

## Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

October 22, 2013

7:21p.m.

19 attendees

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

Lance LeComb of the [Metropolitan Sewer District](#) (MSD) gave a presentation on MSD information and the various MSD programs. As he told us, if you flushed your toilet, you're an MSD customer. In addition to the city systems, MSD also serves 80% of the county and has over 669 miles of waste water sewers. MSD is both a waste water and storm water utility. Our sewer system dates back to 1850 and we even still have some of the original sewers that were made with wood. MSD reached an agreement with the EPA about 1.5 years ago to expend \$4.7 billion in the next three years to address overflows and backups and to increase capacity. This will be a mammoth program that is unprecedented in MSD's history. Lance also gave several recommendations such as not putting grease and fat in drains since it causes overflows and plumbing backups, having the lateral sewer line checked as part of home purchasing to ensure it is still intact and clear, and to point downspouts away from your home.

Jennifer Florida, 15<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman, noted that crime is down 46% over the last 5 years except for car break-ins. She recommended that we don't keep anything of value in the car; that we use the Club, and be sure to call in anything suspicious like people riding bicycles around, looking into cars. The St. Louis Police Dept. is going through a redistricting process. We currently have nine districts and the redistrict suggestion is that we go to six districts. This redistricting is being done to create a more balanced workload and it will help increase hot spot patrolling. Under the new plan, we would then be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district that would include Forest Park up to Grand as the eastern boundary. Jennifer e-mailed the presentation to us and it has been added to the [Files](#) section of the TGHNA Yahoo Group site (Police Redistricting Proposal Oct 2013.ppt). Regarding Mann School—Jennifer met with Dr. Kelvin R. Adams, Superintendent of Schools, this morning who has asked the Aldermen to organize two neighborhood meetings so he can share some of the report on the building conditions and the results of the two forums that were held on this topic. He wanted these meetings held before Thanksgiving. There is a Save Mann Facebook site. Jennifer discussed the issue of hiring Veolia as a contractor to look at the city's Water Department operations and to recommend efficiencies. Pressure is being exerted to be sure all the new pervious alleys are done this year.

Rachel Witt, South Grand Community Improvement District (CID) Executive Director, told us that plans for the pocket park went out to bid but the results went way over bid so the CID is reevaluating the work and applying for an MSD grant. They want to break ground by March, if possible. All the holiday lights on the buildings on Grand were replaced with LED lights. They are replacing some meters with 15-minute parking meters—"to-go parking". They put up some banners about the free parking lot behind Commerce Bank—there are 94 spaces that are not currently being fully utilized. Some of the property owners are requiring that employees park in this lot. A boutique-retail store is going in across from the BP service station; the old popcorn store will soon have a small jewelry store in that space. The Roosevelt building (old bank building) is being sold to a local resident for future use as a restaurant. The [Tree House](#) restaurant is no longer open for lunch. [Baida](#), the new Moroccan restaurant, got their liquor license. The rain garden grant got approved, and they want to finish by Thanksgiving. 30 bike racks are being installed as well as benches, etc. We will again have the Grinch visit at

[Mokabe's Coffeehouse](#) on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. There will be a penny war between the Heights and Tower Grove East. More info will be presented at the next meeting.

Our next Heights Nights is on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at the City Diner. Five gift certificates were awarded at the meeting and five more will be awarded that night at the Diner.

Nominations for officers were requested. Voting for officers will take place at the November General Membership meeting. The following nominations were made:

President Elect - Metra Mitchell Taylor

Membership Secretary - Tricia Heliker

Recording Secretary - Marilyn Browning

Treasurer - Rick Stein (re-election)

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

The meeting concluded at 8:32 p.m.

Claudia Seifert,

Secretary