

Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

April 23, 2013 7:17 p.m. 24 attendees

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

Andre Ivanov, [Elaiia's](#) general manager, talked about his new restaurant, as well as [Olio](#), a restaurant, north of the Botanical Gardens on Tower Grove at McRee Ave. Owner and executive chef Ben Poremba converted a circa-1920s Standard Oil gas station that closed in 1943 and was left derelict into Elaiia. It has now been connected to the 1890 residence next door that has been transformed into Olio so they are all one space. Both of these feature a "Mediterranean" style which includes influences from Lebanon, Israel and North Africa as well traditional French and Italian food. Elaiia has fine dining with a 4-course dinner for \$55 or ala carte service. Olio features lunch and dinner as well as brunch with healthy options that include salad, seafood and sandwiches. Across the street is the bakery [Chouquette](#) which specializes in French pastry and cakes made by Simone Faure, formerly the Ritz Carlton executive pastry chef. They also plan on putting up an outdoor projector to show movies and host other outdoor events.

Amber Gottschall, Neighborhood Liaison to Tower Grove South of the [St. Louis Police 3rd District](#), indicated that crime statistics showed burglaries down 49%; larcenies down, vehicle theft down 7% and robberies up 7% (1 more for the year).

Maddie Earnest, one of the owners of [Local Harvest Cafe](#), discussed the history of Local Harvest which she started with her business partner Patrick Horine in 2007. Patrick had started the Tower Grove Farmers' Market eight years ago and the success of this helped motivate the creation of the café and grocery as a location where fresh, locally-produced food could be purchased all week, providing more support for local farmers and food producers. Local Harvest now has several café locations as well as two [groceries](#) and is now providing various classes and events. Maddie left a copy of the events calendar which is also available online. The [Tower Grove Farmers' Market](#) opens May 4th this year.

Officer Joseph Calabro, Community Outreach Officer of the 3rd District ([314-444-0169](tel:314-444-0169)), told us that this Saturday, April 27, 2013, will be a prescription drug take back program to safely dispose of unused, unwanted or expired prescription drugs. These drugs can be turned in at the Walgreens at Kingshighway and Chippewa from 10:00 – 2:00 pm and they will be disposed by

the Drug Enforcement Agency. June 13th is the quarterly community outreach meeting at the 5 Star Senior Center located at 2832 Arsenal at 7:00 pm. The meeting will feature a crime overview, and the SWAT team will come out with equipment to provide information about their work.

Chrissy Fitzpatrick from the [City of St. Louis Recycling program](#) left several handouts such as the city of St. Louis Recycling Guide and answered questions about recycling. The [St. Louis Household Hazardous Waste](#) site has been opened and is accepting waste items such as rechargeable batteries, fluorescent tubes, paints, etc. They do not accept computers and recommended using [ecyclestlouis.org](#). In response to a question on how the different materials in the single stream recycling are separated, we were told that an automated materials recoverable facility system is used to separate out the various products as well as hand sorting. No plastic bags can be accepted since they jam the machines. Grocery stores are the only place to recycle plastic bags.

Although Jennifer Florida, 15th Ward Alderman, could not attend, she left a message that the damage from the car accident on Juniata will be fixed and that the green alley construction work was on hold due to issues with the bilateral sewers.

Starting in May, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, we will have "Living Local with Heights Nights" parties at various local businesses and restaurants. We will start from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at [Bali Cargo Company](#) with food—wine and cheese, and an open house in the shop. We raffled three gift certificates from Bali tonight and will raffle two more at the door. We are trying to support our neighborhood businesses with these events.

The next TGHNA meeting will be on May 28, 2013.

The meeting concluded at 8:09 p.m.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary