

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 14, No. 2

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

Spring 2003



Grand Designs: Tour showcases TGH's Housing Diversity

by Suzanne Rhodenbaugh

The 10th Annual Grand South Grand House Tour shows our part of the city's grand designs this year 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sat., April 12, and Sun., April 13. It includes homes in four of the five neighborhoods part of this Tour: Tower Grove Heights, Tower Grove East, Shaw and Compton Heights. The Compton Hill Reservoir Square neighborhood doesn't have homes on the Tour this year.

Founded to draw people to city living, partly by showing them the rich architectural store (and friendliness, a Tour fringe benefit!) in our St. Louis

neighborhoods, the Tour also every year benefits one or more non-profit organizations that serve residents of the five neighborhoods. This year proceeds will go to the Five Church Older Adults Center, and American Legion Post 186, which meets at Wyoming and Spring in our neighborhood. Members of that Post, mostly World War II veterans and their wives in its Auxiliary, visit veterans in hospitals and nursing homes. They also bring treats to several centers for kids, such as the Salvation Army Hope Center for abused children, and the Galludet School for deaf and hearing-impaired students.

Tower Grove Heights' part of the Tour this year will include four homes which show the remarkable range of size and type of housing available in our neighborhood. This range has been a major factor, according to historian Mark Abbott, in our neighborhood's stability over its hundred-year history. Featured will be the Peter and Elaine Haynes family's large home at 3610 Utah Place, the two and one-half story home-in-renovation (almost finished!) of the Mark and Laura Kohlen family at 3824 Juniata, the upper storey of the Rob Liebschutz-Lea Anne DeRigne two family home at 3664 Connecticut,

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Remembering the Shops Along "Grand Avenue"

By Ruth Brooks

Today it's South Grand Boulevard, and to many it's "Grand South Grand"—that six block commercial strip stretching from Arsenal to Utah Street.

But in my memory, it's "Grand Avenue," a place of many happy jaunts that started for me as a child in the late 1940's. I grew up in a home on Tennessee Avenue at Sidney Street. It was always fun to walk with Mom to shop on Grand.

In the 1950's St. Elizabeth's girls in their navy blazers and uniform skirts could hang out at Tillman's Restaurant (at Arsenal) for a Coke and some juicy gossip after school. Younger kids would pop into Woolworth's dime store

for a 10-cent toy, while the older women bought sewing notions, stationery, or bobby pins. The red-and-white Grand streetcars buzzed up and down the street. A Walgreen's dominated the southwest corner of Grand and Arsenal, but Hesselberg's (at Hartford) and Knight's and Sinnwell's stores (at Wyoming) were also busy pharmacies on Grand.

At Grand and Connecticut a Velvet Freeze shop served double-

scooped ice cream cones for just ten cents. Nearby Namendorf's, a favorite card-and-gift shop, specialized in fancy umbrellas. A trip to the Carpenter Branch Library was an adventure since children could slowly meander south on Grand, stopping to look into the many stores along the way.

We bought my first prom dress at LaMerte Bridal Shop; their large selection of pastel organza, eyelets and satins was somewhat overwhelming.

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

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

2002 House Tour Update

Last year's 9th Annual Grand South Grand House Tour closed out on a high note. Almost 700 guests to the five sponsoring neighborhoods made the two rainy days in April bright for children at the Cornerstone Center for Early Learning, which was given a \$5500 donation from the 2002 tour's proceeds. The funds will be used for scholarships and general expenses of running the pre-school on the corner of 39th and Russell.

The Tour was also able to hand a \$3000 check to the African Refugee Services to enable their language courses for recent émigrés. These funds were actually raised and granted to another organization the year before. That group disbanded and returned the donation to the Grand South Grand House Tour Committee.

We hope this year's tour, the *tenth* annual Grand South Grand House Tour, will have the same success!

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The passion
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There are now 3 Botanicals on the Park
stores in the St. Louis area.

St. Louis City:
3014 South Grand,
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West County:
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at Des Peres Commons,
314.593.6885

St. Charles, MO:
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Duke Creek Crossing,
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A Grand Bookstore Of Our Own: Dunaway Books

by Suzanne Rhodenbaugh

Once upon a time a man named Pat Dunaway came to love books. We don't know when or how this happened, because the taciturn Dunaway, who must have as many stories as books to offer, isn't talking. Fortunately, Walter Morris is talking. He owns the brand-spanking-new store of old books—rare, antique, out-of-print and just plain used—at 3111 S. Grand, where Dunaway works six days a week selling books from the collection he built over decades. Morris tells us as much as *he* knows of the story...

In the mid-1960's, Dunaway started on Delmar near Skinker a book business which was mainly mail order. It was a time many university libraries were being built or expanded, and he developed a huge number of academic customers, both libraries and individual professors, and published a nationally-distributed catalogue. Dunaway kept the doors locked and the shades drawn; his local retail sales were more of an afterthought.

Morris, a generation younger than Dunaway, holds the fascinating

title "Senior Describer" for Regency Stamps. His other full-time pursuit is writing auction catalogues. He also buys and sells stamps as an individual. But he's also always haunted old bookstores. About ten years ago, he started going to estate sales and becoming a "scout," someone who buys and sells books to dealers. This is how he came to know Dunaway.

Last year Dunaway faced the sale and renovation of the building where his business had operated. What to do with 60,000-80,000 books? Happily for us, Morris came along with an offer to buy the inventory, with the understanding Dunaway would continue to work in the business. By October 1, three tractor-trailer loads and two box-van loads of books were out of the old building. By November 1, those books, Morris, and Dunaway were ensconced on our own South Grand.

How did this happen? Well starting last summer they looked all over town for a site, says Morris, who lives in the Shaw neighborhood. Then one day he was at Kinko's, and

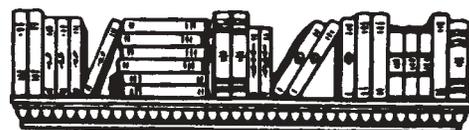


Walter Morris, owner of Dunaway Books

noticed a guy standing in front of a storefront across the street talking on a cell phone. On the chance that guy might be the building owner, Morris crossed the street and met Dave McCreery, who owns 3111 S. Grand. Morris says the new space is "a little more expensive than some other places" they'd looked, "but easily justifiable, given the location." He says this is "a great neighborhood, with a very literate population," and that, given the excellence of the space and location, "parking wasn't that big an issue."

For those who love to read, and those who may also follow some unusual or hard-to-find topic, Dunaway Books is a place to buy from people who are also book lovers, and know their stock. The organization in the store is slightly idiosyncratic, which only adds to its charm. (Where else but Dunaway Books could you find a whole section called "Polar"? As in North and South Poles, no "bi" prefix or "disorder" suffix attached!)

You can buy or sell books at Dunaway's, which is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. and Tues., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wed. through Sat., and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun.. You can contact the store by e-mail at dunawaybooks@sbcglobal.net.



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Resident Profile: Salvatore Dinolfo

By Erin O'Reilly

Salvatore Anthony Dinolfo, or "Sal" as most people know him, has lived in TGH since 1997, and works in real estate. He is originally from Brooklyn, New York, and his ancestry is Sicilian. He was named after his grandfather "Salvatore" and his godfather "Anthony," as is the Sicilian custom.

Sal grew up in Brooklyn and studied accounting in college. He joined the Navy in the early 1960's during the "Bay of Pigs," and fortunately wasn't put out to sea for he gets quite seasick on boats! His first job in accounting was for J.C. Penney in the retirement fund department in Manhattan on 52nd street. After 5 1/2 years, there he was ready to move on, and gave notice without really knowing where he was going to move on to. On his lunch break one day, he walked out onto 52nd street and saw CBS across the street. He thought that might be an interesting place to work and put in an application, but they were not hiring that day. So he walked a bit further to NBC, and applied there, but

they also weren't hiring. He walked another block and applied at ABC, and was turned down there also. Finally, two blocks and four applications later (still on his lunch break, mind you), he got a job with MGM on 54th street! He spent the next 26 years working in "contract compliance accounting" for MGM, Embassy Pictures, Lorimar Productions, and Universal. As you can expect, he met many famous people, and has lots of photos and autographs to show for it!

During this time, he and his family had moved to California. There he changed careers and got into the sports card business before his wife, Judi Sharp, convinced him to move to St. Louis in 1994. In St. Louis, he pursued his culinary interests as a career, attending culinary school and working for several eating establishments in the St. Louis area. Missing contact with people, however, he got out of the kitchen and into real estate in 1997, and now works with Coldwell Banker Gundaker. He describes himself as a "city friendly" realtor, specializing in the south city area and older homes.

He and his wife bought a house in TGH on Connecticut Street, and they have been rehabbing it over the years. Currently Sal is stripping some beautiful oak woodwork upstairs, having already completed the downstairs woodwork. He also enjoys cooking as a hobby, and loves to prepare Italian recipes.



Sal Dinolfo and cat Millie.

He and Judi have three grown daughters and one granddaughter between them. They also have one cat named Millie who now claims the position of being the doted-upon "only child."

Sal belongs to TGHNA and TGENA. He is on the Grand south Grand House Tour committee. He also is on the board of "Gifted Productions," a neighborhood theatrical group. Sal is a man of many talents and a colorful background!

Upcoming Events in the Park

4/23: Wreath laying at the Shakespeare statue 10 a.m. to honor his birthday
 5/6: St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series: Piper Palm House, 7 p.m.
 6/7-8: Festival of Nations: SE corner of TGP, info: 773-9090
 6/19: Where in the world is Music? Children Concert, Piper Palm House 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
 6/26: Bach to the Future, Children Concert Series, Stupp Center, Noon.
 6/28-29: Pride St. Louis Festival: East End of Park: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
 7/3: Drums & More, Children Concert, Piper Palm House, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 7/10: Bremen Town Musicians, Children Concert, Piper Palm House, 9:30-10:30am
For more events & info call TGP at

PorterHouse Steak Dinner	\$8.70
Shrimp Dinner	\$8.30
BBQ Rib Dinner	\$8.30
Catfish Dinner	\$6.55
Chicken Dinner	\$5.60
Charbroiled Chicken Breast Plate	\$5.50

STOP BY FOR LUNCH OR DINNER!

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For more information on homes for sale or lease, call Susie Gudermuth (314) 771-7097

Tower Grove Homes

In the Business of Neighborhood Building

Urban living with a small town feel.

Neighborhood Briefs

by Sara Langan



Commerce Bank Plans to Update



Parking Study Update: Consultants will present findings and recommendations at a Town Hall meeting Wed., April 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the Carpenter Branch Library. All the documents thus far produced by the Parking Study will be available at the Library and online at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/planning/southgrand/>.

Help your street win a block party!

Results are tabulated using number of addresses on each street of members who join BEFORE July 31, 2003. And yes, Arsenal's membership will be doubled since it is a 1/2 street. So far *Humphrey* leads the pack with 11 addresses; *Hartford* and *Juniata* are tied with 8; *Utah* has 6; *Arsenal* and *Connecticut* have 5 each; *Wyoming* has 4. Your street needs you, we need you, join today!

Report from the Capitol

State Senator Pat Dougherty Proposes Criminal History Check For All Child Care Workers

By Sen. Patrick Dougherty

Strengthening measures of protection for our children and the elderly is a legislative priority of mine, therefore I have recently proposed legislation to require people who care for children, the elderly and the disabled to undergo a criminal fingerprint check. Senate Bill 543 would require criminal history checks for all school district employees, including bus drivers. The Missouri Highway Patrol has reported that it has found several registered sex offenders that have sought employment at Missouri schools, and many bus drivers have been found to have criminal records in other states.

Another provision of the measure would expedite the process in which the Highway Patrol receives criminal record information from local courts and criminal justice agencies. Once an individual is fingerprinted, the law enforcement agency would be required to submit them to the central repository within 15 days. Currently, there is no time frame in which fingerprints must be submitted. The legislation would also improve the Family Care Safety Registry (FCSR) by expanding its access to include criminal records as well as the sex offender registry. The FCSR is accessed by numerous

facilities throughout the state that care for children, the elderly and disabled persons when hiring direct-care employees and caregivers.

The death of a Greene County child while in foster care caused public outcry, and prompted the Missouri Senate to take a closer look at the Division of Family Services (DFS) and their foster care screening process. To keep children from being moved from one harmful environment to another, we need to run background checks to ensure that when children are taken from their families, they're placed in a safe home. Under Senate Bill 543, fingerprints of prospective foster parents would be run through Missouri and Federal records to check for ex-parte and full orders of protection. In the tragic case involving Dominic James in Greene County while in foster care, it was later found the foster parent had a previous protection order issued by a local court.

Heightened public awareness and media attention has prompted many other lawmakers to join my fight in updating state laws that help protect society's most vulnerable citizens. For a copy of the bill, log onto www.senate.state.mo.us, or to request that a copy be mailed to you, contact my office at (573)751-3599.

**SENATOR
PATRICK DOUGHERTY
MISSOURI SENATE
4TH DISTRICT**

Home: 4031 Parker Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63116
Tele: 314-772-1948

Office: Room 425, State Capitol
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Tele: 573-751-3599 FAX: 573-751-0266

email: pat_dougherty@senate.state.mo.us

TGH First Ever Trivia Night Successful “Beyond Our Wildest Dreams”



Deep in thought...

By Sara Langan

This winter the executive board of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood sat around feeling poor, and wondered how to come up with the money to hang our new banners and, at the same time, to connect residents socially. Joe Ogier made a bold proposition, “Let’s do a trivia night.”

Bold indeed because none of us had ever done a trivia night and many had not even attended one. The bold idea took root and Joe recruited Diane Hurwitz, Virlene Richert, Kim Cole, Tom Rhodenbaugh, Erin O’Reilly, Sara Langan, Richard Buthod and Cheryl Jones to do publicity, solicit prizes, write questions, handle logistics, and run the event. Bruce Brooks was recruited to write questions, Jay Diamond to provide copying, and Pam Hardy, Vivian Waltermann, and Peter and Dave Langan to help the night of the event.

The merchants we approached were unbelievably generous. Regis-

trations began to trickle in. Members like Mike Renner, LeaAnne DeRigne and Bobbi Ohmer made phone calls to invite friends and neighbors. At first, we avowed to be happy if we got 15 tables, and participants had a good time. Then we set our sights on getting 20 tables, only to end up squeezing in 23 tables with 158 participants who included 55 people from the Heights with every street represented.

We’ve heard lots of positive comments. Don Hardin called to say, “I thought it was just wonderful. A fun, fun evening. I was uplifted by the whole experience.” Kathy Simonis, who works at my chiropractor, recruited a table of Grand area “lifers.” Her husband used to live on Connecticut behind the First Church of Divine Science, and she grew up on Juniata where her father, Jim Lee (a chair caner if you have antiques!) still lives in the family home. Kathy recruited a table that they called the “Einstein Family” because they placed high at another trivia night. They were great sports as they were recognized and awarded bunny ears as the last place winners. Kathy said they could now be known as the “Dumb Bunnies”.

Did we succeed? Yes, beyond our wildest dreams. Thank you to all the generous merchants and attendees who contributed to the success of the TGHNA Trivia Night. You can take pride in helping us hang the beautiful new TGH banners.

Attendance Prizes:

- Salon St. Louis - Free Haircut and make up, 11 “Gift a Friend Cards” (\$5 off for first time clients)
- Verve – Free hair cut and style
- Wyoming Barber Shop – Free haircut
- Hot House Theater -Tickets
- Botanicals on the Park - \$25 & \$10 gift certificate
- Gulf Coast Café - \$20 gift certificate
- The Medicine Shoppe - \$10 gift certificate
- MoKaBe’s - \$10 gift certificate
- Saint Louis Bread Company - \$5 gift certificate
- I and I Gallery - \$5 gift certificate
- MoKaBe’s Coffee House - \$5 gift certificate
- Orpheum Cleaners - 2 certificates for 2 piece suit
- Missouri Botanical Gardens - 5 passes for admission for 2
- Unique Books, Inc. – Miscellaneous books and tapes

A special drawing for Tower Grove Heights Members included:

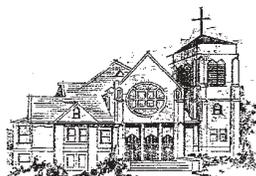
- Sekisui - \$60 gift certificates won by Marti Frumhoff who lives on Connecticut. .
- St. Louis Cardinals - 2 Terrace Reserved Seats won by Joe Thele who lives on Hartford and is also our neighborhood stabilization officer!

All Attendees received:

- Soda provided by Schnucks on the Hill
- 10% off coupons from Kabob International

Come visit . . .

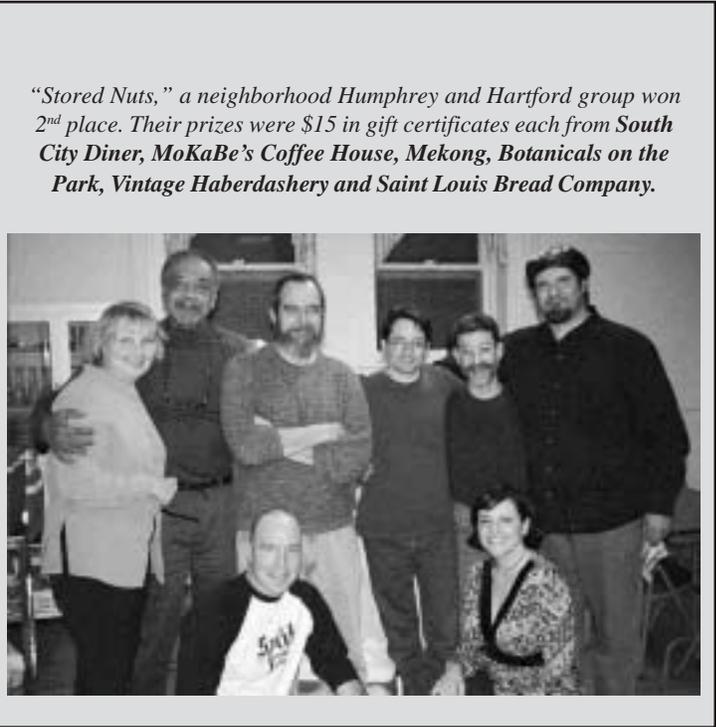
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1st place was won by "Team Hubris" (above), who found out about us from a trivia site on the internet. They each received \$25 in gift certificates donated by **Vintage Haberdashery, King and I, Sekisui, Dunaway Books, Botanicals on the Park, Le Petit Paris and the Black Thorn Pub.**



"Stored Nuts," a neighborhood Humphrey and Hartford group won 2nd place. Their prizes were \$15 in gift certificates each from **South City Diner, MoKaBe's Coffee House, Mekong, Botanicals on the Park, Vintage Haberdashery and Saint Louis Bread Company.**



3rd place winners were the "Dumpster Divers" (left), a neighborhood Hartford and Juniata group. Their \$10 certificate choices were from **Mekong, Medicine Shoppe, MoKaBe's Coffee Shop, I and I Gallery, Botanicals on the Park, and Saint Louis Bread Company.**



Kathy Simonis, member of the "Dumb Bunnies," who proudly is displaying her group's award for being the last place winners.

MoKaBe's

coffee house



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Continued from page 1

and a one bedroom apartment above-the-shops at 3207A South Grand. So whether you're a single interested in small elegant apartments, or a member of a family which needs three storeys of elbow room, or someone in-between — or just plain love to see what neighbors close and far have done with their houses — there's something for you on this Tour.

Additional to the Heights homes, there will be two homes in Compton Heights; two homes in the Shaw neighborhood; and four homes in Tower Grove East. On the Sunday afternoon of the Tour, a swing band will play at the 3424 Longfellow home in Compton Heights. For an additional fee of \$5, you can visit the Compton Heights Water Tower; the Tour buses will stop there.

On the order of Volunteers Extraordinaire, additional to the home owners, are Diane Hurwitz, TGHNA secretary, who is coordinator of homes and house captains for the whole Tour, and House Captains Michelle Reichert, Carol Hoffmeister, and Michael Renner. The house captains help the homeowners recruit volunteers, and run the volunteer schedule for each house. Their nervous breakdowns are expected to supplant those the homeowners might otherwise have.

For \$12 in advance you can visit all or a few of the homes, at your own pace. Tickets are available at Botanicals on the Park, the gift shop at Missouri Botanical Garden, Gringo Jones Imports and Kenary Park Florist and Gifts. The days of the Tour, tickets are \$15 per person, and can be purchased where the Tour starts: South Grand at Juniata. Bus transportation between homes is included in the Tour fee. Call (314) 773-4844 for more information.

If you'd like to work one or more three-hour shifts at one of the Heights homes in exchange for a free Tour ticket, call Suzanne Rhodenbaugh at 772-6587.

Continued from page 1

The Libson dress shop, across the street, offered more casual women's clothing. Down the street was Hoehl's Dry Goods Store, a good place to buy underwear and other sundries.

My brother and I loved to put our feet into the green x-ray machine at Fischer's Shoe Store that showed us wiggling our bony toes in our new shoes so the salesman could decide if they were really a good fit. As the heels on our shoes began to wear down, we showed up at the Grand Shoe Repair Shop, located mid-block between Connecticut and Juniata.

Orpheum Cleaners took in our coats, sweaters and winter dresses to restore their freshness once again. A Kroger grocery occupied the building which is now home to Asia Food Market. Offices for doctors, lawyers and dentists filled the area. A movie theater, a barber shop, and a bowling alley were also on Grand. The Post Office was situated on Hartford Street, just behind Hesselberg's.

Breitscher's Bakery (later Dickmann's) sold great caramel rolls that were unmatched by any other bakery around.

Tower Grove Bank (now Commerce) was a full-service bank with about 200 employees. When they rebuilt the bank's exterior walls to modernize their structure, the bank stayed open, and customers walked through the old and the new wall openings to do business inside the

bank. Eventually, the old inner brick walls were demolished.

You could find almost every-

thing you needed just a few blocks from home. Shopping malls, as we know them today, did not exist. The shopping experience in the 1950's was more intimate. You often knew the shop owners and salesgirls on a first-name basis, and they knew what you liked to buy.

The businesses on Grand have changed, but Grand Avenue is still alive and well, serving people in new ways. This boulevard continues to live up to its "grand" name.

Shopping malls, as we know them today, did not exist. The shopping experience in the 1950's was more intimate.



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South Grand Offers Unique Dining and Shopping

By Susan Anderson

South Grand is the international community of St. Louis. The first influx of New Americans from Viet Nam made South St. Louis their home and located their businesses along South Grand. They've been followed by such a wide variety of cultures and nationalities that the 3rd District of the St. Louis Police Department devoted an officer to the International Institute to help guide the newcomers over the hurdles of learning about their new home. Customers have welcomed the new businesses with open arms.

If you're not sure what new

food or restaurant to try, close your eyes and point to one on the list below. Shopping options range from health and international foods to the unique or antique home décor. Oh! You have one last errand while you're out. Relax. It's all here on South Grand!

The neighborhoods surrounding South Grand reflect the diversity of the commercial area. Residents appreciate the many conveniences of urban living, where literally within blocks is the post office, cleaners, groceries and a variety of restaurants to serve nearly every whim. Join us on South Grand!

FOOD STORES:

New Dawn Natural Foods, 3536 Arsenal
Jay Asian International Foods, 3172 S. Grand
Holy Land Meats, 3173 S. Grand
S. Grand Deli & Grocery, 3232 S. Grand

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

Futon Expres', 3117 S. Grand
TFA, The Future Antiques, 3203 S. Grand
Grand Habitat, 3206 S. Grand
Isn't It Grand & Just Pictures, 3189 S. Grand
Distributors: Avon, Stanley & Watkins, 3179 S. Grand

VINTAGE AND UNIQUE ITEMS:

A J & R Pawn, 3127 S. Grand
I & I Gallery, 3238 S. Grand
Botanicals on the Park, 3014 S. Grand
Kim Chi Jewelry, 3234 S. Grand
Cheap TRX, 3211 S. Grand
Kim Thanh Video & Gifts, 3224 S. Grand
Chin's Imports, 3240 S. Grand
Vintage Haberdashery, 3143 S. Grand

RESTAURANTS:

Grand Chinese Cuisine, 3177 S. Grand
Gulf Coast Café, 3191 S. Grand
Kabob International, 3200 S. Grand
King & I Restaurant, 3155 S. Grand
Lemon Grass Restaurant, 3216 S. Grand
Le Petit Paris, 3210 S. Grand
Mangia Italiano, 3145 S. Grand
Mekong Restaurant, 3131 S. Grand
Pho Grand, 3195 S. Grand
Sekisui, St. Louis
Siete Mares, 3204 S. Grand,
South City Diner, 3141 S. Grand
St. Louis Bread Co., 3114 S. Grand
St. Louis Wok, 3161 S. Grand
Tan My Restaurant, 3226 S. Grand
Wei Hong Bakery & BBQ, 3175 S. Grand

DRINKS/ETC.:

Absolutli Goosed, (Martini Bar) 3196 S. Grand
Black Thorn Pub, 3735 Wyoming
CBGB, 3163 S. Grand
Double Bogey Bar & Grill, 3613 Juniata
Jade Room, 3129 S. Grand
Upstairs Lounge, 3129 S. Grand

COFFEE HOUSES:

MoKaBe's Coffee House, 3606 Arsenal
South Grand Coffee, 3183 S. Grand

TAKE OUT:

Domino's Pizza, 3107 S. Grand

SERVICES:

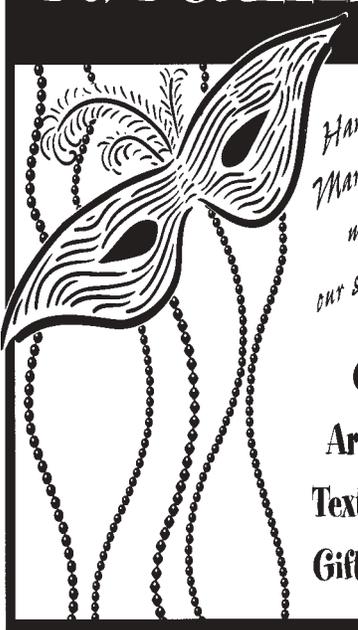
Retail Services

Commerce Bank, 3134 S. Grand
Daniel Morgan, Tailor, 3203A S. Grand, A
Kinko's, 3112 S. Grand
Lucas Optometry, 3165 S. Grand
Medicine Shoppe, 3137 S. Grand
Orpheum Cleaners, 3199 S. Grand
South Grand Optical, 3190 S. Grand
U.S. Post Office, 3198 S. Grand

Hair Services

Billie Beauty Shop, 3169 S. Grand
Salon St. Louis, 3012 S. Grand
Wyoming Barber Shop, 3192 S. Grand
Verve Hair Salon, 3208 S. Grand

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Diner, Poised To Expand, Keeps Churning Out Good Food

By Matthew Fernandes

For this issue, we review South Grand's always-reliable South City Diner.

Now in its eleventh year under its current ownership (the space has housed a restaurant more or less continuously since the 1950s), the diner will soon double its capacity, moving the main dining room next door.

Owner Peter Spoto expects the move to happen in mid-April. A branch office of Edward Jones will populate what is now the dining room. The diner will not lose the entire space, though. Directly behind the current dining room will be spillover seating and an expanded kitchen. A diagonal row of stools will face the kitchen where customers will see the chefs at work in the background. Additionally, an outdoor dining patio will face Hartford Street.

Now on to the food. The day I found time to review the South City Diner happened to be on St. Patrick's

Day. Before ordering my waitress informed me of the day's "blue plate special" (I could have guessed): corned beef, cabbage and new potatoes (\$5.95.) The blue plate specials (\$5.95-\$7.95) change each night and are always bargains.

For an appetizer I ordered the potato skins (\$4.95.) The comfort food-style potato skins were an appropriate selection for the place. After all, one doesn't come here for designer or delicate cuisine. In it, hearty potatoes were smothered in cheddar cheese and plentiful strips of bacon. Sour cream was on the side. It was tasty. If alone, don't overdo it on this heavy appetizer or you'll have trouble putting away the main dish.

The main dish was a no-frills Irish meal. The beef was cooked to perfection and plenty juicy. The quarter of cabbage was well-cooked as it should be but the new potatoes could have used some creativity. The boiled and halved potatoes were served plain.

Dishes I would recommend from

Ask the Gardener: *What flowers can I plant in the strip of soil between the sidewalk and street?*

By Mary Jackson

Low maintenance, shade & heat tolerant, and resilient when stepped on are characteristics to look for when planting your sidewalk strip. Perennials require less water, and save you the work of replanting next spring! Give the following plants a try:

Ground covers: liriopse, ajuga, creeping phlox, sedum, hardy geranium.

1-2 feet tall plants: purple coneflower, live-forever, black-eyed susan (rudbeckia), pincushion flower (scabiosa), columbine, beebalm (monarda), yarrow, coralbells, fountain grass.

Gardening is a process. If the plants you choose don't work, or are too much work, try something else. More than anything, have fun!



Peter Spoto poses with diner memorabilia.

the menu include: For breakfast, the Greek Omelet; for lunch, the Italian Stallion Loaf; for dinner, the Pesto di Spoto (pesto pasta); for dessert, they offer the irresistible Hank's Cheese-cake as well as a few other items.

The South City Diner is an easy place to like, and an easy place to dine in, especially if you have kids. The wide booths are great for fidgety kids.

The place is open most of the time and, on the weekends, all of the time. This place is packed and lively after midnight and deep into the early morning on the weekends.

Winter House Retires

By Sara Langan

Thirteen years ago, Kendall Winter and his wife fell in love with a house on Arsenal. Kendall said it was ridiculous for a dog (which came with the home) a cat and two people to live alone in this big house. So they bought the house and hosted their first B & B guest in 1989 as the Winter House. Kendall, a retired computer specialist for the government, said that it was "good for pocket change," and he met a lot of great people. One of the more than 2,000 guests was Linda Hunt, who starred in *Year of Living Dangerously*.

He and his wife are moving out of the B & B business to travel themselves. China is their next destination. Need a place to stay? Kendall suggested other B & B's in the area: Fleur de Lis on Russell, Two Boys Inn on Compton, 2049 Sidney, and The Brick House in Soulard. *Thank you, Kendall, for your long standing advertising support of the Gazette. Happy trails to you!*

A black and white advertisement for CheapTRX. The top part features the text "CheapTRX" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "Alternative Shopping - Perfect Body Piercing" in a smaller font below it. The middle section shows a black and white photograph of a man and a woman in a playful, slightly awkward pose. The man is on the left, wearing a white t-shirt and dark shorts, leaning forward. The woman is on the right, wearing a dark dress and boots, looking towards the man. The bottom section contains the text "Clothes, Cards & Gifts for the more adventurous shopper." followed by the address "3211 South Grand Blvd." and the phone number "314.664.4011".



Why Plant Trees on Your Property?

Trees can lower overall energy expenses by shading a

house from the summer heat and screening a house from winter winds. In the United States the energy savings from healthy and mature trees properly located can be as high as 20-25% per year. Twenty mature trees filter the pollutants of one car driven 60 miles a day. In addition, 78 mature trees produce enough oxygen annually for 18 people. Mature trees can increase property values 5-20% higher than property without trees.

The City also has a program to plant a tree for you!

The City of St. Louis Forestry Division plants trees in the tree lawn,

the City right of way along public streets that is typically between the curb and sidewalk, at no charge to the adjoining property owner.

Property owners can request a tree for the City right of way in front of their property by calling the Forestry Division at 613-7200. A tree planting inspection will then be performed by the Forestry Division to determine what kind of tree is most suitable for the City tree lawn.

Please Keep In Mind The Following When Requesting A Tree:

1. Do not request trees for your neighbors. If you would like to see your block planted contact your Alderman for more information.

2. Trees cannot be planted in tree lawns smaller than 36 inches in width.

3. City Code requires trees to be planted at least 20 feet from intersec-

tions, 5 feet from alleys and driveways, 6 feet from fire hydrants and 35 feet from adjacent trees, and at least 6 feet from a gas or water valve box and sewer vents.

4. Trees are planted from November to April. The Forestry Division plants 2-2 ½ inch diameter trees that are roughly 5-6 feet tall. Tree requests for the upcoming planting season are taken from January 1st to June 30th by calling 613-7200. The Forestry Division plants 3000-5000 trees annually. Due to the large volume of trees planted and the availability of different trees at different times of the year from the nursery, exact planting dates cannot be provided.

Info in this article was collected from: http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/parks/forestry_div/forestry.html.

Remote Control

By Kathryn Zellich

A TV is Good for Your Child, or so proclaimed the cover of a recent Newsweek magazine. This amazing invention can teach preschoolers the alphabet and numbers, shapes and sharing. Parents can breathe a sigh of relief about that glowing object in the primary-colored bedroom down the hall.

By the time I finished reading, I was astonished that I'd ever mastered the names of colors, much less the ABCs. After all, as a child of the 40's and 50's, I was seven before I ever saw a television (in a neighbor's living room). A year or so later, my parents surprised my siblings and me with an enormous, shiny cabinet sporting a tiny black-and-white screen. Sad to say, programming was in its infancy then. Many shows were only 15 minutes long, and separated from one another by vast tracts of test pattern. Only a small percentage of the fare was geared for children;

some of it so local that you might see your best friend and her scout troop on Parade of Magic or Texas Bruce and the Wranglers. Hardly any shows seemed worth coming inside to see.

No air conditioning made our tiny, post-World War II prefab more desirable during the eternal summers, and so most of my free time was spent outdoors. But somehow, despite this deprivation, I became a voracious reader so early that I can't remember the process. Maybe it had something to do with living in a house full of books, seeing my parents read, and hearing at least one bedtime story each night.

As for colors and shapes, I was so enthralled by them, that I earned a degree in art when I grew up. I vividly recall the colors of my childhood—the endless hours I spent in the last pasture in Affton pounding the sublime purple juice of poison poke berries into piles of lime. And everywhere there were dandelions, their glorious yellow petals mysteriously dissolving into ephemera. Playing flashlight tag after

sundown showed me that color owes its power to light.

And numbers? Oh, hopscotch, and marbles, and jacks! How many green apples did we hurl in mock battle? How many times could you spin before falling down dizzy? How much penny candy could we buy if we pooled our meager resources?

As for sharing, it was a thing we learned on our own, without the heavy hand of adult morality. We shared because we liked someone, or in the hopes that someone might share back. And we learned—in real time, often with real tears—how it felt when sharing wasn't on the agenda.

By the time I went to Kindergarten, science made sense, diplomacy seemed desirable, and I'd learned much more than any expert can teach on Sesame Street. I knew that I was a unique human being, with gifts and flaws. I knew something about how I fit into a complex social order. I'd extracted huge amounts of information from the natural world. Not bad for a kid who'd never even heard of a remote control!

**TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

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

President: Robin Vannoy

President Elect: *Need volunteer*

Past President: Brian Marston

Secretary: Diane Hurwitz

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3800 Utah Place

Susie Gudermuth

Tower Grove Heights Needs You! The TGHNA is the one thing that best illustrates the Heights' commitment to community. It is the place where we come together:

- To find out what is happening in the neighborhood.
- To make the Heights a cleaner and safer place.
- To have a liaison with City Hall and other agencies.
- To make the neighborhood a more interesting and fun place to live.
- To better protect our property values.

However, the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association can only be YOUR Association if you join. We need your participation if TGHNA is going to be a reflection of what YOU want the Heights to become. So please don't delay in joining or rejoining. Memberships run from January to January. Please indicate your level for the year 2003:

___ Individual (1 vote) \$7/yr

___ Household (2 votes) \$12/yr

___ Business (1 vote) \$15/yr (Includes 10% discount on Gazette Ads for 4 Issues)

___ ****NEW**** Life Membership (1 vote) \$100 for LIFE

Please PRINT:

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

*Please check if you would like to be included in the 2003 Neighborhood Buzz Book to be distributed to members in July 2003: ___ yes ___ no

Return this form and payment to your block representative or send to the **Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, 3735 Connecticut, St. Louis, MO 63116**

Contribute to the Gazette!

Email story ideas, tips, or comments to cesamsel@swbell.net, or call 772-5982.

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

Upcoming meetings:

April 22, May 27, June 24, & July 22: all at 7:15 p.m.

First Church of Divine Science, 3617 Wyoming St.



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