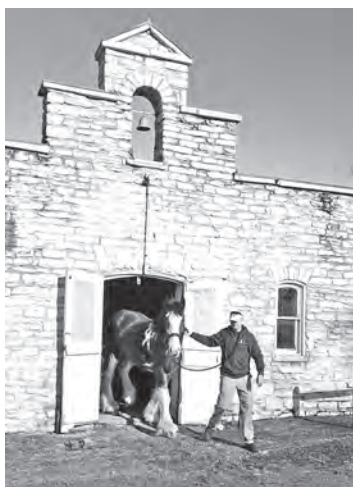


Neighbors to Know: Moonshine the Horse

BY Beth Austin There will be someone new cruising around the circle in Tower Grove Park this spring. He's got four whites, a blaze and lots of chrome. Before you start envisioning a vintage T-bird, know that we're talking about a hay burner rather than a gas guzzler.

Moonshine has come to TGP as the new carriage horse. The description above refers to his markings. That's horse-speak for his white stockings and face and the small flashes of white across his chestnut coat. Moonshine is a Clydesdale, albeit a smaller one at 16 1/2 hands. He was selected in part for his distinctive



look and slighter stature. Jeff Kinman, stable manager at TGP, explained that Clydes bred for show are often much larger and more uniformly marked. It's hoped that Moonshine will be a healthier, more approachable horse.

Moonshine follows in the hoofprints of the beloved Jimmy Joe who served the park for 18 seasons before his sudden passing last fall, shortly before his retirement. Moonshine hails from a farm in Wisconsin near that of his predecessor. He's a young horse at five years old and has spent his winter learning the ropes. Or rather, the reins.

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Coming Home

BY Rich Iezzi When I first approached Dave Difani about doing this article, I thought I had arrived at a bad time. Dave owns the Black Thorn Pub at Spring and Wyoming and was talking with his contractor. The contractor's body language said, "I can't do what you want." As I waited for Dave, I saw plaster coming down the middle stairway. It was a chaotic scene. But when I spoke to Dave, he was at peace. I asked if everything was alright and Dave smiled, "God has been good to me."

"Things were real tight at first. I rigged up a shower over the basement drain and slept next to the furnace for the first year."

Dave always enjoyed being a bartender. "I was never cut out to be a cubicle guy and liked being in the middle of a crowd." He liked the bar business so much that he bought his own bar, the Black Thorn Pub, in 1986, when he was 26. Previously, the Black Thorn was known as Schaeffer's Corner.

Dave confessed, "Things were real tight at first. I rigged up a shower over the basement drain and slept next to the furnace for the first year." I thought he was kidding – but he wasn't.

Through the years, the Black Thorn has sponsored softball leagues and Dave tended a lot of bar. When I asked for some interesting bar stories, Dave replied, "I've got them; they're just not printable."

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Coming Home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 1989, Dave married Sally. And yes, they met in a bar. Dave and Sally lived on the second floor of the Black Thorn for years but bought a house while their two kids attended school. When the kids finished school, Sally suggested that they come back to the city.

They discussed the idea for over a year, planning the changes for their new living quarters. Before I saw the second floor space, I didn't know what to expect. Once up there, I was amazed at how big these corner buildings are. During the demo, fireplaces were discovered on the west wall and plans were changed to include them in the final design. There's also a spacious third floor with lots of sunlight and an incredible view.

As I stepped onto the new second floor addition, I was confused. It's enormous with a second floor deck and an internal stairway to the lower level. The new space was so big that I thought it was a separate living area but the addition will be combined with the existing portion to be one large unit. "We'll have about 4,000 sq. ft. with four bedrooms and three bathrooms," Dave reported. The area below the living space will be a six-car garage.


I also got a look at the plans for the bar and they're pretty radical. "We'll turn the bar 90 degrees so it's the first thing you'll see when you walk in", Dave explained. He also hopes to add outdoor seating. Other plans include new heating and air conditioning, new floors, adding new windows, removing some interior walls and perhaps reusing the original tin ceiling. "We want to take the building back to 1908 when it was built."



