

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

July 24, 2012 7:18 p.m. 23 attendees

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (TGHNA) meeting was chaired by President Rich Seifert.

Aug. 7th is National Night Out. The City will waive the street closing fee if you want to have a block party that night.

Jan Klinitzke reminded us that [Election Day](#) is Aug. 7th. The 15th Ward Democrats passed out a brochure with information about voting precincts.

Members of St. John's, Tower Grove, are organizing a community-wide Open House at Horace Mann Elementary School (located on Juniata Street between Oak Hill and Roger Avenues) on Friday, August 10, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Dinner will be provided by volunteers from St. John's. Please plan to join St. Louis Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Kelvin Adams, Mann's Principal, Dr. Nicole Conaway, current students and staff, and members of the wider community to learn more about Mann School. Contact Judith MacDonald at judith@towergrovechurch.org for more information and/or to volunteer.

The film Hugo will be shown on Aug. 17th at the [Back Lot Film Series](#).

Pepi Parshall and Anne Leners spoke to us about the renovation of the St Louis Public Library's Central Library. Pepi is volunteer services coordinator and works to provide volunteers for all the branches as well as docents for tours downtown. Anne has been a docent for the last 25 years. The library will reopen on Dec. 9, 2012. There will be many opportunities to see the restoration before the grand opening, especially for donors who will have party on Dec. 2. The renovation was meant to make it look more like 1912 but better, i.e. facilities improvement such as bathrooms, electronics, energy efficiency, HVAC, etc. Andrew Carnegie donated the money for the library. Many municipalities didn't have the facilities to provide public libraries until Carnegie helped with buildings that would encourage communities to tax themselves to support the public libraries. Cass Gilbert was the architect, as he was for the St. Louis Art Museum, a pavilion at the 1904 World's Fair and the U.S. Supreme Court building. Naturally, the building had to use steel from Carnegie Steel Co. The renovation provides a new vision for the future: Restore, Expand, Renew and Renovate. The library has 200,000 square feet and will gain 65% more space since some offices are moving out. There will be a new atrium at the Locust St. entrance. The former coal room will be an auditorium. The Children's' Area will be doubled. They were careful to change nothing on the outside of the building. As far as the modern library—

- SLPL is ranked #2 in the country; it has been in the top 5 for the last 8 years (Cleveland is the top—maybe we will be #1 with the renovation!)
- A lunch concert series is presented at the Old Post Office
- There are exhibits such as the Fairy Tale exhibit and in 2013, there will be a Wizard of Oz exhibit
- Home work helpers are at each branch
- The Paws for Reading with Support Dogs, Inc., is a program where children read out loud to dogs, who are non-judgmental, to help encourage reading
- Authors visit to discuss and sign their books
- Youth Services Dept. visit at various schools to supplement their services. They also go to adult day-care and assisted living facilities to deliver books

- The library has many computers for public use and will have laptops and mobile computer facilities
- Central Express is in the Old Post Office and is set up like a book store

Joe Calebro, Community Outreach Officer of the 3rd District, announced that crime was down 30%, burglaries were down 38% and larcenies were down 29.2% in our neighborhood. These statistics are probably helped by people calling in suspicious activities. There were some burglaries on Arsenal; no one was hurt. Burglaries occur during when people are at work—early morning and around lunch. There was an incident at Utah and Spring where a car was high jacked in Jennings, spotted at Chippewa and Louisiana, and pursued to Utah and Spring, where it went out of control. The criminals have been apprehended and imprisoned. In answer to a question about home burglary alarm registration, Officer Calebro said that the St Louis Alarm Registry is [1-888-579-2727](tel:1-888-579-2727)—use this number to check to verify that your alarm is officially registered with the police.

Jennifer Florida, 15th Ward Alderman, noted that we have a new business on Grand, [Rocket Century](#), a vintage furniture store. The City hearing for Bikrum Yoga, planned for the former Comp & Soft storefront, went well last week and they are proceeding with making improvements to the property. Jennifer is on break now and will be driving around the area looking for illegal dumping.

Mayor Slay may speak here in October to present the neighborhood proclamation that alderman Jennifer Florida read at the Anniversary Celebration. Lou Reed, President of the Board of Alderman, may speak in November.

The next TGHNA meeting will be Aug. 28th and will feature Amanda Doyle, author of a book called "[Finally, A Locally Produced Guidebook to St. Louis](#)".

The meeting concluded at 8:32 p.m.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary