

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 16, NO. 9

APRIL 1986

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

## Skinker Boulevard To Be Closed



Photo by King Schoenfeld

by James Shorts

April 1, 1986 — Special to the "Times of Skinker DeBaliviere"

Plans were discovered today by this reporter for the eventual closing of Skinker Boulevard. According to documents in the Street Department, tentative plans call for the barricading of Skinker at Delmar during the summer of 1988.

The document states that traffic congestion along Skinker has become "unbearable," and that closing the street will naturally stop the congestion. At the same time, documents indicate that Rosedale Avenue, one block east of Skinker, will be opened to be the area's north-south thoroughfare.

In an off-the-record interview, Commissioner of Streets Hugo G. Quackenbush stated, "There's just no way Rosedale can handle all of the Skinker traffic. By diverting it (the Skinker traffic) to Rosedale, we figure it'll be such a mess that people, particularly those who live in the county, will have to find another street."

It was also learned that the Skinker area between Delmar and the Forest Park Expressway will be zoned for single family housing and sold to a local developer. The developer, who preferred not to be named (but who drives a red and green 1981 Oldsmobile) said that plans call for 68 units of low-rise ranch-style housing to be built and called "Nina West." This area will then be annexed to Parkview Estates.

A meeting to protest the closing of Skinker will be held at the corner of Skinker and Westminster in the ice machine at the local service station. Oh yes, before you make plans to come to the meeting, note the date at the top of this article...You guessed it, April Fool! There really are no plans to close Skinker. (There is, however, a movement afoot to move the Vandeventer Overpass to Delmar and Skinker and point it north to alleviate traffic congestion, but more on that later!)

## Crime Increase Signals Need For Caution

Operation SafeStreet attributes an increase in burglaries from 1985 to 1986 in part to the mild weather. January-March 1985 there were 24 residential burglaries; January-March 27, 1986 there were 28. The significant difference was January: in 1985 there were 6 burglaries, in 1986 there were 15. The reverse is true of March: in 1985 there were 13, in 1986 there have been 4.

We need to be reminded that as warmer weather increases all of our activities, it unfortunately increases criminal activity as well. The SDCC Safety Committee offers these tips for the protection of yourself and your property.

**Be discreet:** Criminals make it their business to know your schedules and routines. Alter your patterns from day to day. Use your back door to bring in new purchases espe-

cially TV's, stereos, etc. Be conscious of how and when you load your car for vacation and the arrangements you make for mail and deliveries while you are away. The only people who should know you are gone are the people you tell.

**Be alert:** Look out your window when you hear an unfamiliar noise; if you're suspicious, call 911. Don't second guess your instincts. A person walking down your alley carrying a TV is suspicious; call 911. When the police respond, talk to them; describe what you saw. If you get up during the night for any reason, take an extra 30 seconds to look out your front or back window.

**Secure your home:** Exterior doors should be of solid core construction and equipped with quality deadbolt locks. Equip windows with secure locks and pins. Leave a light and a

radio turned on when you're away. Be sure your address is visible from the street and from the alley.

**Secure the perimeter of your home:** Close off your gangway with a gate; keep shrubs and bushes trimmed; be sure bicycles, lawn mowers, etc. are properly secured.

**Use porch lights:** Light is one of the best deterrents to crime. Turn on outside lights, front and back, from dusk to dawn.

**Protect your person:** When you are walking, be alert and use common sense. At night walk close to the curb nearer street lights and away from doorways. Walk with another person if possible. If you carry a purse, keep it close to your body, even under your coat. Place cash and credit cards in a wallet that you can slip in a pocket, out of your purse.

## Elections Lead Rosedale Agenda

The executive committee of the Rosedale Neighborhood Association met recently to plan for the upcoming meeting which is scheduled for the evening of April 21, 1986. All Rosedale residents are urged to attend the potluck supper and meeting to be held in the "old school" lunchroom, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will feature a report from the Safety Committee, an update regarding Operation Brightside, and the election of officers for 1986-87.

Operation Brightside is scheduled for May 10, 1986 and once again, Sam Green will be our area commander which should ensure the program's continued success.

The executive committee has compiled the following slate of nominees for this year's posts as follows:

Bob Dowgwillo — President  
Maverine Wilson — First Vice President  
Frank Burke — Second Vice President  
Stève Littlejohn — Secretary  
Mary Claire Kerz — Treasurer  
Paul Kurtz — North Side Rep  
Ginny Klevorn — North Side Alternate  
Karleen Hoerr — South Side Rep  
Susan Littlefield — South Side Alternate

This slate is by no means final and nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Rosedale's "Rags to Riches" has been tentatively set for the weekend of June 7 and this year will feature a "yard-booksale" which will be jointly sponsored by SDCC and *The Times*. We are also planning to have our traditional barbecue and bakesale. Any early volunteers are encouraged to contact Nancy Farmer at the SDCC office.

Please also be forewarned that the "old school lunchroom" at St. Roch's is not equipped with electrical outlets, so dishes for the potluck should be planned accordingly.

## SDCC Receives Proclamation



On Friday, March 21 a reception was held in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council's establishment. Kim Tucci, 28th Ward Committeeman, read a proclamation from Mayor Schoemehl which declared the day to be "Skinker DeBaliviere Day." Attending were representatives from the three founding churches — Grace Methodist, Delmar Baptist, and St. Roch's; Washington University; Parkview; Washington Heights; and Rosedale as well as many neighbors and friends. The reception was the first of several events planned to mark the Council's anniversary.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Today, on my block which is the 6100 block of Pershing, I helped my neighbor look for a lost cat. I must confess I have not taken a close look at my block since the fall. Last summer I had talked to our alderman, Dan McGuire, about boarding up two 6-family apartment buildings a few houses west of me that had been vacated. We have a good alderman and I know he has done all he can. I talked to Nancy Farmer at the Community Council Office and I know she has done all she can. Now I am wondering if I and my neighbors have done all we can and I think not.

These two buildings have obviously not been boarded and doors are open in some places and many windows are busted out. There is a broken out first floor window with old bed springs leaning up against it to serve as a ladder for anyone to climb in. There is a broken out window on a back porch door that anyone could climb through. There is a wide open basement door that anyone can walk through.

I am shocked and appalled by the danger this poses to all of us. How easy it would be to hide out in one of these. How easy it would be to snatch a child into one of these or an adult for that matter. In expressing my concern to neighbors today I discovered that there is another apartment building east of me on the opposite side of the street that has been vacant as long and is also not boarded up. I was told that there is another west of me on the Waterman side of the alley where children have been playing inside all winter.

How many other dangerous abandoned buildings are there in our neighborhood that I don't even know about? Aren't there laws against attractive nuisances? Aren't there laws requiring the boarding up of vacant buildings such as these? From what I hear legal proceedings have been initiated. The courts take a long time to act. Can we afford to wait?

Margaret H. Campbell  
61XX Pershing

### Mestres Memorial Fund Established

The friends of Daniel G. Mestres, of the 6100 block of Kingsbury Avenue, have started a memorial fund to collect for the designation of a tree at the Missouri Botanical Garden and to give money to the family.

Anyone interested in contributing may send their donation, payable to the Dan Mestres Memorial Fund, to Catherine Forslund or Roy Roncal, 6100 Pershing, #1-A, St. Louis, Missouri 63112. Any inquiries may be made to 725-7144.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Katie Kurtz, 727-6377  
Business Manager: Jane Geer, 721-8584

The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

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Display Advertising: col. width, 2½". Minimum ad size, 1" x 1 col. 2" x 1 col.: \$22/insertion; (10% discount 5 to 8 issues contract; 15% discount 9 issues contract). For complete list of sizes and rates, write The Times c/o 6016 Washington, 63112, or call 727-6377.

### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Times 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 6016 Washington. Deadline: 15th of the month.

## From The Mayor's Desk: St. Louis Responds To "Gramm-Rudman" Tax Bill

by Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl, Jr.

The term "Gramm-Rudman" keeps popping up in the news in connection with efforts to lower the federal budget deficit. The term refers to federal legislation sponsored by Rep. Gramm and Rep. Rudman which was passed by Congress and is now law. This legislation requires a series of across-the-board cuts in federal expenditures unless Congress comes up with an alternate plan for balancing the budget.

While lowering the federal deficit is probably a necessary and worthwhile goal, under the current approach vital programs receive the same size cuts as the frills. As a result, the federal government is on a course of mindlessly disengaging from a host of social service programs designed over the years to help the needy.

What does Gramm-Rudman mean to St. Louis? One very vivid example is the impact this law will have on senior citizen programs in the City of St. Louis.

This fiscal year the City will receive \$3,694,390 in federal and state funds to provide service to our senior citizens. This money is used to provide meals, transportation and in-home services. The meals are served at 45 neighborhood sites throughout the City. As a result of Gramm-Rudman, we will only receive \$2,929,815 during the next fiscal year which begins July 1, 1986. Because of this loss of \$764,575, I set up a task force consisting of four senior citizens center directors and two members of my administration to devise a plan to absorb these cuts, while minimizing any reduction of services.

The plan which the City has adopted in response to the cuts includes several steps. First, all federal and state senior citizen funding will go to service providers. The allotment designated for central administration will now also be given to the service providers.

Secondly, to compensate for elimination of this central administration allotment, 24 of the 31 staff positions at the St. Louis Area

Agency on Aging (S.L.A.A.A.) will be abolished. The remaining seven positions will be funded out of the City's general revenue.

In a related move to pare down administrative costs, the management of the social service programs will be turned over to an outside community service agency. The Director of the Department of Human Resources is negotiating with experienced not-for-profit agencies and will select one to manage the program in the near future.

Thirdly, all service providers currently receiving funding from S.L.A.A.A. will receive a maximum 9.5% cut beginning July 1, 1986. To control costs, meal providers will accept a standard unit cost reimbursement for meals.

A professional fund-raiser will be retained to generate at least \$100,000 in supplemental funds. Depending on the success of this program, the scheduled 9.5% cuts could be reduced.

What is most disconcerting about these steps is the realization that they are only a temporary solution. Future cuts in federal funds triggered by the Gramm-Rudman Act will require even more drastic measures. The federal government needs to understand that these cuts cause very real hardships for real people. The unthinking stroke of a pen can have severe repercussions at the local level.

I will be appointing a Long-Range Senior Citizen Planning Commission to develop recommendations for coping with these federal cutbacks. But I think it is abundantly clear that the City alone cannot meet the needs of our growing senior citizen population.

Your help is needed in convincing our U.S. Representatives and Senators that these funding cuts need to stop. Please call or write our federal legislators and let them know how you feel.

## Baseball Season Opens With "Hall Of Fame" Exhibit

The glory of the golden era of baseball in St. Louis will come to life again on April 8 when a new exhibition, "St. Louis' Baseball Hall of Fame Members, 1905-1935" will open at the Missouri Historical Society in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park.

The collection of more than 35 photographs features the work of Charles Martin Conlon in the James Hazlewood Williams Gallery. The exhibition will show both portrait and action shots of such baseball greats as Grover Cleveland Alexander, Dizzy Dean, Frank Frisch, Goose Goslin, and Rogers Hornsby.

Conlon, one of the first baseball photographers, worked from 1904 until 1938.

The exhibition is made possible through the cooperation of *The Sporting News*, which is celebrating its 100th year as a St. Louis publication in 1986, and its archivist, Paul McFarlane, who has charge of the Conlon Collection. "St. Louis' Baseball Hall of Fame Members" will run through November.

The History Museum in Forest Park is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. There is no admission charge.

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# April Calendar

- 1 Continuing at the St. Louis Art Museum: "Currents 32: Peter Marcus," Gallery 111 thru 4/27; "Treasures of Irish Silver," Gallery 120, thru 4/27; "Great Drawings From The Art Institute of Chicago: The Harold Joachim Years, 1958-1983," Cohen Gallery, thru 5/4. 721-0067 for info.
- Continuing at the Missouri Historical Society: "Promising the Product: 100 Years of St. Louis Advertising, 1880s-1980s," free; 361-1424 for info.
- 5 Annual JUNKTIQUE Sale at Grace United Methodist Church, Waterman and Skinker, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 25¢ admission, 863-1992 for details.
- 6 The Laclede Quartet, with John Philips, in concert at Fontbonne College, 7:30 p.m., free; 889-1425 for details.
- 7 Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meeting, 7:30 p.m., Delmar Baptist Church, 6197 Washington.
- "What is GREEN POLITICS and Why Should You Care?," introductory forum, 8 p.m., Holy Communion Episcopal Church, 7401 Delmar at Jackson; \$2 donation requested. 725-6116 for details.
- 8 Preschool Story Hour, 10 a.m., Cabanne Branch Library; free; 367-0717 for info. (Also 4/15, 4/22 & 4/29.)
- "St. Louis' Baseball Hall of Fame Members, 1905-1935," photograph exhibition at Missouri Historical Society open (thru Oct.); free. 361-1424 for info.
- 9 "Tall Tales for National Lie-brary Week," story hour for middle grades, 4 p.m. Cabanne Branch Library; free; 367-0717 for info.
- 11 Spring Gardening Workshop conducted by Verleen Taylor Gray, 10:30 a.m., Cabanne Branch Library; free; 367-0717 for info.
- "The Prince and the Showgirl" starring Marilyn Monroe and Laurence Olivier, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium; \$2, \$1 for Friends.
- The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet in concert, 8 p.m., Graham Chapel, Washington University. (Also 4/12, Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd.) Ticket \$8; \$5 for students & seniors.
- 13 Washington University Chamber Winds in concert, 3 p.m., Lionberger Gallery, Missouri Historical Society, free.
- 14 Architect Teodoro Gonzales DeLeon lectures at Washington University, 8 p.m., Steinberg Auditorium, free.
- 16 "Using Your Library: Materials and Services to Help You Look for a Summer Job," program for teens. 4 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library; free; 367-0717 for info.
- 18 "Some Like It Hot," starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis & Jack Lemmon; 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2, \$1 for Friends.
- 20 "Fulfilling the American Dream: Jewish Life in St. Louis," exhibition opens at Missouri Historical Society; free; thru 6/29. Call 361-1424 for info. (See related article)
- 21 Colin Dollimore delivers the Harris Armstrong Memorial Lecture, 8 p.m. Steinberg Auditorium, Washington University, free.
- 24 Tea Lecture: "Treasured Stories from the Jewish Tradition," by Annette Harrison; 1:30 p.m., Emerson Auditorium, Missouri Historical Society; \$3, reservations by calling 361-9265.
- 25 "The Misfits," starring Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m.; Art Museum Auditorium, \$2, \$1 for Friends.
- 27 Theme poets Julie Heifetz, Jarret Metz, Schlomo Winner and Howard Schwartz will read their poetry, and then will invite comments and discussion from the audience, 2 p.m., Missouri Historical Society, free.
- 29 "Let's Make Noise in the Library: Noisy Stories and Songs for Young Children," special story hour for the Week of the Young Child, 10 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, call 367-0717 for info, free.

## Breakfast With The Easter Bunny



Children at Stella Maris Child Center enjoyed breakfast with the Easter Bunny, games and treats. The fund-raising event was held on March 22 to benefit the Center.

## You Need To Know . . .

**Q.** How should I care for my child when a fever occurs?

**A.** A fever is usually a sign of a viral or bacterial infection. When your child's oral or rectal temperature is 101.3°F or above, a fever is present. If the fever is extremely high (i.e., 104° or 105°F) or persistent; or if it occurs in an infant 3 months old or younger, contact your pediatrician immediately.

Usually fevers are not harmful or life threatening; and can be treated at home with medication to help lower the body temperature. Aspirin or Acetomenophen (Tylenol, Tempra) should be given at recommended dosage for age and at regular intervals as indicated. Tylenol is the preferred medicine for fever control in such illnesses as 'flu' and chicken pox. Aspirin is to be avoided during these illnesses.

If fever is more than 104°F orally, you may need to give the child a lukewarm sponge bath in water for about 20-30

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

minutes following medication. Never sponge your child in alcohol because this traps body heat, and can lead to severe side effects such as seizures.

If fever persists, or your child has more serious symptoms, contact your pediatrician as soon as possible.

Dr. Earline Brownridge  
Pediatrician

People's Clinic welcomes inquiries from readers. Only one question will be answered each month. Deadline is the 15th of every month. Send questions to Andrea Armstead, People's Clinic, 5701 Delmar, St. Louis, MO 63112.

## Classifieds

**FOR SALE:** 3-piece Panasonic FM-AM-FM Stereo Digital Clock Radio. \$75 (\$125 list). Call Richard Lowenstein, 721-6009 (mornings).

**NEEDED:** Distributors of The Times for the following blocks: 6100 Waterman, 6000 Waterman, 5900 Waterman. Call Katie at 727-6377 if you are interested in volunteering. All it takes is a walk up and down the street once a month.

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# Dinner Theatre Returns to Skinker DeBaliviere

LIVE! The classic melodrama, "Penelope, Pride of the Pickle Factory," will be directed by RITA SWEETS. This special evening honors the 20th anniversary of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, featuring talent exclusively from our neighborhood, plus a fabulous STEAK DINNER! The modest \$12.50 admission includes one complimentary drink and is tax deductible.

*New City School  
Saturday, May 17, 1986  
cocktail hour: 6:15-7:15  
curtain: 7:15 dinner: 9:00*

Limited seating. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call the SDCC office at 862-5122. VISA and MasterCard accepted.

## Development Continues In West End

Phase II of Waterford Square, a new luxury condominium community located at Waterman and Clara in the historic DeBaliviere Place neighborhood in the City of St. Louis, is now open.

Developed by Meridian Group, Inc., Waterford Square offers two distinctive condominium styles — a single level first floor gardenhome and bi-level second story townhome. The townhome model available is The Dorchester, a three-bedroom (or two-bedroom plus den) plan with two full baths and 1,600 sq. ft. of living area.

Highlighting this plan is a 13' by 17' master bedroom suite on the unit's second floor level. The suite contains a walk-in closet, master bath, and opens to a rooftop patio.

The Dorchester's main level is ideal for entertaining with formal living room, separate dining room, and entry foyer. Special features include a vaulted ceiling in the living room and a large wood deck which may be reached from both the living and dining rooms.

The Mayfair is Waterford's single-level gardenhome plan and new Phase II display model. It offers two bedrooms, two baths, and 1,173 sq. ft. of living area. A special feature is the unit's large patio which may be reached from both the living and dining rooms. The

Mayfair's floor plan also provides each bedroom with its own private bath.

All Waterford Square condominiums are equipped with an extensive list of standard features, including: woodburning fireplace with polished brass accent panels; built-in General Electric pot-scrubber dishwasher; cook top range, and continuous clean oven; built-in kitchen pantry and breakfast table with pass-through opening to the living room; laundry room with hook-ups; ceramic tile finish in baths; six-panel Colonial doors; polished brass hardware; and superior insulation package for energy-saving efficiency.

Also included is a two-car underground garage and security intercom system.

Waterford Square homes are priced from \$95,000. In addition, purchasers are eligible to receive up to \$4,250 in assistance with closing costs, including loan origination fees (points). In addition, buyers will be free of all property taxes for the first five years of ownership and receive substantial property tax abatement for the following 15 years as the result of being located in a special "tax-abated" area.

The sales office, staffed by Condominium Consultants, Inc., is open daily from noon to 5 p.m., except on Friday, when the office is closed. For more information, call 454-0606 or 367-4400.

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## Halley's Comet: A Personal Reflection

by Ken Cohen

If it is possible to make a hyperbole about the cosmos, we've done it. Heavenly hype, American style. Halley's, Halley's, Halley's... the chorus of adulation continues to orbit. How can one keep one's perspective? I must admit, I totally lost mine.

Besides planning an evening at the planetarium for a computer generated simulation and a March trip to Florida for a better vantage of the real thing, I found myself, my children (bewildered) and two friends (anticipatory) standing in someone's front yard southeast of Fenton on a frosty but clear mid-December night. We had gone there after an absolutely terrible meal in south county (the restaurant was packed) in order to escape the urban glare. Along what we hoped would be a country road loomed modern street lights. We stopped anyway. The kids' persistent questions about where we were going and how long it would take had ceased to be merely annoying and now rang of a truth that had begun to haunt we three adult star chasers from the west end.

There we stood, armed with a star map, two pairs of binoculars and three different opinions of where the comet could be found. We didn't see it, of course, but I did learn a few things.

I learned that after about twenty minutes of listening to celestial jibberish my five-year-old daughter would tell me, her father, who that very day had bought her a new party dress on a whim, that she had to go to the bathroom when she didn't. It's true that her older brother had put her up to it. But, still, she did it. I'm sure she thought her dad had gone as crazy as a loon. And, perhaps, she was afraid a classmate might drive by and see us. Mostly, however, she and her brothers just wanted to go home, and having to "go" sure gets the show on the road.

I learned from one friend (our star guide that evening) that a pinpoint of light just off Orion's belt is not a star at all but an entire galaxy. Do you know how it feels to have passed your forty-fourth birthday by only one day, to hear the foot fall of mortality a little more clearly than ever before, and then to look into a puff of light magnified to about one half-inch that is actually an entire galaxy? In Fenton? After your daughter has just lied to you? Because she thinks you're a loon?

And, finally, I learned the meaning of two words. One is comatose. It means standing in the cold, staring straight-up through binoculars until you lose your balance (and most of your other abilities) and begin staggering around a stranger's front yard.

The other is comatose. This means how your feet feel after your friend, who has gone comatose, steps directly on your arch.

On that particular night I saw a gleam in the night sky that is a whole galaxy and sat in an overly bright restaurant filled with people eating awful food served with indifference. My daughter's question in both places is still like a firefly in my consciousness. Daddy, what are we doing here?

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## Vicissitudes

by Lisa Horner

The Central West End Savings and Loan, a loyal *Times* advertiser, recently won two financial advertising awards. The newspaper ads, "The One Tip A Stockbroker Will Never Give You" and "Thanks To You, We're 6 Going On 30,000,000," were designed by Cohen Thompson Gregg, an advertising, public relations, and graphic design agency. Principals of the agency include neighbors Ken Cohen, 6100 Pershing, and Debbie Gregg, 6100 block of Waterman. The winning entries will be published in a book this spring by Best Financial Advertising, the firm which chose the winners.

Congratulations to Paul Kurtz, 6000 Washington, who passed his last exam, qualifying him as an Associate in Risk Management.

Works by artist Peter Marcus, former neighborhood resident and one of the developers of the town houses in the 6000 block of Kingsbury, are presently on exhibit at the St. Louis Art Museum. *Currents 32: Peter Marcus* features nine large, mixed media works which combine Peter's printmaking with his painting technique. The show is in Gallery 111 and runs through April 27.

Cindy Curley is keeping very busy these days. Besides being mom to Nina, 3 and Ross, 1; she is now in her second year of running her home-based business, *Insides*. *Insides* is a residential interior design company which Cindy began about a year and a half ago. She is pleased to report that her business is really growing. Cindy and John Curley live in the 6100 block of Kingsbury.

Several neighborhood residents have been on late winter-early spring vacations. Jane and Jim Geer and daughters, Sarah and Susan, 6100 Kingsbury, recently returned from Florida, where they vacationed with Jim's brother.

-Gene and Delores Hoefel, 6100 McPherson, spent ten days in the British Virgin Islands. The Hoefels along with two other couples, rented a sailboat and thoroughly enjoyed the sun and the sea.

Betty Klinefelter spent two weeks in March visiting her sister in Texas, relishing the gorgeous weather and the beautiful new spring flowers. She had to return in time for her Girl Scouts' upcoming catering jobs: the Blue and Gold Breakfast, the Methodist Easter Breakfast and the Seder which they will be serving at Grace. Betty lives in the 6100 block of Kingsbury.

Long-time residents may remember and wish to offer condolences to the family of Mike Harlemana who died last month. Mike and his family formerly lived on 6100 McPherson.

Deepest sympathies are also extended to the family and friends of Pat Hogan. Mrs. Hogan lived in the 6100 block of McPherson and passed away in March.

A teaser: Mark your calendars now and plan to be at New City School on the evening of May 17. What we will be subjected — er, rather, treated to that night will be a dinner theatre production to benefit the Community Council. I have it from an inside source that it promises to be a riveting melodrama, directed by Rita Sweets and featuring such notables as: Dan Shea, Kathleen Williams, Rich Lake, Karen Kelsey, Paul Kurtz, and "a cast of thousands." I know you won't want to miss this!

A riddle: What tidbit did I mention here last year that I was forced to retract because it wasn't true, that now is true? More next time.

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# Jewish Life In St. Louis: Historical Society Sponsors Major Show

In 1816 the first Jewish family to settle in the Mississippi Valley came to St. Louis — before steamboats traveled the rivers and four years before Missouri was admitted to the Union. The first formal religious service, a *minyan* during the High Holy days, was held in 1836, and this date is observed as the beginning of a true Jewish community in St. Louis.

"Fulfilling the American Dream: Jewish Life in St. Louis" celebrates the anniversary of 150 years of Jewish life in the gateway to the American frontier. This major exhibition telling the history of Jews in America and showing aspects of their life in St. Louis will open at the Missouri Historical Society on April 20. The core of the photo-documentary was assembled as a traveling show sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Historical Society.

More than 230 photographic reproductions, divided into five major chronological sections, will be shown on panels lining the walls of the Lionberger Gallery in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park. The St. Louis component, with another 75 images, will be seen in the center of the gallery along with cases exhibiting religious artifacts from Shaare Emeth Temple and privately-owned treasures.

Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday and there is no admission charge. The museum is closed Mondays.

After receiving critical acclaim in 1983 in Washington, D.C., where the exhibition originated, the photo-documentary show has been transported to the New York Public Library, the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, Fla., with later stops in Cleveland, Detroit, Berkeley, Calif., and Atlanta. In most of these

cities, local historical documents, photographs and artifacts completed the exhibition. From St. Louis the core exhibition will be sent to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and will be permanently installed at the Museum of Diaspora in Tel Aviv.

"Fulfilling the American Dream" shows for the first time the contributions that Jews have made to the arts, law, science and literature in this country and in St. Louis. It examines American history and focuses on the role Jews have played throughout our nation's history," said Stanley L. Anderman, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. "Starting with the first boat to arrive in New Amsterdam in 1654 and continuing into this decade, we see new immigrants. Then we see Jews assimilating to American life and appearing as leaders in their communities.

"We hope that not only Jews from the St. Louis area and Illinois come to see this exhibition, but also that other St. Louisans learn more about Jewish heritage and contributions," he added.

"Jewish Life in America," the original show, was curated by Allon Schoener as an outgrowth of his book, *The American Jewish Album: 1654 to the Present*, published by Rizzoli. For the book he chose 600 pictures out of more than 5,000 from all over the United States to accompany a text of letters and recollections of individuals who could recount the history of Jewish life in America. For the exhibition he selected only 250 photographs to represent five periods of American Jewish history, and 230 of these will be seen in St. Louis.

Most of the photos are of Jewish people, events, neighborhoods and buildings — synagogues, businesses and homes. They

include a few of the first settlers who achieved prosperity, such as Colonel Isaac Franks, who served under George Washington in the Revolutionary War and was painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1802, and Philadelphia educator Rebecca Gratz, said to have been the model for Rebecca in Sir Walter Scott's novel *Ivanhoe* and painted by Thomas Sully in 1830.

Drawings and daguerrotypes depict men from the mid-nineteenth century who created a Jewish presence and enjoyed considerable success: among them, playwright, diplomat and politician Manuel Noah, appointed Consul to Tunis by President James Madison in 1813 and New Orleans merchant and philanthropist Judah Touro.

Later photographs contrast the established Germans with the East European immigrants. Members of the Levy family pose in front of their substantial home in Oakland, Calif., at the turn of the century. Newly arrived immigrants brought to Ellis Island for processing are shown filling the great hall in 1910.

Interspersed throughout the exhibition are advertisements for Jewish businesses, some written in Yiddish or German; cartoons and drawings, some of them anti-Semitic; and posters for plays and films, such as one for the first Yiddish talking picture, produced in 1930.

The period from 1920 to 1945 shows the experiences of second and third generation American Jews, including those whose talents earned them fame — Al Jolson, Jan Peerce, boxer Barney Ross. Lillian Hellman, Fanny Brice, Edward G. Robinson, the Marx brothers and Jack Benny.

Side by side with the images of the notables — Albert Einstein, Dr. Jonas Salk, Leonard Bernstein, Elie Wiesel and Louise Nevelson — are photographs of families greeting immigrants, families at a seder, school groups and business groups, children and confirmation classes.

The story of Jewish settlement in St. Louis will also be told through photographs — family portraits, individuals whose contributions to the community have been well documented, and people seen in the context of their neighborhoods, synagogues and stores. From the Block Brothers collection of photographs in the Society's rich pictorial history collections have been selected scenes of a wedding, a bar mitzvah, a seder, and Jewish businesses including the Block Brothers Studio on Grandel Square.

Representing St. Louisans who have enriched the city and nation are authors A.E. Hotchner and Fanny Hurst; symphony conductors Leonard Slatkin and Vladimir Golschmann; photographers Julius Strauss and Philip deWoskin; civil rights advocates Celia Razovsky and Lucille Milner; Judges Abraham Frey and Moses Hartmann; and philanthropist Charles Yalem.

The busts of Charles Stix, Aaron Fuller and Sigmond and Julius Baer, cast in bronze by Carolyn Risque, will take their places in the spacious gallery.

Cases in the center of the Lionberger gallery will show significant religious objects from Shaare Emeth Temple — a silver Yad and breastplate and Torahs with their needle-point covers. Prized possessions brought to the new country by immigrants will include polished brass candlesticks and a samovar brought to the United States from Russia in

the 1870s and a mortar and pestle used for grinding grain. A YMHA (Young Men's Hebrew Association) sweater from the 1920s represents one of the organizations that preceded the JCCA.

Sherryl Lang, Bascom curator of costumes, is acting as curator for the exhibition at the Society.

The information in "Fulfilling the American Dream: Jewish Life in St. Louis" will be supplemented by a full calendar of educational and cultural presentations, most of them offered free of charge. Theme poets Julie Heifetz, Jarred Metz, Schlomo Winner and Howard Schwartz will each read their poetry, then will encourage comments and discussion on Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m.

Marilyn Heldman, Ph.D., professor of art history at Washington University, and Walter Erlich, Ph.D., professor of history at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, will go back to the roots of Jewish heritage through art and architecture in a slide-illustrated talk on Sunday, May 25 at 2 p.m. Ben Fireman will discuss immigration and acculturation of Jewish St. Louis on Thursday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m. Attorneys Stanley Goldstein and Sam Lieberman will give insights into legal aspects of religious freedom the evening of June 5 at 7:30.

Varied programs will be offered Sunday afternoons in June. A historians' workshop on St. Louis Jewry and the 1904 World's Fair will be held on June 1. David Lipman, managing editor of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, will talk about Jews and the news media on June 8. Traditional Jewish music and its relationship to grand opera is the subject of the musical program on June 22, with singing by cantors and professional vocalists. Preceding the closing ceremonies of the exhibition on June 29, personal reminiscences of St. Louis Jewish families will be presented live and through taped interviews.

A Thursday evening series of three films will run June 12, 19 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. Other programs are in the planning stages for May and June and will be announced through the newspapers, and information will be available by calling 361-1424.

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# Hamilton Community School Expands Programs

by Sheri Williamson  
Administrative Assistant, Hamilton  
Community School

The Hamilton Community School is located at 5819 Westminister Place in the Skinker-DeBaliviere area of the Central West End — a geographical area which represents a diverse community.

The Community School has set as a goal for itself to grow as the common meeting ground and educational facility for the people of the area. We intend to meet this goal by offering a variety of courses, workshops, seminars, services, and special events to meet the specific needs of our community family and we are succeeding!

The program is expanding. We are now operating at a total of four sites. The main location is the Hamilton Community School at 5819 Westminister Place; we also offer various classes at the Academic and Athletic Academy at 450 DesPeres, Grace United Methodist Church at 6199 Waterman, and the Monsanto YMCA at 5555 Page.

In order to measure the School's effectiveness as well as the community's needs and reactions, we do community-wide and in-house surveys. (A survey follows this article, and it would be a great help if it could be filled out and returned to the Community School.) According to an in-house survey, the Home Based Business course taught by James

Vincent during our past winter term, proved to be a monumental success. The class covered financing, media marketing, locating manpower, resources, and products and required outside research on starting a business for under \$100. Some of Vincent's students had these comments to make about his class: Josephine Ingram with a Masters Degree in Gerontology and presently in business for herself, offering survival skills and budget counseling to her clients said, "This has been a top quality class. If all community schools classes are as good, I feel that many adults could greatly improve their skills and employability," and Dany Keoury, with a B.A. in political science remarked, "I would recommend this class strongly to blacks and other minorities." Finally, one more of many positive responses was offered by Yvette Albright, a college graduate who owns and operates a secretarial service, "I think this course and other workshops offered through this system can be helpful to people in various areas of business or social activities." It is dynamic teachers like Mr. Vincent and subject matters such as Home Based Business combined with students that are eager to learn that makes a successful community school.

Hamilton Community School has also added some new classes to the spring term to increase its appeal to the community. Some of the classes are Italian, Candid Camera-Photography, Private Flute Lessons, Private Sax Lessons, Golf, CoEd Weight Training, African Dance and Folklore, Ballroom Dance, Delicious Desserts and a Horsemanship class taught by St. Louis' own MAGIC 108 disc jockey and professional cowboy Kevin Woodson. Also, on our curriculum are a variety of workshops and seminars, covering topics such as "Stress Management" presented by Susan Freeburg, Director of Stress Clinic at Deaconess Hospital; "Nutrition and Good Foods" presented by Dr. Geoff Beal, Center for Wellness and Nutrition; "AIDS and its many questions" presented by Larry DeMoore, Medical School Worker for St. Mary's Hospital; and "Building Multi-Cultural Alliances Together" just to mention a few.

The School, also, has added some new programs and activities to the Youth Program. Youths can take a Computer Experience Lab, CoEd Grooming and Modeling, get tutoring, become a part of the Youth Advisory Council,

and even enroll in our Jobs for Youth program which seeks to find part-time employment for youths.

Another program that we are particularly excited about at Hamilton Community School is our Neighborhood Services Exchange Program. Based upon the "barter" system, members of the community can exchange tasks with one another in an effort to provide services that may otherwise remain unattended to. It allows the community to help itself, be responsible for itself, and get to know neighbors at the same time, which along with education is a focal point of the community school. It is elements such as these that are making Hamilton Community School "The Talk of the Town."

Spring term classes start Monday, April 7, 1986. Preregistration will be held the week of March 17-20 and March 24-27. Late registration is also available and will be held the first week of classes starting April 7. Call 367-0996 for information.

We have child care facilities at 75¢ per night per child. A security team and lighted parking ensures your safety.

## Survey For Hamilton Community School

Please fill out the survey below and return to the Hamilton Community School, 5819 Westminister Place, St. Louis, Missouri 63112.

### \*Survey

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnic Group \_\_\_\_\_  
 Highest Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Area of Concentration/Major \_\_\_\_\_  
 Where Employed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Extra Curricular Activities/Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

Please assist us by answering the following questions to the best of your ability. Be specific. Hint: There are no wrong or right answers.

1. What is your perception of Community Schools? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you active in the Community Schools? What capacity? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What contribution or services could you give or suggest to improve the community schools? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What services, classes, seminars, programs or topics could the community school offer you to better fulfill your needs? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Please rate the following on the level of importance in operating an effective community school. The number one (1) having the greatest level of importance, the number two (2) having the second level of importance through the number eight (8).  
 School Location \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity of Program \_\_\_\_\_ Variety of Classes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contribution and Involvement with the Community \_\_\_\_\_ Price of Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Extra Curricular Activities \_\_\_\_\_ Well Run Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Good Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### WHO WILL WIN A FREE PORTABLE TV?

If you send in this survey and new courses sheet by April 15, 1986, your name will be put into our Drawing Box. Winner will be notified.

## Growth Continues At New City School



Tom Hoerr with two New City School students.

The New City School is pleased to announce that Thomas R. Hoerr, Ph.D. has agreed to a two-year contract renewal as Director of the School. Hoerr joined New City in 1981 after serving as a principal in the University City School District. Under Hoerr's leadership, New City became the first independent elementary school in the nation and the first school in Missouri to receive *Instructor Magazine's* A+ Award.

New City's philosophy emphasizes a balance among academics, ambience, and student diversity, making the School a place where, according to Hoerr, "kids come first."

New City was founded in 1969 in response to a parent-felt need for a quality neighborhood school. Parents joined together in a dedicated effort to establish a school that would not only contribute to life in the Central West End, but would encourage independent thought and an enjoyment of learning for all children.

Today New City School is the largest independent elementary school in the metropolitan area, with 286 students attending from 36 zip codes. Sixteen years after its beginning New City continues its dedication to this original purpose and is very proud to announce the continued leadership of Thomas R. Hoerr.

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# Beastly Books At The Kiosk

**Books for Children by Arlene Sandler**  
 Sara Bonnett Stein and Manual Garcia collaborate on eye-catching picture stories for young readers that depict and explain the habits of familiar animals. In *Mouse*, mouse makes a nest in a toy box for her new family. She devotes herself to her babies, except for an occasional trip to the space under the kitchen sink where delicious snacks, like potatoes, soap, and cat food are stored. In *Cat*, we see the natural transformation of a quiet whisker-washer into a truly wild animal stalking its favorite prey. The illustrations in both books are large, colorful, and easily worth thousands of words.

Chris Van Allsburg's picture books have been somewhat controversial. Some find his illustrations bleak and frightening; others find them worthy of a Caldecott Medal. His stories are fantasies accompanied by gray and white eerie drawings as eerie as the stories. In *Jumanji*, Peter and Judy play what they believe is an ordinary board game. It becomes alarmingly real as wild animals materialize and take over the house. Monkeys bang pots and break jars in the kitchen, a herd of rhinos destroys the dining room furniture, and a huge lion guards the piano. This unusual book challenges the imagination.

*No Beasts! No Children!*, a delight for middle grades, is filled with animals and humor. Desdemona's household consists of her father, non-communicative twins, a very mean housekeeper, an unconventional aunt, three large dogs, and a stray cat. A retired sea captain with a striped mule, a neighbor hostile enough to cut the blossoms off any flowers that dare to make their way over to his side of the hedge, and a lumpy, bald doll with one blue eye and holes in its head all play important roles. There is seriousness here, too. Desdemona's family is threatened with eviction. Each episode is a three-ring circus as a loving, zany family faces one crisis after another.

The gentle *Chester Cricket's New Home* is a real contrast to *No Beasts! No Children!* Musically gifted Chester is a well-known character in the series that begin with *The Cricket in Times Square*. After his tree stump is ruined by picnickers, Chester begins a frustrating search for a new home. Tactfully refusing the kind offers of his animal friends in Old Meadow becomes as much of a problem as finding a comfortable, crickety place to live. The animals are memorable — the wise-cracking water snake, chipmunks who snore, and sentimental pheasants who treasure the discarded eggshells of all their broods. Memorable too are the fine drawings by Garth Williams.

Adults and children will have a wonderful time with Arnold Lobel's, *The Book of Pigericks*. Pigericks are, of course, limericks about pigs. Lobel's pigs come from Fort Wayne, Duluth, and Van Nuys. They eat noodles to make their tails curly, collect jewelry which they wear all at once, and sneeze their favorite nieces to pieces. The pictures make the nonsense come to life.

*There was a young pig, who, in bed,  
 Nightly slumbered with eggs on his head.  
 When the sun at its rise  
 Made him open his eyes,  
 He enjoyed a quick breakfast in bed.*

**Adult Books by Mary Ann Schickman**  
**Gorillas in the Mist by Dian Fossey, Houghton Mifflin, 1983**

Gentle readers, let me lead you into the rain-swept jungles of the mountains of Zaire, Uganda, and Rwanda where Dian Fossey spent 15 years of her life and became the world's leading authority on the mountain gorilla. Her love for these animals is witnessed in every page of this book. It takes love to track these animals through the jungle sniffing dung deposits. She learned that the two-legged approach made the animals nervous. Gorillas, especially the silverback males, made hair-raising screeches as they bound through the jungle. However, within their cohesive family groups, they are gentle vegetarians and will go to great lengths to avoid combat. Fossey found in her conservation studies whole families of gorillas were being decimated by poachers.

However, there is a sad epilogue to my book review. At age 53, Dian Fossey died a violent death at her isolated camp in Rwanda on December 27, 1985. She often said that she preferred the company of her mountain gorillas to people, and she was buried in a gorilla graveyard. Fossey was often at odds with the local population, mostly poachers. It was reported that in 1980 she abducted the child of a local woman suspected of stealing a gorilla and would not return the baby unless the gorilla was returned.

There are only 240 of these rare primates so one hopes another naturalist will continue Fossey's work or else the great ape is drifting toward extinction.

**The Gorilla Signs Love by Barbara Brenner, Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984.**

Maggie won a prize because of her high school science project communicating with gorillas. She finds herself in the rain-swept mountains of Africa in a camp with gorilla researcher Charlotte Wingate. A gorilla named Naomi takes to her and, as time goes on, Maggie teaches her to communicate in sign language. A handsome, young Australian arrives in camp on a secret mission and becomes friends with Maggie. At this point lots of things begin to happen. This is a young adult book full of suspense and adventure.

**No Bad Dogs by Barbara Woodhouse, Summit Books, 1982.**

Barbara Woodhouse's famous techniques with the unharmed, large-linked collars are explained and illustrated. I've seen many people training their dogs this way on the pavement across from the Kiosk, so I wanted to mention this book.

**Good Cats, The complete guide to cat training by Elizabeth and Michael Kaplan.**

This is a humorous and helpful book for cat owners.

**How to Talk to your Cat by Patricia Moyes, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1978.**

Patricia Moyes is one of my favorite mystery writers. This is an excellent book on communicating with cats and can teach you what the cat's body language means.



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## In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

Have you ever heard of Bill James? How about sabermetrics? How about the baseball abstract? Well, a treat awaits you if the answers to the above are "no." James is a statistician who applies all kinds of arcane formulas and statistical analyses to baseball performance. (Hold on here, this column will not be about sports so keep reading even if you think that "football" is that part in your shoe between your toes and your heel.)

James, for example, has a formula that lets him go back in time by using statistics to calculate the worth of baseball players in the 1920's and compare them to today's ballplayers. (Yes, we already know that today's ballplayers use many more drugs, but he looks at on-field performance.) Here's an example of a formula James uses to figure out a factor he calls "runs created":

$$\frac{(H + W - CS) \times (TB + (.55 \times SB))}{(AB + W)}$$

In the above equation, H = hits, W = walks, CS = caught stealing, TB = total bases, SB = stolen bases, AB = at bats.

Now, even seeing this, I don't understand it! It reminds me of my sophomore geometry class and I didn't understand that either. For all I know, James simply makes up the final figures without doing the computation; certainly no one I know will ever check his math.

Anyway, what intrigues me about the James approach to baseball is the premise that all performance can be quantified. That is, you can take whatever happens on the field, assign a numerical weight to it, plug it in a formula, and you'll get some number that represents total worth. With that final number you can compare different players, players from different eras, different aspects of the game, and so on.

Well, I thought, if one can do that for baseball, why not apply the same reasoning to neighbors? That's right, we may only go to a baseball game once or twice a year or not even like the sport, but we all have neighbors. Just think, with the right formula we could value the "goodness" of our neighbors as neighbors. This wouldn't be just the "neighborliness" or friendliness of those folks next door (although that might well be one factor in the equation), it would be their general over all worth as neighbors. Think how valuable this would be to real estate agents in assessing the value of a home! It'd give the old realtors' adage of "location, location, location" new meaning.

I then began to think what factors ought to be included in the equation. Walks, hits, and at bats don't seem quite appropriate. James did convince me that one should always use research, so I called Cal Stuart. Cal, as you may know, is our resident expert on neighbors. When he was executive director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, Cal found out all the goodies and baddies about various neighbors, from barking dogs to abused spouses to wild kids. While he no longer holds a public position, Cal holds the honorary title of "neighboring guru." The following, then, is based on a discussion with Cal (although to keep his name pure, he will no doubt deny it!).

Let's begin by assuming that there are two basic kinds of neighbor traits: good and bad. See, that was pretty easy!

Now let's try to list the good traits. What qualities would a good neighbor possess? In order of importance, from most important — essential if one is going to be rated a truly good neighbor — to those that are desirable, here goes:

A GOOD NEIGHBOR . . . loans you money with no interest and never expects to be paid back . . . loans you money with little interest and expects to be paid back . . . never borrows money . . . goes grocery shopping for you . . .

offers to watch your kid/dog/plant while you're away . . . never parks in your parking space in snowy weather . . . accepts your U.P.S. parcels if you are out . . . invites you to his parties . . . is willing to use his car to "hot shot" yours . . . enjoys cutting grass and likes to do yours . . . always brings over some chocolate chip cookies after making same . . . and keeps his dogs curbed.

A BAD NEIGHBOR, on the other hand, is full of nefarious deeds. In descending order, from worstest to just worst, a bad neighbor . . . borrows money . . . has wild, lewd, disgustingly decadent, all-night parties to which you're not invited . . . piles junk and debris on his front porch . . . throws his beer cans over the fence into your yard (only when they're empty) . . . calls the police whenever you and a few associates are having a simple pleasant evening . . . tells your friends that he's never heard of you if they come to his door by mistake . . . has property which obviously is run-down from the outside (who really cares what the inside looks like?).

I don't think that anyone would argue with these lists. They, as Ed McMahon would say, cover everything anyone could possibly think about neighbors. (Note: these lists don't apply in the suburbs or LaDue where the only knowledge one has of a neighbor is through the messages on automobile bumper stickers.) How now, Brown Cow, to put all of these in a formula?

Here goes, get your pencil and paper ready. First, go through the positive good neighbor list and decide which traits apply to your neighbor. Total the items and multiply by 1.0 if it's a next-door neighbor. If the person lives more than one house away, reduce by .2 for each house in between yours and his. If the neighbor has a pet, subtract .33 for each animal that you see and .39 for each animal that you only hear. The final number is called the GN factor (GN for Good Neighbor).

Let's now do the K (for kid) factor. (This will obviously be subtracted from the P fac-

tor!) Assign a starting weight of 1.0 to each child living in the home (regardless of the child's actual weight). If the child is less than walking age, multiply by 5. If the child is between walking age and adolescence, subtract .33. If the child is an adolescent, subtract 2.5. If the child drives, subtract 14.1.

Now let's look at the bad neighbor list. We'll call this factor T, for Turkey. Add up the bad neighbor qualities, counting each trait as 3.0. If the person is not a next-door neighbor, subtract .1 for each house away. Sure, the bad neighbor traits count for much more than the good neighbor traits, but, as Jimmy Carter said, "life isn't fair." If you've ever lived by a bad neighbor, you may think that 3.0 is too low! (If you live in an apartment building, multiply the bad qualities by X 10 and move!)

As they say in the algebra books, our formula now looks like this:

$$\frac{GN - K}{T}$$

Take this quotient, we'll call it P for Propinquity. P is then multiplied by .15 S (S is for Sweat, determined by the number of days when the temperature is over 90 in the summer; boy that sure brings out the worst in people!) P and S are then added to F (for Fences, which, as Robert Frost said, "make good neighbors") and divided by M (the number of days that a full moon occurs on a week-end). Once this is done, the whole kit-and-kiboodle is squared (if you've read this far, you're obviously square!). We now have:

$$\frac{(P \times .15S) + F}{M}$$

Well, friends and neighbors, there you have it: the definitive neighborhood assessment formula! With but a little time and energy you can assign a value to each and every one of your neighbors. Am I going to use it, you ask? Heck no, I don't need to. Any neighbor that lives by me would have to have major problems or they'd have moved away by now! I call that the GT factor; GT for GRAND TURKEY!

## A Closer Look At Capt. Page

(Editor's Note: Due to space limitations in the March issue, we were unable to do more than a brief introduction to Captain Page, the 7th District's new commander. As promised, here is more background on the Captain.)

by M.G. Evans

"I may live in St. Louis County, but my heart is in the City of St. Louis," says Capt. Everett Page, new commander of the 7th Police District in the West End.

On Feb. 17 Capt. Page replaced Capt. Charles Alphin at the district station at Enright Avenue and Union Boulevard. Alphin became commander of the homicide, arson, sex crimes and child abuse detectives at Police Headquarters downtown.

Page, at 42, is a 21-year veteran of the St. Louis police force. He has been commander of the 5th District and of the prisoner processing division. He served as a lieutenant in the 8th district, a sergeant in the 6th and a public-affairs officer, narcotics detective and field inspector.

"I'm doing the job that I've wanted to do all my life," he said in a recent interview. "And I try to always do my best."

While Page says that he has not been at his new post long enough to assess the whole district's needs, he believes efforts to stop house burglaries and drug traffic should be given top priority. He says one of the strengths of the district is its many community groups working with police; he hopes to expand on those efforts.

The captain is a family man, with three children and a grandchild. He was born and reared in the West End, graduating from Soldan High School in 1961. "This year is our 25th class reunion," he said proudly.

Capt. Alphin said he had mixed emotions about leaving the 7th District.

"While my new job is one with a spotlight on it, the 7th District will always be special to me," he stated. "It was a real joy to work with the many community groups and with Page. He and I were lieutenants together and are good friends. I wish him all the best in his new job."

## Forest Park: A Gem In Search Of A Setting

by Ray Breun

Hiram Leffingwell had no knowledge of the Indian villages when he proposed the existence of a large park nearly two miles west of St. Louis in 1870. Nor would he see the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904 make that same park world famous as the site of one of the largest world fairs in history. Leffingwell was in the real estate business; he was not an historian or a prophet. He was not even a dreamer or a closet environmentalist. He was a developer who knew the fringes of the city had to have something special to attract home builders, something not to be found in the close-knit fabric of urban structures. What he planned for a park, Indians had mined for brown coal. What he succeeded in establishing, later generations would use for museums, golf courses, and zoos.

The two Indian villages, just northeast of Art Hill, died out when the Mississippian culture moved away around the year 1500. One was built beside the creek the French later called Riviere des Peres. The other was on higher turf across the creek but above the reach of flood. A total of seventeen mounds were clustered in the two village sites. The people who lived in the villages were miners. The brown coal they dug from the hillside heated the homes they built on the mounds and made up the resource they carried to the

east side of the Mississippi and sold in the markets of the city around the big mounds. These "suburbs" of the largest Indian metropolis in North America were two of many smaller communities which supplied the needs of the central city seven miles east of the river in the middle of the bottoms. As Leffingwell walked about his future park site, he never thought of the Indians digging up coal for a long-dead civilization. Thirty-five years later, archaeologists dug up the seventeen mounds of the two villages ahead of the earth movers which were preparing the park for the world fair of 1904. All the artifacts and remnants from those villages were taken to Harvard University and added to the collection of the Peabody Institute. Anyone wishing to study the Mississippian Indians of Forest Park must also travel to Harvard and request to see the objects gathered in St. Louis in 1903 by the crew of David Bushnell of the Peabody Institute.

The Fair celebrating the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase brought millions of people from around the world to Forest Park and its nearby acres. Not only were the Indian mounds moved for that fair; more earth was moved to build the 1904 World's Fair than any other project of mankind to that time except for the Panama Canal. The notion that the Suez Canal was less of a project than the St. Louis Fair seems strangely unreal; yet the

earth moved in St. Louis for the Fair would more than fill that canal.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904, a year late for the centenary it was planned to celebrate, was a truly remarkable event. It signaled the end of one era and the start of another with its use of electricity, dynamos, educational exhibits, and entertainment centers. It was unusual in that it made money; the proceeds from the Fair built the building which now houses the Missouri Historical Society, the pavilion at the Hampton Avenue entrance to the park, and put some of the thousands of trees destroyed to build the fairgrounds back in the ground. The Fair was usual, on the other hand, in that its permanent structures included an art museum and an animal house — the bird cage. The latter was restored when the famous zoo was built after World War I. Both the zoo and the art museum are now jewels of the park along with the historical museum and the science center. The Fair of 1904 made the park what it is today.

During the last fifteen years, numerous studies have come and gone which have focused on the needs and embellishments necessary for Forest Park. Roads have been resurfaced, closed, planned, destroyed, opened, and ignored. Bridges have begun to collapse; pond banks have eroded; trees have died at alarming rates. Museums have under-

gone renovation; zoo facilities have improved; golf courses have been manicured. National balloon events have taken to the air; ethnic fairs have drawn international attention; tennis facilities named for a world-famous supporter of the sport have been improved. Curbs have sunk into the ground and weeds have spread everywhere. Like the city in microcosm, specific facilities have improved while infrastructure has continued to deteriorate.

Hiram Leffingwell was a successful developer. Forest Park was part of the reason for that success. Around it, neighborhoods grew, developed, declined, and now are coming back. The park that gives these neighborhoods some of their elegance and charm is barely keeping even.

### In The Next Issue

**Alderman McGuire will discuss the new bill which will require code compliance before property can be sold or leased. Even though this law will not go into effect for at least one year, it will have repercussions upon us all.**

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