

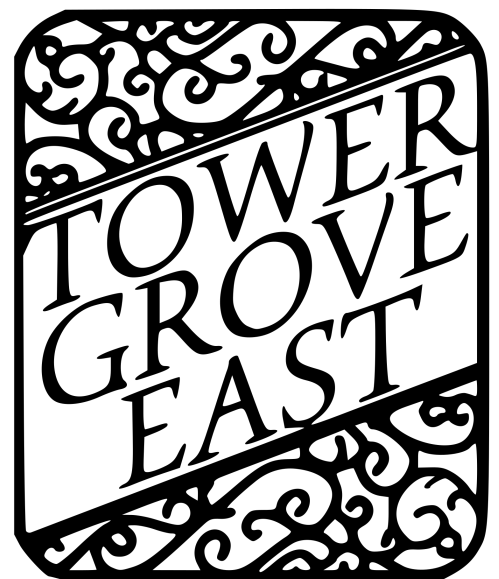
JANUARY 24, 2023

**TOWER GROVE EAST
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

JANUARY 2023

MEETING

RECAP



Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association

JANUARY MEETING RECAP

TGE Neighborhood Association sets meetings for candidates, police chief

The Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association will host key guest speakers — aldermanic candidates and the new city police chief — at its next two meetings, association President Danielle Langeneckert announced at Tuesday night’s general membership meeting.

Meeting topics included a report from police Liaison Officer Kevin Dilg, comments from two alderwomen and a detailed treasurer’s report (see at end).

Tower Grove East, formerly split among several wards, will now be part of the larger, newly drawn 7th Ward. The three candidates seeking to represent it will appear at the next meeting on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. at Stray Dog Theatre. They are:

- Jon-Pierre (J. P.) Mitchom, director of Equity and Inclusion at St. Louis Priory School. Mitchom also showed up at last night’s meeting and spoke briefly.
- Cedric (C-Sharp) Redmon, musician, hip-hop artist and community activist.
- Alisha Sonnier, member of the St. Louis Public School Board of Education.

All three will run in the nonpartisan blanket approval primary on March 7. The top two candidates chosen in that primary will then go on to run in the general election on April 4. The new 7th Ward covers the TGE, Benton Park West and Gate District neighborhoods. Incumbent alderwomen Christine Ingrassia (the old 6th Ward) and Annie Rice (the old 8th Ward) declined to run.

And on March 28, new SLMPD Chief Robert Tracy will appear at the meeting.

SLMPD Neighborhood Update from Officer Dilg

Dilg said Chief Tracy seems to be very community-oriented and wants to meet with a lot of local groups. “This is the first time in our history that we have hired someone from another department” to lead city police, Dilg added. Tracy formerly worked in Delaware and New York State.

Dilg also talked about the number of shots fired over New Year’s Eve. Led by former TGENA Safety Chair Lane Forman and former TGENA President Denise Heinz, 19 volunteers distributed hundreds of anti-celebratory gunshot door hangers throughout the

neighborhood, the second year this effort took place in conjunction with several other neighborhoods.

Dilg, who said he worked the New Year's Eve detail, said later that the overall number of calls for "shots fired" for the entire City of St. Louis, as well as District 3 (which includes TGE), went down. The number of calls for the Tower Grove East neighborhood stayed the same from '21-'22 to '22-'23 (5 vs 5).

However if the neighborhood association passes out the door hangers again next year, he may encourage other neighborhoods to do it, he said.

Overall crime statistics were mixed up and down, he said. He said a lot of criminals get their guns by breaking into cars, not by going to the Bass Pro Shop: "It's against city ordinance to leave a firearm unsecured in a vehicle," he said, adding he has seen an increase in the number of people receiving summonses for the gun-in-car violation. Don't leave a dog, child or firearm in a car, he advised.

Dilg added that police now have a traffic safety officer in the area.

"If you want to come up with two locations where you think traffic enforcement would help, pass it on to me," Dilg said. His email is: kddilg@slmpd.org

Aldermanic Updates:

The 6th District's Christine Ingrassia said the Board of Aldermen, whose last day of operating under the old districts is April 17, is aiming to get a lot of things done involving allocation of the Rams settlement, infrastructure improvements and traffic calming.

She supports a proposal to guarantee the right to counsel for tenants facing eviction. The problem appears to be worsening as out-of-town companies are buying up income properties in the city, she said.

The 8th District's Annie Rice said the April ballot will include a proposal to establish a city charter commission every 10 years, which will recommend changes to the charter for voters to act on. A marijuana sales tax also will be on the ballot.

Rice said aldermen had a good meeting with new Police Chief Tracy. She added that the city's representatives in the Missouri Legislature have been fighting to keep control of the city's police department.

However, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported Wednesday that the city's police unions back an effort by State Sen. Nick Schroer, a St. Charles County Republican, to put the city police department back under state control. Schroer cited the amount of violent crime in the city.

Regarding problems with 911 responses, Rice said aldermen have been working to build a single public safety entry point and combine it into one building, which may have to be constructed. She noted that dispatchers are now paid \$12 an hour to deal with people who call in about what may be the worst point in their lives.

From committee reports:

— Newsletter Editor Kristine Hildebrandt asked for help and ideas writing for the newsletter. Contact her at: tge.newsletter@gmail.com

— Beautification Chair Ralph Noyes urged residents to take advantage of the city's street tree program. He gave a shout out to former TGENA President Alex Thomson, who arranged to have more than a dozen new trees planted along the 3400 block of Arsenal.

— Safety Chair Forman thanked volunteers who passed out anti-celebratory gunshot flyers. He said he thought the effort was successful and he may work on repeating it for July 4.

— Community Garden Leader Cal Thomas said the garden has no waiting list and there are three empty garden plots available for people to plant. The garden also is organizing another Halloween event, and he asked for volunteers to help.

— Tower Grove Park Liaison Larry McCarthy said a tax credit package will allow the park to add restrooms. Also, the park is working on adding space for employees to work in a core area near the Piper Palm House, and new space for a catering kitchen. No timeline has been set yet.

— Becky Reinhart, executive director of DeSales Community Development, reported progress on several formerly vacant properties, including one now being renovated at 3314 Sidney across from the community garden and another in the 3400 block of Utah that has been sold and is being renovated. DeSales also has a court-approved rehabilitation plan to remedy code violations on a property on Victor. If you have a problem property on your block, please reach out to her, she said.

Meanwhile DeSales is working on the Community Savers program through Ameren and is looking for volunteers to help out the Action Adventure Club and Girls on the Run. It also is working on getting more funding to maintain the South Grand median strips.

TGENA President Langeneckert said Shenandoah Elementary School Principal Tonya Marrocco expressed deep thanks to those whose donations matched the association's grant of \$500 to give a check of more than \$1,000 to the school to help children from low-income families over Christmas.

At the end of the meeting, aldermanic candidate Mitchum made brief remarks in which he said he has served as president of a neighborhood association “doing same thing you guys are doing here.”

Treasurer Jana Schmersahl also gave this report:

- Betty Lewis account (for neighborhood donation deposits) \$7,393
- Received 12 Square deposits totaling \$510 (for the Shenandoah Elementary family fundraiser)
- Received a 2-year individual membership (\$18), three household one-year memberships (\$54), and a \$50 general contribution
- Transferred \$5,239.02 from this account to large account for safekeeping; will maintain a maximum of \$7,500 in the Betty Lewis account going forward
- account balance is \$5,034.36

Large account (for expenses, cash and check deposits) \$6,058

- Expenses totaling \$819.86 to Murray’s Print Shop for TGENA newsletters, two monthly Zoom subscription fees (for December and January), reimbursement from Halloween block party, reimbursement for membership expenses, and a bank statement fee.
- Mailed a check for \$136.22 to Shaw NOM attn: Gary Hosna for the NYE door hangers (yet to be reflected in the bank account)
- Deposit totaling \$799.71 from Jason Schipkowski for the Garden’s 2022 shared earnings
- Issued a check for \$1,010 to Shenandoah Elementary for the Christmas family fundraiser, including \$500 TGENA donation and \$510 from Square deposits (yet to be reflected in the bank account)
- account balance is \$21,711.07; CD renewal date Sept 28, 2023
- current balance \$21,141.07, earning 0.025% interest
- soliciting suggestions for reinvesting, donations once CD matures this year; CD renewal date Oct 12, 2025
- Current balance \$8,639.67, earning 0.045% interest

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 @ 7PM - Stray Dog Theatre + Zoom

****this meeting will host an aldermanic candidate forum****

CRIME STATS PROVIDED BY OFFICER DILG

Part I Crimes Year to Date

Current Year	25
Last Year	17
Percent Change	47.1%
Trend	Up

Part I Crimes 30 Days

Current 30 Days	33
Previous 30 Days	43
Percent Change	23.3%
Trend	Down

Current Part I Crimes

Murder	0
Rape	0
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assault	1
Burglary	0
Arson	0
Vehicle Theft	14
Larceny	18
Total	33

