

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
February 26, 2013 7:15 p.m. 25 attendees

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (TGHNA) meeting was chaired by President Jim Zakibe.

Officer Amber Gotschall of St. Louis Police 3rd District gave a crime report for Tower Grove South. Crime is down. Burglaries are down 25% and larcenies (pickpocketing, purse snatching, breaking in to cars, etc.) are down 33%. There has been an increase in license plate theft in the city as a whole, and those interested in deterring plate theft on their vehicles can purchase screw sets that require unique tools to install and remove the plates at the 5 Star Senior Center.

Two representatives from Rally Saint Louis, Sheila Mikles and Aaron Perlut, were present. Aaron spoke about the concept of Rally Saint Louis, a first-of-its-kind crowdsourcing (accept ideas) and crowdfunding (fund ideas) platform that generates ideas and uses funding from the region's residents to help market a greater Saint Louis. At their website anyone can post an idea for the improvement or promotion of Saint Louis. The idea stays up on the website for 30 days, and website visitors can vote for the idea(s) that they like best. Those with the highest votes then go through a budgeting process estimating the amount of money necessary to implement the idea. The idea is then re-posted for 30 days and website visitors can submit payments to fund the ideas. Rally Saint Louis has 501c3 status, so any donations are tax-deductible. For more information, to submit your own idea, to vote for current ones, or to fund projects visit their website at www.rallystl.org.

Tom Brown, a representative from Mayor Slay's campaign, reminded the group that the election will be next Tuesday, March 5th, and that if anyone is interested in volunteering to help this weekend can visit the website www.mayorslay.com to find out how to help.

Brian Wiltkowski from the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection described the nature of his job at the Saint Louis International Airport. With the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security oversight of immigration, import of agricultural products, and customs were merged. He noted that Homeland Security officers at the airport do not require probable cause to detain and interview passengers or to search their luggage, cell phones, and computers. More information about regulations for international travelers, how to obtain a green card, current job openings and a wealth of other information can be obtained at the Department of Homeland Security website www.dhs.gov.

Alderwoman Jennifer Florida mentioned that the Great Streets project on South Grand is continuing. The initial plan is to cover the newly-created green space at Utah and Grand with grass. A more sustainable planting may be possible with input from the community. The Green Alleys project will commence this spring.

The next TGHNA meeting will be on Mar. 26, 2013.

The meeting concluded at 8:25 p.m.

Marilyn Browning
Membership Secretary