

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

June 28, 2011 7:23 p.m. 17 Attendees

The TGHNA meeting was chaired by President Marilyn Browning who distributed Tower Grove Heights stickers.

Wes Browning, meteorologist in charge of the St. Louis forecasting office for the National Weather Service, gave a presentation on tornadoes and tornado safety. We have had a relatively low period of tornadoes, until this year. More frequent tornadoes may be more "normal" for this area. The threat is real but you can survive if you take precautions, especially going to the basement, since most houses here have basements. Wealth normalized ranking of tornadoes (people had less "stuff" in the twenties so wealth normalizing assesses the damage so they can be compared) shows that St. Louis has the first and second most destructive tornadoes in the country. Joplin will likely become number one with all their losses. That would mean that Missouri has the top three most violent tornadoes in the United States. Tornadoes are ranked using the EF scale which stands for the [Enhanced Fujita](#) scale. F0 is weakest, F5 is strongest. Doppler radar lets us detect more tornadoes than in the past when there might have been tornadoes but they weren't detected. We have had 7 strong to mild tornadoes so far this year in this district. The number of fatalities is going down as people become more aware of how to protect themselves. The April 2011 tornado around the airport was EF4. There was a 34 minute warning and no serious injuries. One of the airlines had a plane with passengers that was picked up and moved about 20 feet. There are 122 weather forecast offices across the country, positioned mostly for radar coverage. The weather service currently has a 70% false alarm rate; however, people would rather have some false alarms than have an unexpected event. A tornado watch is issued if conditions are favorable for possible tornadoes. A tornado warning is issued if a tornado or a possible tornado has been sighted. Local warnings can be received from webpage <http://www.weather.gov/lsx>. A [NOAA](#) Weather Radio can be purchased at places like Radio Shack and it will come on if there is a weather alert. The Weather Channel has apps for cell phones that can call if you're in a location that has a warning. Wes handed out a flyer for tornado preparedness.

Rachel Witt announced that Phase 1 of the S. Grand streetscape project will be done by the end of July. Phase 2 was overbid so they are rebidding. Phase 2 planting will actually start in Sept., so that's probably better anyway. The rain garden areas will have installed irrigation so that will help with maintenance. We got a grant to get signs about the rain gardens and the permeable sidewalks. MO Dept of Conservation gave us money to replace flowers if necessary and funds for a person to oversee planting and maintenance. We may also have some volunteers who will help. We got a grant from the MO Art Council for movie nights in Aug./Sept./Oct. Spirited Away, Persepolis, and Toy Story are the movies planned. Lafayette Square started a Safe Neighborhood program and Rachel will look into it for more information. St Louis Police Foundation may have a representative to help with this model. Rachel let us know that if the church in which we have our meetings (First Divine Science Church, 3617 Wyoming) is not using their parking lot, neighborhood residents can use the lot. Rachel is looking into improving the parking lot—paving, striping, lighting. She is getting price quotes and there will be a sign about when parking is allowed.

[South City Prep School](#) left some flyers (they are going into the old Messiah Lutheran School at 2900 S. Grand, next to Messiah Lutheran Church.) They are having a free barbeque on Wednesday, July 13th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Oct. 8th is the date for this year's Autumn Fest in the Heights. Marilyn's house will be open for wine tasting, 3810 Humphrey, owned by Rich and Maria Hunter, will host desserts made by Pat Edwards, and Ray Marklin's and Fred and Kaye Hildenbrand's back yard will have music at the end.

The meeting concluded at 8:33 p.m. The next meeting will be July 26, 2011.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary