

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

January 25, 2011 7:20 p.m.

23 Attendees

The meeting was chaired by President Marilyn Browning. Marilyn announced that Richard Seifert has been appointed by the Board as President Elect of the TGHNA. After not having any candidates for this position at the time of the vote in October 2010, Rich volunteered for the position and, per the bylaws, the Board appointed him to serve in this position.

Seth Teel, president of [Revitalize St. Louis](#), discussed the programs and activities involved in this organization such as the [Big BIG \(house\) Tour](#) (March 28, 2011, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) and the Rehabbers Club. Meetings for Revitalize St. Louis are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 4204A Virginia Ave. from 7-9 p.m. and any interested residents are encouraged to attend. Additional information on Revitalize St. Louis and the Rehabbers Club is available at <http://rvstl.org/>.

Captain Leyshock, [3rd District Police Captain](#), reviewed the annual crime rate statistics. In 2009, overall crime was up 3% but in 2010, the crime rate was down 7.8%. Crime was down in every category, especially vehicle theft which was down 25%. Robberies were down 13% and assaults were down 7%. The Captain also discussed the Department's purchase of a license plate recognition system which is being funded by a \$23,000 grant. The system involves cameras placed in the grill and light racks of police vehicles. The cameras can read 3,000 license plates per minute and this information can then be used to compare with license plates of stolen vehicles and vehicles involved in activities such as felonies or Amber Alerts. This information is then stored in a database and can be used to search for potential targets of other crimes. The system will be available in four to six weeks and is currently being successfully utilized in 20 local municipalities such as Hazelwood and Maryland Heights. In response to a question regarding the methods used in a spate of recent home burglaries, Captain Leyshock reported that the burglars are kicking in rear basement doors or back doors and are using accomplices to function as lookouts during the burglary. The Captain mentioned [Viviano's](#), a local company that supplies sturdy doors to try to prevent this type of activity. If residents have any problems or questions, please call the Captain at 444-0125.

Officer Joseph Calebro, Community Outreach Officer of the 3rd District, reported that residents can use the Out of Town notification service by calling 444-0100. This will give the police contact information to use in case of an emergency when residents are away. Officer Calebro also discussed the [Citizens' Academy](#) which will be held March 2-25, 2011. This free program consists of interactive courses held Wednesday evenings for 3 hours per week. Any city resident, older than 18 years of age and with no outstanding warrants can participate. Participants will get a glimpse into the work officers do on a day-to-day basis to protect the citizens of St. Louis. The application for the course is on the Web site linked above. The [16th annual police awards luncheon](#) to honor the officers of the 3rd District will be held on February 25, 2011 at the Palladium. The cost is \$25 for the meal and the guests of honor will include Jackie Smith.

Lewis Reed, [President of the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen](#), spoke about the issue of local control of the St. Louis Police Department. He reviewed the history of the police being managed by the Missouri governor due to issues that arose during the Civil War. Other than Kansas City which is managed by the governor due to the same issue, St. Louis is the only police department that does not have local control in the United States. Last November, Proposition L, an advisory referendum about local control on the city ballot, passed with 69% percent of the vote. Mr. Reed displayed several charts from the [Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Operating Plan](#) to indicate what portion of the budget is allocated to the Police Dept. A petition was circulated at the meeting for attendees to sign if they agreed with this initiative which is currently being discussed in the Missouri legislative session.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be February 22, 2011.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary