

Briefs

Dinner, auction to benefit American Theater Co.

American Theater Co.'s Hot Fun in the Summertime cabaret dinner and auction will kick off the company's 34th season, which opens with the rock opera, "Tommy."

The 2004 benefit is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Aug. 7 in the Kathleen P. Westby Pavilion in the Performing Arts Center, Second Street and Cincinnati Avenue. The event will include opportunities to meet performers, to dine at a buffet provided by Outback Steakhouse on Yale Avenue and to bid on auction items.

Proceeds from the fourth-annual event will benefit the company and its education programs, which include Conservatory in the Park, partnerships with Tulsa Park & Recreation Department, Philbrook Museum of Art with Shakespeare on the Lawn at Philbrook, Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust, the State Arts Council of Oklahoma, and the Tulsa Arts and Humanities Council.

Information and tickets are available by calling 747-9494.

Master Gardener program plans training sessions

The Tulsa County Master Gardener program, which recently received a statewide award, will soon begin training new volunteers.

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in Tulsa County will hold an orientation session at 10 a.m. Aug. 11 for prospective master gardeners. Participants will learn program requirements and the schedule of training sessions. The orientation will occur at the Expo Square Café connected to the east side of the Exposition Center at Expo Square, 21st Street and Yale Avenue.

The master gardeners are volunteers who provide gardening information to Tulsa residents. Last year the volunteers made more than 97,000 contacts through various horticulture education programs.

Last year in Tulsa County, 275 master gardeners participated in the local program.

Information is available on the master gardener program or to ask questions about gardening by calling 746-3701.

Dollar Thrifty makes donation to Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of Magic Empire Council recently received more than \$10,000 from Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group's Campaign for Scouting.

The donation was the first time the local Girl Scouts council had been included in the rental car company's campaign, the Scouting organization said in a press release.

Contributions to the campaign came from individual employees and company donations.

Tulsa-based Dollar Thrifty is the parent company of Dollar Rent A Car Inc. and Thrifty Inc. rental car companies.

Magic Empire Council serves more than 10,000 girls in 14 counties in northeast Oklahoma. More than 2,000 volunteers help in working with the girls.

Information about the scouting council is available online at www.mecgs.org.

Bar association offers Call a Lawyer event

Callers will receive information and answers to legal questions on Sept. 14 during the Tulsa County Bar Association's Call a Lawyer event.

Volunteers will take calls from 5-8 p.m. on questions concerning family matters, civil suits and other legal questions. When the situation warrants, volunteers will refer callers to a member of the bar association.

The number to call during the event will be 748-1432.

Information is available prior to the event by calling Toni Wallace, 584-5243, ext. 0, or Lawyer Referral Services at 587-6014.

Community focus

New kid on the block

Eight months after arrival, Freedom became president of neighborhood group

By **CORY YOUNG**
World Staff Writer

Chris Freedom received a welcome basket when his family moved into the Brady Heights neighborhood from Kansas in May 2003.

A flyer inside the basket, notifying him of an upcoming Brady Heights Neighborhood Association meeting, changed his life.

Eight months later, he was president of the organization. In January, he was elected vice-president but moved up when the elected president declined the position.

"I thought, 'This is the first time I've ever been in a neighborhood association, let alone president of one,'" Freedom said. "It's a first-time experience — a learning process."

The neighborhood is bounded by Marshall Street on the north, Fairview Street on the south, the L.L. Tisdale Expressway on the west and an alley between Cheyenne Avenue and Main Street on the east, said Tim Lovell, former Brady Heights Neighborhood Association president.

Freedom's wife, Kendra, remembers the first neighborhood meeting they attended.

"It was nice. They showed us that we were coming into a neighborhood that cared, that wanted us to be involved, that wanted to be involved in our lives," she said.

She also thought the neighborhood would be good for the kids.

"It takes a village to raise a child, and that's the sense I get around here," she said.

Freedom, reflecting on the first meeting, has always felt at home at association meetings.

"I felt welcome — everybody was happy about having new neighbors. My opinion has mattered from the beginning," he said. "I think I was nominated because I was so outspoken at meetings."

Since becoming president, Freedom has received a hand from former association President Tim Lovell, who has led the group for five one-year terms — 1995, 1998, 1999, 2002 and 2003.

"He's been a major help. He has a lot of experience working with the city, the neighborhood's history and where the focus of the neighborhood is," Freedom said. "It's a group experience. The whole neighborhood works together to make everything a success."

Lovell said Freedom is doing well, using others around him as resources.

"Chris has two small children, a wife and a full-time job. To balance your family task with the community is always a hard thing," said Lovell, now a board member for the group. "He's doing well. He's reaching out to his board, looking to them on how to do things. It should never be one person doing everything."

Freedom is an associate director for ResCare, which



CORY YOUNG / Tulsa World

Chris Freedom became president of the Brady Heights Neighborhood Association in January, eight months after moving to the area.

NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

The Brady Heights Neighborhood Association meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Centenary United Methodist Church, 631 N. Denver Ave.

provides care for adults who have developmental disabilities. He deals with issues for about 300 employees and 100 clients.

"Some days are crazy, but I really like the fast pace. I like to have a lot going on," he said. "When you interact with so many people on a daily basis, it keeps you on your toes."

He said work has been the focus since day one in the neighborhood.

Since becoming president, the association has participated in activities, ranging from planting flowers to beautify the neighborhood, to an outdoor movie for neighbors.

Future plans include a community clean-up project, Lovell said.

He said being good neighbors is the most important part of the association.

"Sometimes a need arises, and we'll pitch in to help a neighbor," Freedom said. "I don't really have a goal, except that we all come together as a group."

He said building relationships and bettering development is important.

"We try to develop that feeling of community, so neighbors would want to wave when they see each other on the sidewalk," Freedom said.

He said it is important to be affiliated with a neighborhood association.

"Everybody has an opinion. And, if you want the right to express yours, you have to be involved," Freedom said. "I can't see myself being part of a neighborhood and not being an active part of the decisions that affect my neighborhood."

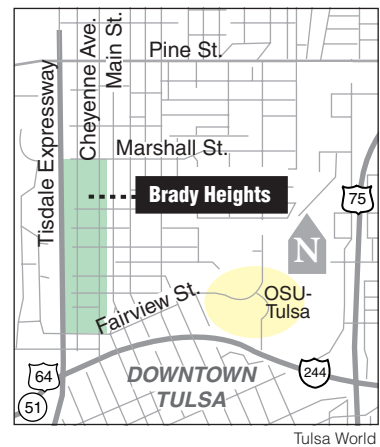
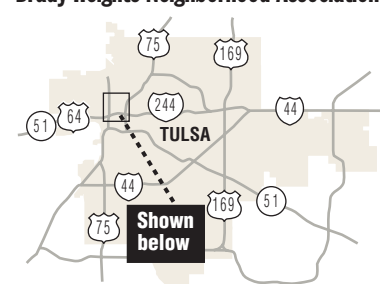
He said things have changed from the time when he was not affiliated with a neighborhood group in Kansas.

"We know our neighbors. We trust our neighbors and we're building friendships," he said.

The workload changes a lot. "Some days, it's overwhelming. Most days, it's not much at all," Freedom said. "It all comes in waves."

Brady Heights is one of approximately 275 neighborhood associations registered with the city, said Erin Patrick,

Brady Heights Neighborhood Association



director of the Mayor's Office for Neighborhoods

She said Brady Heights is unique to Tulsa history.

"It's got homes dating between 1904 and 1930, and it was the first neighborhood in Tulsa to be placed on the national register of historic places," she said. "They are

COMMUNITY LEADER

Name: Chris Freedom

Community work: President of the Brady Heights Neighborhood Association

Born: Portland, Ore.

Education: Earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kan., in 1999

Family: Wife, Kendra; two children, Samantha, 2, and Dominic, 6 months

Life goal: "I just want for my kids to do well, live long and have a good life."

Career: Associate director of ResCare, which provides care for adults who have developmental disabilities

Hobbies: Computer, golfing. "My wife says that my newest hobby is home renovation. When you live in a house that was built in 1911, there's always work to be done."

dedicated to preserving their existing historical homes, and they promote sensitive development in their neighborhood, which is a historical Tulsa treasure."

'We try to develop that feeling of community, so neighbors would want to wave when they see each other on the sidewalk.'

CHRIS FREEDOM

PRESIDENT, BRADY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Events to watch

Community/Civic Group Meetings

Hear Them Roar Brookside Lions Club meeting, 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Trade Winds Hotel, 51st Street and Harvard Avenue. For more details, call 622-4172.

Kiwanis Meet Kiwanis Club of East Tulsa meeting, 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Golden Corral, 7144 E. 21st St. Visitors are welcome. Call 234-0420 for more information.