Current Part I Crime Additional Information

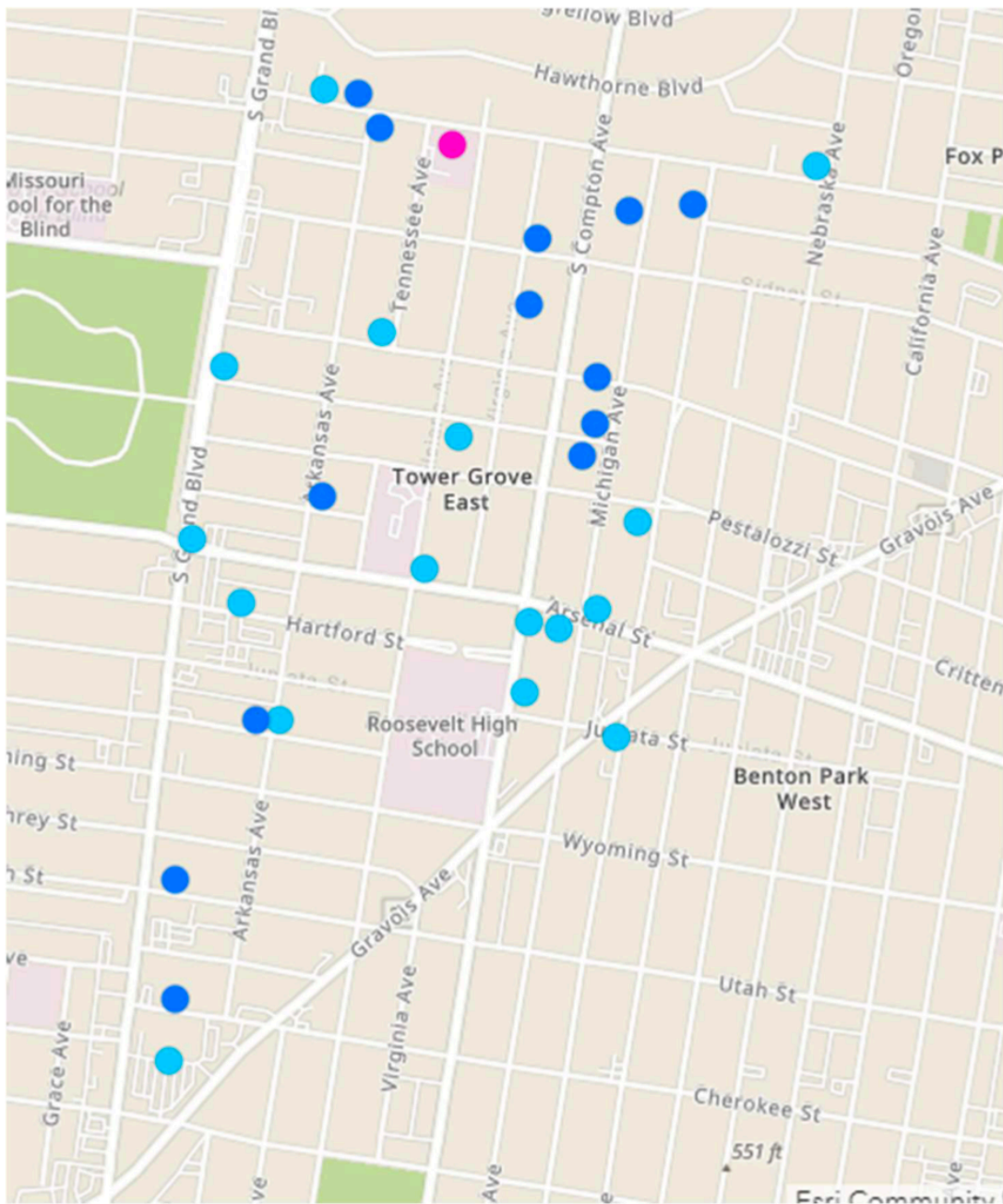
Aggravated Assault: 1/6/23-3400 block of Shenandoah-Relative to Abuse of a Child

Vehicle Thefts: (14) total. Down 39%. 7 out of 14 (50%) were Kia/Hyundai models.

Larcenies: (18) total. Up 20%

(10) were from motor vehicles: Items taken were 2 backpacks, 3 computers, 1 cell phone, 1 credit card, **1 firearm**, clothing (shoes, shirts, etc.)

(4) were motor vehicle parts which includes 2 catalytic converters, 2 license plates



Legend	
Yellow	Murder
Orange	Rape
Red	Robbery
Pink	Aggravated Assault
Green	Burglary
Gray	Arson
Dark Blue	Vehicle Theft
Light Blue	Larceny