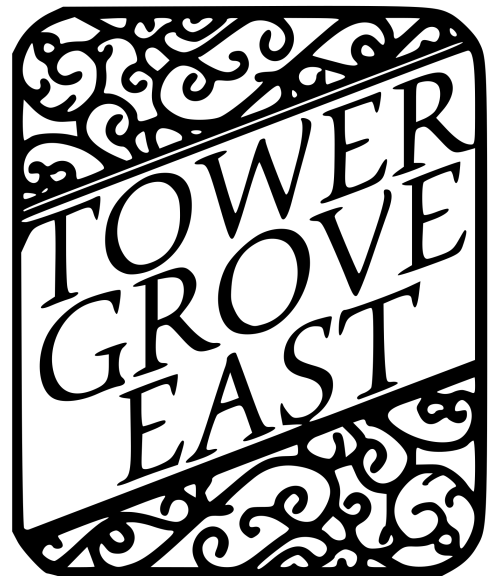


MARCH 26, 2024

# TOWER GROVE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## MARCH MEETING RECAP



# Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association

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### NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS, SCHOOLS AND NEW CITY LAWS ARE TOPICS AT TGENA MEETING

New trees for Tower Grove East, crime statistics, the wastewater treatment ballot proposition and other topics were discussed at the Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association membership meeting at Tower Grove Abbey on March 26.

Seventh Ward Alderwoman Alisha Sonnier, speaking first at the meeting, sought to dispel an idea that no city money is available for tree replanting in the neighborhood. She said she has allocated \$46,000 to the Department of Forestry.

(TGENA Beautification Chair Anne Moore has [posted on Facebook](#) that Forestry is scheduled to plant about 73 new trees in the neighborhood, and they will need special care in the beginning after initial planting.)

Sonnier said she also has asked for \$100,000 in expenditures from the Refuse Division, so if you need a new trash receptacle, “go get it,” she said.

She added that she would like to see the old Garavaglia corner store in the Gate District be turned into a grocery store again. The building is at Lafayette and Nebraska, and she described the neighborhood as a “great walkable area.” Her decision is not final, she said. She will hold a community meeting on the idea on May 9 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 3017 Park Ave. (Southside Wellness Center).

Sonnier said she also will hold a town meeting on April 17, location to be announced later. It will focus on city services, probably including forestry and streets, she said.

Sonnier also gave an update on Board of Aldermen bills she has supported:

#### DEVELOPERS

[Board Bill 198](#), which requires developers to pay their city property, water and refuse taxes and fees if they want tax incentives to develop in the city. Passed and signed.

#### APARTMENTS

[Board Bill 180](#), which establishes a mandatory registration process for residential rental units in the city through the city's Housing Conservation Program. Passed.

## DRONES

[Board Bill 199](#), which regulates the commercial use of drones and imposes community-based safety regulations and restrictions on them that do not preempt federal aviation rules or state law. Passed.

## SAFE TEMPERATURES IN RENTALS

[Board Bill 226](#), which provides a temperature performance standard to protect the health and safety of tenants from extreme temperatures, including an enforcement provision and penalties. On second reading, not passed.

## SHELTERS

[Board Bill 227](#), which, among other changes, reduces the number of property owners/registered voters needed to approve a shelter petition from 51 percent to 25 percent of those living within a 500-foot radius. Once approved, shelters would have a six-month provisional license, and after another six months, the license would be reviewed again. In process.

## OTHER TOPICS

Asked about red light cameras, Sonnier said she supports them. She said she has not heard a lot of opposition to their use. She added that St. Louis has a shortage in its police force and there should be oversight of police technology.

## IN OTHER BUSINESS AT THE MEETING:

[New Third District Commander Captain Angela Dickerson](#), who introduced herself as a St. Louis native and 23-year veteran of the police department, having served on patrol, investigation and training. She worked predominantly in North St. Louis, where her family still resides, she said, and this assignment brings her to South St. Louis for the first time.

She said she is eager to participate in some TGE events.

Dickerson said that over the last 28 days, there had been three burglaries in TGE, compared with two in 2023. There were five auto thefts, compared with three from last year over the same period, she added. No shootings were reported. A suspect has been identified in a residential burglary on Sidney Street, she added.

See crime statistics attachment.

One questioner said there appear to have been a lot of fires in the city recently, and asked about the arson fire at the Jonathan Beck law office at 3500 Magnolia. Dickerson said she would look into that fire and the arson incidents.

[Sean Stone, public affairs specialist at Project Clear](#), who talked about the April 2 ballot Proposition W, which asks voters whether they want to approve selling bonds and spreading out the cost of the work for required wastewater system improvements, or whether they want to pay with current revenues.

According to literature he passed out, a yes vote would mean you pay less now, but more over the long term; and a no vote would bring higher monthly bill increases, but less cost in the long term.

Stone said more than 650 improvements in wastewater treatment have been completed and there has been a 25 percent reduction in basement backups. However, they are still having to deal with freak storms, like the one that hit in July 2022, which cause major flooding and backups.

He also said they are having to plan for more frequent and powerful storms caused by climate change. The system still is not fully able to handle water coming to it, he said.

In response to a question, Stone said the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District takes advantage of every federal and state grant opportunity to fund projects.

Voters also will be asked to vote on Proposition S, where they'll be asked to decide whether they approve of tackling flooding and erosion services on a regional basis, which is not done now. A yes vote would add about \$25 per year for a typical customer; a no vote would involve no new cost, according to the material Stone passed out.

[Gloria Nolan of Save St. Louis Public Schools](#), who acknowledged that the city cannot shut down its 21 charter schools but urged that no more be opened and that more support be put into the public school system's 52 schools.

Charters schools are are not changing the landscape for education for the better, especially for the city's most vulnerable students, Nolan said.

She pointed out that one charter school, Hawthorn, announced it would be closing about three days before classes were to begin last year. Charter schools have unelected school boards and are not unionized, she said. "They are not accountable to voters."

Nolan said, "We have an opportunity here to turn the public school district around," but more resources have to be poured into it.

One speaker from the audience, Susan Herzberg, said she supports charter schools. She said her daughter attended a language specialty charter school and is now 100 percent fluent in Spanish. "Charter schools offer a great opportunity to families that want to leave the city when their children reach school age," she said.

Newsletter Chair Henry Brown is asking for news ideas and items for the upcoming digital issue.

Orchard on Virginia representative Susan Herzberg said the Orchard will hold an egg hunt on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. for children and the young at heart.

Beautification Chair Anne Moore said a neighborhood cleanup will be held April 6 beginning at 9 a.m. in the parking lot behind Commerce Bank. Tree-trimming advice also will be given.

Social Chair Laura Wolf said the next TGE Adventures will take place April 18 at Riley's.

Community Garden Liaison Joe Goodman said it will hold its annual plant sale May 4 and 5. The Halloween Street Festival will take place Oct. 19.

Block Captain Liaison Cal Thomas advised those who want to be a block captain to [contact him](#).

Dilg said he is leaving his position as liaison officer and is returning to platoon work, at his request. He will be assigned in the Third District, of which TGE is a part.

"It was a pleasure to serve you guys for the time I did. This is a great neighborhood. You guys are doing good," he said.

South Grand Liaison Jen Kubiszewski urged residents to check out the pastries at Manileno, the new Filipino restaurant off South Grand. She also noted that new uplighting

## TGENA MARCH 2024 MEETING

will be replacing edged lighting on South Grand buildings, of which two already have the new illumination.

The Poke restaurant at Arsenal and Grand should open in April, she said. And the former Lulu's now houses a new African fusion Ethiopian restaurant, Eat Today. Grand Spirits offers free wine tastings Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m., she added.

Tower Grove Park Liaison Larry McCarthy said electrical work is now finished at the park's pickleball and tennis courts.

## UPCOMING ELECTION

Before and after the meeting, these candidates passed out campaign literature for the [Aug. 6 election](#):

- Vernon Betts, for St. Louis City Sheriff
- Alfred Montgomery, for St. Louis City Sheriff
- Marty Joe Murray, for 78<sup>th</sup> District District State Representative

## NEXT MEETING


















**Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024 @ 7PM - Stray Dog Theatre + Zoom**

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**CRIME STATS PROVIDED BY CAPTAIN DICKERSON:**

### St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department CompStat Comparison by Neighborhood CompStat Period Ending 3/24/2024 11:59:59 PM

Tower Grove East	LAST 7 DAYS			LAST 28 DAYS			YEAR TO DATE			2022	2021
	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	2024	2023	% Chg	% Chg	% Chg
<b>MURDER</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	*	-100%
<b>SEXUAL ASSAULT</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	0	*	0%	*
<b>ROBBERY</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	1	200%	-25%	*
<b>AGGRAVATED ASSAULT</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	5	-80%	-86%	-88%
<b>BURGLARY</b>	0	0	*	3	2	50%	6	2	200%	-14%	-45%
<b>FELONY THEFT</b>	0	0	*	0	3	-100%	4	16	-75%	-85%	-50%
<b>AUTO THEFT</b>	0	1	-100%	5	3	67%	18	22	-18%	260%	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-100%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>-28%</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>-23%</b>
<b>SHOOTING INCIDENTS</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	1	-100%	*	-100%
<b>SHOOTING VICTIMS</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	1	-100%	*	-100%
<b>JUVENILE SHOOTING INCIDENTS</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	*	*
<b>JUVENILE SHOOTING VICTIMS</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	*	*
<b>MISDEMEANOR THEFT</b>	1	2	-50%	12	5	140%	33	25	32%	94%	-15%
<b>GUN ARRESTS</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	3	0	*	*	0%
<b>JUVENILE GUN ARRESTS</b>	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	*	*

