

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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SUMMER 1986

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Park Dedication Officially Honors Phil Lucier



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Lawrence Lucier and other members of the Lucier family (Mayor Vince Schoemehl on right) at tree planting ceremony, June 28.

by Greg Freeman

The late Phillip J. Lucier, a pioneer in the redevelopment of the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood, was honored recently for his work and his dedication.

The Phillip J. Lucier Park was dedicated on Saturday, June 28. About 100 people showed up for the dedication of the park site, at Westminster and Hamilton, immediately west of Hamilton School. The dedication was preceded by a memorial Mass by Msgr. Sal E. Polizzi, pastor of St. Roch's Catholic Church, 6052 Waterman Boulevard.

Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr., who first began assembling the property as an alderman in 1976 and 1977 that would eventually become the park, praised Lucier at the dedication ceremonies.

"I did not know him (Lucier), but I watched his work and watched him react to problems with a sense of calm," Schoemehl said. "I saw in him a leader that made a difference in this neighborhood."

Schoemehl called Lucier "a man who taught optimism to this community."

Judge Michael J. Hart agreed. "The seed of what we see around us was planted by Phil," Hart said. "He had the vision that Pantheon Corp. later turned into full flower. He left his footprints on the sands of this park."

Alderman Daniel J. McGuire, D-28th Ward, was the sponsor of the bill that named the park after Lucier. McGuire told the audience that Lucier "was a special man, one whose

efforts in this neighborhood are felt today — years after his death."

A grove of trees — symbolizing the spirit of family in the neighborhood — was planted at the park. The trees represent the eleven children of Phillip and Marcella Lucier.

On the day of the ceremonies, trees, shrubs and other plants dotted the park as children played on the playground equipment.

One person who knew Lucier was Calvin Stuart, a long-time Skinker-DeBaliviere resident.

"Phil Lucier was extremely active in St. Roch's Parish," Stuart said, in an interview. "With the help of his company, Continental Telephone, he started the West End Townhouses. He bought some buildings that were not in good shape and held them for the people of St. Roch's. The whole idea was designed to stimulate private development in houses in the area. From the neighborhood point of view, that was probably his most major contribution."

Nancy Farmer, director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, did not know Lucier personally. "But I know that he was one of the first to invest his belief, as well as his finances, that this neighborhood could turn around," Farmer said. "And I think we're all grateful to him for that."

Before his tragic death in 1970 — he was killed in a case of mistaken identity — Lucier served on the board of directors of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council.

Lucier graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Notre Dame. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II, and later founded the Continental Telephone Corp. He also was chairman of the board of trustees of Fontbonne College, and was a member of the president's council of St. Louis University.

Lucier's efforts were summed up in McGuire's bill naming the park after him: "Phil Lucier had the courage to innovate, a will to achieve, refused to accept the commonplace, and provided dynamic and dedicated leadership to his family, city, church and neighborhood."

National Night Out Festivities To Be Held Aug. 13

Wednesday, August 13, 1986 is Operation Safestreet's "National Night Out." The evening is designated as a time when people all over the city and county are encouraged to lock their back doors, turn on porch lights, and mingle with their neighbors.

Last year Skinker-DeBaliviere participated in a big way with block parties, ice cream socials, and a four-block neighborhood parade. A lot of fun was had by a lot of people, and plans are underway to go at it again this year.

Everyone loves a parade, and so the 58-5900 blocks of Pershing and Waterman will again be the scene for the 2nd Annual "Love Thy Neighborhood Parade." Please contact your block captain with any ideas or suggestions for your block event, or call Nancy Farmer at 862-5122 for information.

Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, August 13, and join your friends and neighbors for a great "Night Out."

Porch Light Program Needs Participants

In conjunction with last year's National Night Out, August 13, 1985, the SDCC Safety Committee renewed the effort to "light up" Skinker DeBaliviere by encouraging residents to turn on porch lights from dusk to dawn. Light is one of the best deterrents to crime and moreover, it is a bargain: it costs \$1.25 a month to use a 60-watt bulb 10 hours a day. The safety committee has funds to assist anyone who cannot afford the added utility expense.

The committee also plans to hire an electrician to make minor repairs to porch light fixtures for any building in the neighborhood.

Several more referrals for repairs are needed before we can hire the electrician. If you or someone you know needs a front or back porch light fixture repaired, please call the SDCC office, 862-5122.

National Night Out will be celebrated again this year on August 13. The program is a one-hour, coast-to-coast crime watch project; neighbors are asked to come outside, walk up and down their block, or have a block party from 8-9 p.m. (See related article on the front page of this issue.) Mark your calendars for 8 p.m., Wednesday, August 13, and watch for more information.

July 24 Set For Rosedale Potluck Supper

The summer general meeting of the Rosedale Neighborhood Association will be held on Thursday, July 24, at the 28th Ward Democratic Headquarters, 6104 Kingsbury, near Four Corners. A pot luck dinner will start off the evening at 7 p.m., followed by the "business" meeting.

The Cardinals will be well on their way to another pennant by that time (right?!), so

what better theme for the evening than Go Redbirds! All attending are encouraged to wear some item of Cardinal Red and show their support for the home team. As if this wasn't enough, a door prize of two free tickets to a Cardinal baseball game will be awarded. So get the Red out!

Remember, if you live on the 6000 or 6100 blocks, you are a member of the Association.

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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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.



Photo by Doug Milner for the Central West End Journal

Striking Silhouettes

A sunny day on June 21 provided a bright backdrop for the two skaters pictured above. Despite hot weather, a good crowd turned out for the 3rd annual Skinker DeBaliviere Roller Skating party at Steinberg Skating Rink in Forest Park.

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July/August Calendar

July

- 1 Continuing at the St. Louis Art Museum: "Beauty and the Beasts: Animals in Art from the Collection," Gallery 111, thru 9/1; An Exhibition of European Silver, Gallery 120, thru 9/7.
- 18 Exhibition opening: "Mark Rothko: Works on Paper, 1925-1970," Cohen Gallery, St. Louis Art Museum, thru 9/1.
- 19 Exhibition opening: "Where the Sun of Freedom Shines: The German Heritage in Missouri," historical and contemporary photos examine the German immigrant experience; Emerson Auditorium, Mo. Historical Society, thru 7/27.
- 20 Film, "Dream Spinner," 2 p.m., Emerson Auditorium, Mo. Historical Society, free.
- 22 Exhibition opening: "Up the Missouri with Audubon: Quadrupeds of North America," Lionberger Gallery, Mo. Historical Society, thru Nov.
- 23 Theatre Factory St. Louis presents Stephen Sondheim's "Anyone Can Whistle," Christian Brothers College, 6501 Clayton Rd., July 23-27, July 30-Aug. 3 at 8 p.m.; additional matinees 7/26 & 8/2 at 2 p.m. \$7; seniors, students & matinees \$6. Call 968-9377 for info.
- 24 Rosedale Neighbors Potluck Supper and Meeting: dinner at 7 p.m. 28th Ward Democratic Headquarters, Four Corners — Des Peres and Kingsbury.

August

- 4 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meeting, 7:30 p.m., Delmar Baptist Church, 6195 Washington.
 - 5 Election Day. Make Your Vote Count!!!
 - 10 3rd Annual Great Fire Engine Rally and Muster: vintage fire engines gather around the Jefferson Memorial Building at 10 a.m. Extensive display of fire-fighting equipment from the City of St. Louis. Firemen from the St. Louis area compete in muster events, such as hose-coupling, bucket brigade and turning out, 1-4 p.m., free.
 - 23 Ballroom Jubilee, U. City Market in the Loop, 11 a.m. Professional dancers to demonstrate the Waltz, Swing, Cha-Cha, Rumba, and Tango. Prizes for audience participation. In conjunction with an all-day Trinkets and Treasures Tag Sale from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. For information call 862-6767, ext. 285.
- "Quilters," a musical drama presented by Theatre Factory St. Louis and the Missouri Historical Society; Lionberger Gallery. Also 8/24; 8/27-8/31; evenings at 8 p.m., Sun. & Wed. matinees at 2 p.m.; tickets \$7 with special price of \$6 for students with I.D., senior citizens, Missouri Historical Society members and matinees. Opening night benefit on 8/23 offers buffet supper, cocktails, and reserved tickets, \$30 per person. Call 361-9265 for information or reservations.

Rosedale Update, Plans For Year Outlined

by Bob Dowgwillo

Good weather, good advertising, and over thirty registered sales were the ingredients for a successful 1986 Rags to Riches sale for the benefit of the Rosedale Neighborhood Association. The Men's Liberation Bake Sale and barbeque also did well. This year's new feature, a book sale for *The Times* newspaper, was especially popular.

Sellers found fewer customers this year, however. This, we believe, was mainly due to some unanticipated competition from an indoor flea market at Kiel Auditorium on the same day.

The Association will realize about \$400 from the event. As always, donations of food and material by neighbors and local business were very important to the success of the fund raiser. The executive board extends its thanks to all who helped in any way, large or small.

An all-volunteer organization such as the Association is viable only so long as it is seen to make a difference by the people it repre-

sents. In the hope of "making a difference," in the neighborhood, the executive board has set the following goals for the next ten months:

1. maintain the tradition of regular pot luck dinner meetings. The meetings will be quarterly, in July, October, January, and April.

2. throw a neighborhood party in late September; strictly a social event. Tentative theme for the evening: Fifth Night at Four Corners.

3. assist in compiling an information package describing the neighborhood's institutions, businesses, services, etc. This package would be given free to new and prospective residents of Skinker DeBaliviere.

4. complete the beautification of Des Peres. This mainly involves finishing the tree planting begun a few years ago.

5. support the neighborhood's participation in the National Night Out.

Please make note of these items on your mental agenda. Your help and enthusiasm will be needed.

tricia woo
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Dear Friends,
 Federal cutbacks are on the rise—we hear this every day. Increasing, also, is the gap between people and the vital services and resources required to live a healthy, safe life. State government must bridge this gap and continue services. As a candidate for State Representative of the 59th District I want to be a part of the legislative body making crucial decisions that concern our daily lives. You deserve a representative whose first priority is the people of this district.

When someone is making decisions for your future, what qualifications do you want in that person? I believe it is important to have an understanding of the issues, a formal education and also "hands-on" experience. I have a Master of Arts in Education from Washington University and a Master of Health Administration from the School of Medicine, Washington University. I have taught in both the St. Louis City and University City Public School systems. Most recently I was District Health Administrator for the Missouri Department of Health.

To adequately meet the needs of the future my belief is that we must reprioritize the 6.4 billion dollar state budget and reallocate the necessary funds for the essential services pertaining to health care, education, housing, the elderly and mental health resources. I believe these to be the priorities of our future and much of my educational and professional background is in these areas. I am asking for your support. I believe I am the best qualified candidate and would like your vote on August 5th.



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Fall Concert Series Announced, To Be Held At Four Corners

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council will present a series of outdoor concerts this fall at Kingsbury and Des Peres, "Four Evenings at Four Corners." The performances are scheduled on alternating Sundays, September 7, September 21, October 5, and October 19, from 4-6 p.m.

The six-piece jazz group, the Bosman Twins, will perform the first 2-hour concert on September 7. Mid-America Dance Company will perform the second concert September 21. The third of the series is a children's program featuring a juggler and a storyteller on October 5. The final

concert on October 19 will feature a classical group but final arrangements have not been made.

All concerts are free and open to the public. The series is sponsored by:

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council
The West End Neighborhood Arts Council through a grant from the Regional Cultural and Performing Arts Development Commission
The City of St. Louis
Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry
The Musicians Performance Trust Fund



Photo by Ed Stout

Neighbors Turn Out For Hands Across America

Rosedale neighbors participated in the "Hands Across America" event along Lindell on May 25. Members of the Vatcha, Green, and Kerz families are pictured above.

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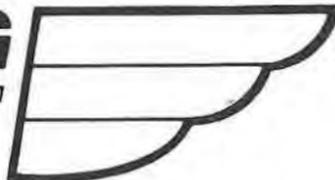


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Macho Menus: Green Pepper Steak

(Editor's Note: Mike Andreotti has recently moved to Parkview on the 6300 block of Waterman with his wife, Donalene, and two daughters. Originally from Boston, he is a salesperson with A.K. Feinberg Real Estate Company.)

by Mike Andreotti

People (mostly men) often ask me why, with three females in the family, I do so much cooking. The truth is that I like to cook and, often finding myself first at home, it seemed only fair to start dinner. Now I do nearly all of the major meal preparation just because I enjoy it. I have progressed from disasters that fed only the garbage disposer to adding my own creative (?) touches and developing new recipes.

We have lived in many different places so we always learn to prepare regional favorites and ethnic foods found in each area. This ranges from spicy Mexican food to brown bread and Indian pudding (New England) from bouillabaise to brioschi.

I have been doing more and more Oriental foods in the last few years, in an effort to eat less red meat and more healthful foods. With a Korean friend, I prepared a multi-course dinner for 28 people in our home. Encouraged by that success we worked with a Chinese neighbor and a lot of gofers to prepare an Oriental dinner for 250 people with foods from Japan, Korea, and different regions of China.

The following recipe requires little preparation time but is tasty and attractive enough to serve unexpected guests.

Green Pepper Steak

- 1 lb. round (or chuck) trimmed of fat
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 1 clove garlic
- 1½ tsp. grated fresh ginger
(½ tsp. ground)
- ¼ cup salad oil
- 1 cup green onion, thinly sliced
- 1 cup red and/or green peppers cut into
1-inch squares
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 2 tomatoes, cut in wedges

Cut beef across grain into ¼-inch strips.

Combine soy sauce, garlic, ginger. Add beef and toss. Set aside while preparing vegetables. (Or meat may be marinated for 8 hrs.)

Heat oil in wok. Add beef and toss over high heat until browned. If meat is not tender, cover and simmer about 30 min. over low heat.

Turn heat up and add vegetables. Toss until vegetables are tender crisp.

Mix cornstarch with water and add to pan. Stir and cook until thickened.

Add tomatoes and heat through.

Basic recipe serves 4; to double it, double all ingredients, but reduce water to 1¼ cup. Add another ½ Tbsp. cornstarch.

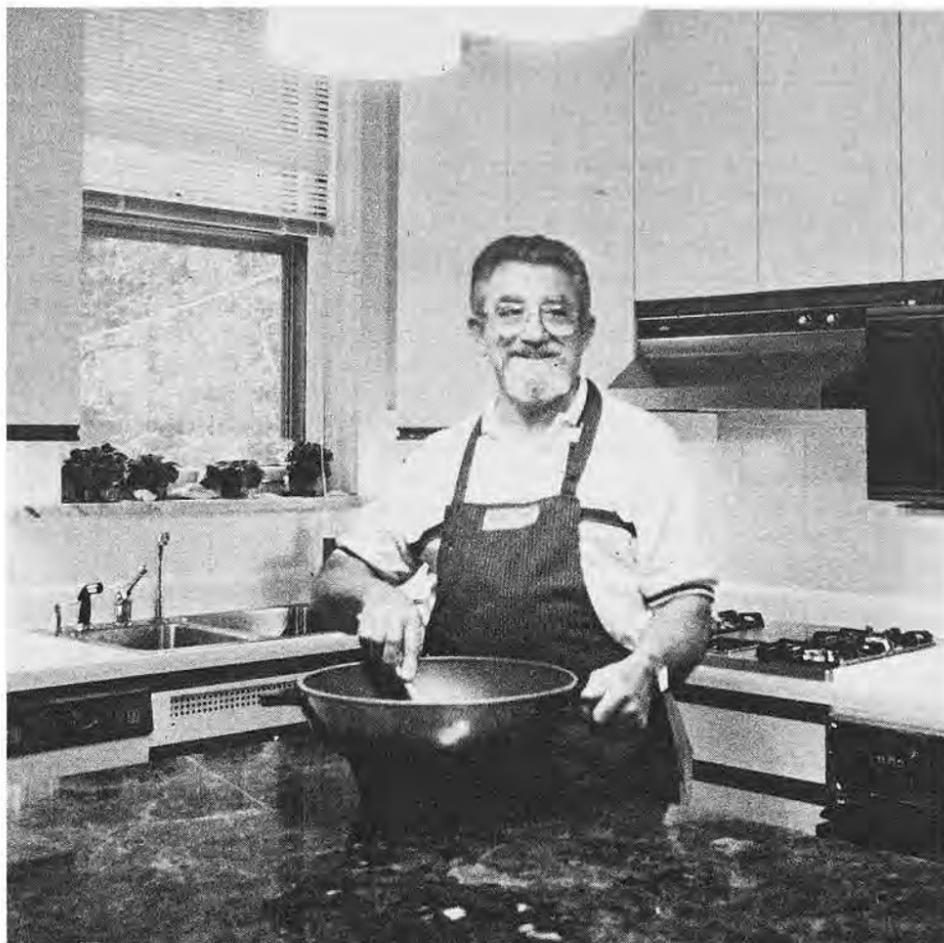


Photo by King Schoenfeld

Mike Andreotti

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St. Roch's Polizzi Receives Papal Award

by Terry Vanicelli

The Reverend Salvatore Polizzi, pastor of St. Roch's Parish, is now the Reverend Monsignor Salvatore Polizzi. Those of you who collect bubblegum cards of prominent prelates probably understand the significance of this quite well. Others may think "that's nice for Father Polizzi, but it doesn't make much difference to me." If you have an emotional or fiscal interest in this neighborhood, you may find out that this awarding of a religious honorific is another small victory for us. "Us" is defined as those who believe that urban areas should be fit places to live, raise kids, and maybe even have some fun once in a while.

What is a Monsignor?

The title of Monsignor is roughly the ecclesiastical equivalent of the nautical title of commodore. Technically, a commodore falls between a Naval Captain and a Rear Admiral in rank. Our Navy has always felt uncomfortable with the term and used it primarily as a courtesy title. For years, a commodore was either the senior sailor at a regatta or the guy footing the bar bill at the Officers Club. As the needs of the service change, the Navy may restore this title to an active rank, as it did in World War II.

Similarly, the term Monsignor has been primarily a courtesy title in the Roman Catholic church. It means "my lord" in some dead language. It's used just as Brrrrritish actors use "m'lord" in medieval movies, Shakespearean plays, etc. Technically speaking, a priest who receives this title becomes an honorary member of the Papal household. Monsignors are permitted to wear certain distinguishing vestments on special occasions and a special place is reserved for them in large religious processions. You guessed it,

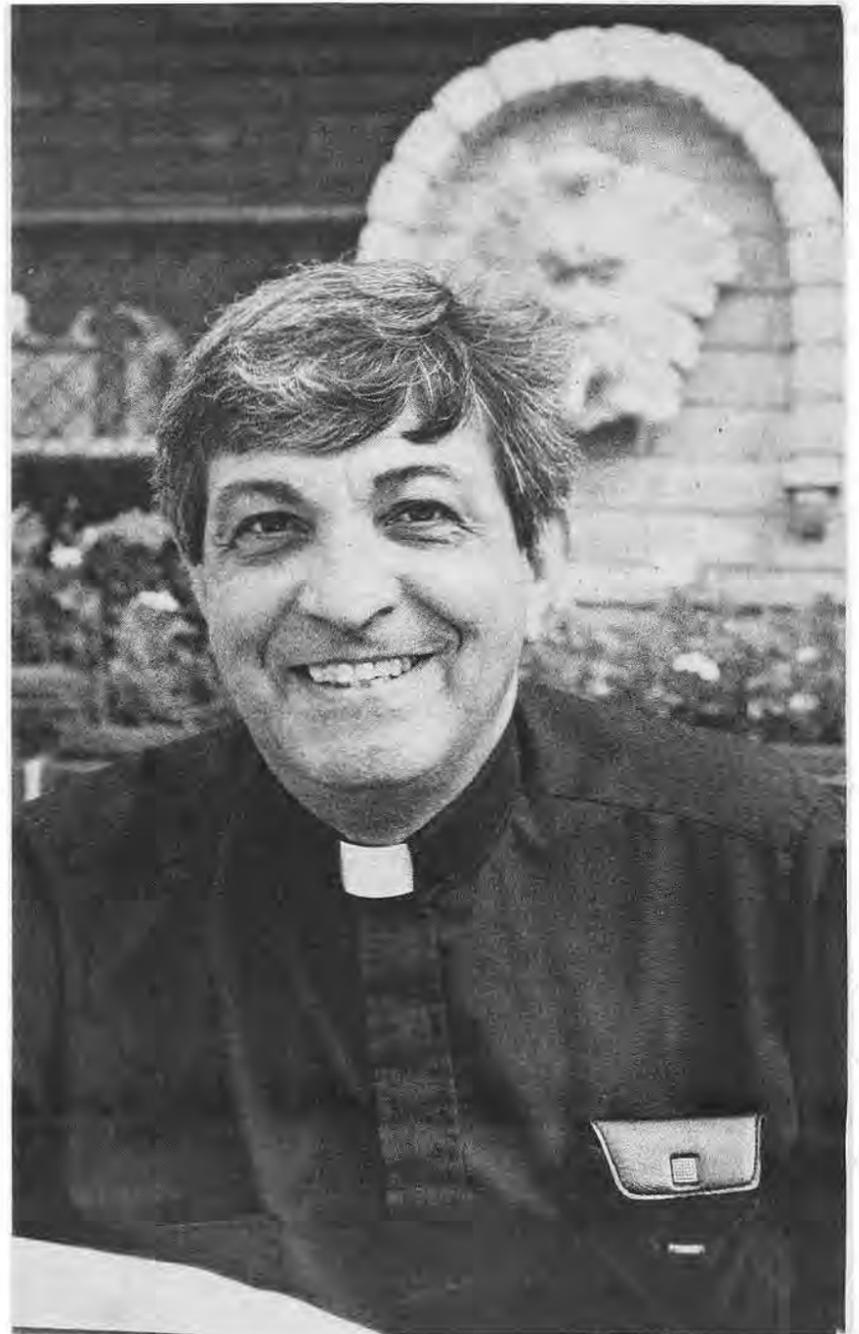
it's between the other priests and the bishops.

What does a priest have to do to receive this title? That's what makes the whole thing interesting. Papal awards of this title are based on the recommendations of local bishops. They nominate priests, according to the *St. Louis Review*, "for conspicuous achievement in ecclesiastical activities." Some of these achievements are quite esoteric. Msgr. Polizzi's "ecclesiastical activities" are much more tangible. He saves souls: the souls of neighborhoods in this city.

Msgr. Polizzi is the Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Urban and Community Affairs. He spends a lot of time at City Hall, with neighborhood groups, and with corporations, to promote the continued health of city neighborhoods.

He has not neglected the home front either. Not too long ago, he was responsible for the purchase and razing of a local gas station that had become a drug hangout. He has maintained St. Roch's strong support of SDCC. He has also made many improvements to St. Roch's School, so it can continue to offer a good, affordable education opportunity to neighborhood families of all faiths. These institutions were instrumental in sustaining this area at a time when neighborhoods around us were collapsing.

Recently, the "needs of the service" prompted the Navy to reinstate the rank of Commodore. A commodore is now equivalent to a one star general. Father Polizzi has been named a Monsignor for addressing the needs of our neighborhoods. Perhaps a star over the parish house on Waterman would not be inappropriate.



Msgr. Sal Polizzi

Photo by King Schoenfeld

GREETINGS



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Old Courthouse Exhibits Are Opening

by Ray Breun

Construction on the original courthouse of St. Louis County began in 1826. That courthouse was torn down in 1851 to make room for what is now the east wing of the current Old Courthouse. Obviously, the current Old Courthouse is in fact the replacement for the real old county courthouse which was too small for the county courts virtually from the time it opened in 1828. Construction of the building now called the Old Courthouse began in 1839 and was completed in 1862 when the second dome and its lantern were put in place under the direction of the seventh architect for the project, William Rumbold, who also served as a consultant to the dome of the capital in Washington, D.C., which was completed nearly two years after its prototype in St. Louis.

The new permanent exhibitions of the Old Courthouse, opening formally in October, represent years of work and planning. They focus totally on St. Louis history from the Mississippian Indian period through to the twentieth century. The first exhibit is the Old Courthouse itself. With the near completion of its renovation at a cost substantially larger than what it cost to first build it, it represents a major museum function in the heart of downtown. Within the renovated courtroom spaces on the first floor north and south wings, the permanent exhibits detail the evolution of St. Louis from its mound building days to the construction of the Gateway Arch. Each of the four major rooms has spaces devoted to typical building exteriors, interiors, street scenes, business scenes, and environmental systems contrasted with what is present today just outside the windows of these rooms. Dioramas present the Creole homes of the early French traders, the warehouse of Manuel Lisa, the cast iron of the Civil War era, and the streets of the early automobile period at the turn of the century.

The rotunda balconies of the Old Courthouse are now being painted to their original opulence, a task which should be completed this summer, if everything goes well. The major work yet remaining in the building is the restoration of the late nineteenth century paintings at the top of the interior dome above the rotunda. Expected to cost about \$1 million, the job will take the better part of a year to complete once the funds are raised.

The Old Courthouse is part of a national park. Virtually all the funding for the exhibitions as well as the projected restoration of the interior dome paintings is from non-tax money. The mixture of federal operating funds with non-federal program funds make

the project possible in this time of austere military budgets. As a matter of fact, the entire daily staff of the Old Courthouse as well as the basic staff of the Museum of Westward Expansion are non-federal employees of the historical association. The growing use of non-federal sources to pay for major federal projects is typical of the changing pattern of federal withdrawal and the development of fee-based or earned-income-based programs. The Old Courthouse, its exhibits and its renovation, would not be possible and open to the public without this mixture of funding sources, both federal and non-federal. Thus the exhibitions of the Old Courthouse are not only the largest museum space devoted to St. Louis history but also one of the best examples of the changing pattern of federal non-funding for federal projects.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

CWE Savings & Loan Marks 7th Birthday

On June 28, Central West End Savings & Loan celebrated its 7th anniversary. The day was highlighted by balloons, birthday cake, and performances by mimes. Located at 415 DeBaliviere for all seven years, the association has assets to date of \$40 million.

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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

There's been a lot of talk lately about tax reform. As usual, the federal legislators and bureaucrats are trying to come up with a "painless" solution to our financial mess. I don't know the exact numbers, they aren't really important, but it's something like our children will have to pay one trillion dollars per year — in interest alone — on the national debt. As I said, I'm not sure whether it's one trillion per year, one billion per day, or one zillion per full moon; the point's the same: we're spending way too much now. Not only does the government buy \$2,000 toilet seats, it buys lots of them. A recent article in *The Atlantic* notes that we're spending \$300 billion dollars per year for defense spending. That's more, by the way, adjusted for inflation, than we spent at any time for the Vietnam war.

So the solution, of course, is not to cut spending or prioritize expenditures, but to reform taxes. The "painless" solution noted above is painless only in that the reforms are designed to pinch those where political rebellion will be minimized. That means that we're talking about doing away with IRA accounts, deleting the Investment Tax Credit that is largely responsible for saving St. Louis' neighborhoods, and cutting out some interest deductions. The tax animals — sacred cows and fat cats — are naturally exempt from the changes.

Well, in the best tradition of *In Your Ear*, I've been thinking. Yes, I know that's a dangerous job, but somebody's got to do it. We've taxed bodies, landowners, consumers, and money-changers through our history, why not tax things that make sense? It's so logical, no wonder the government never thought of it. In lieu of the present taxes, I propose that we develop a tax system based on those nasty social habits we've all acquired.

Here's my proposal, then. I think we should tax:

1) **Unread books.** That's right, not just books, but unread books. How many unread books do you have beside your bedside and on your shelves? I know that I have lots, from Henry Kissinger's *White House Years* to C.P. Snow's *The Masters* to Smythe's *You, Too, Can Take Off Disgusting Pounds*, *Fatty* and Jimmy Carter's *Why A Second Term Is Inevitable*. There's no reason for us to have all of those unread books and, besides, this tax might cause us to read more.

2) **Uncut lawns.** Nothing looks worse than a shabby, leafy lawn (unless it's a shabby, leafy porch...). Think of how nice this would make neighborhoods look and how many jobs it would create for neighborhood urchins and at the Toro factories across the country.

3) **Polyester Suits.** Enough said.

4) **Junk mail.** The senders, the junquers, should be taxed for every bit of unsolicited mail that they send to us, the junquees.

5) **Thin people.** I never exactly knew what it was about Reubens' art that I liked until I started counting calories. I think that an "Ectomorph Tax" could do wonders for the fast food industry. Think of the rise that would occur in Dunkin' Donut stock!

6) **Unmatched socks.** This is a major social ill that can be easily avoided with just a bit of forethought and effort. I, for example, always have a safety pin in one of my socks so that I can wed them together when I take them off. After all, nothing is worse than seeing some nattily dressed person wearing two different colors, or slightly different hues or dissimilar patterns.

7) **Stalled cars at the Skinker and Forest Park Expressway intersection.** There's not a day that goes by when somebody isn't stuck there! I propose that any car stalled at that intersection for more than 90 seconds be forced to immediately pay \$1,000 in taxes or turn over their car, whichever is worth more (experience suggests that it will be the \$1,000). Cars stopped here to pick up carry-out food would have the tax tripled.

8) **Cigarettes.** Foul cigarette smoke can ruin the finest cooked Hostess Twinkie. Cigar smoke, on the other hand, always produces a fine aroma and keeps away mosquitoes to boot. To be fair, I'd suggest a tax rebate for cigar smokers.

9) **Shoes which haven't been worn since the last U.S. presidential election.** Regular

readers of *In Your Ear* (that's you, Mom) will note that last month I talked about my wife's and Imelda Marcos' rivalry to see who could own the most shoes. Well, it turns out that at the recent Rags to Riches sale, my wife sold none of her shoes, but purchased seventeen pairs. Well, it could be worse, I guess. Of the thirty-four shoes she bought, twelve are actually matched to form six pairs and three of these pairs are her size and that's a better ratio than usual.

10) **People who call in to radio talk shows.** If there's something more banal than these radio shows, I can't imagine it (unless it's a televised radio talk show, i.e. Phil Donahue). If nobody would call these yokels, there'd be no such shows. The only thing worse than the people who call are those who call and then say, "Am I on the air?" (a comment surpassed in oughness only by "Attention K-Mart shoppers...").

Yep, that's my list. Forget taxing investments, income, gifts, and gasoline. Let's go after what keeps this country from being as great as it can be: unread books, polyester, radio wacko-smackos, cigarettes, unmatched socks, stalled cars and the like. If all these evils were taxed, those of us who lead good clean lives would be able to keep some of our hard-earned take-home pay. What would I do with the extra money, you ask? Simple, I'd buy some more books to read whenever I get time...

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