

Neighborhood updates given at
TGENA membership meeting

Two of five cars being stored at the Bing & Nagel Auto repair shop, 3008 Pestalozzi, have been removed, attendees learned at Tuesday's meeting of the Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association. The shop says it hopes to remove three other vehicles but is waiting for insurance to come through first.

The information was in a prepared update for the monthly meeting from Neighborhood Improvement Specialist (NIS) Andrew Hernandez Mackenzie, who is on vacation. TGENA President Tristan Mackenzie read Hernandez' report. Other updates in the report:

- A white Chevrolet was removed earlier this month from 2835 Pennsylvania.

- A camera has been installed in the 3400 block of Humphrey, site of a lot of illegal dumping.

- Hernandez says he has been reporting numerous potholes to the city and they are getting fixed. If you see any that need repair, report them to the Citizens' Service Bureau at (314) 622-4800, he advised.

- The city's tow lot has resumed auctioning off abandoned vehicles. However, the lot still has a backlog of vehicles, so it has not been able to fully return to removing cars off the street--unless they pose a safety hazard.

Hernandez said Dena Hibbard, TGE's former Neighborhood Improvement Specialist, will be covering for him while he is away.

City Police Liaison Officer Gregory McClendon reported that TGE crime was up 19 percent over the past 30 days, compared with the previous 30 days. Some of the increase was attributed to eight auto thefts.

"Don't leave your auto running," McClendon advised. Some people think they can jump out of the car for a half minute and return, only to find someone has driven off in the vehicle in that short time. Police also have had to deal with a lot of attempted car thefts where perpetrators break a window and break down the ignition column only to find they can't start the car--so they run off, he said.

Asked about the Fourth of July, McClendon said all officers were on duty over the holiday weekend and as a result, "kids were running from us. We made such a huge impact, kind of got our point across." The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that about 90 people (58 younger than 18) were taken into custody over the Fourth weekend. Charges include throwing fireworks into crowds, stealing motorbikes and brandishing firearms.

TGENA Safety Chair Lane Forman said he hoped police would do the same thing for New Year's too.

Committee reports:

--Charitable: The association has collected close to \$2,000 for a tree grove in Tower Grove Park in memory of longtime neighborhood activist Bill Gilbert. There will be a final push for donations.

--Membership: Bryan Brown said he is working on a database update.

--Social: Amy Kurz said the Back to School event has changed and will now be held in conjunction with Momentum Academy on Friday, Aug. 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. in Fox Park. The event will include carnival games.

Also, the Third Thursday Adventures get-together will be held Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. at Tick Tock Tavern and Buzzs Hawaiian Grill.

--Development: Patrick Moore said the walls are going up at construction in the 3000 block of Minnesota. The structure will offer market-rate apartments in a townhouse style.

--Fundraiser: The neighborhood association will raise funds and hold a raffle for Roosevelt High School football players on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 1 to 5 p.m. in front of Riley's Pub, 3458 Arsenal St. Hot dogs, brats and side dishes will be offered. Raffle items will be displayed inside the bar. Money raised will provide breakfast for the athletes.

--Beautification: Anne Moore said the next neighborhood cleanup, held the second Saturday of the month (Aug. 9), will start early at 8 a.m. and finish at 11 a.m. because of the heat. Volunteers meet in the parking lot behind Commerce Bank.

She also advised residents who have new trees planted in their tree lawn to take care to water them for the first three years after planting.

--Community Garden: Volunteers planning the garden's annual Halloween fest are meeting every Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. at the Tick Tock Tavern, 3459 Magnolia.

--Tower Grove Park: Larry McCarthy said the concert series is now going on Monday evenings at the park. Food trucks arrive at 5 p.m. and music starts at 6 p.m. The last concert will be Sept 22.

<https://www.towergrovepark.org/mondays-at-the-music-stand>

McCarthy also said the annual Festival of Nations will be held at the park on Aug. 23-24.

Tuesday's association membership meeting was held at Stray Dog Theatre, 2348 Tennessee Ave. There will be no August meeting. September's meeting will be the annual picnic on Tuesday, Sept. 23, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Sons of Rest Pavilion (nearest one to Grand) in Tower Grove Park. TGENA will provide proteins and drinks at the picnic and asks members to bring potluck side dishes.

At the end of the meeting, Gary F. Bell, Stray Dog's artistic director, urged neighbors to see "The Second Hurricane," a one-hour youth opera by Aaron Copland. Bell, who described the show as "musical theater meets opera," said the presentation will feature 23 singers and 12 musicians performing live music. "The Second Hurricane" will run Aug. 7 through 30 and will include matinees.