have lived in the city for 54 years and in the Tower Grove/Oak Hill area for about 25 years. It has changed a lot, and most changes are really not good nor bad--just different. One thing I would like to see increased to the level of the "old days" is an interest in policing our own blocks. In the past, every block had people who made themselves visible around their houses and streets.

Other residents, as well as passers-by, knew that someone was in a position to see them and what they were doing, and even help them, if needed.

Many people who are new to city living do not realize how important this visibility is to the security of us all. To you I suggest you wave or smile at people you see, and sit on the porch

or steps once in a while. You will discover just who lives around you, and at the same time, let everyone know you have a real interest in what's going on.

Further, develop some habits of neighborhood watching, like these examples:

When you pass the front or rear door, take a minute to step outside and watch what activity is going on in the street or alley.

When retiring, open the door and listen for sounds. (The slamming of a storm door or car door can be heard for a great distance and suggests someone is out and about!)

Of course, these activities are riskier than sitting behind a locked door and security systems, but they need not be dangerous either. Com-

mon sense is in order, as well as a healthy sense of commitment to one's community.

As to own our streets, we must make it clear we want them and will work to keep them.

May you always find this area as exciting and interesting as I have.

Bill Casseau

The staff of the Tower Grove Heights Gazette is always eager to hear from our fellow residents. You may mail letters/comments to Tower Grove Heights Gazette, 3203 South Grand Blvd., Suite 103, St. Louis, MO 63118. The staff of the Tower Grove Heights Gazette reserves the right to refuse to publish any correspondence it deems inappropriate or objectionable.

The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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The Gazette/TGHNA P.O. Box 63046 St. Louis MO 63163

HORTICULTURAL CORNER

By Ben Chu

After a brief hiatus the Horticultural Corner returns to the folds of the Gazette. First it must be said that Richard Clinebell shed light on the historic landscape of Tower Grove Heights with his descriptions of wildflowers and prairie plants that once so abundantly populated our beautiful neighborhood. Thank you Richard for sharing your knowledge.

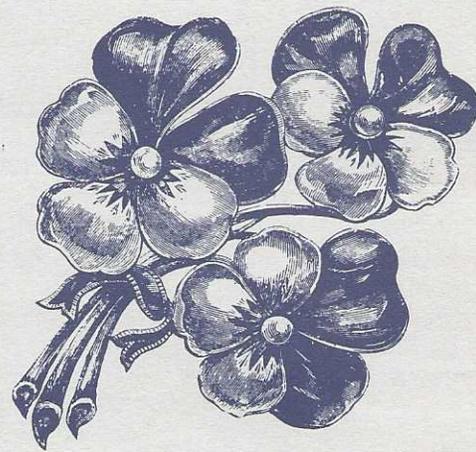
Because plants play such an important role in our lives there are so many topics that this column could cover. But, it is important to know what is of interest to you the reader.

Plants surround us every day and are part of our existence whether we realize it or not. If we had nothing else we would most certainly always have plants. So, if there are specific plant or gardening related topics that this column can address please send them

to: Horticultural Corner, 3822 Connecticut, St. Louis, Mo 63116. If there is no response, Horticultural Corner will write about any old darn thing.

Let's keep growing and I look forward to your suggestions.

Ben Chu is a Horticultural Supervisor and Curator of the Japanese Garden at Missouri Botanical Garden.



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OPERATION CONSERVE REFRESHER

By Tom Booth

Although the Tower Grove Heights area has been a conservation district for some time, it is easy to forget what the original purpose of becoming a conservation district was. The reason that the city gives is that it "desires to preserve the quality of its housing inventory and desires to protect its citizens and neighborhoods from deterioration, which threatens health, safety and welfare." In order to preserve this housing inventory, it states that a Certificate of Inspection is required before when a vacant residential unit is occupied or an occupied dwelling is sold and a Certificate of Inspection has not been issued within the last 12 months.

What happens during an inspection? Well, an inspector from the city's Division of Building and Inspection conducts a normal walk through inspection. "Ladders and binoculars are not used, and no crawl spaces or attics are normally entered." The City does NOT become involved in purchase price, rental price, or contract terms. It makes NO estimate of cost of repairs, and makes NO statement about the value of the property. It also will NOT become involved in security

deposit disputes. The inspector does NOT inspect utilities or such interior items as furniture, carpets, drapes, appliances, air conditioners or decorations.

So what does the inspector inspect? The inspector will perform an exterior inspection and also look at a limited number of interior items. The most frequently cited items are:

- Lack of working smoke alarms and properly placed smoke alarms.
- Overcrowding of dwelling units
- Trash and unsanitary conditions
- Holes and loose sections of plaster in ceilings and walls
- Doors and locks in poor condition
- Floor joist and floor covering that are in poor condition
- Porches, stairways, guardrails, balustrades that are in poor condition
- Insect and vermin infestation
- Excessive storage
- Electrical fixtures, switches or outlets that are in poor condition. Excessive use of extension cords. Fuses and circuit breakers that are improperly sized
- Leaking or defective plumbing

If violations are found, the property owner has 30 days to make the necessary repairs. For either the sale, rent, or lease of residential property, a Certificate of Inspection has to be obtained before occupancy is permitted.

