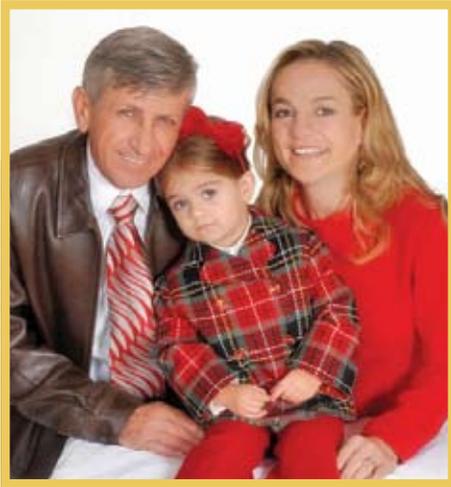


# Getting to Know Your Local Business Owner



## Tarfin and Crina Micu

are the owner operators of Fixer's Automotive located at 147 E 11<sup>th</sup> in the Houston Heights. While neither of them were born in the United States, they have grasped the concept of free enterprise and work diligently to provide top quality automotive service and work for their customers.

Tarfin escaped from Communist Romania in 1979 and arrived in California where he worked as a mechanic and became a US Citizen in 1983. He came to Houston for a visit and decided to take advantage of the business opportunities available here in 1984. Following the fall of the communist party in Dec. of 1989, Tarfin returned home to Romania in 1992 to visit family and fell unexpectedly in love.

After a whirlwind romance, Crina and Tarfin were married and she followed him to Houston in 1992. Wanting to become their own boss, they finally found available property at the corner of E 11<sup>th</sup> St and Harvard to open their own auto repair shop.

Crina became a citizen herself in 1996 and then on November 13, 2007 a wonderful arrival at the Micu household in the form of a beautiful, daughter named Bryanna.

The entire family can be found working in the auto repair shop from 7am to 7pm Monday through Friday. They have been very fortunate to receive rave reviews from their customers, which can be found at Yelp.com, Angieslist.com and on their own Facebook page. Both Crina and Tarfin feel customer satisfaction is the most important part of their business and strive daily to insure that each and every customer is truly treated like one of the family. Stop by 147 E. 11<sup>th</sup> for a free onsite estimate or call 713-880-9502 to make an appointment for your auto repairs.

## Lanna and Greg von Baden

Greg von Baden is a third-generation Grogan. Greg's grandmother was a Grogan. Greg's father, Loius von Baden, was a charter member of the Houston Heights Association. Greg's mom worked on 19<sup>th</sup> Street improvements years past. In 1979, his mom worked through Women in Construction and made plans to donate materials for a railroad gazebo in what is now Donovan Park. While that gazebo did not come to fruition, it was the start of a long relationship with the Houston Heights Association and the Heights community with many donations to follow. Following that time, in the late, 1980's Greg's mom, was a Heights Chamber member that met at Reagan Bank with Jeff Law, Neil Sackheim and others to revitalize 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Back in those days Greg drove a van that pulled a trailer for the hay rides from Yale Pharmacy for Nightmare on 19<sup>th</sup> Street.



Greg has come to the lumber yard since he was a boy, when his father and grandfather worked at Grogan's. After his father's death, Lanna and Greg acquired the business. In 2000 they built a house on 18<sup>th</sup> Street and moved to the Heights to be close to their business. Their home and work is all about the Heights. Grogan's won the Marcella Perry Award from the Heights Association in 2006 for their involvement in the Community. Lanna just completed a three-year term with the Houston Heights Association Board of Directors. During that time she was very involved with getting the Constable program established and continues to be involved with that program. Over the years, Grogan's has donated paint and materials to Harvard Elementary, Travis Elementary and Hamilton Middle Schools for projects, auction items and fundraisers. They have been a Bronze sponsor of the Holiday Home Tour, have donated to the Fun Run, and have donated printing for Bike Rally tickets in support of Association events. In the past, when the City of Houston required security measures for the Heights Festival, Grogan's came to the rescue and donated orange plastic fencing. Grogan's has donated paint mismatches and coordinated the purchase of hose reels and other graffiti abatement items at cost for Paul Lucci with Clean Houston.

They have two dogs, Jake and Milo and when they can 'get away', they enjoy boating and water activities at their lake house in Austin. Grogan Building Supply is located at 2419 Yale. (713) 862-6623 Support our local Heights business for your building supply, window, door, paint and hardware needs.

## Joshua Kornegay



I was way too curious as a child. I remember getting in trouble in Sunday school because I wanted to know the composition and uses of sand. I refused to only glue it on a piece of paper depicting Moses in the desert, like all GOOD children were doing. The school nurse even suggested prescribing Ritalin, but my parents refused. My daddy always seemed irritated with me. He insisted I learn the name and use of every tool that hung on our garage wall. He got really steamed when I would look for unusual rocks, wild flowers and fossils instead of actually hunting and fishing on our outings. Mom, on the other hand, encouraged my creativity and inquisitive nature. She always made sure Santa brought the Arts & Sciences for Christmas.

Only now, as an adult, can I truly appreciate all the life lessons and love I was so fortunate to have received. So, between the two, they raised an outdoorsy, science geek. Environmental sciences were my passion. I even took some courses in Forestry at Stephen F. Austin, but never graduated. I worked at a few garden centers and then opened my own in 1995.

I remember as a teenager the Heights being a little scary. But, it sure has evolved into a most wonderful area and the only choice for my shop. I wouldn't be anywhere else.

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