While in the bar, I asked about the pizza business and Dave told me, "We started selling them in 1998 and that changed everything. We couldn't have done the addition by just selling beer."

Dave and Sally are hoping all the work will be completed by this June or July. Dave said, "The contractors are working as fast as I can take pictures."

When the move-in is completed, it will be like old times with Dave and Sally returning to the second floor. Sure beats sleeping next to the furnace.



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We Are Family

BY ABIGAIL MILLER

Our November was much like everyone else's: tense, hopeful, anxious, anticipating a life-altering decision that, either way, would have a major impact on our lives, an impact that would be felt forever. But our focus wasn't on a ballot, it was on a baby.

First, let's back-up a bit, shall we? Last January, my husband, Matt, and I made the decision to start the adoption process. After a lot of soul-searching, research, and discussing with families with adoption experience, we opted for a private adoption this time around (the other primary consideration being to adopt through the foster care system, a beautiful option many friends have chosen for their families).

There was paperwork, background checks, first aid class, interviews, trauma training, character references and, oddly enough, several book reports. *Side note: It was a lot of rigmarole and quite exhausting, but for our personalities, it was strangely reassuring to have somebody tell us we were "approved" to be parents.* Once our home study was completed, we then had to tell our story (and show off our neighborhood) in a video and photo book. Birth moms would review what we put together and decide if they wanted to entrust their little one to us. And, yes, we made sure they knew about the park, our proximity to ice cream shops, and all the other little neighbors nearby. From that point, we didn't know if the wait would be days, months, or years.

Then, this fall, a birth mom decided to take a chance on us. We began anxiously awaiting a little baby that was due to arrive any day. As we handed out candy to your little ones on Halloween, we were thinking about this little baby we hoped to trick or treat with someday.

On November 10th, she arrived. Ruthie Grace came into the world, I cut her cord, and the parenting adventure kicked into high gear.

As is no surprise, throughout this whole process, our neighbors have been part of the story. Even in the beginning, neighbors from surrounding blocks who themselves are adoptive parents, birth moms, foster parents, and adopted kids answered our

many questions and encouraged us. After we found out a baby was coming, we ended up at Parenting Resource Center for what could only be described as a two-hour crash course in parenting (including correctly installing our car seat). Neighbors even took our grumpy old dog when it was time to go to the hospital. When we finally brought Ruthie home, her first visitors were neighbors who showed up with wipes, diapers, gifts, and hugs.

We are so thankful Ruthie gets to call this neighborhood home, a neighborhood where families come in all shapes and sizes. Although her adoption won't be finalized until June, it is clear that those around us have already welcomed her as part of the Tower Grove family.

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Ruthie gets to call this
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2016: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE ARE-YOU-KIDDING-ME???

by Ellen
Wilson

The neighborhood effort to adopt families went off again this year as a rousing success despite the tumultuous year. The wrapping party is the time when the generosity and creativity of the neighborhood is on full display. If you come

It always makes me feel like Santa to reveal what has been dropped off and wrap them up for the families.

over during that time you will see what donations are made and be a part of dividing gifts between families and kids. It always makes me feel like Santa to reveal what has been dropped off and wrap them up for the families. This year, both families received household supplies including air freshener

and laundry soap as well as sheets and comforters. Family #1 also received a blender, family games, books, bath and body supplies, clothes and winter gear for all. The kids got makeup, accessories, puzzles, a radio set, stamp kit, science and animal books, several Monster High dolls, and stuffed animals.

continued on next page

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Family #2 also received bath and body supplies, family games, blankets, clothes, and winter gear for all. The kids got markers, Barbie, baby, and Frozen dolls, a stuffed dog, tea set, Barbie phone, block puzzles, baby hooded bath towel, and learn-to-read and other books.

The cash donations were significant this year with each family getting over \$260 in retail and grocery gift cards as well as almost \$1,000 each to go toward utilities that was paid directly through the 100 Neediest Cases program.


Each year this project is supported by the TGHNA which has an ever changing leadership. This year we had several members and leaders who took on a larger role in helping to get the word out and collecting gifts. Past President, Stephen Gregali, and the Board helped to select our families, provided financial support for the fliers, and provided space in the *Gazette*. Debra Knox Deiermann helped recruit people to distribute fliers; Rick Stein, the Association Treasurer, kept the money straight; and Rich Iezzi helped to keep the deadline of the *Gazette* and provided space for the articles.

The fliers are always the hardest part of this project so I am grateful to those who help to get them delivered. This year, the Caseys, the Reitenbachs, Anne Orcutt, Tod Martin, Jim McClaren, and Ashley helped get them on your doorstep.

Wrapping the presents has become a nice system, but having help is the key component. This year, Sarah Connors, Anne Orcutt, Alice Mooney, and Sandy Pritt organized everything and made the gifts look beautiful. Again this year, Anne Orcutt donated the use of her car so we got everything to the center with no problem.

It was nice to end 2016 on a good note. Thank you and have a great year!!! 2016 Donors – Whether you dropped off wrapping materials (we really needed them this year), a check, or purchased gifts, helped with logistics, or just said thanks, I am so grateful to everyone who contributed in any way.





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Sherlock Homes

by Mindy Rouff



In the last issue of the *Gazette*, I was surprised to see a familiar name: Sherlock Homes. In "3709 Juniata—A Brief History," Liz Raven McQuinn writes of accelerating her own research into 3709 Juniata's past by hiring Sherlock Homes. Note the company's name is *Sherlock Homes*, not *Sherlock Holmes*. *Sherlock Holmes* is a fictional private detective. *Sherlock Homes* is a small business dedicated to investigating the history of old homes and run by Shaw resident and master researcher, Cara Jensen. (Side note: *Sherlock Hound* is my beagle mix when she wears her hand-made Sherlock Halloween costume.)

Although Cara and I are both members of The Anti-Racist Collective, I do not know her well so I decided to learn more about her and her business. I was intrigued by a business specializing in researching old homes and genealogy, but what really grabbed my attention is the fact that Cara was a molecular biologist for 15 years before starting Sherlock Homes. Since I know so little about molecular biology, the leap from molecular biologist to history researcher seemed as big a leap as, say, going from molecular biologist to private detective. However, after a lovely conversation with Cara, I learned that it wasn't such a big leap, and in fact, the bigger leap was from corporate employee to owner of a small business.

After Cara was downsized from her job in the plant sciences, she started researching the history of her home in Shaw, where she has now lived for almost 17 years. She has always been interested in history as well as old, city homes, despite growing up in a newer home in rural Iowa. Cara said she was able to "jump into Sherlock Homes with both feet" because the scientific methodology was consistent whether she was pursuing a question in molecular biology or history. As she put it, "the investigative mindset is the same" because "you are always asking questions" in both fields. On the other hand, before she got her business license in 2003, she had never run a small business, and as the owner and sole employee of Sherlock Homes, she had to learn new skills like marketing and PR. Clearly, Cara mastered the role of small business owner, as 14 years later Sherlock Homes is still solving home mysteries as well as recent formal endeavors into family history through her genealogy service.

One mystery that Cara has been asked to pursue many times: "Is there a ghost in my house?" While Cara cannot rid your home of ghosts (if she *is* a ghost buster, she didn't mention it in our interview), she is not judgmental. In fact, she starts new-client interviews with open-ended questions like "Is there something you'd like to learn?" Of course, clients can seek information of the less supernatural variety, e.g., when your home was built. She will also supplement information that the homeowner has already gathered. For such basic questions and supplemental work, she charges an hourly rate. Otherwise, for a set fee, she

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Neighbors to Know: Moonshine the Horse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“He’s ahead of schedule in some areas and behind in others,” said Jeff. This country boy is learning city manners. Rather than bombing down back roads with a farm wagon, Moonshine will be asked to walk with the carriage in the park. Jeff is pleased to report that he is picking up this understanding quickly. Moonshine is less enthused about having his hoofs cleaned and cared for. It’s a brave man that convinces a new acquaintance to lift a massive hoof politely.

**When you
tell them to
go they go
– if anything
you have to
hold them
back.**

Moonshine shares his stable with Sheffield, a rescue pony nearly half his size, as well as a smattering of chickens. Horses are happiest with company and Moonshine and Sheffield have become fast friends. Days consist of time in the large paddock, carriage practice, grooming practice (including overcoming blow dryer fears) and occasional grazing. Sheffield enjoys walks on a lead around the park perimeter. Moonshine came to the park with minimal saddle experience but the plan is to work on that with a trainer in the future. That will enable Moonshine to get out for rides with stable hand and ranger, John Ackley.

Conversations about carriage horses often turn to whether it’s right to ask a horse to work. Jeff explains that just like dogs bred for generations to retrieve or herd, Clydesdales are bred to pull. As well as physical exercise, driving the horse provides mental stimulation and enrichment to its life.

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Message from the President

BY BARBARA
GILCHRIST

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association is 30 years old! What an amazing accomplishment. It was incorporated in 1987 by a group of residents who had a vision about the future. The choice of boundaries and name grew out of a long and interesting history. An area somewhat larger than the current boundaries and which was mostly without buildings was first platted by the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1881 and named Tower Grove Heights. Title was transferred to Connecticut Life Insurance in 1878 which intended to develop it, but later transferred title to investors tied to the Mercantile Trust Company. The Connecticut Realty Company was created and development boomed in the early 1900s in what was now the first subdivision south of Arsenal. A neighborhood association called the Tower Grove Heights Improvement Association was established in 1908 and lasted for several years. By 1987, the area was in a very different stage in its history. The residents who came together at that time agreed to continue the name of Tower Grove Heights, but reduced the boundaries to 14 blocks, as this seemed a manageable area within which to address the problems that existed at that time. (Thanks to Tower Grove Heights resident, Mark Abbott, whose book, Tower Grove, is the source of most of this history.)

Other neighborhood associations have formed and dissolved within the Tower Grove South neighborhood in our 30 years, including Grand Oak Hill, Park Side, Fanning and Morgan Ford. We are very happy that a new association, Tower Grove South, which is the first such association to choose boundaries contiguous with the Tower Grove South neighborhood designation, was created in 2015 and we look forward to many years of working together.

Tower Grove Heights is and has been a vibrant neighborhood and association for all these years for many reasons

Tower Grove Heights is and has been a vibrant neighborhood and association for all these years for many reasons, not the least of which is our diversity. Our housing stock is a good mix of single-family and multi-family residences. Most of the single-family homes are owner occupied, but not all; many of the multi-family residences include the owner as well as renters. We have residents who are old enough to have participated in the college campus protests and civil rights marches of the 1960s. We have younger residents who are carrying on this tradition by being active with current-day progressive organizations. We have residents whose children are grown and we have young families with new babies and children of all ages as well as households that do not include children.

We are bounded on the east by a business district that reflects the cuisine of 14 countries and businesses owned by 22 immigrants. We have residents who are African-American, Asian, Hispanic, Caucasian. We have Catholics, Muslims, Jews, Protestants, and Atheists. We have heterosexuals and everyone in the LGBTQ rainbow. We have lots of Democrats because we are in the City of St. Louis, but we also have our share of Republicans, Libertarians, Green Party members and Independents.

Another reason for our longevity is our amazing residents. Many of the original residents who incorporated the Association in 1987 still live here. More recent residents are continuing the tradition of service to the neighborhood. There are so many people, too many to name, who have been block captains, organizers of block parties, association board members, writers for the *Gazette*, volunteers for alley cleanups, and organizers of Autumn Fest. Thanks to each of you who have contributed in big and small ways to make TGHNA vital for so many years and who continue to make the neighborhood the wonderful place it is today.

A third reason is that shortly after the Association was established, a group of dedicated volunteers began publishing a neighborhood newsletter called the *Tower Grove Heights Gazette*. In the late 1980s, email, Nextdoor, Facebook and Twitter did not exist, so a newsletter delivered to residents' doors and distributed at neighborhood businesses was the best way to let people know about events and to provide interesting information. It was always designed to be just that – a “feel-good” publication with information about events and general interest stories that were educational or made the reader smile. Like the neighborhood association, the *Gazette* has survived and thrived all these years. While it is available on-line in a pdf format, it is still printed on paper and delivered to all residents' doors and to businesses. I encourage everyone to take a look at the old issues on our website, www.towergroveheights.com, to get a sense of

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A WALK IN THE PARK

The American Legion, Not the VFW

BY RICH
IEZZI

When I wrote the "Invisible Second Floor Living" story about 3801 Wyoming in the last *Gazette*, I mistakenly said that the building used to be owned by the VFW. Not so, says long time resident Bev Mori.

"The American Legion bought the building in 1970 and owned it until Susie Gudermuth bought it in 2001," Bev explained. From what Bev told me, 3801 Wyoming was quite the center of activity. "We used the basement for all kinds of things - a turkey shoot, barbecues, war veteran's parties and Christmas parties."

**"The grill
was so big
that the
buyer had to
hire a crane
to lift it over
the fence"**

Bev said there was an enormous barbecue grill in the backyard that was sold when the American Legion moved out. "The grill was so big that the buyer had to hire a crane to lift it over the fence," Bev reports.

Thanks to Bev for correcting the story. Sounds like the American Legion people sure knew how to have a good time.



GOOD NEIGHBOR Garden Tip

Plant grass seed in March and April. It's harder to get seed to take in the heat of summer. Be sure to buy perennial grass seed - annual varieties are quick to start but won't come back next year!

Message from the President

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

where we were and where we are now. (The oldest issue we have archived is from June, 1989)

Much has changed in the area over these 30 years. People, businesses and organizations have come and gone. Others have been here from the beginning and remain to this day. New people, businesses and organizations have been added. In all these years, the Association has continued to serve the neighborhood by providing:

- A FORUM to find out what is happening in the neighborhood;
- A MEANS to make The Heights a cleaner and safer place;
- A MECHANISM to connect with City Hall and other agencies;
- A GATEWAY to connect with neighbors;
- AN OPPORTUNITY to help protect our property values; and
- A WAY to make the neighborhood a more interesting and fun place to live.

Whether you are new to the neighborhood or a resident of long-standing, please join in celebrating our 30th year!

Sherlock Homes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

provides a narrative story that her website states is “crafted from researched bibliographical information about the families that lived at the house.” This package also includes the home’s documented chain of deeds, a short history of the neighborhood, origins of the street, and a framed “antiqued” photo of the home. This practice of putting a home’s important dates and names into a narrative form has always set Sherlock Homes apart from the competition. It also represents Cara’s philosophy that “every house has a story to tell.” She explained that she loves “finding the hitherto unknown connections between the current owner and the history of their house.” Genealogy was a natural addition to Cara’s list of services as it fits her love of finding connections, and she now investigates family history as well as home history.

Perhaps this is where I will end *my* investigation of Sherlock Homes and Cara Jensen because, shockingly, I’ve made it this far with nary a Sherlock Holmes pun. Let’s just say: when I go to research my home and family history, it won’t take a brilliant detective to figure out who to hire. For more information on Sherlock Homes, check out: sherlockhomesstl.com



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Holiday Season on Juniata

In mid-December, 3600-3700 Juniata saw a proliferation of red velvet ribbons and bows encircling each tree trunk in the block's tree lawn. No one knows for sure where the idea came from – Martha Stewart? Pinterest? One Facebook poster stated the 4000 block of Parker has been doing it since the 1970s.

According to one neighbor, it was a cheerful and festive sight that made her smile as she trudged off to work each morning. A neighbor from 3800 Hartford suggested the gauntlet had been thrown down, challenging that block to step up its game next December. Where will it end? Will more blocks engage in a friendly competition to outdo each other? Will we eventually see our own version of Candy Cane Lane or an episode of "The Great Christmas Light Fight" being filmed in Tower Grove Heights?



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Neighbors to Know: Moonshine the Horse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

"When you tell them to go, they go – if anything, you have to hold them back. For the health of the animal you have to take them out."

With John's help, Jeff manages the care of the stable residents, as well as maintaining the grounds and the equipment. "No two days or any week is the same," Jeff said.

TGP's history with horses is as old as the park itself. The stable was built in 1867 to house the mules used for construction work. Later it became a small firehouse and horses were used to pull a water wagon. A fireman lived in the adjacent house. As the decades passed, pleasure horses were stabled there off and on. At one point a city police captain who lived in the area kept a horse there in exchange for occasional patrols through the park.

Moonshine is just the second carriage horse to work in TGP. Jimmy Joe's fans were legion and he helped make many happy memories for park goers. There are high hopes that Moonshine will become a good neighbor for many years to come.



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THE UNCLUTTERED HOME PART 4 – *The Uncluttered Kitchen*

BY MARILYN BROWNING

The first thing you'll notice in my kitchen is the apparent lack of appliances on the counter. Where are the high-end mixer, the food processor, and the 10-speed Waring blender? I don't own them. Don't get me wrong. I had all of those appliances and a number of others in my batterie de cuisine. Nearly all eventually found their way to garage sales and charity thrift stores, casualties in my battle for more kitchen counter space.



What do I use instead? Three sharp kitchen knives and a cutting board, which along with a box grater, took the place of the food processor. The high-end mixer's place was taken by a small hand-held beater that works just fine, thank you, although with a little more effort a spoon or whisk could do the job. The blender, which over time we stopped using to make frozen margaritas, and started using to blend soups, was replaced by a stick blender. This handy item, in addition to being something that can be stored in a drawer, will also not spray your walls, ceiling, and counter with hot soup when you blend too much at a time. Consider this the voice of experience.

What constitutes an essential appliance will, of course, vary depending on you and your individual habits and needs. A case in point: the coffee maker, known in our house as the Dispenser of Life-Giving Elixir. That still has pride of place on the kitchen counter, where we can reach it easily when we need to be resuscitated. Ours

can make 8 cups of coffee in six minutes, a relative speed demon in the coffee maker world. I leave it to others to determine what they use on a daily basis and can't live without—the rice steamer, the juicer, the electric popcorn popper—though clearly none of those are used in my kitchen.

If the time it takes to assemble it, use it, clean it, and put it back exceeds the time it takes to do it by hand, it's not a labor-saving device.

The only other permanent object on the counter is an attractive ceramic container that sits by the stove and holds the tools I use to scrape, stir, serve, and otherwise manipulate the food I'm preparing. This leaves plenty of space on the counter to prepare pretty much anything. This includes bread, pastry, and pasta dough, all of which can be prepared easily and well without the use of a food processor or dough hook, as people around the world can testify.

If you think about it, pretty much anything that's been made longer than electrical appliances have been around can certainly be made by little old you with your hands and a few simple tools. Here's the secret to kitchen appliance decision making: If the time it takes to assemble it, use it, clean it, and put it back exceeds the time it takes to do it by hand, it's not a labor-saving device. Remember that most of the world cooks over fire without any gadgets at all, and in a pinch when the power goes out, so can you.



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REAL ESTATE NEWS

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

Homes Sold in Tower Grove Heights during 2016

Type	Address	Sold Price	Bdrm	Bath	Sq Ft
Resident	3806 Arsenal	\$325,000	2	3	
Resident	3662 Humphrey	\$366,975	4	3	
Resident	3862 Humphrey	\$374,000	4	3	2,482
Resident	3661 Hartford	\$330,000	4	3	
Resident	3819 Juniata	\$211,000	2	3	2,221
Resident	3664 Harford	\$390,000	4	4	2,700
Resident	3870 Wyoming	\$384,000	3	3	2,200
Resident	3711 Juniata	\$251,000	3	3	2,299
Resident	3639 Juniata	\$345,000	5	3	
Resident	3877 Hartford	\$275,000	4	4	1,948
Resident	3875 Juniata	\$440,000	6	4	3,400
Resident	3871 Wyoming	\$176,000	3	2	1,564
Resident	3728 Humphrey	\$349,900	3	5	2,300
MultiFamily	3817 Humphrey	\$220,000			
Resident	3630 Humphrey	\$350,000	5	5	4,125
MultiFamily	3884 Utah Place	\$315,000			3,364
Resident	3631 N. Utah Pl	\$252,500	5	1	2,372
Resident	3865 Connecticut	\$379,900	4	3	2,512
Resident	3850 Hartford	\$266,000	4	3	2,012
Resident	3719 Humphrey	\$379,000	4	5	2,422
MultiFamily	3645 Wyoming	\$175,000			2,808
Resident	3651 Juniata	\$278,000	4	3	2,227
Resident	3657 Wyoming	\$431,500	5	3	2,863

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Throwing Shade on Lawns

BY BETTY GREENJEANS

Walk down any of our east-west running streets and notice the difference in the lawns from one side to the other. Most successful lawns are situated on the north side of the street in open areas, enjoying southern exposure. Shady dwellers on the south side may not see the sun strike their lawns for months. Even in summer, tall houses on steep slopes and mature trees blanket gardens and yards in deep shade for most of the day. What to do when all you long for is thick, green grass? Change your heart's desire.

What to do when all you long for is thick, green grass? Change your heart's desire.

You odd numbered folk may be growing more successful lawns in front, but running into trouble in the backyard.

An added challenge in our neighborhood is steeply sloped front yards. If your lawn is letting you down consider blanketing these awkward areas with other plantings. A thin, poor lawn allows soil to wash away and collect in low areas of our sidewalks, creating muddy, slippery messes.

Are you beating a dead horse? It's wrong to continue throwing chemicals on an area where grass is doomed to fail. The environmental impacts of growing turf should be on every homeowner's mind. Every lawn should be maintained with careful attention to proper application of any pesticide or fertilizer. Follow package directions to the letter to avoid waste and the runoff that ends up in our rivers. Some of these lawn alternatives may appeal to anyone looking to reduce their workload and environmental impact and create a more sustainable landscape.



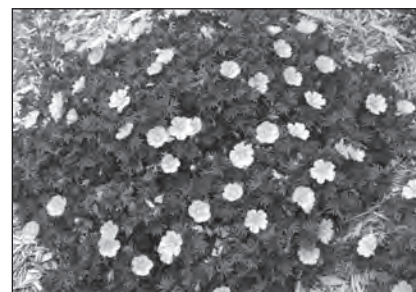
Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)



Bishop's hat (*Epimedium*)

A quick google search for types of plants and particular conditions will result in many options. Look for well-reviewed selections without aggressive tendencies. A carpet of ivy is not your only choice. For

shade, check out wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), bishop's hat (*Epimedium*) and Japanese spurge (*Pachysandra*). Or for sun, take a look at Sedums, cranesbill (*Geranium*), plumbago (*Ceratostigma*), and thymes. You can truly get creative and plant a real garden, mixing perennials, groundcovers, a small shrub or three, and a garden-sized tree.



Cranesbill (*Geranium*)

For best success replacing any lawn, remove all the grass first. Prepare for heavy weeding the first year and keep on top of the job. Mulch bare areas well. Purchase enough plants so your plan will knit together within a few seasons. With this upfront investment you'll soon be enjoying a more interesting garden space that will beautify your street, attract birds and butterflies, and leave your lawnmower with far less to do.



Sedum



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To have a liaison with City Hall and other agencies
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To make TGH a more interesting, fun place to live**

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