

TowerGrove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

February 28, 2012 7:15 p.m. 25 Attendees

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (TGHNA) meeting was chaired by President Rich Seifert. First-time attendees were introduced, as well as the current officers of the Association.

Rich mentioned the survey that is being conducted by TGHNA. It is on the TGHNA Website so please take the time to share your thoughts. It is also in the latest issue of the Gazette. This is the 25th anniversary of the organization so let us know how you want to celebrate this event. Rich asked for volunteers to help with our celebration planning.

Citizens on Patrol (COPS) – Success! A member of COPS reported on and was instrumental in making an arrest for burglary—this arrest cleared up at least six different burglaries. COPS has been involved with training residents and is modeled on a similar group in Lafayette Square.

7th Annual Tower Grove South Yard Sales – Sat. May 5th. \$5 to be in the sale; the fee gets your house on the map and listed in event advertising

Mark Langevin (co-owner of A Walk in the Park, a pet grooming salon on Gustine) spoke about the Morgan Ford Pet Parade. The Morgan Ford Business Association is hosting the Pet Parade. It will not be at same time of year as last year, since that was too hot. It will be on May 6th, 12:30 -4:30. There will be vendor booths, barbeque, and it will have a County Western theme. Proceeds will go to Companions Forever and the organization will have pets available for adoption; there will also be reps and pets from APA (Animal Protection Agency) and Animal House Cat Rescue, as well as a food drive for APA. Mark will have registration forms at the next TGHNA meeting.

Carl Thenhaus and David Varga reported on the Grand Oak Hill Community Corporation Police Substation. They thanked TGHNA for making a donation toward the Police Substation. The money is in a fund for their computer system. They continue to raise funds to get the substation set up and they turned in the application for the station. Hopefully, that will come through soon. They are taking furniture donations for the station. There is a public safety portal in use by the COPS group and that will be available soon for the neighborhood groups. The next Tower Grove Public Safety Meeting will be held at Grand Oak Hill Community Corporation on Wednesday, March 21st, at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in getting certified and joining COPS can show up at 6:15 p.m.

Bonnie Biome, statewide petition coordinator for the Your Vote Counts Act, discussed the work of this group. [Note that the TGHNA does not take political stands on any issues; we just allow a forum for discussion] The Your Vote Counts Act is a proposed citizen-backed initiative seeking to qualify for the November 2012 statewide ballot, in order to help protect the integrity of the ballot initiative process and provide greater protections for voter-approved initiatives. The constitutional measure would require a three-fourths vote in both the House and the Senate, or a vote of the people by referendum, in order for the legislature to repeal or amend any voter-approved initiative. One of the lawmakers is working with them but most are very negative. Bonnie had petitions to sign and flyers.

Darrell Grant, Vice President and Festival Director of Pride St Louis, discussed this year's Pride Fest parade. They're doing things a little differently this year and will try to communicate more with the neighborhoods involved. The Festival will be June 23-24th. This year they are going to spread things out

a little more. There will be multiple stages, for example. They will have a children's area for activities and music. They will have activities from 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. Pride 5k run will be Sunday in Tower Grove Park, beginning at 7:30 a.m. At 9:35 a.m. there will be an ecumenical worship service to kick off the Pride Sunday parade. They will have a wine garden in the front corner that will be available prior to the parade. The festival grounds will be open from 1:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. They will be using the S. Grand parking lot and will have a shuttle available around the park to help ease parking issues. They are working with the Street Dept. on trying to control litter and trash issues. They also need volunteers to help with things like trash pickup which they do after the event.

Officer Joseph Calabro, Community Outreach Officer of the Police 3rd District, shared with us a sample of crime mapping that breaks down the areas of crimes to help the Police pinpoint the concentration of crimes. On March 8th, there will be a Community Outreach meeting at the Five Star Senior Center on Arsenal. The guest speaker will be Mary Peters on the emotional side of retirement. Captain Gerald Leyshock will give an overview of neighborhood crime statistics. Officer Calabro also mentioned keeping a distance between unknown people and keeping windows closed when no one is home so break-ins can be avoided.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2012.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary