

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
June 24, 2014 7:20pm 58 attendees

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (TGHNA) meeting was chaired by President Mike Newsham.

Officer Ed Slade of the STL Police District 2 reported that total crime is down in the district from this time last year. The crimes that are occurring are primarily crimes of property rather than violent crimes—car thefts and daytime burglaries. You can help prevent these crimes by:

- remaining alert—call 911 or the non-emergency number 314-231-1212 when you see suspicious activity
- providing a call-back number when reporting such activity so police can get a more detailed description if necessary
- keeping your possessions such as expensive bikes, secure, and valuables out of your car
- if you're considering an alarm system, make sure it's an audible alarm, which is a greater deterrent to burglary

Those wishing more information on crime and crime prevention in our area can attend the monthly safety meetings the third Wednesday of each month at 4167 Juniata from 6:30-7:30pm which are hosted by the Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC.

Dana Gray of Tower Grove Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation distributed flyers on an upcoming Community Open House and Visioning, on Saturday, June 28th, 11am-1pm. Help develop a vision of Tower Grove South (our neighborhood is part of this larger neighborhood), Southwest Garden, and Shaw Neighborhoods by attending this session. For more information go to www.towergrovecdc.org and click on Upcoming Events.

Mark Abbott, a Tower Grove Heights resident, has been working with Jennifer Florida on participatory budgeting using the ward discretionary funds for capital improvement. Mark has asked for volunteers for a steering committee to establish the ground rules for projects we could spend money on, with later visioning sessions and a late spring vote of residents on favorite proposals. This is an opportunity for residents to decide how capital improvement monies should be spent in our neighborhood and ward. If you would like to be considered for the steering committee you can e-mail Mark at mabbottstl@sbcglobal.net.

David Johnson, of Dave Mason and Associates, spoke about the maintenance of the green alleys on either side of Utah. The final 3800 block between McDonald and Utah is near completion. The function of these alleys is to prevent storm water runoff which overwhelms our sewer system, resulting in stream and river erosion and untreated sewage waters being discharged directly into waterways.

To prevent silting which decreases the effectiveness of the pervious pavers, residents who share those alleys need to:

- contain and stabilize the soil in their yards
- rake up or use a leaf blower on leaves that accumulate in the alley and decompose
- weed the plants that establish themselves in the silt

A vacuum sweeper has not yet been procured which would help remove the silt. There are articles about the Green Alley Project and pervious pavers in the Autumn 2011 issue of the Tower Grove Heights Gazette: Click [here](#) to get there.

Mike Newsham reminded us that Heights Nights, an opportunity to socialize with residents and support a local business, will be held jointly at two South Grand businesses- Baida Restaurant and Rocket Century-on July 8th, 2014 from 6-8p.m. All are welcome!

Mike circulated a sample of the proposed street signs for our neighborhood. To see samples go to www.towergroveheights.com. We are currently raising money within Tower Grove Heights for these signs. You can contribute online at our website, or pay with a check made out to TGHNA. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 160069, St. Louis, MO 63116, or dropped off at Tricia Heliker's house, 3802 Hartford. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Some residents stayed for an open discussion of what we can do as a neighborhood to address crime issues. A suggestion was made that there be police substations. It was pointed out that two already exist, one at South Grand and another at 4168 Juniata. Another suggestion was made that we identify problem landlords who rent without pre-screening their tenants. Jennifer Florida, 15th Ward Alderwoman, explained the system already in place that addresses that issue. If you have other suggestions or questions, please e-mail Mike at president@towergroveheights.com

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.