

**Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting**  
**September 23, 2014** Convened: 7:23pm Adjourned: 8:20 pm 51 attendees

**Mike Colona, Missouri State 80<sup>th</sup> District Representative**, spoke about the recent overturn of some of Governor Nixon's line item vetoes of the state budget. Of the \$40 million in vetoes, \$20 million in spending was reinstated in the budget by the state legislature. He mentioned highlights of the state legislation passed in the last session. Of special interest to the neighborhood is HB1941, which would allow individual property owners and neighborhood organizations to directly sue a nuisance property owner and to recover court costs and attorney fees from the property owner, or to have those costs added as a lien on the property.

**Mike Newsham, TGHNA President**

- The last Heights Nights, where residents support a local business and socialize, was held at Civil Life Brewery. Heights Nights may begin again next year in warmer weather.
- Stoop nights, where neighbors come out on their porches to socialize each Thursday night, will continue until weather shuts it down, unless the beer wagon becomes a sled.
- The following blocks will be holding block parties in the coming weeks: 36-3800 Juniata (September 27<sup>th</sup>), 3800 Hartford (October 4<sup>th</sup>), and 36-3800 Humphrey (October 25<sup>th</sup>.)
- Mike thanked all the people who volunteered to help at Fall Fest on South Grand last weekend, and pronounced the event a great success.
- He mentioned efforts to re-establish maintenance of the South Grand medians, and that our executive board approved donating \$500 for the maintenance this year, which will include costs of the final fall trimming and cutting of the perennials currently in the beds.

**Joe Wilson of Better Together** gave some background on the organization. Their efforts are geared to examining the possibility of combining Saint Louis City and Saint Louis County governments into one. Currently the 1.3 million people in the city and county receive municipal services from 115 different governments at an annual cost of \$2 billion.

Combining governments would, it is believed, result in cost savings, increased efficiency, and possibly more unified efforts at economic growth. Better Together has finished studies on municipal service delivery across the city and county in the following areas: public finance, economic development, and public health. Future studies will examine public safety, parks & recreation, and administration. The results of those studies, more information about the organization, and opportunities to volunteer are available at: [www.BetterTogetherSTL.com](http://www.BetterTogetherSTL.com). You can follow them on Twitter @BTSTL or find them on Facebook.

**Marilyn Browning** reminded everyone that **Autumn Fest in the Heights** is on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> and starts at 3831 Juniata at 5:00pm. Carriage rides, appetizers, wine, beer, desserts, a final party site, and the opportunity to socialize at three different houses in the neighborhood are included in the registration price--\$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. The event is open to all, not just residents, and the Mayor will be making an appearance early on. Registration forms and information are available:

- online at [www.towergroveheights.com](http://www.towergroveheights.com) under Neighborhood Happenings
- at the northwest corner of Utah and Spring or
- on the back of the latest Tower Grove Heights Gazette.

**15<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Candidates** An opening was created for the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman position when Jennifer Florida was asked by Mayor Slay to replace Sharon Carpenter as Recorder of Deeds. There are four candidates for the aldermanic position. Three attended the meeting to introduce themselves and answer questions:

- **Megan-Ellyia Green**, is currently working with Child Care Aware of Missouri. She is running as an independent candidate. Learn about Megan at [www.meganellyiaagreen.com](http://www.meganellyiaagreen.com)
- **Rhonda Smythe**, currently working with TrailNet, is also running as an independent candidate for the open 15<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman position. Learn more about Rhonda at [www.rhondasmythe.com](http://www.rhondasmythe.com)
- **Missy Pinkerton McDaniel** is a Committeewoman for the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward Democrats. She is running as the endorsed Democratic candidate. Learn more about Missy at [www.missypinkertonmcdaniel.com](http://www.missypinkertonmcdaniel.com).

If you missed the meeting there will be two candidate forums held before the special election on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. The first will be held Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Carpenter Public Library, 3309 South Grand Blvd. The second forum will be held on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00pm at The Royale, 3132 S. Kingshighway. Please be informed and cast your vote on October 7<sup>th</sup>!

**Jennifer Florida** received a small token of appreciation from the neighborhood association in the form of a Tower Grove Heights street sign labeled Jennifer Way. You can see a picture of her with the sign at our Facebook page. She mentioned that Rooster will open October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Nominations for the open positions of Secretary and President-Elect on the executive board of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association will be taken at the next general meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>. You must be a voting member of the association to be a candidate, and yes, you can nominate yourself. Our last meeting of the year (and elections) will be November 25<sup>th</sup>.