

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

September 27, 2011 7:18 p.m. 29 Attendees

The TGHNA meeting was chaired by President Marilyn Browning.

Gary Steps, of [Butterfly Energy Works](#), gave a presentation about the work being done by his company and how homeowners can make even small changes to increase energy efficiency. Gary worked with IBM for 30 years on high tech projects before starting Butterfly Energy Works. The company slogan is "saving the planet one building at a time" and they work to help enhance the relationship between people and the natural world. Butterfly Energy Works provides Energy Star certified home energy audits, commercial energy audits, green certifications, and designs/builds support for new buildings. The energy audit report is in laypersons' terms and helps to show how money could be best spent. Architects and builders are involved and now they're working with the green technology. He demonstrated that if you try to make small changes like unplugging chargers, Edison lamps, beer fridges, "turned off" equipment which is often still using energy, etc.—this dead load can save more than trying to generate solar power. About 50% of the energy used in the U.S. is associated with homes and small businesses. Total U.S. energy usage is rising at 4% per year. Nationally, the average building wastes 30% of all energy delivered to the home. Much of this waste can be removed easily. Another 20-30% can also be addressed. Gary showed several new materials such as recycled newspapers used for insulation, mineral wool insulation which is noncombustible, unlike fiberglass, and Nanogel (based on a NASA project) which is silica gel in beads with the water baked out that is used as glass but has insulating properties so it can be used in skylights. The cost of Butterfly Energy Works doing an audit is approximately \$600 base (2000 sq ft house). Gary stated that this cost could be recouped in less than 6 months, typically. A typical older building with no insulation will cost \$800-\$900 to insulate and will save \$1,200 the first year.

Mahrya Fulfer, a City Prosecutor, talked to us about some of the court procedures relating to neighborhood crimes. When someone is charged with a crime, a bond is put in place. Then, they plead guilty or will have a trial. We have sent TGHNA representatives to some of these trials to let the judge know how the crimes impact our neighborhood. For example, Maurice Cox and Adrian English were initially given probation; Cox committed a subsequent crime and many residents from the neighborhoods came to the sentencing. Cox was then sentenced to 45 years. Court is not like what we see on TV; it has lots of show up and wait, due to the processes going on behind the scenes. For instance, the Joseph Swims case is coming up; he committed robbery and armed criminal action, and is scheduled for sentencing on Friday. We filed a neighborhood order of protection request against him. The judge may sentence him but his attorney will probably ask for a sentencing assessment report. This process involves a Parole official looking into the person's past history and creating a summary of this background to give to the judge to consider. If this is the case, the sentence may not be handed down Friday. Tower Grove South has about 180 cases pending from the last two years, ranging from misdemeanors to felonies.

Mike Burke, from the [Solutia St. Louis Rock 'n' Roll Marathon](#), discussed the race which will be held Sunday, Oct. 23. It starts at 7:30 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial, with road closures to start at 6:30 a.m. Race officials expect approximately 20,000 runners, half from out of town. This will fill hotels, restaurants, etc. and they expect an economic impact of \$15 million for the city. In addition, the race helps raise money for charity and has raised \$257million as part of this charity connection. Team Activities for Special Kids—TASK—has been chosen as the charitable beneficiary of the 2011 St. Louis Rock 'n' Roll Marathon. Mike had materials showing the [course](#). Specifically, S Grand Blvd (Southbound) from Magnolia Avenue to Russell Avenue will be closed from 6:30 AM until 11:45 AM. S Grand Blvd (Northbound) will be closed from Arsenal Street to Russell Avenue from 6:30 AM until 2:30 PM. Four intersections have been set up to help allow traffic to get in and out of the area—see the [street grid map](#) for more information.

Jennifer Florida, 15th Ward Alderman, asked residents to complete problem property sheets for issues such as tall grass, excessive noise, etc. and give them to her or Judy Lane, [15th Ward NSO](#) (Neighborhood Stabilization Officer),

Marilyn reminded us that Oct. 8 is [Autumn Fest in the Heights](#). The October General Meeting will ask members to make nominations for Board positions. The President Elect position is open so please consider running or nominating one of your neighbors.

The meeting concluded at 8:28 p.m. The next meeting will be October 25, 2011.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary