

March, 1983

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Published by the residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere

## DeBaliviere Place: A Home For 'New Americans'

by Elizabeth Freeman

"The land of the free and home of the brave" has been fertile ground for many newcomers during our nation's history. But the arrangement has been far from a one-sided deal. America herself has become a richer land of traditions and people as a result.

The sacrifice of leaving one's homeland to start anew continues in one of the city's West End neighborhoods — DeBaliviere Place. Over 70 Russian families have settled in three neighboring apartment buildings on Pershing between Union and DeBaliviere and have begun working toward their piece of the American pie. Although the majority of families are retirement age or older, DeBaliviere Place has also become home for several young professional people from the U.S.S.R.

"Language is the only barrier that some of the New Americans experience here," says Bruce Yampolsky, DeBaliviere Place professional manager for government-subsidized apartments, "but basic education and English language classes are offered for the residents right here and are subsidized by the federal and state governments. Although I didn't start out speaking Russian," the manager says, "I've learned enough to communicate, and have been able to socialize with some of the families." Yampolsky, who has a background in social work, has also been able to assist the Russians on a personal level in several cases.

"The three adjoining buildings on Pershing, 5528, 5536 and 5540, really represent a very cosmopolitan area," the manager goes on. "Not only are there Russians — we also have one Spanish family and another from England. And like in the U.S., there are many styles of regional cooking in Russia, too. To smell the aroma of cooking from some of the apartments is really something," Yampolsky says.

Immigrating from Russia to the U.S. can be a tedious and time-consuming process that may mean as many as four stops before reaching the point of final destination, according to Spiana, a DeBaliviere Place resident who now teaches English as a second language in the University City School District. The New Americans arrive with few possessions and very little money because of strict government regulations in the U.S.S.R., she explains. And one of the things she misses most is her extensive library she was forced to leave behind in Russia.

"Russians who immigrate, first go to Austria, then Rome. In my own case, I came to St. Louis directly from Rome, but did not move to DeBaliviere Place until later," states Spiana. "My husband, mother and 11-year-old son are here with me now, but I still have some family in Russia, like my brother."

"We communicate through letters," Spiana says, "and when the phone rates are cheaper we can also talk on the telephone. I still get homesick, but people here have been very kind for the most part. In Russia I was an English teacher, and

studied linguistics at the university in my home town of Chernigov, in the Ukrainian region. Because I read many American and English books, I did not experience much culture shock. In fact, learning how to drive a car has been my biggest challenge so far.

"In Russian schools the students are taught world history, which includes American history and literature," Spiana continues. "My son, who now attends New City School, has adjusted very well and wants to become an American in every way — just like his friends. The story of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain has always been one of his favorites. But I would still like him to have an awareness of his own culture and language. We still speak our native language at home and read Russian books and magazines. And while we are very comfortable here in DeBaliviere Place, we still think about home."

Since coming to America Spiana says she has enjoyed the freedom of openly worshiping as a Jew. "In Russia the government teaches that we should have no religion and be atheists," she explains, "so you have to be very careful to not reveal that you are Jewish. But here, it is very different. The New Americans are learning they can speak Yiddish openly if they want to, and tell people they are Jewish, if they want to. You cannot do that in Russia."

Ilya, his wife Lucy, and their two children, ages 14 and 7, have lived in Olivette for the past four years. On a recent visit to his parents, who live in DeBaliviere Place, Ilya spoke to us and translated for his mother, who is shy about giving her name and speaking English. "Since my parents have come, it is difficult for them to start over again. My father has probably adjusted better than my mother because she cannot really speak English. We are very glad to be here and experience life in the U.S., but feel that Americans should know more about Russia. For instance, people who know I am Russian ask me if I like the weather in St. Louis when it gets cold. I have to laugh though, because it is not always cold in Russia, and we come from a region known as White Russia, not Siberia.

"When I first came to University City, it was April 25, a beautiful day," Ilya goes on. "People would speak, and we are very polite people, but we could not understand what they were saying. I could only respond with a silly smile on my face, but we were gradually able to learn English. We think of Rome almost as a second home since we spent five months there between Russia and the U.S. Because we spent 11 days in Austria too, we did not really experience culture shock, although life here is very different," he explains.

"While religious freedom has been a primary reason for people coming here, many of us want to come for a better life. We learned much about life in America from movies and books, and are very interested in American culture. We watch the cowboy movies and many Russians like to wear blue jeans and cowboy hats. Jeans made in the U.S.A. are very expensive in Russia. You may have to pay as much as \$200 for them in Russia. And since American cowboy hats are different from those the Russian cowboys wear, at home they try to adapt Russian hats by rolling up the sides. In Russia we have no horror movies like here, but maybe that is okay. People who watch them may get violent ideas. In Russia we have no pornography either, because the government does not allow it. All of the young people like to listen to

American rock music like the Beatles or Rolling Stones. Some of the older people like it too, but my mother calls it noisy."

Ilya and his family say they are amazed by the number of fast food restaurants here and find it strange that the food available in such establishments always looks like some kind of sandwich. Ilya explains that in Russia there is no such thing as asking for food "to go." Russians eat their food in the restaurant. "If you should ask a waiter in Russia for a doggie bag," Ilya says, "he is likely to call you a cheapskate and throw your food away."

Ilya's family spends more time reading than watching TV, unlike their American counterparts, he observes. "We have some pretty good programs on TV in Russia, but it's mostly like Channel 9 without Sesame Street." *continued on page 5*



Children pass by without noticing one of the vacant lots in Washington Heights recently cultivated and graded by Opera-

tion Brightside, such as this lot at Laurel and McPherson.

Photo by King Schoenfeld

## Social Security Administration Offers Appeal To Disabled

The Social Security Administration has announced steps persons may take who have their disability benefits cut off between January and October, 1983.

If readers of The Paper lose such disability checks due to a medical review or for any other medical reason, they may have their checks continued by appealing for a reconsideration and hearing. This will restore monthly payments and Medicare coverage beginning with checks due in February, 1983. This continuation of coverage will last only to June 1984, however.

In cases which are already awaiting a decision for reconsideration or a hearing before an administrative law judge, benefits

may also be continued, the Administration notes, but no payments will be made for past months even if the judge makes a favorable ruling.

Social Security adds this warning. If a person appeals the cutoff of disability benefits, has their checks restored through such an appeal for reconsideration or hearing, and then is judged ineligible by the administrative law judge, all benefit payments received during the appeals process will be considered overpayments. The amount of such overpayment must be paid back to the government.

These provisions in the Social Security disability program were signed into law by President Reagan in January.



Deadline for April Issue: March 15



## the paper

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### Advertising Rates

The Paper is an all-volunteer, non-profit newspaper published by the residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

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**Classified Advertising:** provided without charge to residents of the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood.

**Display Advertising:** col. width, 2½". Minimum ad size, 1" x 1 col. 2" x 1 col.: \$17/insertion; (10% discount for 5 or more issues). 2" x 1 col. repeated 9 issues without changes, \$11/insertion. For complete list of sizes and rates, write The Paper, c/o 6124 Westminster, 63112, or call Mary Gioia: 726-1056

### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Paper welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Paper has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material—articles, letters, notices, classified ads—must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Signatures on correspondence to the editor may, on publication, be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned or mailed to the staff member responsible for the Calendar of Events. Deadline for all copy is the 15th of the month.

In a news article it is essential that the writer state the most important information in the first paragraph. The writer is responsible for the accuracy of data, including times, dates, locations and particularly the spelling of names.

Any pictures or illustrations submitted should be in black and white.

The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Send all correspondence to 6124 Westminster. Deadline: 15th of the month.

## Summer Learning Center For Children At Fontbonne

A learning center which features eight areas of study for children who have completed grades three through six will be offered for the first time at Fontbonne College as part of the college's 1983 Summer Session.

The program includes two three-week sessions which meet Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Session I is June 20 through July 8; Session II is July 11 through 29.

The student may choose two courses per session from eight areas: Beginning and Intermediate Microcomputers (with Com-

modore Computer Systems being supplied by Data Plus), Cooking, Art, Earth Science, Storytelling/Writing, History of St. Louis, and Theatre.

Instructors are Fontbonne faculty members and other St. Louis educators.

Tuition is \$175.00 for one session, \$300.00 for two. Class size is small and applications are accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information or an application, contact the Director of Summer Session, 889-1408.

*The Saint Louis Symphony Society and Mark Twain Banks present*



## CHAMBER MUSIC ST. LOUIS

8 p.m., Monday, March 21

Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman

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# March Calendar

- 3-4 St. Louis Classical Guitar Society presents Oscar Ghiglia. Ethical Society Concert Hall, 9001 Clayton Road. 8:30 p.m.
- 3-6 "Bell, Book and Candle" by John van Druten. St. Louis University Dinner Theater. Cash bar, 6 p.m.; dinner, 7 p.m.; show, 8 p.m. \$9. For reservations, call 658-2998. (Also March 10-13.)
- 4 Delmar Senior Adults: Book reviews by Arlene Sandler. Cabanne Library. 10 a.m.
- 5 St. Louis University Billikens play Xavier. Kiel Auditorium. 7:30 p.m. \$6.50, \$4.50.
- 8 Washington Heights Neighbors Board Meeting. Hamilton School. 7:30 p.m.
- 10-13 "Equus," by Peter Schaffer. Fontbonne College Theater. 8 p.m. (7 p.m. March 13). \$3.50, \$2.50.  
"Bell, Book and Candle," by John van Druten. St. Louis University Dinner Theater. Cash bar, 6 p.m.; dinner, 7 p.m.; show, 8 p.m. \$9. For reservations, call 658-2998.
- 14 SDCC Meeting at Council Office, 6008 Kingsbury. 7:30 p.m. to discuss and vote on revision of Council Bylaws.  
Amici Quartet. Samuel Cupples House. 8:15 p.m. (Call 658-2410.) FREE.
- 15 Traditional Irish Music: Benefit Concert. New City School, 5209 Waterman. 7:30 p.m. \$3.50.
- 18 Delmar Senior Adults: Trip to Hawkins House. 10 a.m.
- 20 West German Visiting Artist Concert. Fontbonne College Theater. 7:30 p.m. \$4, \$2.
- 23 Festival Jazz Concert. Fontbonne College Theater. 8 p.m. FREE.
- 25 Delmar Senior Adults: Easter Crafts. 10 a.m.

## Art, Craft Classes At Cabanne House

The St. Louis Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is sponsoring three new classes for children and adults this month.

On March 3 adult classes in English Smocking begin at Cabanne House, 115 North Union in Forest Park. Five sessions will be run by Kiki Chavez, meeting on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$21 for instruction and supplies.

March 4 sees the beginning of an Outdoor Watercolor Class instructed by St. Louis artist Mary Dee Schmidt. The five-week course, meeting from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, will meet at Cabanne House, the Zoo, Art Museum and other locations. Cost is \$23.

Saturday Craft Classes for children ages 8 through 14 begin March 12, when Cross Stitch will be taught from 1 to 3 p.m. The cost for the day is \$4. On March 26 the subject will be Leather Craft. Again, the class will run from 1 to 3 p.m. and will cost \$4.

For further information and registration for any of these classes, call Mary Ann Schmisseur at Cabanne House, 367-1500, or the Recreation Division Office at 535-0100.

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Charlie and Ann Heymann are "Clairseach"

## Irish Music Concert To Benefit New City School

A St. Patrick's Day concert of traditional Irish music to benefit The New City School Scholarship Fund will be held at 5209 Waterman on March 15. The private elementary school will host a cash bar at 6:30 p.m. with the concert following at 7:30 p.m.

Clairseach (Klar'-suck, the Irish word for harp) is the name chosen by Charlie and Ann Haymann for their group, who will perform for the March 15 benefit. Ann brings the long-silent voice of the old wire-strung harp to life in addition to playing the wooden flute, concertina, harmonium and tin whistle. Charlie performs on the button accordion, concertina, guitar, cittern, bones and bodhran (Irish drum) — a unique mingling of authentic Irish sounds.

Ann is one of the very few harpers playing the wire-strung harp in the old style

(fingernails, left hand on the treble), and is the first to record the harp playing in this manner. At the 1981 Bi-Centenary Bun-Fleadh-Harp Competition in Ireland Ann took first place and gained national attention.

Clairseach has two critically acclaimed albums to their credit and have performed at festivals, colleges, clubs and on radio and television. This will be the group's only St. Louis appearance this year.

During the day on the 15th Clairseach will be playing a children's concert at the School and giving workshops to each of the six grade levels.

Tickets to the event are \$3 in advance and \$3.50 at the door. Call 361-6411 for details.

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## Meet SDCC's Joyce Criglar

Many of The Paper's readers who have called or visited the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council's office have met Joyce Criglar, because she has been the office's secretary and receptionist since Ann FitzGibbons became executive director of the Council.

As of May 1, by vote of the Board of Directors, Ms. Criglar will become Administrative Assistant for the Council, increasing her responsibilities and making better use of her talents.

Joyce lives on the 5500 block of Pershing. Her youngest daughter, five-year-old Jennifer, is enrolled at St. Roch's and Grace and Peace Fellowship. Ms. Criglar is also

very proud of her two older daughters, one of whom is a freshman at Purdue University, and the other, a sophomore at Washington University.

In previous years Joyce worked as press secretary to an Illinois official and later tried the cosmopolitan life in Washington, D.C., as a private secretary with the Small Business Administration.

Returning to this area, Joyce went to work as a secretary III at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and also began studies there in the English department.

She is a member of Phi Alpha Eta and Secretary of Sigma Tau Delta, an English Honor Society.

## People's Clinic Announces Fair, Classes

### HEALTH FAIR

The People's Clinic, Delmar at DeBaliviere, is sponsoring a community-wide Health Fair on Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All members of the community are encouraged to attend this FREE Health Fair, which will offer a variety of tests.

If you would like to participate in planning and coordination, please call Rita Navarro at People's Clinic, 367-7848.

### PRE-PARENTING CLASSES

The American Red Cross is sponsoring Pre-parenting Classes at the People's Clinic beginning on April 7 through May 7 on consecutive Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The program will focus on prenatal changes and development, labor and delivery and first two weeks of life.

There is a five dollar registration fee. Call People's Clinic, 367-7848, to register for the program and for further information.

# Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council

by Ann FitzGibbons

### PETITION DRIVE

Alan Carter of Market Preservation, Inc., spoke to the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, Monday, Feb. 14, about the present petition drive to preserve three architectural landmarks and historic structures in downtown St. Louis slated for demolition under the Gateway Mall plan. This petition drive is the third attempt to save the Title Guaranty Building, the Buder Building and the International Building from destruction. Interested community residents can come into the Community Council office to sign a petition or pick one up and circulate it in the neighborhood.

### TAX FORMS

1040 Individual Income Tax Forms are available in the Council office for your convenience.

### OPERATION BRIGHTSIDE

Keep your eyes and ears ready for more information on our upcoming Operation Blitz. If you want to participate, call Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council or write and we will put you on our mailing list.

### THE SKINKER-DEBALIVIERE GARDEN CLUB

The Club is planning a very busy spring planting season. Neighborhood residents and block units are going to be asked to assist with the beautification of Skinker-DeBaliviere. Trees and flowers will be provided for block units that are interested.

### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The SDCC February meeting featured the revised draft of the Constitution and Bylaws. The copy which appeared in the February issue of "The Neighborhood Paper" was the main topic of discussion during the meeting. Issues discussed covered the SDCC service area and core area, the residents association, the corporate membership, terms of office and other minor details. A vote to table the proposed Constitution and Bylaws until the March meeting was passed. This issue will be continued at the March meeting with a discussion and revision of each section as proposed by the Board of Directors.

### NEW SDCC SECRETARY

The Community Council would like to extend its appreciation to Mr. Bill Keslar, who recently resigned as SDCC's secretary. Bill's time and efforts were invaluable to the Council.

Arline Webb has been appointed to fill the secretary's position until June. Arline has served as an alternate and has contributed a great deal to the Board.

### NEW BOARD MEMBER

Delmar Baptist Church has appointed a new representative to the SDCC's Board of Directors. A warm welcome is extended to Toni Hayes. Ms. Hayes is a neighborhood resident and will be an asset to the Council.

## Want Ads

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# Report from the Alderman

by Alderman Dan McGuire

## OPERATION BRIGHTSIDE

Spring is coming and we should see dramatic changes in the physical appearance of Skinker-DeBaliviere. As part of Operation Impact in the Washington Heights area, Operation Brightside is clearing and seeding all the vacant lots in the target area. Our Garden Club, students and Brightside will also be planting flowers and trees as part of Operation Flower-Shower.



And finally, but perhaps of the greatest visual impact, Brightside has planted hundreds of climbing roses along the Forest Park Parkway. "Raiders of the Lost Parkway" founder Roy Bell should be in ecstasy!



## NEW LIBRARY

Our new library is coming along (if ever so slowly.) The main problem remains that the builder of the pre-fab building is still waiting for some aluminum parts from their supplier. As of now, opening day (hopefully) will be 1 April.

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Shortly before recessing for the holidays, the Board of Aldermen approved the 1983 Community School budget largely funded with Community Block Grant money. Faced with sharp cuts in funding from the Board of Education, as well as inflation, our Hamilton Community School on the 5800 block of Westminster and two other near-North Side schools were slated to be downgraded to part-time status.

With the help of Thelma Thompson and other members of the Hamilton Community School Advisory Board, as well as several members of the Board of Aldermen on the Housing Committee, I was able to amend this proposal to maintain Hamilton and Columbia schools as full-time institutions.

We must remember, however, that this is only a short-term solution. Next year's budget problems will be even greater. We must all come together and strongly support our community school this year if we hope to keep it open and expanding in the future!

## RAIL MASS TRANSIT

Of great interest to the area is the proposed light rail mass transit system. Col. Leonard L. Griggs, chairman of the City's Transportation Council (and also director of airports), has proposed a modified system utilizing the existing railroad track network which dramatically reduces building costs.

Recent congressional approval of the 5-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax greatly enhances the possibility of the project. One cent of the tax is to be earmarked for mass transit. The East-West Gateway Coordinating Council is currently studying the feasibility of the program.

Phase I of the project would line East St. Louis with the airport primarily along the old Wabash tracks which run through the heart of Washington Heights. This initial phase also calls for an extension to Clayton. Public hearings and environmental impact studies must be conducted before the final plan is approved, but if all goes well, Phase I could be operational by mid-1986.

continued from p. 1.

Because U.S.-Soviet relations have become somewhat strained in recent months since Premier Andropov came to power, the Russian government has cut off immigration to the West. When immigration will resume is only speculative, say informed observers. But for those who are already here, overcoming obstacles of a foreign language, culture and new surroundings continues to be a challenge.

The majority of New Americans living in DeBaliviere Place are optimistic about making a new life, says Regina Dub, a social worker with the Jewish Family and Children's Service in St. Louis. Mrs. Dub has worked with all of the DeBaliviere Place Russian families, helping them find housing, apply

for food stamps, understand rules established by the apartment management, and generally lending a helping hand. "Many of the families have made good progress and are doing well with the help of the government," she explains. "Most of them had realistic expectations about life in the U.S. Of course some may have been told that the streets were paved with gold and became disappointed. But they are working very hard to reach their goals. They are very proud people who have learned to stretch a dollar, and are very resourceful as well. They had to go through a lot to come this far. But now that they are here, we make sure that they are not forgotten."

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## ELECTION DAY BLUES

I recently sponsored an ordinance with "Red" Villa (D-11th Ward) to permit the sale of alcoholic beverages on city primary and general election days. Area merchants have long sought relief from this prohibition. This antiquated statute was eliminated from state liquor laws by the Missouri legislature three years ago, and there have been no problems with election day sales in other parts of the state.



While the problem of "no beer" on opening day at the ballpark served as the catalyst for this legislation, most Aldermen felt it would be extremely unfair to exempt only one merchant while still banning the sale of alcohol by all others.



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# Community School Graduates Find Employment



Gathered at the Hamilton Community School were graduates of the "Nurse Assistant Training Theory and Lab Course" and an Instructor, Ms. Barb Byrd (standing). The graduates, all of whom have found employment through their successful completion of the course work, are (from left) Vince Law, Melinda Evans, Pearlene Hawkins, Jennifer Ryckman, and Dorothy Blakemore. Not shown is Ms. Sandra Smith, the Clinical Lab Instructor for the class.

In its ongoing effort to better serve the needs of the community, Hamilton Community School School, 5819 Westminster Pl., is very proud of the results of the expanded scope of its Nurse Assistant Training Program. The class started the Fall Trimester of 1981 offering only theory. Although it was very successful in this regard, more was necessary to prepare students for direct employment.

In the Fall Trimester 1982 this was remedied with the institution of a complete curriculum which covered all the requirements for certification, certification testing, and implementation of the actual certification process. All this being offered at the nominal cost of \$31.00 for Theory and \$110.00 for Clinical Lab.

When one realizes that other institutions are charging as much as \$2,200 for the same services, it is apparent that this class is indeed a bargain. Also the actual time requirements from start to finish are another plus, since the whole process can be completed within 10 weeks, if one's time and finances permit. The length of study, if necessary, can be extended.

Michelle Lowery, the coordinator, is very pleased that she was able to secure the Del Haven Manor Convalescent Home,

conveniently located only a few blocks from Hamilton Community School, as the clinical lab training site for the program. Mrs. Lowery stated that this linkage "strongly exemplifies the school's desire to network with other existing institutions in the community."

Although many hospitals are phasing out the Nurse Assistant position, there is a fertile job market in nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and private duty assignments. This is demonstrated by the fact that every student in this first group of certified participants is now employed. It is also interesting to note that all students in the first class were certified, largely due to the expertise and dedication of the theory instructor, Mrs. Barbara Byrd, R.N., and the clinical lab instructor, Mrs. Sandra Smith, R.N., both of whom will be instrumental in further expansion of the program when the schools offer a Certified Medical Technician course for the first time in the Spring 1983 Trimester.

The same degree of success is anticipated with future classes, as the staff and the public continue to share in the successes of Hamilton Community School. In the words of Michelle Lowery, "Sharing is the art of caring."

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## Summer Employment Offered

The St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment Summer Youth Employment Program will once again offer summer jobs for teenagers ages 14-21 years old. To qualify for this program the youth must be a city resident, economically disadvantaged, must have a social security card and be 14-21 by June 1.

The application dates and process will be announced at a later date. It should be noted that participants must carry a social security card. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult at the time of application.

The Summer Youth Employment Program will run from June 13 until August 5. Anyone interested in knowing more about the application dates and places can contact the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office at 862-5122 or the S.L.A.T.E. office at 531-4000.

## Looking For Work Or A Worker?

In an effort to fill an increasing need in our community, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council has started listing people seeking employment and potential employers. If you are looking for employment, you can come into the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office at 6008 Kingsbury to register. Registration will consist of name, address, phone, experience and references. If you are in need of someone to do some work, whether temporary or permanent, you can call the office for names and numbers of community members looking for work. While the Community Council office will not interview or screen the people who register, we will verify all information before it is released to potential employers.

If you need someone to work, please call. We have out-of-work adults looking for work, babysitting, housekeeping, yard work, typing, etc.



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"We Cater To Cowards."

# Rosedale Vicissitudes

by Lisa Horner

Greetings! Spring is certainly in the air as I write this, here's hoping it's much the same as it arrives on your doorstep.

All enjoyed the Progressive Dinner on Jan. 29. This year it was co-chaired by Mary Burke and Susan Krasniewski. What a surprise to see Scarlet Hall decorated as the Lee palace. The effect was lovely. The cannolis were great too! The shells were made by Mary Burke, Mary Vanicelli and Georgi Fox and the filling was prepared by Father Polizzi.

A hearty congratulations to Tom Hoerr, 6100 Kingsbury, who has completed his Ph.D. requirements and will be graduating in May with a degree in Educational Policy Making and Administration. In the same family, we also must congratulate Karleen Hoerr, our own Rosedale Neighborhood Association president, who was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Central West End Association.

Gail Hellan, 6100 Kingsbury, who as reported here has been working for Mercantile Trust, is again working on loan for Operation Brightside one day a week.

Hope everyone saw the picture of John Geers in the Feb. 6 PD magazine section of the Post-Dispatch. John's picture was part of a feature story on the Webster Grill, a relatively new restaurant in Webster Groves that he owns and operates. John lives with his wife Ann and their two sons on the 6100 block of Westminster.

Georgi Fox and her two children, 6100 McPherson, are currently entertaining a house-guest. He is Tomas Martens from Cali, Colombia. He is enrolled in the eighth grade at St. Roch's. Unfortunately, he underwent knee surgery recently, but he is reported to be on the mend.

Welcome to the 6100 block of McPherson to Tyrone and Gabrielle Wilson and their two daughters. They are formerly of South St. Louis. Residents of several years may be interested to know that long-time neighbor Susie Roach has moved from Kingsbury Place to Kingsbury Square.

Residents with pets who frequent Dr. Steve Brammeier at the Kingsbury Animal Hospital will be sorry to learn that his assistant, Amy Zimmerman, is leaving the hospital. She is planning to attend nursing school in June. Amy will be replaced by Toby Newberger, who is a resident of the CWE.

Here's a real good news item. This fall I reported the sad affair of the theft of Bill and Pat Kohn's (6100 Kingsbury) van while they were vacationing in Mexico. Inside the van were not only all of their personal belongings for the trip, but also several of Bill's paintings and letters of Pat's great-grandfather from which she was intending to write a book. They recently received a letter from a lady in Brownsville, Texas, who saw their van on a police lot in Matamoros, Mexico, where it had been stolen. She took the initiative to copy the serial number of the van and trace the Kohns with news of their stolen property. She also took the letters, which were still in the van,



At a February 6 reception held at Grace and Peace Fellowship, Captain Gay Carroway (right) was honored for his years of service to our community in the Seventh Police District. Welcomed to the District at the same time was Captain Charles Alphin (left), shown here with Col. Suzanne Hart.

for safekeeping and had the van towed to her home in Brownsville so that they could pick it up. Kind of makes you believe in the goodness of human nature again.

To add to the list of soon-to-be-parents: Linda and John Nunley, 6100 McPherson; and Bill and Mary Christman, 6000 Kingsbury. Congratulations!

Condolences to the family of Retha Barnett, 6100 Westminster, who died recently.

Don't forget the St. Pat's party at St. Roch's in March!

## Parkview Perspective

by Susan Krasniewski

After the doldrums of February, spring is fast approaching, which seems to be an appropriate time to welcome new residents to Parkview who have moved here in the last six months.

On Pershing five houses have new owners. Vicki Bell purchased a house in the 6200 block. The 6300 block has several new neighbors. Robert Slosberg and Charles Stubbers are two recent arrivals. Lewis Goldstein and Anne Fagerburg are down the block. At the end of Pershing are Edwin Harris and Debra Miller whose arrival just missed the welcome list in the fall issue of The Paper.

Waterman can welcome two new families in the 6200 block. They are Annette and Ted Seitles and Janet and John Gourley.

McPherson had two additions also, both in the 6300 block. They are S. L. and Richard Hayden and Susan Cohen and George Monahan.

Three new arrivals are currently living on Washington. In the 6200 block, H.T. Blumenthal and Margaret Phillips have moved in. In the same block are Robin and Daniel Ward. The 6300 block newcomers are Xenia and Daniel Naert.

Westgate has had one new arrival and he is Dick Ruland in the 500 block.

If we've missed some new arrivals, they will appear in a future issue.

The approach of spring should bring all the area residents out of hibernation. Old neighbors can get reacquainted and welcome the new residents at the same time. After all, now that March is here, can grass cutting, weeding, and other spring pursuits be far behind?



Others solemnly gathered at the event were (from left) Alderman Dan McGuire, Ann FitzGibbons, Frank Burke, Captain Carroway, Kathleen Hamilton, Karleen Hoerr, and John Reilly. The reception was made possible with help from the Pantheon Corporation, Central West End Savings and Loan, Will Doctor Meat Co., McPherson Management and Crossroads School.

## Funds, Volunteers Sought To Aid Ex-Offenders

"We must become community partners in working toward a solution to our crime problem," stated Lieutenant Governor Kenneth Rothman in announcing his support of the 1983 Annual Fund Drive of the Citizens Advisory Board of the St. Louis Regional Volunteers in Corrections.

As a non-profit, volunteer resource for St. Louis' ex-offenders, the Citizens Advisory Board strives to promote community understanding of corrections and to encourage responsible behavior of ex-offenders as they re-enter society. The Board includes leaders in business, education, and religious sectors of St. Louis who see crime and rehabilitation as a community problem.

"Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000 through corporate and individual contributions," says Don Gifford, chairman of the fund raising committee and president of Sales Mart, Inc. "This money will provide assistance to clients in their efforts to re-

enter the mainstream. We provide bus passes for ex-offenders looking for jobs and loan money for temporary housing, medical expenses, and educational assistance."

In addition to providing financial aid to ex-offenders, the funds raised during this drive will support the Missouri Probation and Parole's program of 285 volunteers. "These volunteers work with ex-offenders, delivering direct counseling and role modeling services for these clients. These past years, they have given over 21,000 hours to this type of service," explains Dwain Sachs, senior district supervisor of Missouri Probation and Parole.

The Board supports these volunteers by providing training, program financing, a monthly news letter, and an annual recognition banquet.

Those interested citizens who wish to contribute may contact Donald Gifford at 647-3657.

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# Madame Chouteau: 250 Years Young

by Ray Breun

Marie Therese Bourgeois was born 14 January, 1733, two hundred fifty years ago. Born in New Orleans of French parents, she married Rene Auguste Chouteau in 1748, when she was 15 years old. Their first son was Rene; their second was Auguste. There is some discussion of this because of the confusion of the birth records as compared to the baptismal records, but it is agreed that their son, Auguste, accompanied Pierre de Laclede de Liguest when the latter established a trading post named St. Louis in February, 1764.



Rene Chouteau, an innkeeper and baker, was a wife-beater. Sometime in late 1750 or 1751, Madame Chouteau left her husband and with at least Auguste, her younger son, set up her own home. A few years later she met Pierre Laclede, who came to New Orleans from France in 1755. As one historian put it, "a mutual attraction ensued."

Madame Chouteau and Pierre Laclede lived together from that time on without the benefit of a formal marriage by the Church. They had four children, all named Chouteau: Jean Pierre, Pelagie, Marie Louise, and Victoire. The youngest, Victoire, was born 3 March, 1764, while her father was establishing St. Louis. In May of that year, Madame Chouteau with her four children left New Orleans never to return. She reached her paramour's place in the fall and never left St. Louis again.

The youngest Chouteau — Victoire — is important to residents of the Skinker-DeBaliviere area. She married Charles Gratiot in 1781. One of their thirteen children, Julie Gratiot, married Jean Pierre Cabanne in 1799. In turn, one of their twelve children, Julie Cabanne, married Lt. James W. Kingsbury in 1830. One of their three children, Louise Adele, married Alfred M. Waterman in 1855. (Both Kingsbury and Waterman were from Connecticut.) Louise Adele fell heir to part of the land of Marie Louise Chouteau Papin, her great-grandmother's sister. On that land now run the streets of Kingsbury and Waterman in the neighborhood now called Skinker-DeBaliviere.

Residents of this neighborhood may, therefore, feel like celebrating the birthday of Madame Chouteau, the matriarch of the founding family of St. Louis.



Madame Chouteau

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