Civilians Meet Metro Tulsa Civitan Club meeting, noon Tuesday, Red Lobster, 51st Street and Yale Avenue. Call 461-0553 for more details.

Rotarians Meet Central Rotary Club meeting, noon Tuesday, Celebration Station, 4518 E. Skelly Drive. Visitors are welcome. Call 742-0329 to find out more.

Sertomans Meet Sertoma Club of Tulsa meeting, noon Tuesday, First United Methodist Church, 1115 S. Boulder Ave. Visitors welcome. For more details, call 760-9859.

The Roar Downtown Tulsa Downtown Lions Club meeting, noon Tuesday, First United Methodist Church, 1115 S. Boulder Ave. Call 742-5555 to find out more.

Well Spoken Speak E-Z Toastmasters Club meeting, 12:05 p.m. Tuesday, University of Phoenix campus, 10810 E. 45th St. For more information, call 622-4877 Ext. 1025.

Dance

The Art of Dancing Christ United Methodist Church offers dance lessons, 7 - 9 p.m. Monday, 3515 S. Harvard Ave. Art Stefanini teaches line dancing from 7 - 8 p.m. and partner dancing without partners from 8 - 9 p.m. A \$3 donation will be accepted. Call 747-8601 or 740-9803.

Dance Lessons Tulsa Country and Western Dance Association offers lessons for beginning to advanced dancers, 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wil-lo Hall, 13149 E. 11th St. Learn two-step, shuffle, waltz, line dances and various partner dances. For cost and other information, call 663-9963.

Family/Children

Movies for Children Kendall-Whittier Library offers "Monday Movies for Kids," 3:45 - 5 P.M. Monday, 21 S. Lewis Ave. Children of all ages will enjoy a movie and a snack. To find out more, call 596-7303.

Children's Art Art and Soul Studio Gallery, 2722 E. 15th St., offers children's classes in ceramics, drawing, painting and more. Call 747-2787 for schedule and class information.

Health/Exercise

Step It Up YWCA Patti Johnson Wilson

Center offers basic step aerobics, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Monday and Friday, 1910 S. Lewis Ave. For more details, call 749-2519.

Croquet Tulsa Croquet Club offers Tuesday Night Croquet, 6:30 p.m. - dark Tuesdays, The Gardens at LaFortune Park, 51st Street and Hudson Ave. Call Tulsa Croquet Club at 258-5661 to find out more.

Religious Events

Serra Club Meets The Serra Club of Tulsa Catholics meeting, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Fountains Restaurant, 6540 S. Lewis Ave. For more details, call 742-1107.

Support Groups

Moving On Garnett Divorce Support Group, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Garnett Church of Christ, Room 604-B, 12000 E. 31st St. Call 663-3000 for more information.

Help for Single Parents Christ United Methodist Church single parents support group, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 3515 S. Harvard Ave., Room 122. Discussions will include discipline and setting boundaries, custody, visitation, legal issues and more. Free child care is available. For more details, call 747-8601

Anger Management Group training on

anger management skills is offered 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. every Monday, 8596-I E. 101st St. Dr. Joann D. Mee provides board work, handouts and promotes group participation. Cost: \$10 per person. Materials and refreshments are included in cost. Call 630-4398 to find out more.

Parent Support Tulsa Caring and Sharing Toughlove Parent Support Group, 7 - 9 p.m. Monday, Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2550 E. 71st St. For more information, call 587-5683.

Support for Singles Christ United Methodist Church offers a support group for the divorced and widowed, 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, 3515 S. Harvard Ave. Call 747-8601 to find out more.

Upcoming

Grand Art Henthorne Community Center offers a bead making class for grandparents and grandchildren, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, 4825 S. Peoria Ave. The class is free. To register or for more information, call 746-5053.

Calendar items should be submitted by 5 p.m. Thursday for the following Wednesday's publication. For more information, call 437-0150.

TULSA WORLD

Midtown Community World

Editor Delbert Schafer

Assistant Editors

Doug Graham

Kim Brown

Reporters

Cory Young

Karen Shade

Hap Fry

Editorial Assistant Carol Conner

Advertising Information

Denise Coad

(918) 699-8851

Office hours

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

12767 E. 41st St. Tulsa, OK 74146

Phone: (918) 437-0150 Fax: (918) 665-1449

To subscribe (918) 587-NEWS

www.tulsaworld.com

E-mail doug.graham@tulsaworld.com