

TowerGrove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

March 27, 2012 7:16 p.m. 36Attendees

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. The survey will be closed on Saturday, March 31, 2012.

Mary Lou Green from Operation Brightside reminded us that Project Blitz is coming up on April 14-15, 2012. Like last year, we'll have all weekend to clean up and the City will pick up the trash Monday morning. Mary Lou provided flyers on the Blitz (they no longer have funds to mail the flyers.) She told us that Operation Brightside also has a successful graffiti eradication program. They have removed many instances of graffiti on S Grand, homes and businesses. They either blast it with a water blaster or paint over with matching paint. They plant the daffodils on the highway—this is their 30th anniversary and they have planted ½ million daffodil bulbs in honor of the anniversary. There are flowers available for public planting--talk to your block captains for details. She also provided a flyer on a neighborhood beautification program. At Kingshighway and Shenandoah, next to their headquarters, they planted a large demonstration garden. The garden will display best management practices with a rain garden and native plants, wetland, woodland, prairie areas, with a walkway over the rain garden. Their site will have three demonstrations of pervious surfaces. The landscaping was planted with help from the Marines during Marine Week last summer. There are 2,700 plants. Missouri native plants were used. Grownative.org has info on Missouri native plants which require less maintenance than non-natives.

Rachel Witt, South Grand Community Improvement District (CID) Executive Director, says that the Great Streets project is going out for bid the Phase 2 work to be done this summer. The cobra lights will be pulled out and new lights installed, bike racks will be installed, a new traffic signal will be installed at Juniata and they will be synchronizing all signals. The sidewalk replacement from Humphrey to Utah Place is part of Phase 2. As soon as she knows when construction will start, she will tell us. This fall, we will have the rain gardens planted. Six signs have been made for the district to provide educational information about rain gardens, pervious concrete, etc. We're going out to bid for the rain gardens. The CID will hire someone to maintain the rain gardens, with volunteer opportunities to educate residents on how it works so they can incorporate the technique in their homes. We will have a company come to weed and spray weed control in the garden areas, although there will be no further plantings before the rain gardens are planted this fall. Maintenance of the rain gardens will include cleaning up things like the cigarette butts. News about the South Grand businesses:

At Grand and Wyoming, there will be a new store with handmade Bali furnishings.
The King and I restaurant will be doing a makeover--interior and exterior.

Above Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy, there will be a new yoga studio named Flex with exercise classes and other fitness activities.

The owner of the old bank building wants to bring in an IGA supermarket—they want to tear down and rebuild the building with a 14,000 sq feet supermarket and Hardware Express (Ace Hardware). There are questions about how this would all fit in as well as issues regarding financing. This is very speculative and the business district hasn't yet given their support.

Upscale Recycle has recycled arts and crafts supplies by the bag, with areas for crafting; they will also have classes.

Petra is being rehabbed as a vegetarian café. New patios have been added to that block as well.

Rachel also announced that on March 31, 2012, at noon, there will be a Putt-Putt Pub Crawl. The fee is \$20 per individual and \$30 per team of two. Deeply discounted drinks, a gift bag and 18 holes of mini golf are included in the cost. This will be a fundraiser for Pride St Louis. There will be registration at Mokabes at 10:30 a.m. and lots of prizes. There will also be a trivia night on May 19, 2012, so get a group together. This will help to support the Police Dept. The CID will be working on grants to get security cameras installed.

Lori Lamprich, from Representative Mike Colona's office, spoke about the recent redistricting. We are still in Mike's district, although the district lost some from the 14th and 25th Wards. It changed a little but not a lot. The maps are on oa.mo.gov or send e-mail to Mike-- mike@citizens4colona.gov.

Officer Joseph Calabro, Community Outreach Officer of the 3rd District, and Lt. Alana Hauck thanked attendees at the Grand Oak Hill Community Center COPS (Citizens on Patrol) meeting earlier this month. There will be a follow up meeting at a later date. Crime is down in our area. Vehicle theft is up slightly but it is hard to compare in winter months with people leaving cars warming up. Assaults are up by two but that includes domestic violence. Burglaries are down. They have the patrol car license plate reader (LPR) that reads licenses as they pass. It can report things like stolen vehicles. They run it from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. and it reads 8,000 plates per minute. They're working with other local police departments to pull all the LPR data together. Community Outreach Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the 5 Star Senior Center located at 2832 Arsenal and the next one will be on Apr. 12, 2012. St. Louis Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce will be there, as well as Carl Thenhaus who will be getting a Grand Jury Award for his work on COPS. Officer Calabro noted that the recent event with the injured bicyclist on Arsenal is being classified as an accident, rather than an assault.

Jennifer Florida, 15th Ward Alderman invited us to attend a meeting on April 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grand Oak Hill Community Center. This is one of the monthly public safety meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday. This will include training for citizens on patrol (COPS). Jennifer introduced Robert Reed who is a coordinator for COPS and chairman of Grand Oak Hill public safety committee. He is working with Jennifer on the public safety initiatives. They will attend a victim advocate training on Saturday sponsored by Jennifer Joyce.

Rich Iezzi supplied us with free TGHNA bumper stickers. They will be available at the monthly meetings.

The 7th Annual Tower Grove South Yard Sales will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012. There is a \$5 fee to be in the sale; the fee puts your house on the map and it will then be listed in the 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 beat the same time of year as last year, since that was too hot. It will be on May 6, 2012, from 12:30-4:30, with the parade starting at 1:30. There will be vendor booths, barbeque, and it will have a Country Western theme. Proceeds will go to Companions Forever and the organization will have pets available for adoption; there will also be representatives from APA (Animal Protection Agency) and Animal House Cat Rescue, as well as a food drive for the APA. Morganfordpetparade.com has additional information. If you contribute to these organizations, you'll get raffle tickets for various prizes. Mark provided forms to register—the fee is \$15 to walk your pet in the parade. This will include a ticket for the barbeque and a gift goodie bag as well as a t-shirt.

Mike Newsham is a volunteer working on the TGHNA 25th anniversary celebration. He spoke about the neighborhood-wide block party that is being planned. The event will be on June 16, 2012. It will start around 3:00 p.m. and extend into the evening. Beverages are being donated by InBev and food donations are in the works. The party will be over several blocks on Spring Ave. and will be a free event.

The meeting concluded at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 24, 2012. John Karel will talk about Tower Grove Park and Dan Buschmeyer will discuss the Utah green alleys scheduled to be installed this summer.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary