

# Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 16, No. 1

Winter 2005



## Neighborhood Builders: *Tales from the Trenches*

By Suzanne Brach

In our last issue, we began a series of regular features on “neighborhood builders,” urban pioneers who invest in our neighborhood through a long-term commitment to building renovation and community involvement. Their stories are unique, offering inspiration and insights as to how we all can become “neighborhood builders.” If you know a neighborhood builder, tell us. We’d like to tell their story.

### Neighborhood Builder Saves Houses (and cats, too)

Saving houses is a bit like a mission of mercy to neighborhood builder

Diane Hurwitz. “I feel sorry for the poor buildings,” she says. “I just want to preserve the architecture—to save it.”

Diane has “saved” seven properties to date, including her current home on Utah Place, a home most recognizable by the 30 varieties of day lilies blooming in the yard during spring and summer. “It wasn’t love at first sight, but it had a lot of the craftsman details that I’m attracted to now,” she says of her choice.

A full-time lawyer for the Illinois Court of Appeals, Hurwitz found her avocation about 17 years ago when a friend introduced her to south city and Tower Grove Heights.



*Diane Hurwitz and four of the tenants of the Clowder House.*

*Continued on page 1*

### Get Rid of the Winter Blahs – AND Don’t Miss the FUN! TGH Trivia Night 2005

By Suzanne Brach

The third annual Tower Grove Heights TRIVIA Night is Saturday March 19, 2005. This annual event is expected to once again bring neighbors, friends and the extended Tower Grove Heights family together for a great evening of winter fun, fabulous prizes and community building. As the premier fundraising event for Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, this year’s TRIVIA Night is projected to be even bigger and better than last year’s successful event. YES, we’re going back to nearby St.

Elizabeth’s Academy; and YES, beer as well as soda will be available to wash down your home-cooked special snacks and our **free** munchies. And YES. Even with all the concern with the falling dollar, the price stays the same--ONLY \$80.00 per table or \$10.00 a person!

**And PRIZES!** Prizes for the best table, the worst table and door prizes...too numerous to mention, including gift certificates from your favorite restaurants and stores, sports, theatre and event tickets, books, and grooming supplies. A special thanks to the

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**The Tower Grove Heights Gazette is brought to you by the following people:**

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*Thanks to all for your time and contributions!*

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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.

**E-mail Group Keeps Residents Informed**

By Tom Reitenbach

Are you "in-the-know?" Wanna be? It's easy. Next time you're online, point your browser to [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com) and join our new email distribution list. This great tool enables the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association to keep residents informed of related news and events. We even have the ability to host surveys, maintain a calendar and post pictures or other files.

All you need is an e-mail address to join. Should you later wish to unsubscribe, you'll find instructions for doing so at the bottom of every post you receive.

Take a minute to sign on through the neighborhood website or by visiting the group directly at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/towergroveheights>. Like most things in a community, this group will improve with your participation. Your suggestions are most welcome.



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# “Grand Mosaic” House Tour

Expected to Bring Lots of People and Fun into the Tower Grove Park Area

By Joy Ward

Whether you like to visit beautiful homes or you simply like looking for new ideas for your own home, the 2005 Grand South Grand House Tour will be the place to be April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>! With homes in five of the fun and fine neighborhoods around Tower Grove Park, there is something for everyone. Whether your taste runs to Victorian, Arts & Crafts or a one-of-a-kind jewel, the 2005 House Tour has homes that will inspire and delight you.

Last year’s tour brought over 900 visitors into the Tower Grove Park from all over the region. The tour raised over \$5000 for the Water Tower Park and Preservation Society, which supports the Compton Hill Water Tower and Park at Russell and Grand. This year all of us who drive up and down Grand will benefit because the funds will go for plantings in the new

streetscape medians on South Grand.

Volunteers are still needed to work in the homes for a few hours hosting guests. If you would like to have fun and meet some of your neighbors, give the committee a call at the number listed below.

So join Grand South Grand Chairman O. John Groebl and the hundreds of your neighbors and neighborhood visitors as we jump on tour buses and saunter along Grand. The tour runs from 11 AM to 5 PM both Saturday and Sunday. The starting site is yet to be determined. Tickets are \$16 if purchased the day of the tour. Advance tickets are \$14, and can be purchased at select locations or over the phone by calling 314-773-4844. Tickets are also available at Gringo Jones Imports, Botanicals on the Park and the Missouri Botanical Garden in the Garden Gate Gift Shop.



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For more information about getting your ad into the next Gazette, contact Julia Engelhardt at 314-771-5885, or email [GazetteAdvertising@towergroveheights.com](mailto:GazetteAdvertising@towergroveheights.com).



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# The Tattler

By Sara Langan and Ellen Wilson

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association's first attempt at participating in the 100 NEEDI-EST CASES was a *huge success*. The neighbors raised just over \$1,100 in cash and donated between \$600-700 in gifts. Each family was deluged with gifts, and received some sorely needed necessities. We paid \$100 in utilities and provided about \$100 in home goods for each family.

Howard, Cindy, Crystal, and Macy received a bunk bed with all the trimmings for the girls, who were quickly outgrowing the crib they had been sleeping in. In addition to the bed, mattresses, and pillows we provided cotton and flannel sheets, a comforter, and stuffed animals for each bed. Each girl was given books, puzzles, clothes, and games to last them at least a year. The rest of the family received clothes, bed linens, and several nice decorative additions for their home.

Denise, Emily and Anthony will now be able to share meals together thanks to the dining room table and chairs we provided. Emily got a portable CD player, and Anthony will have plenty of play hours with his new electronic games. Denise will look great in her new clothes, boots, and sport shoes.

We had such a large donation that it took several trips in TGH resident Ellen Wilson's car to get everything to the agency drop off point. As she was making the arrangements with the caseworker it was suggested that Ellen take the gifts directly to one of the families. Ellen was not sure this was a good idea until the caseworker assured her that Howard wanted to meet and thank her personally. When Ellen arrived at his house he made enormous effort to hide the gifts from his 2 and 3-year-old girls, but after the gifts were securely put out of sight the girls came out to greet her.



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email: [pat\\_dougherty@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:pat_dougherty@senate.state.mo.us)

She did not expect the reception. The girls both came up with big hugs, and wanted to tell her everything about themselves (including age and who was older). Ellen stated, "The content and happy nature of this family and the obvious love Howard has for his children was palpable. The girls were so happy, healthy, and good-natured

it emphasized to me how important our gesture was to them. I wish all of you could have been there. I am quite certain there were enough hugs to go around."

Thanks to Ellen, Becky, Mary, Suzanne, and Diane for wrapping everything and everyone else who

*Continued on page 5*

*Continued from page 4*  
donated cash, gifts, or cleaned out their “Costco” shelves. We had several neighbors who were very generous and you should know that made all the difference.

There were a lot of people who helped make this happen and should also be thanked. TGHNA President Daryl Brach made sure that the word got out. Block captain Tom Reitenbach helped organize the announcements, and “Money” Tom Rhodenbaugh made sure we kept our dollars straight. Big thanks to everyone who helped and even bigger to all who donated.

**SOUTH GRAND NEWS:** Jay’s parking lot has been fenced and the Juniata entrance closed.

Mangia Italiano is working through the process to expand into space previously occupied by Vintage Haberdashery.

A proposed restaurant, Jasoom, would like to occupy former La Petit Paris’s space.

The expansion and renovation of 3204 is almost complete for Cafe

Natasha at Kabob International.

The renovation plans are in the City’s approval process for the new space for LemonGrass at the corner of Juniata and Spring (previous location of St. Louis Wok); Mr. Nguyen’s goal is a July opening.

The Erato Wine Bar, owned by TGH residents Adam and Corey Pasha, opened in December. There are reports of a line of people waiting to come in on weekends.

MoKaBe’s addition and renovation is underway.

**SOUTH CITY NEWS:** Riley’s, owned by TGH residents Bill and Paulette Kapes, at Arsenal & Arkansas plans a spring opening with pizza and bar service. Future plans include expansion to sandwiches and soups.

A new restaurant is proposed at Pestalozzi and Virginia.

SAIC has moved in with 50 employees to the former Anderson Garage.

The cul-de-sac of Botanical is in process.

The purchase of the site for

“Compton Gates,” the proposed condo on the former Shoney’s site, is due to close in January.

**GAME NIGHT ??!?** Anyone interested in getting together once a month or so to play cards or games contact Ellen Wilson at 771-1732. Once a group is identified, a day and time can be decided on.

**GUSTINE COBBLESTONE UPDATE:** Jennifer Florida said that when the cobblestones were installed the vendor could not find uniform stones. The vendor currently did a test patch at Potomac and Gustine installing flatter cobblestones. Drive by and see what you think. The vendor is willing to absorb the cost of replacing the stones.

Alley paving is getting more expensive as the cost of asphalt goes up. Previously the cost was \$12,000 per alleys and now it is \$17,000. Jennifer plans to pave as many alleys as the money stretches.

## Check out the Newly Revamped Website!



By Carrie Samsel

The neighborhood website has been updated and renovated by Richard Wendel. There are so many useful links now such as:

\*We are TGH

\*Local Info: polling locations, bus routes, important contact numbers, government officials, local places of worship, and so much more.

\*Neighborhood Schedule

\*Area Businesses

\*Neighborhood Gazette: (access to current and past issues!)

\*Housing

\*Association Board Members

\*Block Captains

\*Next Meeting

There are also links to nearby attractions such as The Missouri Botani-

cal Gardens, Downtown (Union Station, Busch Stadium, Savvis Center, Edward Jones Dome, Gateway Arch), Grand Center (St. Louis University, The Fox Theatre, Powell Symphony Hall), and the Central West End (Forest Park, St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Art Museum, The Muny, St. Louis Science Center).

The website is well organized, useful to residents and anyone interested in the area, and attractive. The “front” page of the website features scrolling pictures of our neighborhood.

If your looking for local information of almost any kind, or just like to surf on the web,

**[www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com)** is a must-visit!

# Rehabbing with Rich

## *Their Wishes Were Granite*

By Rich Iezzi

Tim and Anita Barker moved into Tower Grove Heights in 1989, and have been adapting their house on the 3800 block of Juniata ever since. About 5 years ago they commissioned a major 3<sup>rd</sup> floor renovation to meet the needs of their 4 kids, Laura, Paul, Christopher and Stephanie. Time flies and the kids are already making names for themselves--Laura has performed piano recitals, while Paul became a local celebrity for scoring a perfect 36 on his ACT.

But Tim and Anita's kitchen had all the original sins--dropped ceiling, fluorescent lights, bad layout, and no traffic-flow. At least there was a dishwasher, but it tipped over when the dish trays were pulled out too far.

Instead of doing this work 'when the kids move out', Tim and Anita looked at it the other way, wanting the whole family to enjoy their new space while they were still home. Along with wanting to entertain more, there was a need for usable space and updated appliances and cabinetry.

Tim, having formed his own architectural firm years ago, produced a 3D image of the project for a better feel. Opening up the kitchen to the dining room was the major objective, but the entire first floor was involved with new flooring, painting and light fixtures. Before anything was done, the PLAN was developed. I wondered how a household of six could live through an entire first floor/kitchen makeover, but Anita told me the secret. They rented storage units for the first floor furniture and devised a way to survive on the second floor. The microwave was in Tim and Anita's bedroom, the toaster oven was in Stephanie's, and bedrooms became dining rooms. Anita served hard time doing dishes in the bathtub, and just

like when you lose your electricity, its fun for awhile...

Meanwhile, the fun of the project had just begun. One of the neat things was choosing the countertop granite from an existing slab, and then having it cut and polished. It's a beautiful green, and becomes deep and translucent in sunlight. The kitchen started taking shape after the rear door was replaced with precious countertop and a beam was installed to permit the removal of the kitchen/dining room wall. The results were dramatic, featuring a granite topped island between the two rooms and oak cabinets that go all the way to the kitchen ceiling. The overall effect is a cavernous space where two smaller rooms used to be.

Anita suggests knowing your family's needs and waiting for the right plan before jumping in. Be aware there will always be a few goofs to live with, but chances are you won't look back. It takes awhile to get used to the newness--Anita still catches herself holding onto the new dishwasher so it won't fall over when she opens the trays.

When I was talking with her in the new kitchen, we could see dust motes in the bright sunlight and she didn't like that. I suggested they were always there, but the other kitchen was too dark to see them. A kitchen bright enough to see dust motes. I like that.



*Two views of the Barker's kitchen and dining room renovations*



## Saint Louis Real Estate Market Significantly Rewards Home Improvement

By Beth Braznell

Several years ago, Patricia Corrigan wrote an article in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* about real estate hell. A major part of the article was my own foray into first-time home buying with a loony agent. I mean, this woman was nuts. She spent hours and hours telling us about her affair with a married man, her mental problems, and her guide in the spirit world. Jay and I were unsophisticated when it came to real estate, and we tolerated this because we thought it came with the territory.

Today's buyers and sellers are far more savvy than we were. And as a recent guest of the federal government would say, "It's a good thing." Technology has changed the way real estate transactions are conducted, as far more information is available to buyers and sellers before they ever contact a Realtor.

According to the National Association of Realtors, 65% of buyers access home-buying data on the internet. Of those 76% will drive by a home

they have seen on the internet. Email and fax machines have streamlined the home-buying process. It's still an emotional roller coaster though; second in drama only to your wedding (nothing tops that!).

Spring is around the corner, so here comes the hot time for real estate. Approximately 50% of yearly real estate sales occur during the months of April, May, and June. One of the most frequent questions I get as a Realtor is, "What can I do to upgrade my house that will help its resale value?"

According to the 2004 Cost vs. Value Report conducted by the National Association of Realtors, St. Louis significantly rewards home improvement projects. For instance, a bathroom remodel averaging \$9,681 will return 90.1% of that investment nationally. But in St. Louis, a bathroom remodel will bring 139.5% of the investment when it's time to sell.

Other projects that return handsome dividends in St. Louis include a deck addition (130.2%), new roof

(117.5%), master suite with whirlpool and separate shower (114.1%), and a major kitchen remodel with average job cost of \$42,660 (112.4%).

What does this mean to you? In addition to providing you a warm and dry place to sleep and a place to get your mail, your home is an investment that may have at least as good a return as other investment opportunities. You do have to put money into that investment to make it pay off, so use your dollars wisely. Shag linoleum and hot pink bathroom fixtures may not increase your home's value. But a well-maintained home with carefully planned and executed improvements should help keep your home a major asset in your portfolio.

Besides, ever try having a party in a bank? The atmosphere is all wrong.

Beth Braznell is a REALTOR<sup>®</sup> with RE/MAX Results. You can reach her at 314-495-2681 or [ebraznell@aol.com](mailto:ebraznell@aol.com).

### Currently Active in Tower Grove Heights:

3852 McDonald, \$47,900	3822 Wyoming, \$324,900
3820 Humphrey, \$163,000	3817 Wyoming, \$329,00
3852 Hartford, \$179,900	3705 Humphrey, \$375,000
3871 Wyoming (townhome), 3 BR, 2 BA, \$179,900	3715 Humphrey, \$399,000
3729 Connecticut, \$275,000	3847 Humphrey, \$399,900
3705 McDonald, \$280,900	3726 Arsenal, \$423,900
3751 S. Spring (townhome), 3 BR, 2.5 BA, \$289,900	3657 N. Utah, \$499,900
3808 Connecticut, \$294,900	3801 N. Utah, \$534,000
3718 Arsenal, \$299,900	3801 Humphrey, \$544,350

*In the last three months, the following are among those sold in Tower Grove Heights:*

#### Single Family

3630 Humphrey, \$175,500
3859 Connecticut, \$182,000
3714 Humphrey, \$200,000
3710 S. Utah, \$212,000
3849 McDonald, \$245,500
3818 Connecticut, \$269,000
3814 S. Utah, \$527,000

#### Multifamily

3884 Juniata, \$100,000
3618 McDonald, \$165,000

Continued from page 1

“I liked the neighborhood architecture and its business center on Grand,” she says. “Although it was a little rough at the time, it was more stable than many other neighborhoods I had considered.”

Diane was also attracted to the community feeling of her urban neighborhood and decided to get involved in the neighborhood association. “It’s a great way to meet your neighbors, something that’s not common in the county,” she says. Diane ended up serving on the association’s Board of Directors and has remained an active participant for 15 years.

Diane’s first renovation project was a house in Dogtown that she purchased 22 years ago. That whet her appetite for more, and she moved on to a two-family home on Arsenal, a property that’s now a rental. She’s still working on the Dogtown house today.

“It turned out to be the true money pit,” she says with a laugh as she describes her dismay over the neighborhood squirrels feasting on her new wiring. All joking aside, Diane hopes to eventually turn the Dogtown property into a bed and breakfast, which she plans to run upon retirement.

Purchasing a property is to Diane what dating is to many of us. She waits for the property to speak to her. “There has to be something special about it, a feeling I get for the place,” she says.

Friends tease her, however, that she often picks the most forlorn of the lot. “They say, ‘if she could find the worst looking building, that would be the one she’d want,’” jokes Diane.

**Neighborhood Builder:**  
(na’bur-hood’ bil’dur) *n.* An eccentric, albeit interesting urban dweller with a proclivity for creating communities of diverse individuals and like-minded souls.

## So you want to be a neighborhood builder? Tips from a Pro

- 1) Only take on a renovation project if you love it or have a passion for restoration (“or, if you’re crazy.”)
- 2) If you choose to undertake a project, make sure you do it right.
- 3) Don’t expect huge financial returns, especially if you do it right. Realize that there are many things, such as plumbing, wiring, roofing, and basic mechanics of the building that will need to be done that aren’t necessarily the things that you see.
- 4) Make sure you have a special attraction to the property. Diane says she has a special feeling for each house she takes on—there’s something about it that says it’s worth doing. “If you don’t like it, you won’t do a good job for it,” she says.
- 5) Be a good negotiator and be willing to walk away. Diane always follows her rules regarding the price she’s willing to pay. “You have to be willing to walk away from a house if the price isn’t right,” she says. “And, who knows, you may still get that piece of property.”

Today, Diane owns five properties, four of which are in Tower Grove Heights, including her current home on Utah Place. Her most recent acquisition is a home on the 3700 block of Utah which she plans to renovate and sell next year.

When Diane is not saving buildings, she spends time saving cats, another “pet” project. Clowder House, a no-kill, minimum-cage facility, is her most recent endeavor that combines her love of cats and architecture. Located in the Benton Park West neighborhood, the renovation of the building was an important step in that

neighborhood’s rebuilding efforts.

“It was a blank slate, so it was an opportunity to do whatever I wanted,” she says of the three-story, 15,000 square-foot facility which opened a year ago. The former warehouse is home to 60-70 cats, two thirds of which are rescued cats brought in by board members and one third of which are endowed cats that receive lifelong care.

She plans to finish the house on Utah, continue working on rebuilding efforts in Benton Park West, and of course, finish the “money pit” in Dogtown. Fortunately, retirement is still a long way off.

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Continued from page 1

generous support from area merchants and businesses who work with us to make this a fun and profitable event. All proceeds of this event, our largest, go to fund the newsletter and sponsor neighborhood events.

We hope you'll come back, and if you're new to the community, join in the FUN! It's never too early to begin to recruit family, neighbors, co-workers, church members and friends to join you.

This event has proven to be a good way for others in the St. Louis area to learn more about our neighborhood. Several people, we've heard, have moved to the neighborhood after attending TRIVIA Night.

So, assemble a table, plan your menu and bone up on your TRIVIA skills—read the *Gazette*, search the internet, visit the library or watch reruns of Friends. We will once again have some great TRIVIA categories, challenging questions and interesting little-known facts that will inform, enlighten and literally amaze you!

**If you were there last year, you know how much fun it was. If you weren't, don't miss out this year.**

If you want to volunteer for the event, have general questions or need additional information, please contact Gary Kushinsky at 314-865-2411, [gakush@aol.com](mailto:gakush@aol.com). To register, use the form enclosed in this issue of the Gazette and mail it to the office.

**Registration deadline is March 12.** Or contact Jan Clinite, 314-773-2907, [jan@thecave.com](mailto:jan@thecave.com).

Have a great time with your friends and neighbors--it's a fun way to support your neighborhood association, reconnect with your neighbors and make new friends. AND REMEMBER the great TGHNA TRIVIA tradition...**FREE POPCORN!**

See you on Saturday evening, March 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Elizabeth's Academy, 3401 Arsenal Street.

# TRIVIA NIGHT

To Benefit The  
*Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association*

**Saturday, March 19, 2005**

**Game begins promptly at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

**St. Elizabeth's Academy--3401 Arsenal St.  
(Just east of Grand).**

**Enter parking lot from Louisiana St.**

**Cost: \$80.00 / table of 8**

**Refreshments: BYO Snacks  
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**One Soda or Bottled Water ticket  
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**Beer / Soda / Bottled Water will be sold.**

[www.TowerGroveHeights.com](http://www.TowerGroveHeights.com)

For Information,  
contact Gary Kushinsky, [gakush@aol.com](mailto:gakush@aol.com), 314-865-2411

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**TGHNA Trivia Night Registration (Register by March 12, 2005)**

Drop off or Mail To: **TGHNA 3735 Connecticut St.  
St. Louis MO 63116**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Table of 8 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$80.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

# Erato Wine Bar Hosts Grand Opening Celebration

By Adam Pashea

It's official. Wine is back on South Grand.

Erato Wine Bar & Grand Market, located at 3117 South Grand Blvd., immediately south of Tower Grove Park, will host its Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday, February 19th.

The event will begin at 6:00 p.m., and will include live music by Farshid Etniko. All attendees are eligible to win great prizes such as an imperial bottle of champagne, a variety of handsome gift baskets, as well as a Grand Prize for a private five-course wine tasting and artisan cheese pairing accommodating a total of eight guests in Erato's climate-controlled wine room.

Erato Wine Bar & Grand Market opened its doors in mid-December of 2004, and has quickly become a welcome addition for many locals and visitors who patronize Grand South Grand's vibrant and eclectic mix of restaurants, shops and services.

Erato's beautifully refurbished establishment in the first floor of the historic Dickmann Building is airy and inviting. The exposed brick, restored wood floors, and tin ceilings call attention to the wonderful history and

natural charm of the space, while blending seamlessly with an urban contemporary decor marked by a collection of cocktail tables, large oak wine cabinets, and a concrete bar top.

Erato's elegant setting provides a perfect ambience to an impressive portfolio of wines, ales, libations, and gourmet specialties, all served by an attentive, well-versed staff. Erato's wine list offers over one hundred selections, covering a diversity of varietals and styles, representing appellations throughout the world. Customers can enjoy a selection of wines by the glass, or select from Erato's more expansive list of wines by the bottle.

In-store bottle prices range from \$18 a bottle to \$150 bottle, while bottles purchased for take-home can



*Chris Hamilton and Tim Foley in front of Erato's custom wood wine display cabinets that line the shop's North wall.*

be found for as little as \$8.00.

Erato also offers a large selection of imported beers and American microbrews, in addition to a full bar of premium spirits and aperitifs. For something a little different, Erato offers several signature cocktails including the New Orleans' born Sazerac, and a traditional Brazilian Caipirinha. Light fare offerings, at this time, include a selection of artisan cheeses and sumptuous desserts.

Erato Wine Bar proprietors, Tim Foley and Adam Pashea bring the perfect combination of wine expertise and business acumen to create the ideal partnership. Foley, a Sommelier, has an extensive background in fine dining and wine sales. Foley's resume includes a position as a beverage director for The Ritz Carlton in St. Louis, and also as Sommelier at Emeril Lagasse's Delmonico restaurant in New Orleans, Louisiana. Pashea holds a business management degree from Saint Louis University, and has gained strong marketing experience through his years as marketing director of his

*Continued on page 12*

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# ‘Grand Visions’ Becomes Reality: *A Response to ‘Grand No More’ Neighborhood Editorial*

By Michelle Maple

Creating a streetscape worthy of the name Grand Boulevard was the driving force of the monumental streetscape project undertaken by a grass-roots coalition of neighborhood residents, businesses, institutions and government officials. Though the construction is still underway, and with it all the headaches that construction zones inevitably bring, the final product will soon be revealed as a remarkable achievement of neighborhood multi-modal transportation planning. The enhancement project will succeed in creating an aesthetically pleasing streetscape that accommodates pedestrians, bicyclists, buses and automobiles safely and efficiently.

Contrary to misconceptions that the effort was government-driven, the origins of the South Grand Streetscape Project dated back to a 1997 neighborhood planning forum in the Tower Grove East community where a major concern was the deplorable condition of South Grand from I-44 to Arsenal. TGE resident Anne Moore agreed to chair the effort, and quickly realized that any real changes would need to come from an area-wide effort. She organized the “Grand Visions Task Force,” comprised of representatives from 5 neighborhood associations, including Tower Grove Heights, 2 business associations, Tower Grove Park and Water Tower Park, as well as support organizations such as Arts in Transit and Operation Brightside. After numerous meetings and presentations of the plan to all organizations involved, as well as safety and engineering reviews, the end result was a community-initiated awarding of \$1,507,250, of which \$1,205,800 were federal funds, with \$301,350 of St. Louis City funding to meet a 20% matching requirement. Through working with the City’s Board of Public Service,

the TEA-21 (Transportation Enhancement Act of the 21<sup>st</sup> century) grant application was accompanied by a record 50 letters of support from all participating organizations, including the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, residents, businesses, politicians and area institutions.

Most importantly, as the project moves toward completion, the goals of the traffic-calming streetscape project are close to being met. The minimal reduction of traffic lanes will have maximum impact on creating a safer, more pedestrian-friendly environment. The supposed “3 lanes of traffic” each way, previously referred to, were actually 2 full-time lanes and an ‘alternative use traffic lane’ that was only available for 2 hours a day, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., northbound, and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., southbound. At all other times these lanes were dedicated to street parking, creating a dangerous obstacle course for impatient drivers illegally passing cars on the right and weaving in and out of the parking lane. Instead you will find dedicated bike lanes that are linked with the new citywide bicycle trails, as well as street parking in key areas.

The medians, soon to be attractively landscaped, replace crumbling, dilapidated medians that existed until 1999, when the City temporarily removed them in order to make needed resurfacing and drainage repairs. The removal created the much dreaded

“suicide lane,” which caused more safety concerns. In August of 2003 the need to slow traffic and accommodate pedestrians became indisputable as the community witnessed the tragic death of DeJuan Banks, a student at Missouri School for the Blind, who was fatally struck while attempting to cross 7 lanes of traffic at Magnolia. The sidewalk “bump-outs,” when incorporated into comprehensive streetscape designs such as Grand Visions, have been shown nation-wide to improve the safety of pedestrians, while visually encouraging drivers to slow their speeds to a safer pace. The removal of the overhead Cobra lights, replaced by historic granitoid lighting reminiscent of Tower Grove Park, have greatly improved both the appearance and pedestrian lighting along the street.

Though construction always  
*Continued on page 13*



*New historic granitoid light fixtures installed on Grand as part of the Grand Visions plan.*

Continued from page 10

father's manufacturing business.

Foley and Pashea opened their first location, Erato, A Wine Bar & Shoppe, in Edwardsville, Illinois nearly three years ago. This initial venture has proven to be a great success, and the partners are excited for the opportunity to bring their experience and passion to their new urban locale at Grand South Grand.

The name Erato pays homage to the origin of a new chapter in the life of sommelier and proprietor Tim Foley.

Foley's experience in the wine trade began eight years ago at a restaurant named Delmonico, located at the intersection of Erato, and St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana. It was at Delmonico, Emeril Lagasse's third restaurant in New Orleans, where Tim Foley, given the exciting opportunity of Assistant Sommelier, developed his passion and honed his expertise in wine.

But wine would not be the only devotion Foley would find at Delmonico on Erato Street, as this would also be the locale where he would meet his wife, Erin. After a brief courtship in the "Big Easy," they married, and moved to Erin's hometown of Edwardsville, Illinois.

Erato's hours are Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Live music is provided Friday and Saturday nights, with jazz featured at least one of those nights. In order to maintain an ideal environment for savoring the nuances of each wine, no smoking is allowed.

Erato will soon unveil its calendar of regular events including monthly wine tastings and wine seminars. Other upcoming special events include a night with legendary jazz saxophonist Houston Person on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

For more information about these events, or to schedule a private event, visit [www.eratowines.com](http://www.eratowines.com), or call Erato Wine Bar and Grand Market at (314) 664-6400.

## From The President

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association has increased its membership by nearly 10% over the past year. We attribute this to a multifaceted approach. General meetings start on time and end on time. We try to keep meetings moving, while also offering fun and interesting presentations and speakers, such as gardening or a new neighborhood business owner.

We also attribute our recent success to realizing our residents' many

talents and interests. TGHNA has recruited new board members by forming committees around volunteers' special talents. If you have a special talent to offer to the neighborhood, don't be shy, let me know!

Daryl Brach  
President, Tower Grove Heights  
Neighborhood Association  
[brach@direcway.com](mailto:brach@direcway.com)

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*Continued from page 11*

causes delays and frustration, the South Grand streetscape project will show itself to be an innovative, community-driven project which will create an attractive, safer, more pedestrian-friendly, yet efficient entrance to our Grand Neighborhoods. The improvements are long overdue, and will prove themselves invaluable, as these types of plans have repeatedly proven themselves in many major cities.

## La Clinica Supports Needy and Immigrant Families

La Clinica was founded in 1993 as a free bi-lingual medical service for poor and immigrant families. Services, such as prenatal care, are provided by volunteer licensed professionals. WIC Supplemental Foods are also available. Demand for services grows daily due to so many families living without any other source of care. Almost all patients exist significantly below the poverty level. La Clinica will serve about 7000 patients in 2004.

La Clinica receives funding and in-kind services from individual donors, church groups, foundations, and grants. Please contact La Clinica for information on how you can support this community effort. La Clinica's sister organization is Accion Social Comunitaria.

La Clinica - Latino Community  
Health Centers  
3646 Fairview Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63116  
(314) 352-7400  
[www.laclinica-stl.org](http://www.laclinica-stl.org)



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**Register Now for the Tenth Annual St. Louis Neighborhoods Conference  
Saturday, March 12, 2005  
St. Louis Community College-Forest Park**

Join neighborhood residents and leaders from throughout the St. Louis area to learn what it takes to build better neighborhoods and healthy communities at this year's St. Louis Neighborhoods Conference on **Saturday, March 12.**

Every year hundreds of St. Louisans gather to hear a keynote address, network with city officials and neighborhood leaders from throughout the city, and attend interesting and informative workshops. All this and lunch for the low, low price of \$15!

This year's conference features a keynote address by Henry Cisneros, former Secretary of the Department of Housing & Urban Development. More recently, Mr. Cisneros founded American CityVista, a joint venture to build homes in urban areas where development hasn't recently occurred. He also co-authored *Opportunity and Progress*, a book calling for housing policies such as tax incentives for employer-assisted housing and prohibiting predatory lending. After the keynote address confer-



ence attendees can choose from 15 practical "how-to" workshops in five general topic areas: Housing, Youth, Crime & Safety, Healthy Communities and Organizational Effectiveness.

**Help make your neighborhood even better by joining hundreds of neighborhood leaders and community development professionals at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Louis Neighborhoods Conference on Saturday, March 12, 2005!**

*For more information or to request registration materials, contact the St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) at (314) 533-9104, [office@slaco.org](mailto:office@slaco.org).*

## Be Part of the 24th Annual Project Blitz!



Operation Brightside, the region's oldest and most comprehensive not-for-profit cleaning and greening initiative, enriches and beautifies St. Louis neighborhoods by restoring, maintaining and growing the community landscape.

Project Blitz is Operation Brightside's annual campaign to clean up city neighborhoods. This year the Blitz is on April 16 for Tower Grove Heights.

Join the effort to make St. Louis a cleaner, more beautiful place to live. Volunteer today to be a Block Captain for Blitz 2005--the 24th Annual city-wide clean-up.

Responsibilities of a Block Captain include:

- \*Working with Area Commander to ensure ample supplies are provided to block.
- \*Recruiting neighbors to help clean up alleys and streets.
- \*Helping educate neighbors about Blitz.

All Block Captains will receive a packet of information in early March with instructions on proper waste disposal, how to obtain trash bags, borrow tools and request flowers for planting on public property.

Volunteers are also needed to help with clean-up projects on their

block. Set aside the morning to work with your neighbors to clean up your block. Everyone is encouraged to be a part of making their neighborhood a better place to live.

If you would like information how to sign up, please call the Blitz Hotline at 772-4646, or visit their website at [stlouis.missouri.org/brightside/](http://stlouis.missouri.org/brightside/).

*(Taken from Operation Brightside's informational brochure.)*

# TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION CONTACT LIST

Monthly meetings 7:15 PM on 4th Tuesday  
(except December), First Church of Divine  
Science, 3617 Wyoming Street  
President: Daryl Brach  
President Elect: Open  
Secretary: Diane Hurwitz  
Treasurer: Jan Clinite  
Asst. Secretary/Membership: Pauline Ashton  
NSO: Joe Thele, 773-0664,  
email: thelej@stlouiscity.com

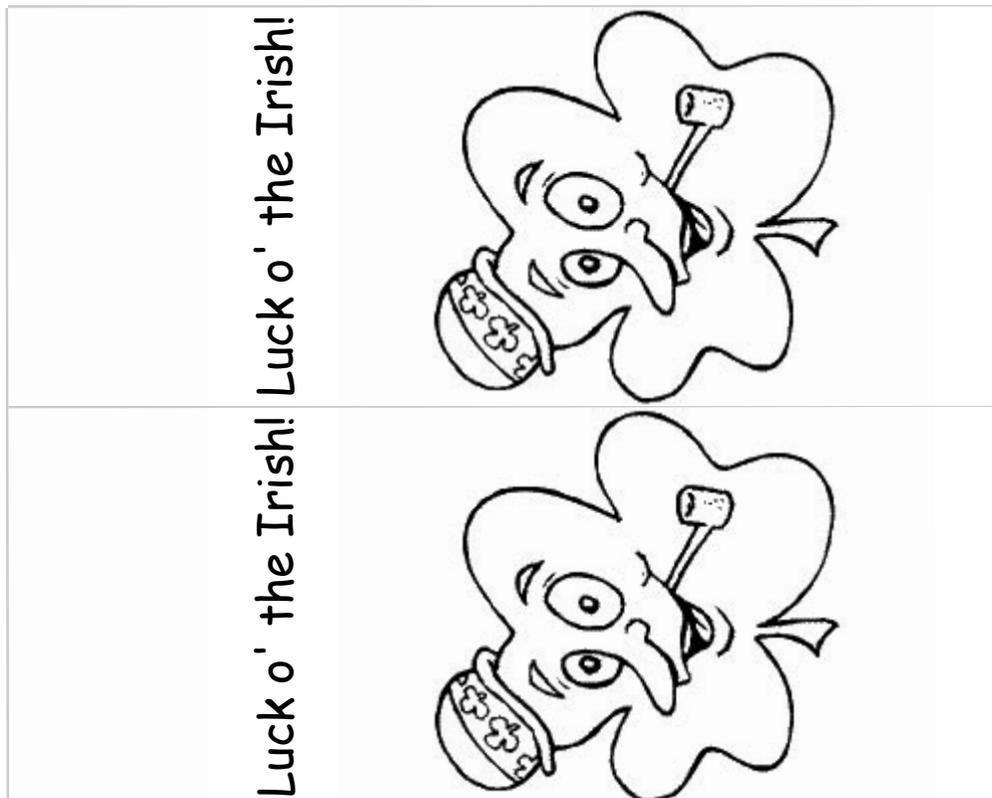
### **Committee Chairs**

Block Representatives: Tom Reitenbach  
Fundraising: Suzanne Brach  
Gazette: Carrie Samsel  
Telephone Inquiry Service for TGH Rental  
info: Jean Iezzi (314)772-5982  
Promotion: Suzanne Golemb  
Member-at-Large: Jodie Heliker  
Webmaster: Rich Wendel  
[www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com)

### **Block Representatives**

**3600/3700 Arsenal:** Recruiting!  
**3800 Arsenal:** Recruiting!  
**3600/3700 Hartford:** Mark Abbott/ Sherri Craven  
**3800 Hartford:** Joe Thele  
**3600/3700 Juniata:** Lynne Casey  
**3800 Juniata:** Tom Reitenbach  
**3600/3700 Connecticut:** Jodie Heliker  
**3800 Connecticut:** Virlene Reichert  
**3600/3700 Wyoming:** Creston Ragan  
**3800 Wyoming:** Pat Strawhun  
**3600/3700 Humphrey:** Sue Freedman  
**3800 Humphrey:** Erin L. O'Reilly/  
Georgiana Grant  
**3600/3700 Utah Place:** Kristy Andrews  
**3800 Utah Place:** Recruiting!

## Kid's Corner



### **Instructions:**

1. Cut the bookmark out (one big rectangle) and fold in half (left to right) along the center line. Color.

2. Glue so it stays folded together.

OPTIONAL: cover with clear contact paper so it lasts longer (you could also put a piece of cardboard in the center before gluing for a sturdier bookmark)

OPTIONAL: Poke a hole in the top of the bookmark and tie a string/ribbon through as a tassel.

**It's time to renew your membership!** Membership runs one calendar year--January to January, unless you are a "life" member. 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. **Tower Grove Heights NEEDS YOU!**

Please indicate your membership level choice:

\_\_\_ Individual (1 vote) \$10/yr      \_\_\_ Household (2 votes) \$15/yr  
 \_\_\_ Business (1 vote) \$25/yr (Includes 10% discount on Gazette Ads for 1 year)  
 \_\_\_ **\*\*NEW\*\*** Life Membership (1 vote) \$100 for LIFE

Please PRINT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Your name & address will be listed in the buzz book. If you do not want your phone or email listed, write "NO" next to your information..*

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

*I have found that,  
among its other  
benefits, giving  
liberates the soul  
of the giver.*

*-Maya Angelou*

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.



## Clip & Save Events Reminder

**March 6** Friends of Tower Grove Park 2005 Lecture Series "Before Harriet Tubman: Underground Railroad Activity in Antebellum St. Louis" - Presented by Kris Zapalac; Stupp Center (Grand & Arsenal); 2:00 p.m. FREE

**March 8** - St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series Piper Palm House in Tower Grove Park, 7pm, Doors open at 6pm, FREE. Seating is first come first served.

### Neighborhood Association Meetings

**Tuesdays:**  
**February 22**  
**March 22**  
**April 26**  
**May 24**

**7:15 p.m.**  
**First Church of Divine Science**  
**3617 Wyoming**  
**Everyone is welcome!**

**March 19 - TRIVIA Night.** Saint Elizabeth's Academy; 7 p.m.; See page 9 for details and registration.

**April 3** Friends of Tower Grove Park 2005 Lecture Series "Henry Shaw and Shakespeare: The Transformation of Theater Culture in the Mid-Nineteenth Century"; Presented by Louis Gerteis; Stupp Center (Grand & Arsenal); 2 p.m. FREE

**April 19** - St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series Piper Palm House in Tower Grove Park, 7pm, Doors open at 6pm, FREE