It's clear that because of the reasons stated, it's beneficial to be part of a Conservation District, but only if the rules are applied effectively. If the building division doesn't know what properties are being sold or rented, an inspector will not be on hand to make sure the property meets the required guidelines. That's where all of us play an important part. When you see people moving into or out of residential property, call the Division of Building and Inspection and tell them the address so they can make sure that either a certificate is on file, or an inspection is done. The number to call is 622-3352. If you see evidence of overcrowding or have another complaint about a property, call the Citizen Service Bureau at 622-4800. We can protect the quality of our neighborhood if we all participate to make sure the programs already in place, work.

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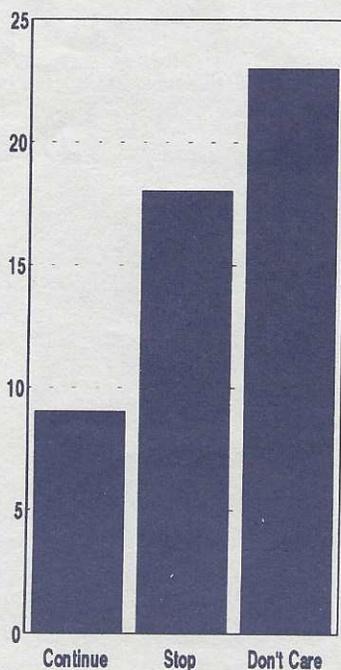
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WHITEWATER INVESTIGATION



MEET YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN

DIANE HURWITZ

By Marilyn Abbott

Diane Hurwitz is the block captain for the 3600/3700 block of Arsenal, where she has lived for approximately seven years. Originally, Diane planned to stay in her two-family flat only until she could finish renovating a house she had purchased in the Dog Town area. However, Tower Grove Heights has won her over with its combination of friendly neighbors, unique architecture and proximity to Tower Grove Park. Diane has been a block captain for the past few years because she would like to help get her neighbors on Arsenal more involved in the neighborhood. "We are the gateway to Tower Grove Heights but it is very hard to meet people when you face away from your neighbors."

Diane is a St. Louis native. She attended Principia High School and graduated from Washington University with both her bachelors and her law degree. But before you rush to ask Diane to write up your new will or to handle your divorce, you should know that she does not practice law. She does research for the State of Illinois Appellate Court system. Diane says she prefers legal research because

the variety of the cases she works on makes it more interesting than practicing a narrow legal specialty. In her words, "We are making the law and that is exciting."

In her non-working hours Diane keeps busy renovating her house and taking care of her cats. Diane is a true cat-lover. In fact, she dreams of someday starting her own business which she describes as a "retirement home for cats". The way this would work is that a cat owner who dies or moves to a retirement home would make arrangements in advance with Diane to provide lifetime care for his/her beloved pet. Diane has not yet located a site for her business, but she hopes to do so in the near future.

Diane enjoys her role as a block captain because it gives her an opportunity to get to know neighbors on her own block as well as those on other blocks in Tower Grove Heights. As she says, "Getting to know your neighbors makes the neighborhood feel more like home." If anyone on the 3600/3700 block of Arsenal would like to share some of the work AND the fun of being a block captain, I'm sure Diane would welcome your help.

SINCE YOU ASKED

by Don Hardin

In each issue of the Gazette, we ask your neighbors fun/serious questions.

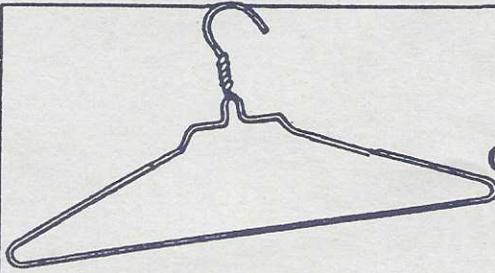
We polled 50 residents and ask them: What is your opinion about the "Whitewater Investigation"? Choices:

Investigation should continue.

Investigation should stop.

Don't care.

The results are presented in the graph to the left:



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NEW COFFEE SHOP TO OPEN

By Rich Iezzi

Great news! The South Grand Business District has just gotten better. MoKaBe's coffee shop will be opening this June at Grand and Arsenal in the former Tower Grove Creamery location. The coffee shop is owned by Maureen (Mo) Costello, Kathy (Ka) Carmody and Becky (Be) Brown, and was located in Kirkwood for 2 years. MoKaBe's is moving to South Grand because so many of their customers live in this area.

MoKaBe's will feature espressos and coffee, sandwiches and frozen non-alcoholic drinks along with poetry readings and music. There is also a large room behind the former ice cream counter that will be opened up for pool.

Business hours are from 10 a.m. to midnight and look for outdoor patio seating sometime this Summer.

MoKaBe's sounds like the coffee shop we've been waiting for on Grand South Grand and a great place to spend those lazy days of Summer. Come on up and welcome MoKaBe's into our neighborhood.

HARTFORD'S KOOL-AID STAND

By Susan Stefanski

When tour goers recently visited our neighborhood for the Grand South Grand House and Garden Tour on May 14th and 15th, they did not leave thirsty. A cafe style refreshment stand with chairs and large umbrellas provided a friendly and relaxing atmosphere for tour goers to quench their thirst and rest while waiting for the shuttle bus.

The children of the 3600/3700 block of Hartford sponsored the kool-aid stand and worked very hard serving kool-aid of many flavors. To make the drinks more attractive, they were garnished with a piece of pineapple and a colorful Hawaiian umbrella. The stand was a resounding success thanks to all the Hartford parents and children who helped, especially Joyce Mellow and Paulette Kapes. Their efforts raised \$58 to be donated to the renovation of the Tower Grove Grand Gates.

CRIME ABHORS THE SPOTLIGHT

By Tricia Heliker

As we all know, keeping our porch lights lit all night is an effective deterrent to crime. On the night of May 28, only 41% of the residents in Tower Grove Heights used this simple method to protect themselves from a potential crime. The two blocks needing the most improvement were Arsenal (at 15% lit) and Wyoming (at 26%). Hartford scored best with 54% followed by Utah and Juniata with 51% each. Connecticut and Humphrey ran neck and neck with 39 and 40 percent respectively. No matter what the readings on May 28, there is room for improvement on every block. Start today to raise the neighborhood percentage. Another random reading will be done before the printing of the next Gazette. Remember, we are shooting for 100%.



DINER

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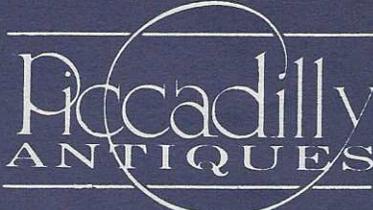
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THE REHABBER ***** "Bungles and Locks"

By Jay Rosloff

Did you know that replacing the turn-of-the-century knobset on your front door could cost you several hundred dollars? That a typical front door in our neighborhood will run between six and sixteen hundred dollars to replace?

Do you know anyone with that kind of money to burn (that's P.O. Box # ...)? A few minutes of work may save you the cost and aggravation of unnecessary replacement.

99% of the front door sets in our part of the city are what are called mortise sets. That means that the interior working parts are found in a large iron box set into a mortise in the edge of the door. Many of the interior doors of our homes also have similar, but more lightly constructed locks. The biggest difference being that the interior doors would use a simple "skeleton" key in the lock while the entrance set has a cylinder for the key.

Most of us are more familiar with the "tube latch" locking device found in less expensive locking doorknobs or deadbolts. As such, do-it-yourself homeowners and landlords are reluctant to tamper with the more complicated mortise lock and resort to unsightly and expensive remedies. A lost key to mortise set may foolishly result in the installation of a deadbolt rather than removal and re-keying of a cylinder!

So, let's explore. First, wait for a nice day and plan on having your door open for a couple of hours. Next, get a plastic tub like the type you would

wash dishes in, but choose a light color. Third, find a nice screwdriver, as a dull blade can slip and scratch the hardware, door, or yourself. Open the door, remove the knob setscrews, the knobs, and the spindle. Place all parts in the plastic bin as you go along. Feel free to stick small bits to a piece of wide masking tape as you remove them. The inner decorative plate will probably come loose after removing four wood screws.

Along the edge of the door you will find several screws. The ones at the top and bottom probably hold the whole lock in the door, but before it can slip out of the door, you need to remove the lock cylinder. You will find one or two small set screws even with the middle of the cylinder. Loosen them a couple of turns or so and unscrew the cylinder counter-clockwise. You may need to insert a key or some such thing to provide leverage.

With the lock cylinder removed, the lock should slide out of the door. Notice that one face is held in place with one to four machine screws. Remove

these and CAREFULLY lift off the cover plate. Inside you will see levers, rods, springs, and dirt. The latter is a good candidate for cleaning with kerosene and a soft brush. Do not let things pop loose. If you are fainthearted or decathumbed, simply immerse the mortise box in kerosene without removing the lid. Give it a few hours soaking and sloshing, and add a few drops of petroleum oil to the kerosene just before removing the lock from its bath. The kerosene will evaporate and

leave the lock lubricated and ready for re-installation.

Next time I'll be talking about restoring and protecting metal finishes.

TOOL TIP: If you are running a circular blade through wood and you aren't using carbide-tipped blades, you're working yourself and your machinery too hard.

TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS RECIPES BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

In each issue of the Gazette, we plan to print one of the many taste tempting recipes that can be yours in the Tower Grove Heights Dessert Recipe Book. Profits benefit the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. Call 772-5982 to place your order.

CHOCOLATE ALMOND MARBLE POUND CAKE

Pat Linebach
Hartford

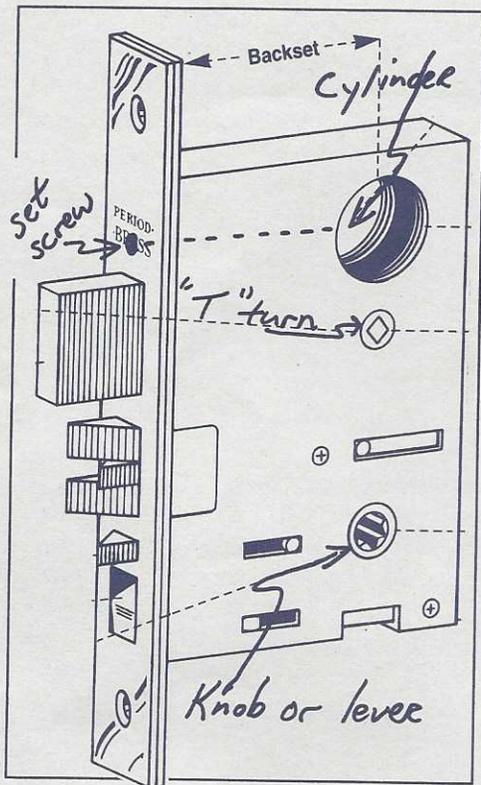
3 cups flour
3/4 tsp. almond extract
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups sugar
5 eggs
1 cup oil
1 cup milk
1 1/4 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350.

Melt over hot water, 1/2 cup chocolate chips; stir till smooth. Set aside.

In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside. In large bowl, combine sugar, oil and almond extract. Beat well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in flour mixture alternately with milk. Divide batter in half. Stir melted morsels and remaining 3/4 cup of chips into one half of the batter. Mix well. Pour one half of plain batter into greased and floured 10" tube pan. Top with one half of the chocolate batter mixture. Repeat layers.

Bake at 350 for 65-70 minutes. Cool 15 minutes; remove from pan. Cool completely on wire rack. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.



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FINANCIAL FOCUS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

One of the basic tenets of investing is that it should not be done on impulse. Know what you want before you buy. Then, determine if your selection will do for you what you want--in short, if it will meet your needs.

If, for example, you want your investment to give you income, then you must expect your choice to provide suitable dividends (stock or equity investments provide dividends) or interest (bonds or debt securities produce interest) to meet your needs.

Whether or not you get your income will depend on the ability of that particular corporation to meet its obligations. It is also generally true that the higher your yields or return the more risk you assume.

A U.S. government-guaranteed bond probably will not provide as much income as an unsecured note of some small corporation. On the other hand, the government bond will afford you more safety and peace of mind. So, if you're aiming for maximum income on your investment, chances are you're going to have to sacrifice a bit of safety.

If, on the other hand, income is secondary and you're after capital appreciation, then you probably should invest in securities you think you may sell for more than you paid for them:

One thing you can be certain of, however, is that no stock or bond can simultaneously offer you minimum risk, attractive income and tremendous growth potential. If a security features one of these attributes, the other will be secondary or practically nonexistent. At certain times, however, it may be possible to obtain securities which potentially offer some modest combination of these features over a period of time.

Investment Term of the Week

Bond - Basically an IOU or promissory note of a corporation, usually issued in multiples of \$1,000 or \$5,000. In every case, a bond represents debt--a bondholder is a creditor of the corporation. In most cases, bonds are secured by a mortgage.

Article provided by Tom Borich, Investment Representative, for Edward D. Jones & Co.

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by Jean Iezzi

Summer is here!
For kids, Summer is heaven yet for parents

it often means a strain on the budget and writer's cramp from filling out endless applications to day camps and special interest classes.

However, none of that is necessary. The St. Louis area is rich with wonderful free activities for kids and families. With the help of my kids, we present our top 10 list of FREE FUN. Have a great Summer!

1) The Summer reading program at the St. Louis libraries is a wonderful way to have fun while learning. At the end of the Summer when the kids have completed their book lists, the prize is tickets to a Cardinal baseball game. Kids in our neighborhood can register at the Carpenter Branch library.

2) To Tower Grove Heights residents, Tower Grove Park is an extension of their backyards. Take advantage of this National Historic Landmark this Summer.

3) The Compton Heights Bank continues to provide family entertainment Monday evenings at 7:30. The restored bandstand (near the ruins) returns to its glory days as the band plays Sousa marches and popular show tunes. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and of course pack a picnic.

SUMMER FUN ALL AROUND

4) Shaw's Garden (Missouri Botanical Garden) is a great place where adults can stroll, relax and dream while kids run, discover and learn. This urban jewel is free until noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays. During the Summer the Garden is open until 8pm. 5) Forest Park is listed as a collective because there are so many things in the park that are free.

The Muni has free seats where a family can enjoy Broadway musicals under the stars. The free seats open 1 hour prior to the performance.

The Art Museum has free guided tours Wednesday through Sunday at 1:30. Special exhibits are free on Tuesdays.

The St. Louis Zoo is recognized as one of the best in the world. On Tuesdays the zoo remains open until 8:00 p.m.

The Science Center is a great hands on learning arena. The Center even has free parking on the Forest Park side.

The Missouri History Museum may sound stuffy but it has wonderful exhibits that will interest all age levels. On Tuesday evenings there are free programs which are designed to bring

back Victorian Summer evening entertainment to St. Louis.

6) An excursion across the river to Cahokia Mounds should not be missed. Cahokia is considered the largest prehistoric Indian center in the USA. The Interpretive Center has a life size reproduction of a Mississippian village. The orientation movie and the walking tours are excellent.

7) Mastodon State Park is one of the most significant sites in the USA to study men and animals of the Ice Age. Plenty of picnic areas are nearby.

8) Powder Valley Nature Center is run by the Missouri Conservation Department. Kids can walk through a tree, play on computers and view life through the eyes of a fish. Nature trails vary in length and difficulty.

9) The Anheuser-Busch Brewery offers one of St. Louis's finest tours. Visitors will see first hand why Anheuser-Busch has become a landmark in St. Louis. Free AB refreshments are served during the tour.

10) The Museum of Westward Expansion under the Arch is the best place to learn about our country's move west. Visitors can read excerpts from pioneer diaries, see a sod home, touch a buffalo tongue and marvel at the true spirit of westward expansion.

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POLICE BEAT

by Edward Schroeder

May's meeting was held on May 12, 1994 at Seigel Community School, 2039 Russell. The host neighborhood was McKinley-Fox.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Chuck Poe at 7:05 PM. The session opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no Treasurer's nor Secretary's report.

Officer John Ruzicka distributed copies of the minutes of April's meeting to all attendees.

Chuck Poe - Noted that we had a change in Captains, in Public Affairs Officers, and now in meeting places. Ann Mary Clark, the speaker for tonight, was called out of town. So there wasn't a speaker this evening. Ms Clark will be rescheduled for a future time.

Chuck introduced our new Public Affairs officer, John Ruzicka.

John Ruzicka - He's been a police officer for almost 15 years. And spent almost all that time on the street. He graduated from the Police Academy in 1979, was at the Eighth District, then the First District. He was there until three weeks ago when he transferred here to Public Affairs. Though he was first hired by Captain Reece, Captain Zambo agreed with the decision when he took on leadership of the Third District. Officer Ruzicka is happy to be a part of the Third District (and that he even has Terry Shoemaker there to answer questions as he starts.)

Ruzicka's philosophy about the relationship between citizens and police is simple. Police are there to help you, never feel you will bother them with a call about something suspicious. Please do call about things like that.

Holly Engelman gave a brief report on a community meeting on empowerment. Holly is the coordinator at Seigel Community School. The meeting is to get community input for a grant application for Federal money. That meeting was on May 18.

Geraldine Osborn - Gave information about the changes in Conserv and Conservation Officers. It seems

that Conserv boundaries will follow ward boundaries and be all over the city. This will be an important difference from the past, now the city needs to address inequalities like difference in various wards number of dwellings, empty buildings, and the geographical boundaries before final decisions can be made about how the program will be set up. There is a budget for 27 officers for Conserv. There will be a combination of Safestreet, Conserv, and Liaison Officers and they may be under supervision by each ward's alderman. However, at this point the budget is not finalized, so no arguments can yet be made for or against things.

Empowerment zones are federally designated areas where some incentives are given, however there are only a few in the city and those are east of Grand.

Court system changes will help in Conserv issues. We've got a good person heading the program. Most people know that Patty Boyer has gone to a court administrator position. She will be very helpful to Conserv problems in that position. Barbara Potts a Safestreet officer, is our new Conserv Officer.

Capt. Zambo - The officer of the Month is Steve Gorey. He could not attend the meeting because he is working the midnight shift. Officer Gorey was selected because in February he did outstanding work in an arrest.

Maggie Bier is now doing building inspection work in conjunction with the police. After drug raids and arrests she looks over the raided building for problems that could be cited. She may help with some neighborhood problems.

Police business is picking up with the warm weather. In April there were 529 arrests and 78,000 calls so far this year. Police are starting corner sweeps to stop loitering.

Then Capt Zambo answered questions from the floor.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:20 PM. The next meeting will be held on June 9th, at 7:00 P.M. It will be held at the St. Francis De Sales Church, 2653 Ohio at Gravois.

HELP! HELP!

Most of us at the Gazette have been involved since its inception in 1988. As a result, some of us have been and are suffering from "burn out". Our creative juices are getting watered down. We NEED an infusion of energy and enthusiasm. We welcome anyone who thinks they might be interested in writing an article (long or short), helping with artwork, typesetting, or layout, taking part in our "foldings" (when we eat snacks, drink beer or soda, and fold the gazette), or who has a nack for organization. We love working on the Gazette and think you would too.

GOOD NEWS

What has 220 spears, is black, and is the final finishing touch of the metamorphosis of the "Hartford Arms"? It's the black wrought iron fence on the south end of this beautiful building. The Tower Grove South Housing Corporation picked up the tab for this capstone to the Arms. The residents of TGHNA would like to thank all those whose vision and efforts have made this model of renovation a reality.



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RESIDENTIAL PROFILE

Richard Haub and Kendall Lasley

By Stephanie Gavin

There are numerous reasons to be excited about Richard Haub and Kendall Lasley moving into the neighborhood. Number one being they are incredibly kind, funny and very friendly people. Their warm, easy-going personalities are reason enough to be glad they're neighbors, but there's more. In fact, Richard and Kendall, during the entire hour and a half that I visited with them, never stopped saying all the right things about the neighborhood and their future plans as Tower Grove Heights residents. As a real estate agent for Gundaker, Richard was privy to their 3640 Utah house before the For Sale sign was even in the yard. It was Richard's birthday when he discovered the property on his computer at work. "I called up Kendall and said 'I've found my birthday present!'" They looked at the house that day, and without even going upstairs, they decided to purchase it. After only six months in their home on Parker in the Oak Hill neighborhood, they moved to their new house in late February. They enjoyed living on Parker, but they knew they wanted to move on Utah. "We intended to stay there longer than six months, but we just couldn't pass this up," says Richard. Although their Utah house is structurally sound and boasts beautiful, original woodwork, Richard and Kendall have many plans for rehabbing. Already they

have completely gutted out the kitchen and restored it with rich, cherry wood cabinets, dark green tile and wallpaper, and old-fashioned round sinks. "We're trying to restore to original finishes as much as possible," says Kendall. As an employee of Edison



Brother Stores Co. downtown, Kendall oversees construction for the J. Riggins stores. Apparently his experiences at work help him with his own rehabbing. Their first rehabbing experience was on a home in Benton Park that they restored; they then moved on to Parker where their restorations aided in the selling of that house in 19 days. "We plan to be here a long, long time," says Richard. They estimate all they want to do to the house taking at least five years. Future plans include, restoring the second floor bathroom, adding a full

bath to the third floor to accompany a master bedroom, having a pool installed, painting and/or wallpapering all the rooms and putting in Central Air. "That may happen sooner than later," says Richard with a laugh. In addition to finishing the inside, Richard and Kendall are working on the yard. Already they have planted numerous perennials both in the front and back yards. And to accent their large fenced-in yard in back, they adopted a black terrier mix dog, Harry, from the Humane Society upon moving in. "He's to go with the house," says Kendall.

So what happens when they finish the house to their satisfaction? Will they move on once again? "Oh no, then we're planning to invest in some two families in the neighborhood to convert into single family houses," says Richard. "And we want to buy some properties to rehab and rent, also, for investment purposes, all in this neighborhood." Rehabbing is a definite hobby, as well as a way of life for Richard and Kendall. "It's very satisfying to see what comes out," says Kendall.

When they aren't busy working on their home evenings and weekends, Richard and Kendall also enjoy collecting antiques (their house is full of gorgeous pieces of furniture that compliment the exceptional woodwork), golfing, and of course yard work. And they plan to become familiar faces at neighborhood meetings. "We're here to stay," says Richard. "We're here to invest in the neighborhood... I won't want to leave until I can afford one of those," he says, pointing to his Westmoreland Place coffee table book.

By Diane Hurwitz

Well, it's that time of year again. With the arrival of Spring, comes Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association's annual membership drive. Two years ago, the Association decided that its membership year would run from April to April. While residents and businesses in the neighborhood are welcome to join the Association at anytime, Springtime is our major sign-up time. Individual memberships start at as little as \$7 a year and family memberships (two votes per household) are just \$12. Business memberships are \$25 per year and include one business card sized ad in the Gazette. For those who would like to

SPRING INTO ACTION

give an additional gift to the Association, we have the Renaissance level at \$20 a year which includes a set of Tower Grove Heights note cards as a token of our appreciation.

Some may ask: "Why should I join the Association?" The simple answer is: without your support we would not be able to have general meetings to keep you informed about happenings in the neighborhood. We couldn't publish and deliver the Gazette, or sponsor such programs as: Kid's Day in the Park, Holiday in

the Heights, the recent Safety Fair, alley clean-ups, house tours, Pride in Place and Good Neighbor Awards, welcome packets for new neighbors, the Tenant-Buyer referral service, mobile patrol, block watches and even block parties. We couldn't keep our neighborhood the wonderful place it is to live. We need you, and we believe you need us. So, please join today! If you need a membership form, please contact your block captain or call the Association at 772-5982. Or, come to our next meeting on June 26 and see what we are all about. Here's to a great year in the Heights!

ON GRAND

By Stephanie Gavin

Since moving to the South Grand area five years ago, I have wished for a Mexican restaurant within walking distance. Well this past March I got my wish when Siete Mares (Spanish for Seven Seas) opened at 3204 S. Grand, next door to Grand Books. And not only do they serve traditional Mexican dishes, they specialize in seafood items on their menu, as well as traditional Nicaraguan dinners.

Owned and operated by Robert and Sonia Trogler, who are from Nicaragua (although they've been in the U.S. for 14 years), Siete Mares is the first seafood Mexican restaurant in the St. Louis area. The large menu includes Red Snapper prepared in a variety of ways, porgy fish, and even lobster prepared in a natural style. Acquiring their liquor license just in time for Cinco de Mayo, they now offer

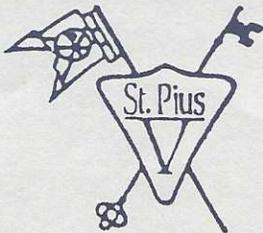
a wide variety of Mexican beers and margaritas. They also offer numerous flavors of Jarrito, a Mexican bottled soda.

The restaurant itself is decorated in a creative, attractive style. To represent their menu, they have a Nicaraguan wall with photographs of the country, a Mexican wall full of colorful rugs and sombreros, and an ocean wall, com-

plete with a fishing net. If you haven't had the opportunity to experience Siete Mares, do so soon. It is a delightful addition to the variety of restaurants on South Grand.

A more familiar restaurant on Grand, MeKong, has just completed an impressive renovation. Now nearly a block long, MeKong added several booths and a large bar to their successful eatery. New marble tile was placed at the entrance, as well as new carpeting throughout. Restrooms are now available on the first floor, including one that is handicapped accessible. According to the owners son, Tu Tran, the expansion is not yet complete. "We're kind of in transition," he says, when asked about the new menus. "They aren't actually different yet, the old ones were just worn out. We do plan to create new menus that are more user friendly for people who aren't familiar with all of the dishes." Tu also gave me a tour of the upstairs, another large eating area complete with a bar. They aren't sure when it will be open to the public, but it should be an anticipated event. The upstairs is as attractive as the downstairs, and includes a wonderful view of South Grand. "We're in an evolution stage right now," says Tu. "We're becoming much more organized and we hope to eventually offer more than food, maybe live entertainment." So there is even more to look forward to... it's comforting to see such expansion taking place at a familiar favorite.

*"So there
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A VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

By The Private Eye

"A Night at the Opera"

Late last month, I travelled north on Grand from Tower Grove Heights to I-Farty-Far, heading west to Webster Groves to hear **Candide**, the first opera of the 1994 season by the Opera Theatre of St. Louis (OTSL). What a treat the operas are after a nearly operaless year in St. Louis. The productions are well researched, designed, prepared and directed: the performances are well acted and well sung... in English.

Most seasons mix a popular favorite by Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, or Puccini with a less-often heard older opera by the likes of Handel or Purcell plus a modern classic by Britten, Barber or Menotti and a contemporary work that is sometimes a premiere. Sure enough, the 1994 season had the popular favorite in Verdi's final opus, **Falstaff** (1893), the earlier opera in Gluck's **Iphigenia in Tauris** (1779), the modern classic in Leonard Bernstein's **Candide** (1956), and the contemporary work in Conrad Susa's **Black River** (1975).

Of course, hearing a seldom-performed work or a premiere is exciting. But at Opera Theatre of St. Louis, even productions of familiar works can be revelations. Sometimes alternative versions have been researched; sometimes original or revised versions which are not the traditional ones are resurrected. Susa's **Black River**, although only twenty years old, was performed in the composer's latest revised version. In the case of Bernstein's **Candide**, the operetta went through numerous revisions and re-revisions since its first performance in 1956.

The original Broadway version had a script by playwright Lillian Hellman who was inspired to adapt Voltaire's **Candide**, a short satirical novel from 1759, by the indignities she and other artists, including Bernstein, suffered from the Joseph McCarthy investigations, the House UnAmerican

Activities Committee, and the Hollywood Blacklist of the 1950's. Hellman and Bernstein wrote two of the song lyrics, but most came from

delighted with the witty lyrics and the memorable tunes.

But **Candide** proved a mediocre success on Broadway, running only 73 performances. For a 1959 London production, Bernstein wrote an additional duet, but the show flopped. A short stage revival and some concert performances took place during the 1960's. Then, in 1973, Hugh Wheeler wrote a new book for the musical, Stephen Sondheim rewrote lyrics for some of the music, and Harold Prince directed what proved to be a successful Broadway version. But the script had lost most of its satirical edge and much of the music was jettisoned. Nearly a decade later, Prince restored half an hour of music when he staged yet another successful production.

continued on page 14..

"It's all very festive and fun to share with friends"

Richard Wilbur, with a few by John LaTouche and Dorothy Parker. I remember listening, in the early 1960's, with fellow graduate students to the original cast album and being



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Memories of Moments

The Early Years

by Ed Schroeder

When I was a kid I always had a vacant lot to play in, my favorite one was at 3847 McDonald Ave. (The present home of Ray Schneider, which was built in the early '50s). I was about three years old (1936) when I started playing in the lot. Actually, I would watch the Big Kids play. They would play marbles, Mumbly Peg, Cowboys and Indians, Cops and Robbers, Soft ball, Soldiers, Set off fire crackers in July, or just dig in the dirt, depending on which movie they had seen at the theater that week.

Starting in September, we little kids had the lot to ourselves, until the big kids got home from school.

I started school in 1938, Unfortunately, I went in the afternoon and my friends went in the morning.

The lot was our meeting place, It was the first place we kids headed for when we would go outside.

Then World War II started. Food was getting scarce, people were canning more food. The spring of 1942 turned our lot into a Victory Garden, The Neighbors had planted it full of Corn. Tomatoes, Cabbage, Lettuce, and a few other things that I didn't recognize.

Mr. Ellis, (3837 McDonald Ave.) was raising rabbits and selling them for \$.25 each. I would go to the corner grocery store and go through their trash cans and pick out the lettuce and cabbage leaves and feed them to the rabbits.

John Gerlack (3811 McDonald Ave.) was raising chickens in his garage for his own use. (He also sold fresh eggs). He invited us kids in to show us two turkey chicks that he had gotten to raise for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. We would feed the chicks corn and they grew into adulthood, but they died of old age, because John could not kill them.

Rose Fanning School Yard was where we played that summer of '42. There was sliding boards, swings, see-saws, monkey bars, crafts and softball games, But most of all we used the swimming pool that was located South of the school building, on that elevated area that is there today. The boys would swim of a half hour and then the girls would get to swim

for a half hour. (there was no co-ed swimming).The pool was filled and emptied every day, but not used on Saturday or Sunday.

We spent a lot of time in the alley, waiting for the ice man to come by so we could get a piece of ice, but it wasn't very pleasant. The odor from the garbage truck with its liquid dripping from it and the large number of horse drawn wagons using the alley

made it a less then desirable place to play. The garbage was picked up three times a week, and because of the rat problem, every home had to have a garbage can with a tight fitting lid. (The cans were put out by the alley for pick up, and after they were emptied a few times and rough handled, the lids didn't fit. No wonder we had a rat problem).

continued on page 14...

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Finally, in 1988, music director John Mausceri mounted a version of *Candide* for the Scottish Opera. For this production, satirist and Voltaire scholar John Wells collaborated with Bernstein to refine and expand Wheeler's script. In 1989, less than a year before his death, Bernstein conducted two concert performances of his work with the London Symphony Orchestra. *Candide* now exists in both its concert form and in the full-blown definitive opera house version I saw and heard at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

The OTSL production was wonderful. Conductor Stephen Lord did a fine job of coordinating the orchestra, the large cast of principals, and the chorus. Outstanding among the leading singers were John Stephens, an OTSL veteran, as Voltaire, Pangloss, Cacambo, and Martin; Kevin Anderson as *Candide*; and Constance Hauman as Cunegonde. (Hauman sang Cunegonde in the final concert version conducted by Bernstein in 1989.) The fine and versatile chorus was active throughout the operetta. The stage direction by Colin Graham highlighted the absurdity of the adventures in the many European and Latin

American settings. The stage design by Emanuele Luzzati was simple and colorful, making the standard brick wall backdrop almost unobtrusive. The costumes by Robin VerHage-Abrams evoked the style of *commedia del arte*.

Of course, part of the pleasure of attending OTSL performances is absorbing the ambience of the Loretta Hilton Center on the campus of Webster University. The theatre lobby is bright with photos and art and opera-related gifts for sale. The lawn area, with its colorful plantings and cheerful fountain, is augmented during opera season with a large striped tent and lots of tables where pre-opera box suppers and post-opera drinks are served. It's all very festive and fun to share with friends.

For the past several years I have had season tickets and enjoyed all four operas each season. Returning home to the Heights, I have read my program notes, listened to opera recordings, and played some opera tunes on the piano. It always takes me a while to come down from the musical and dramatic heights of OTSL. Then I look forward to it again for another year.

continued from page 13...

The big kids were now in the Army or working in a defense plant. I remember going down the alley between the 3900 blocks of McDonald and Parker to the present day Goff Service Station and watching the boys

that I had played with, working in that brick building, making pants stretchers/creasers for the army. Soon they to would be in the Armed Services

Life was pretty good in '42 for a nine year old kid..

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