

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 16, No. 4

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

Fall 2005



Hurricane Blows New Neighbors Our Way

By Lisa Roggeman

Living in New Orleans, at first, was a very exciting thought. It's a town where nothing sleeps. You can walk around town with a drink in your hand and no one blinks an eye. We also have the famous drive-thru daiquiri stores (no drinking and driving though!), and of course the French Quarter, which is its own little mystery. I moved to New Orleans from Johannesburg, South Africa after my husband, Greg, and I got married.

We've always taken note of

hurricane season and, as with most New Orleanians, we take it very seriously. The 2005 hurricane season opened with a bang, and hurricanes and tropical storms ploughed through the Gulf one after another. New Orleans breathed a sigh of relief after every one of them made landfall somewhere else. Then we started hearing about Katrina brewing in the Atlantic. At first we weren't too worried about it, thinking that this one would also probably turn at the last minute.

When our parish president issued

a mandatory evacuation on Saturday, we started to go into a bit of a panic. We booked a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee—the closest hotel we could find. Unfortunately, we still didn't take it as seriously as we should have, and only packed clothing for three days along with my immigration papers, our photo albums and our computer tower.

We set off, driving mostly in the contra flow, which is when they open both sides of the interstate, and all traffic on both sides goes north. When

Continued on page 7

Neighbors Join In Katrina Relief Efforts

By Elizabeth Braznell

Hurricane Katrina is having a profound impact on our nation. It affected our economy, and will for possibly years to come. It opened old sores and fresh dialogue in the areas of race relations and poverty. It moved hundreds of thousands of people from one part of the country to other ar-

reas—some may never return. Public officials lost jobs over mishandling of relief efforts. Many people lost all they had: possessions, jobs, homes, pets. Some lost their lives.

Americans responded with unbounded generosity. I took a walk in Tower Grove Heights the other day to find out how people in our neighbor-

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*Autumnfest
"Friend-raiser"
deemed a great
success.
Story and
pictures starting
on page 10.*

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Tattler: Be Sure Your Neighbors Know Your Car

By Sara Langan

Did you realize you can get a ticket for parking in the same place for FIVE days? Well, we found out the hard way—by getting a ticket on the street where we live.

OK, my son's car does look like a derelict; it is one of the Chevy Lumina's that loses its paint, so it is white with lots of gray patches. The touch-up paint resides in our basement.

We often have to park our cars way down the block because of the success of the Grand South Grand Business District. My son was sick, didn't go to school for a week, AND, to our surprise, we landed a ticket.

I thought, no problem, I'll appeal and get the \$25 fine forgiven. NOT

SO. I got back a form letter stating, "An investigation has been conducted to verify the nature of your complaint regarding the ticket number(s) listed below. The results of our investigation, however do not substantiate your claim." If I wished to contest the ticket, it said I could appear in person at the Traffic Violations Bureau at 1430 Olive.

I went to the Traffic Bureau, calling before I went to verify the hours. I arrived, and was told the computers were down, there was nothing they could do, and to come back. I was taking time off work to come as it was, and I asked if I could just leave my verification information. I was told no. I had decided to write an

article for the Tower Grove Heights Gazette about this process, and so took some pictures with my digital camera. UPROAR. I deleted the pictures. The computers came up, and a woman took my information and came back after 15 minutes with a court date in December. Meanwhile I read that it might cost me \$48.50 for court cost, plus I'd need to take more time off work. Much to the woman's disgust I cancelled the court date, thinking the way the process was going, this ticket was really going to cost me more money to contest.

I paid the ticket...and got a \$25 late fee. Insult added to injury!

BEWARE. You too can get a \$25 fine for parking on the street where you live.

Around the Neighborhood:

Grand Oak Hill Barbeque (right and lower right); Happy Hour at Erato Wine Bar honoring Joe Thele's promotion to NST Program Manager.(lower left)



Photography by Mychael Wozniak

Tower Grove Heights' Dark Past

By Rich Iezzi

Every morning when I step out to get the paper, I look up and down Hartford and think I'm on a perfect street in a perfect neighborhood. It sure didn't used to be like that. Susie Gudermuth's slide presentation at a recent TGHNA's meeting featured the last 25 years of our neighborhood. Let's take a look back.

St. Louis was different then. We lost our neighborhood schools to busing in the '70's, and a sharp rise in natural gas prices resulted in enormous heating bills for drafty city homes. 16% mortgage interest rates were upon us, and all these factors caused city real estate to plummet. The Faust mansion at #1 Portland Place was listed for \$35,000 (fully furnished!) with no takers. Who could heat the place? In 1980 house prices in our area were in the \$15,000-30,000 range and we were known as Grand Oak Hill.

When Jean and I bought our Hartford house in 1978, there were many elderly owners poised to move but no one was buying. And no wonder. If you found the Grand Oak Hill area, it was either by accident or word of mouth. St. Louis had no marketing program, no house tours and the TGH neighborhood association didn't exist. Neighborhood perception was low; we knew of realtors who sat in their cars

with cans of Mace when forced to show houses in our area.

A lot of the people living here were rough. One day, Jean and I noticed the group of men living across from us working on their front porch (which was unusual for them). We thought they were building a wheel chair ramp. Nope, the new ramp let them ride their motorcycles right into the house.

Sara Langan, a 30-year resident, remarked that if any rehab was done back then, it was to remove the good stuff we treasure today. When Jean and I purchased on Wyoming back in the '80's, we noticed that a 7' oak mantle with leaded glass doors was missing from the downstairs apartment. The seller said, "We moved the mantle to the garage, it got wet, then we put it in the alley." The woman across the street from our Wyoming flat told me she had just sold one of her 7' columned mantles to the gasman for \$5.

One of the current strengths of our area is South Grand, but it didn't have much to offer 25 years ago. 41-year residents Jim and Lotis Fraizer fondly recall Tillman's restaurant with its nickel coffee and nickel jukebox along with the quaint shops along Grand back in 1964. But by 1980, the only thing grand was its name. At one point, occupancy rates on Grand were around 30%.

Our other anchor, Tower Grove Park, was also hurting. The gazebos needed painting and repair, the Palm House was still raw storage space, and the Stupp Center didn't exist. But it was the darkness I remember the

most. For years in the early '80s the park lights were down for repairs, and Tower Grove Park took on a forbidding appearance at night. Approaching Arsenal from Spring or Gustine after dark was like driving to the edge of the world. During the winter, you could barely glimpse Magnolia's twinkling lights, but the park itself was absolutely pitch black.

Jean and I stumbled onto this area by word of mouth. I remember standing in front of our house when it was for sale for \$24,000 thinking, "That's a lot of brick." S-l-o-w-l-y, new people started rediscovering this 'city within a city', as the founders described our area in 1905. The magic of the architecture, tree-lined streets, fabulous interior woodwork, and affordable prices cast its spell on new buyers just like it did back in 1905. But people were still moving out. In 1987, the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association was created to change that.

Jean Iezzi, TGHNA's first president, recalls a stagnant neighborhood in the early '80's. She remembers "people wanting to move and having no pride or appreciation for the location and amenities of the neighborhood." Forming TGH didn't go over well with political leaders who opposed losing 14 square blocks of Grand Oak Hill, along with the fine residences on Utah Place. Feathers were eventually soothed, and we were known as 'Tower Grove Heights' in 1988.

Forming the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association brought people together who wanted our area to succeed and were willing to work for it. Block captains went door-to-door spreading good news for a change, and recruiting other worker bees. Jean Iezzi feels that the early days of the 'Heights were "an amazing display of talent, coordination and timing. We took advantage of city programs such as new sidewalks,



Ritz Theater was razed to create parking lot (next to King & I).

Continued on page 16

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Carnahan Newsletter

By Russ Carnahan

Hello Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association members, I'm Russ Carnahan, representing you as your Congressman in Missouri's Third District. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your newsletter. I'd like to share with you some information about where our office is located, what we can do to serve you, and what's going on in Washington.

Our St. Louis District Office is located at 8764 Manchester Road, St. Louis, MO 63144. You can reach my staff members by phone from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday at (314) 962-1523. They are available to assist you with any governmental issues you may have, particularly with federal agencies. We also have an office located in Jefferson County, at 517 Bailey St, Crystal City, MO 63019. They can be reached at (636) 937-8039. Please call me with any comments and concerns you may have regarding pending federal legislation or any other topic.

When I was elected to the U.S. House, I wanted to be the most effective representative I could be for the citizens of the Third District. That is why I pursued becoming a member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. This committee oversees and allocates federal funding to highways, mass transit systems, lock and dams, airports, and all other projects that have to do with air, water, and land transportation. I am happy to announce that I have secured over \$45 million in federal funding for road projects in our District.

Additionally, I requested and obtained a seat on the House Science Committee. This committee oversees the nation's progress in science and technology development and the National Science Foundation. The



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Science Committee has addressed many issues this year, including stem cell Research, meth, and science and math education. stem cell legislation (HR 810) was passed, thanks in part to the commitment I made on the floor of the House. This bill will allow for our nation to continue to fund work in stem cell

research, and help fulfill the promises it will bring us medically and economically.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you need assistance, or have any questions or concerns. We're here to serve you!

Recruited to Saint Louis

By Brian Pelletier

As soon as the recruiter said, “The job is in St. Louis,” I told him I wasn’t interested. Yet here we are, my wife and I, living in our new home in Tower Grove Heights and loving our new city.

We’d lived in Chicago for ten years in an eight-unit condo building not more than a half-mile from Wrigley Field. I ran my own successful business, a marketing agency that was well into its third year, and my wife Melanie worked downtown as a human resources manager. Things were good, and we had no reason to make any big changes in our lives.

I’d only been here twice, for two quick business trips that weren’t long enough to form an impression strong enough to overcome the “common knowledge” that St. Louis was an uninteresting, and perhaps even boring, small town. But what’s the worst that can happen if I go to a first interview, right?

Fleishman-Hillard is one of the

largest public relations agencies in the world, with headquarters in St. Louis. They don’t hire people without serious consideration; it took three trips here over the course of two months, interviews with no less than 13 people, a two-hour writing test and an “informal” presentation to a group that included the general manager of the office before I had an offer in my hands.

But the recruiting process wasn’t just about putting me through the wringer. They knew they had to sell me on the move from Big City Chicago to Small Town St. Louis. Their first attempt, well, fell a bit short—a presentation that summarized with the simple proclamation, “St. Louis is a great place to live.” Not exactly a hard sell.

On the third interview trip, however, Fleishman invited Melanie to join me for the weekend, and on Saturday they provided a relocation expert to give us a tour of the city. It was then that we started to see that St.

Louis really did have some sweet spots.

Hey, we could live here, really.

One of our first surprises was how big St. Louis really is. Before Chicago we lived for several years in Minneapolis-St. Paul, which was the 15th largest metropolitan area in the country. The St. Louis region is 18th, just a bit smaller.

Chicago is the third largest, with over nine million people. All going to the same place at the same time on the same road, I started to realize as I compared daily life in the Second City to daily life in the Gateway to the West. You think you have traffic problems here in St. Louis?

The neighborhoods, the fantastic museums, the professional sports teams (well, sometimes), and the ubiquitous Arch, all woven in with the Midwestern work ethic and the great people—we’re happy to call it home.

It all boils down to what we first were told, and now we know as true: St. Louis really is a great place to live.

Hurricane, Continued from page 1

we arrived, we learned that the mayor of New Orleans had issued an evacuation for Orleans parish, the first one ever in the history of New Orleans, so we knew this was very, very serious. We sat glued to the TV for three solid days and nights watching our city be ravaged by Katrina, and then the calm and the levees breaking. We were convinced that our apartment was history. There were many rumors about the situation there, and we just didn’t know what to believe.

In the meantime, we packed up the car again and headed for Greg’s brother in Bloomington, Illinois to stay with him for several weeks. During that time we realized that even though our apartment wasn’t destroyed, it was unlivable and would be bulldozed.

We had planned on going back to

see what we could do and possibly find another place to live, and we’d planned on stopping by St. Louis to visit with our friends and Tower Grove Heights residents, Mark and Sherri Thompson. After a lot of encouragement from Sherri, we decided to visit with them and see what St. Louis was all about. We arrived here and walked straight into a “Welcome to St. Louis” party.

After finally contacting some people in New Orleans, we discovered that there were no apartments available, there were no hotels available, and no staff in the hospitality industry. Our complex manager advised us to come back, salvage what we could, and leave again. After a lot of soul-searching, we decided that St. Louis was the best place for us. Everyone had been so

Continued on page 15

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Resident Profile: *Dancing in time with Gail Planer and Bill Breithaupt*

By Ellen Wilson

Keeping up with Gail and Bill takes some fancy footwork. Not only are they on the go at every moment, but once you catch them they will dance circles around you. The couple, who met over 10 years ago and wed in 2003, live in the 3600/3700 block of Juniata. Now that their respective children are grown, they have time to devote their lives to the things they enjoy. Although that list is long, at the top is East Coast and West Coast Swing dancing.

“Ponytail” Bill, originally from Traverse City, MI, started dancing over 20 years ago in a friend’s kitchen, and now teaches others. Gail, originally from Rhode Island, dances socially and competes across the country at the novice level with a coach and a partner. Her shelf of trophies is bulging, and the walls are filling with competition certificates and awards.

In addition to dancing three to four nights each week, Bill and Gail love to hike, and have biked most of the local trails in St. Louis, including a four day Bed and Breakfast trip along the Katy Trail. Gail sings and plays for St. Pius, and volunteers at a Nature Reserve as part of the community service allowed through her job as a social worker at an employee assistance agency. Bill runs one to two miles most mornings with their German Shepherd mix Lucy long before the sun rises, and they both go to the gym to keep in shape for dancing. Although Bill has reduced his work hours and Gail claims she is trying to reduce her schedule, each time they cut something out, they fill the space with something else.

Gail and Bill have a special

relationship with the Tower Grove neighborhood, especially the park. Not only did they have one of their first important dates in the park, but they eventually married at the Bandstand Gazebo. They feel the neighborhood has a close-knit feel about it, and like running into people they know while they are out.



Gail moved to Tower Grove 27 years ago and raised two children in their house on Juniata. She considers the purchase of her house at that time a “really good investment.” Gail remembers that years ago the streets were filled with kids all around the same age. Although those kids have grown and moved away, they stay in touch with each other as do the parents. Though some of those families have moved away, others, such as the Langans and the Brooks, have stayed. Both Gail and Bill, who moved to Juniata three years ago, are glad they

stayed in the neighborhood.

The change in Tower Grove has been dramatic over those years. The houses have turned over, been rehabbed, and turned over again. Gail and Bill both remember the south Grand business district and the changes that have occurred there. The old movie theatre is gone as is the bakery and Woolworths. Gail remembers when the bowling alley burned down and all the neighbors stayed up all night in their pajamas to watch.

Bill compares Tower Grove to his memories of growing up in Traverse City. He came to St. Louis when he entered the Army and ended up staying. Bill also has two grown children who live in the St. Louis area. Working as a butcher for all of his adult life comes with benefits, such as getting the best selection of meat cuts, and challenges, such as cutting the same finger off twice. The fact that he has been a vegetarian for over thirty years is a contradiction that does not go unnoticed by his customers.

As do many of the neighbors in Tower Grove, Gail and Bill do their share of work to their house. One of the

most recent projects was to tear down the old fence in the alley and put in a sliding gate so they could use part of their back yard for parking. With the increase in popularity of the South Grand Business district, parking has become more difficult, and they decided it was worth the effort to use the space for their cars instead of having to park a block away from their house at night.

Gail and Bill are regular fixtures in the window of the St. Louis Bread company several mornings each week. Say “Hi” next time you see them.

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Great Turnout for Autumnfest

By Allison Bruns

The Autumn 'friendraiser' of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association was a triumphant success. Autumnfest in the Heights: A Celebration of Friends, Food, Art and Music had approximately 200 attendees, and raised funds for the TGHNA.

"The night was perfect for having so many neighbors get together to meet and enjoy other members of our neighborhood," said Mary Jane (MJ) Cannon, who with her husband Norm Henenberg played hosts for the wine tasting. "I was happy to see such a great turnout and so many people having such a wonderful time."

Many local businesses contributed food, drinks and services to make Autumnfest a success: Erato Wine Bar, Mangia Italiano, Café Natasha, Absolutely Goosed and Mokabe's. St. Louis Bread Company donated "Bread For a Year," a door prize won by one lucky Utah resident.

Local artists displayed their art for sale at the "Bakery" at Spring and Wyoming. Dessert and coffee were served at The Shop at Spring and Wyoming, where visitors also enjoyed a pottery demonstration. Local musicians entertained all who came.

"So many talented people live right out our backdoors," said Daryl Brach, president of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. "I want to thank them and the generous area businesses for making this event such a success."

One attraction of Autumnfest proved to be a huge hit: the horse drawn carriage rides that took attendees from the wine tasting on Utah to the art show and demonstration on Wyoming. This particular attraction even caught the attention of the *Riverfront Times*, which wrote a feature prior to Autumnfest.

"I met a couple from Chicago

who decided to attend Autumnfest after reading about it in the *Riverfront Times*," said Suzanne Brach. "I am always happy when people who are not familiar with our neighborhood get the opportunity to see and become acquainted with our piece of St. Louis."

If you missed Autumnfest in the Heights, mark your calendars for

December 18 for the annual Tower Grove Heights Luminary Night, when our neighborhood will become illuminated with thousands of candles. It will be a great opportunity to see the beauty of our neighborhood illuminated by candlelight!





*Pictures by
Daryl Brach*

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Hair Salon Hops Grand

By Tricia Heliker

Many of you may have noticed the opening of a hair salon on the NW corner of Grand & Humphrey and wondered if we really needed another salon on Grand. Actually Victor Pham, the owner and operator of Victor's, has been on Grand for 13 years. He began by renting a station at Thu Do directly across Grand from his present location. After a couple years he bought the business and developed his own clientele under the Thu Do name, even capturing the Riverfront Times' Critic's Choice Award. Three years ago he purchased the three-story building at 3225 Grand and began remodeling the second & third floors as two rental units. Because he had just signed a two-year lease at the Thu Do location, he saved the first floor until last. This was to be his new salon and the opening of Victor's, a unisex salon that provides eyebrow arching, nails, and all aspects of hair treatment five days a week.

Victor is Vietnamese and, like most immigrants, has a story about his life-changing trip to America. In 1981 Victor was 13 years old and hanging out with friends when his mother calmly informed him it was time to leave. That same night, with an older sister and two younger siblings, he boarded a boat for Thailand. Victor does not dwell on the details of this journey. He summed it up by saying he spent two months in a refugee camp sleeping outdoors on a piece of cardboard. From Thailand he made his way to Florida to be reunited with his father who had been working and saving for two years to finance his children's escape. An aunt who married an American soldier and settled in Florida had sponsored his father.

All of Victor's immediate family including his mother finally made it to America. His older sister married a St. Louis man, and after high school Victor came for a visit and stayed. He

wanted a career. He knew he had a knack for hair, he had been cutting hair for his family for some time. He trained at John Amico and became a licensed cosmetologist in 1989.

Over the last 13 years he has developed a faithful following among the Vietnamese as well as many of the

other ethnic groups who have settled in the area. Americans make up about 30% of his business and that is on the increase. His reputation for a classic cut with a contemporary edge is bringing new business his way. His new salon, with salmon chairs and floor to ceiling station mirrors, sets the

Continued on page 15





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Help a Family in Need this Holiday Season

For the second year in a row the **Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association** is joining the **100 Neediest Cases** to help two St. Louis City families have a wonderful holiday.

You can help by contributing a gift or monetary donation to one or both of the families.

Helping is easy!! Either donate a new unwrapped gift that fits one of the family members, a themed basket, or donate cash (or check – made out to TGHNA) which will be used to buy gifts and help our adopted families pay for utilities. Drop your donations at the drop point and we take care of the rest. All gifts will be wrapped and distributed to the families.

Pick one (or more) to buy for:

Family 1: Four generations with sick breadwinner

Grandmother, 75 Size: XL; Shoe 7 1/2

Mother, 46, Size: 20; Shoe 7

Daughter, 20, Size: 14, Shoe 7

Grand-Daughter, 12, Size: 16; Shoe 7

Grand-Daughter, 2, Size 3T, Shoe 8

Grand-Daughter, 1, Size 2T, Shoe 6

Special Requests: Food gift certificates, clothes; home appliance; Utility payments



Family 2: Single Mother with two children with special needs

Mother, 29, Size: 16, Shoes 9 1/2

Son, 7, Size: 12, Shoes 3

Son, 4, Size: 6, Shoes 11

Special Requests: Kids like Spiderman; several appliances, Food and toy gift certificates

Both families need the following:

Health Care Basket – Consider: personal hygiene products, home cleaning supplies...

Holiday Food Basket – Consider: fruit, holiday meals, a frozen turkey...

Entertainment Basket – Consider: lightly used videos/DVDs, age appropriate books...

Cash for gifts or utility bills which are paid directly by 100 Neediest Cases (checks to TGHNA)

Donations of gift wrapping materials (holiday paper, ribbon, tape, name tags) are needed as well. If you are interested in helping to wrap, contact Ellen.

Due Date for Donations: December 15

Wrapping Party: December 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Drop Point and Contact: Ellen Wilson, 3617 Juniata St., 314-771-1732



Hurricane, Cont'd from page 7

welcoming and friendly, and we weren't used to that at all. We headed back to New Orleans to pack up our lives.

What awaited us there took our breath away. No picture, no TV program, no video camera could possibly capture what that town went through. The city was hurting, and a kiss and a band-aid were not going to fix it. We drove to our apartment—a 20 minute trip that took over 45 minutes. There was debris all over the place, unbelievable traffic, detours, trees down, and, most of all, despair everywhere. There was sheetrock, household appliances, and debris on the sidewalks in piles that were as high as the roof of the house—not just here and there, but one pile right on top of another. It was very humbling.

We got to our apartment complex expecting the worst. The roof was mostly off; there was debris all over the parking area. Tarps meant to cover the destruction were flapping in the wind. We walked to our apartment door and Greg took out his keys. The apartment had taken about a foot of water, and the carpets and flooring were still soaking wet, due to the heat and humidity. Our apartment was slowly rotting. The smell of mold and

humidity was everywhere, taking our breath away. All our furniture was ruined and covered with mold. Mold is a horrible thing to deal with. I was shocked to see that it had eaten through something as solid as cake tins, and anything with leather was disgusting. Mold was growing up the walls and over the ceilings. Our ceiling fan blades were warped and hanging down. The ceiling in our bathroom had collapsed and smashed down into the floor. The carpets were slimy and growing mushrooms, and oh, did I mention the mold...?

The next few days were taken up with us trying to bleach, clean and sort out stuff that was salvageable. It was very disheartening to pick something up that you thought was okay, take it outside, wash it down, and then discover that it was ruined.

After a lot of scrutinizing, we managed to save our most treasured things, and for that we were very grateful. So many other people lost far more than we did, and we felt really blessed to have come out with what we did. For now, we're still healing and the memories we have of "the old" New Orleans will stay with us forever. We still feel like we're running at full speed trying to take care of so much, but we're survivors and this,

too, will pass.

The good news is that we found ourselves an apartment in Tower Grove Heights, thanks to the neighborly people in the area, and now it's time for us to regroup, rebuild, start over and move on.

How do you eat that giant elephant? One bite at a time!

Katrina Relief, Cont'd from page 1

hood helped.

Pam Saberton gave money to the Humane Society to help with animal relief efforts. Ricardo Wray attended a benefit concert and donated to the Red Cross. Carole Stephenson Wray, a teacher, gave money through her school.

Rob Liebschutz works at Boeing. His gift was matched by his employer, doubling the effect. Kim Cole donated to the Red Cross. Susan Anderson gave through her church.

Laura May has a family member in New Orleans who is a teacher. Laura sent a huge care basket of items to be distributed to the needy kids in her relative's classroom.

One neighborhood resident and small business owner, who asked to remain anonymous, donated \$500 in merchandise to be used as recognition awards for volunteers in the Katrina relief effort.

RE/MAX Results, the real estate firm for which I work, adopted 17 families that made it to St. Louis. We found them apartments, furniture, and clothes. But they needed food and linens. I sent letters to friends here in the neighborhood and collected an entire pick-up load of goods for these families.

Good-hearted people abound in Tower Grove Heights. Please continue your generosity, and don't forget that hundreds of thousands of people are still in great need.

Salon, Cont'd from page 13

stage, and his talent with hair takes it from there. When asked what keeps people coming back, he says "I give them my opinion, I give them my expertise, and I always give them what they want." As a long time client, I can vouch for that, but there is so much more to Victor's appeal. He is friendly, cheerful, and genuinely cares about his client's satisfaction.

I asked how he relaxes after many hours on his feet thinking he might say he falls into the recliner and watches the tube. But, true to his energetic persona, he works out

at the gym and loves to walk in Tower Grove Park. He says the beauty of nature is what restores him.

As a junior in high school Victor took a job at Winn Dixie as a checker. One day an older woman came through his express lane and pointed to his name tag asking "What does Hung mean?" He politely explained it meant brave hero. A few days later she came through again and this time she pointed her finger at him and said, "You are Victor." He liked the sound of it and Victor became his American name and now the name of his new salon.



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See Spot Clean Caters to Our Four-Legged Neighbors

By Allison Bruns

Take a ride through Tower Grove Heights on any particular day and you will see runners and walkers exercising, babies being pushed in strollers, and families enjoying Tower Grove Park. A majority of these neighbors are including an important member of their family during their outings: their pets.

Luckily for residents who live near the South Grand business district, we have a local business that caters specifically to our furry friends- See Spot Clean, located at 3892 Wyoming Street.

See Spot Clean opened its doors to the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood on March 4, 2004.

The operators of this salon, Julie, Chrissy and Amy, have a combined 20 years experience in their field. They provide a variety of services for all breeds of dogs and cats, including: bath, brush, grooming, nail trimming, ear cleaning, doggie mouthwash, flea and tick treatments, as well as many other services. They also have experience with 'special needs' pets.

See Spot Clean's website, <http://seespotcleanstl.com/index.html>, provides useful information for all pet owners, including a Tip of the Week, a Pet of the Week photo album, and a full description of all the services they provide.

Drop by with your pet and you will see how this clean, up-to-date pet salon is a great addition to our neighborhood. For appointments call 314.772.DOGS.

Dark Past, Continued from page 4

Operation Brightside, free flower bulbs and trees and the newly formed Conservation District."

There were still scurrilous landlords around, but we had people on our side. Often, we had so many neighbors show up at City Hall for hearings on bad landlords that we

required a larger room.

We teamed up with the other Tower Grove neighborhoods to begin holding house tours, and created promotional packets for prospective buyers including our dear Gazette. It was all such fun. We'd ambush people coming out of open houses, talk up the

area and hand out our promo info. Pretty soon the realtors stopped carrying Mace, and started handing out our stuff to their buyers.

As Tower Grove Heights started to wake up, so did South Grand and Tower Grove Park. John Karel became

Continued on page 17

Enjoying Elk Creek

By Mark Froese

The creek empties into the Nemaha River not far from the Missouri and Kansas border. Elk Creek, as described in Andreas' History of Nebraska, became a busy trading point for area residents, with railway station, hotel, opera house, stores, and businesses. Today, it is a quiet Nebraska residential community.

Only a few years ago a delicious concoction was created, claiming this namesake. This "Elk Creek" ceases to bear the descriptors of "quiet" or "serene" that one may assign to its geographic origin.

A few years back, while living in Omaha, I attended several events with friends at a restaurant called Goldberg's Bar & Grill. One of the featured libations on their menu was The Elk Creek, below which leered the warning: House Limit of 3. Imbibing only one or two created enough euphoria to last an entire evening.

Now, after moving to St Louis, the times enjoyed at Goldberg's have become a memory. On a recent trip to Nebraska, one of the proprietors of Goldberg's told me of receiving several

long distant calls, one from Hawaii, with requests for the Elk Creek drink recipe.

So I, as well, made that request of this favorite hangout in Omaha. I was generously provided with the following ingredient list, and here it is for you. Perhaps you will find the same enjoyment and share it with friends as I have. Please drink responsibly.

ELK CREEK

1.5 oz. Rum 1.5 oz. Vodka
 3 oz. Sweet & Sour Mix 1.5 oz. Gin
 1.5 oz. Triple Sec 3 oz. orange
 A splash of Sprite juice
 Serve in a tall glass over ice. Garnish with orange slice and a cherry.

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Dark Past, Continued from page 16

the Park's director in 1987 and has done a splendid job ever since. Many of the outdated buildings on Grand were razed to provide space for the multiuse structures we see today. It was a big deal to see the Ritz Theatre come down for the present parking lot next to the King and I Restaurant but landing the Bread Company was bigger. We were getting a BREADCO!

It wasn't money or power that brought Tower Grove Heights back. Instead, the heavy lifting was done by lowly unpaid worker bees, and people like Susie Gudermuth who single handedly took on McDonald, Utah Place and Spring Avenue. The reward that still unites all of us occurs every morning when we step out and say 'What a great neighborhood'.

tuning

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Theresa Kiely

Benton Park / 2114 Sidney / \$339,900

Beautiful home!! Totally rehabbed 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on Sidney Street in historic Benton Park boasts all new hardwood floors, custom cabinetry with granite counter tops, 2nd level laundry, ceramic tile, and much more. Call for your appointment today!

Theresa Kiely: 314-220-6094



Michele Felton

St. Louis SW / 6706 Arsenal / \$179,900

Completely Rehabbed!!! The pride in workmanship really shines! This home offers hardwood floors, new electric, new plumbing, 42" kitchen cabinets, jet tub, 2nd floor laundry, and 2 car detached garage. Call for your personal showing today.

Michele Felton: 314-304-8644



Michele Felton

Tower Grove E / 3151 Pestalozzi / \$159,900

Come check out this stunning rehab! Everything in this 2 bedroom, 1 bath home has been replaced from the roof to the plumbing to the kitchen sink! All new appliances will stay. Beautiful hardwood floors, double decks on rear of home, 2 car parking pad in the back, great location. This is a fantastic opportunity!

Michele Felton: 314-304-8644



Creighton Brinson

Tower Grove / 3801 Potomac / \$169,900

This home is an outstanding value! Tasteful colors, new frieza carpet throughout, all appliances included, large rooms, full basement, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, big eat in kitchen—WOW perfect for the growing family!!! There is also a brick patio with stone planters outside the back door—perfect for your next BBQ. You will appreciate this cheery light-filled home with off street parking.

Creighton Brinson: 314-346-0097



Katherine Miller

Tower Grove / 3818 Hartford / \$264,900

This stately home has been completely renovated. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features refinished hardwood floors, new plumbing, updated electric service, updated kitchen, new carpeting and updated bathrooms. Also offering a two car garage accessed from the alley. Call for your personal showing today!

Katherine Miller: 314-276-0012



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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
 Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
 Treasurer: Jan Clinite
 Asst. Secretary/Membership: Pauline Ashton
 NSO: Brian Wilson, 773-0517

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
 Webmaster: Rich Wendel
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: Recruiting!
3600/3700 Humphrey: Recruiting
3800 Humphrey: Erin L. O'Reilly/ Georgiana Grant
3600/3700 Utah Place: Christy Andrews/ Susie Gudermuth
3800 Utah Place: Pat Edwards/ Jim McClaren

Luminary Night to Brighten Neighborhood

By Suzanne Brach

Celebrate the holiday season with **"Luminary Night,"** a neighborhood tradition that takes place this year December 18, 2005, from 7-11 p.m.

Celebrating Luminary Night is not only fun; it's an opportunity to build community and demonstrates a sense of pride in our history, transporting us back to days gone by when times were simpler and neighbors actually took a moment to socialize and get to know each other.

A luminary is simply a paper bag filled with sand supporting a single

candle. When lit, these basic ingredients are magically transformed into a warm and inviting light that recalls the "good old days".

Incidentally, the custom of the Luminary dates back to medieval Spain when small fires were placed along the roads and walks to welcome and light the way of the Christ Child and worshipers.

Please plan to support this ongoing tradition and make Tower Grove Heights an even better place to live this holiday season! For more information, contact Gary Kushinsky, gakush@aol.com.

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 Pat Dougherty-Senator
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 Hodak's
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 KaBloom
 Belinda Swanson-Violin Lessons
*Thanks, Gary Kushinsky
 Director of New Business
 314-865-2411*

Suzanne and Daryl Brach will be moving at the beginning of the New Year to Alexandria, Virginia as Suzanne has been offered a position as chief marketing officer for the American Society of Clinical Oncologists. The move will also allow Daryl to be closer to his client base in Washington D.C. Though the Brachs have been TGH residents for only a short time, they quickly became well known and widely appreciated for their hard work, enthusiasm, and love for the neighborhood. We will greatly miss them. Thank you for all your work and encouragement. Good Luck!

The Gazette Editing Team

Have you renewed 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/year Household (2 votes) \$15/year
 Lifetime (1 vote) \$100 single payment
 Business (1 vote) \$25 /year (entitles member to a 10% discount on TGHNA Gazette Ads for one year)

Please **PRINT**:

Name (s) _____ Address _____
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Yes No Include my name, address and contact information in the TGHNA Buzz Book

Yes No Please add my email address to the Neighborhood Forum Email notification list

Return this form and tax deductible gift to your block representative or send to: *Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association, 3735 Connecticut, Saint Louis, MO 63116*

(TGHNA is a tax exempt 501c3 organization)

*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

Nov. 22 *Chicken & Elections at Neighborhood Assoc. Meeting:*
Come for a full course meal from local restaurants, and to vote for our next slate of officers.

Dec. 6 *St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series;* Piper Palm House, Doors opens at 6 p.m. Concert starts @ 7 p.m. FREE. Space is limited and no reservations will be taken. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.

Neighborhood Association Meetings

Tuesdays:
November 22
January 24
February 28

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

Dec. 15 *100 Neediest Cases Donation Deadline* (more info p. 14)

Dec. 17 *Wrapping Party for 100 Neediest Cases Donations* (more info p. 14)

Dec. 18 *Luminary Night* (more info p. 19)

Feb. 7 *St. Louis Symphony Chamber Concert Series;* Piper Palm House; Doors opens at 6 p.m. Concert at 7:00 FREE. Space is limited and no reservations will be taken. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.