Crime Overview - N'hd <small>*Conforms to UCR standards except homicides/AAs are counted by incident, not victim*</small>				N'hood Tower Grove East	☰
Homicide and Firearm Assault Previous 7 Days  <b>-100.0%</b> 0 vs 1	Robbery Previous 7 Days  0 vs 0	Residential (Occ) Burglary Previous 7 Days  0 vs 0 <hr/> Business and Church Previous 7 Days  0 vs 0	Larceny (Non-MV) Previous 7 Days  <b>400.0%</b> 5 vs 1	Mo <input type="text" value="tower"/> <input type="button" value="x"/> <input type="button" value="🗲"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tower Grove East <input type="checkbox"/> Tower Grove Park <input type="checkbox"/> Tower Grove South <input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Select all"/>	
Homicide and Firearm Assault Previous 28 Days  <b>-100.0%</b> 0 vs 1	Robbery Previous 28 Days  0 vs 0	Residential (Occ) Burglary Previous 28 Days  <b>0.0%</b> 2 vs 2 <hr/> Business and Church Burglary Previous 28 Days  0 vs 0	Larceny (Non-MV) Previous 28 Days  <b>550.0%</b> 13 vs 2	Motor Vehicle Theft & MV Larceny: Previous 28 Days  <b>-41.7%</b> 7 vs 12	
Homicide and Firearm Assault YTD  <b>-50.0%</b> 1 vs 2	Robbery YTD  <b>50.0%</b> 3 vs 2	Residential (Occ) Burglary YTD  <b>0.0%</b> 3 vs 3 <hr/> Business and Church Burglary YTD  <b>%</b> 0 vs 0	Larceny (Non-MV) YTD  <b>56.25%</b> 25 vs 16	Motor Vehicle Theft & MV Larceny: YTD  <b>-28.0%</b> 36 vs 50	



Please use the below selections to narrow data by place, time, and activity.

Note: Default dates are for 120 days so please select the dates you are interested in "before" considering the stats.

Select Dates

2/1/2024 - 2/29/2024

Select by District

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Select by Neighborhood

Tower Grove East

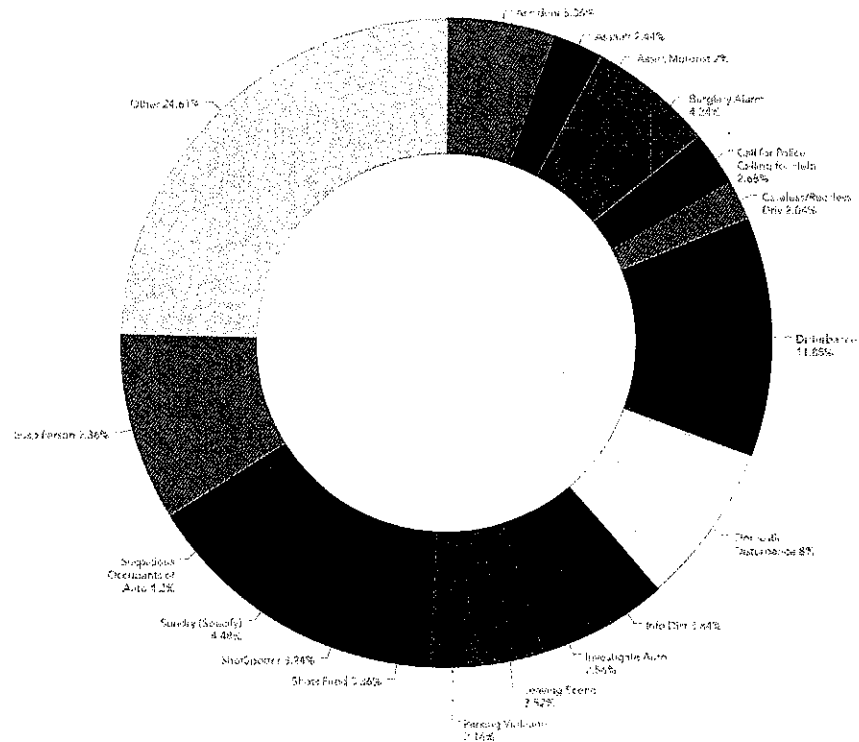
Select by SIA Type

No category selected

Select by Directed Incident

No category selected

Directed Incidents



- SIA
- DIRECTED
- CFS Yearly Comparison by Type
- Map-Not In Use