

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

VOL. 20, NO. 9

MARCH 1990

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Nina Place

As craftsmen proceed with comprehensive renovation, Westminster Company announces that sales have begun on the final building in the first development phase at DeBaliviere Place West condominiums. The six-home structure that marks the end of phase one is located at 5900 McPherson.

"There are several particularly nice locations within the 5900 McPherson building," said Rich Emerson, sales manager. "People who have an interest in making a move in the near future should see these homes as soon as possible, while selection is at its best."

All homes in the building are two-bedroom, two-bath plans with 1,100 square feet of living area. Prior to completion, they are specially priced from \$82,500.

The development's pricing schedule, combined with the availability of up to \$7,500 in For Sale Incentive Program (FSIP) funds to buy down interest rates or apply toward closing costs, makes the condominium homes easy to afford. Buyers can also qualify for 95 percent 30-year fixed rate loans through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).

"The incentives mean that with a \$2,000 down payment, principal and interest payments work out to around \$600 per month," Emerson states. "When you consider the location and the complete set of standard features we provide, we believe that we offer value that has to be seen to be believed."

"I know we've made believers of a lot of people originally from St. Louis County," he continues. "We've even had people move here who were originally living in single-family detached homes."

A primary appeal of DeBaliviere Place—which earlier this year was featured in *Professional Builder* magazine—is its comfortable neighborhood feel.

The interiors of the architecturally significant circa-1900s buildings have been

Continued on page 8

Community Theatre

Meetings to organize a brand-new production are being scheduled this spring. If you miss the March 1 meeting at SDCC, 6010 Kingsbury, at 7:15 p.m., call Nancy Farmer at 862-5122 to learn of subsequent meetings.

Tom Clear, who directed last year's production of "Too Many Nights in a Barroom: A Burlesque Melodrama," will direct again this year. All neighbors are invited to participate. There's a part for nearly everyone who wants to act, sing or dance, and there's lots to do behind the scenes with the set, props, ticket sales, etc.

Community theatre is a great tradition in Skinker-DeBaliviere; several annual productions were held in the 70's, and the new tradition is now in its third year. For additional information, call 862-5122 or watch for news in the April *TIMES*.



Late winter snow in the neighborhood

Photo by King Schoenfeld

Building Inspections Begin: What You Can Do

by Jo Ann Vatcha

Warmer weather—and the building inspectors—will soon be upon us. To help you cope with those inevitable home repairs, *The Times* has compiled this guide to Homeowner Resources.

March 1 has been set as the start date for a complete inspection of the entire Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. This means that all buildings, commercial, apartments, and homes, will be viewed by a building inspector for code violations. Basic maintenance items, such as guttering, and safety items, such as sidewalks, are the focus of the inspections. The stimulus these inspections will give is important: many readers will remember the significant number of homes which were painted as a result of the 1983 inspection program. *The Times* will do a follow-up report this fall. If you wish to alert us to your significantly improved property, give editor Sue Rothschild a call. Your new sidewalk or porch roof or great new fence could be featured in our special report.

DO IT YOURSELF HELP

So-called "sweat equity" means doing the work yourself—still a popular and viable option. Many rehabbers are residents of the neighborhood and are willing to help teach neighbors the how-tos of many tasks. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors.

Information on many basic repairs and improvements is available on videotape.

The Hometime series from PBS is now offered at Central Hardware for \$9.99 each. Roofs, decks, windows and doors, and many more titles are featured.

Kingsbury Kiosk of the St. Louis Public Library is the place to get free video rental of many home-improvement tapes, including:

- Basic Carpentry—X0343361
- Decks—X0343366
- Energy Conservation—X0343367
- Exterior remodeling projects—X0343370
- Home repair—X0343373
- Home security—X0343374
- Home equity loans—19506423

Or attend a workshop or class. Some of the springtime offerings at nearby sites of the St. Louis Community Colleges are listed below:

Concrete Workshop Con: 715 537	Wed, 6:30-9:30 3/7, 1 session Fee—\$7.50	Pattonville H.S. 2497 Creve Coeur Mill Road offered through Flo Valley
Add a room/ Building Con: 715 538	Wed, 6:30-9:30 3/28-5/2, 6 sessions Fee—\$70	Pattonville H.S. 2497 Creve Coeur Mill Road offered through Flo Valley
Building Inspection Con: 715 551	Thurs, 6:30-9:30 3/8, Fee—\$7.50	Florissant Valley, A 234
Tuckpointing Con: 709 420	Mon, 6:30-9:30 4/2, 1 session Fee—\$8	U City H.S. Cafeteria offered through Forest Park
Roofing/Soffits Con: 715 420	Wed, 6:30-9:30 4/25, 1 session Fee—\$8	U City H.S. Cafeteria offered through Forest Park

You may register in person, by mail, or even by phone if you charge fees to MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Before calling to register, collect the following information: Course title, letter prefix and number (see above listings); name, address, and phone number, social security number, charge card number and expiration date.

Forest Park: 644-9175

Flo Valley: 595-4444

Fee reduction for older adults: If you're over 60, you may enroll in most courses for half price. Ask for information when you call.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Urban League: Call Darrell Grimes at 534-8222

The "Homeowners' Assistance program" offers very low interest loans to persons who qualify under HUD's low-income guidelines, as well as to senior citizens and disabled homeowners. Up to \$20,000 may be borrowed to bring a home up to minimum code, including wiring, plumbing, roofing, porches, and more.

Neighborhood Housing Services: Call Greg Greer at 381-8900

Up to \$5,000 may be borrowed through this low-interest loan program, especially designed to help homeowners who have received building code violation notices. For exterior repairs only, these loans generally have a 6% interest rate and up to 60 months to repay. The staff also gives technical assistance in finding a contractor and reviewing bids for the work. The Program insures follow-up by the building inspector, to close out the code violation.

Continued on page 4

Be a Riverface

RiverFaces is offering two mask-making, costuming, and puppet workshops at craft alliance during the month of March. **BIRDS OF FANCY AND THE IMAGINATION.** On Saturday and Sunday, March 17th and 18th, 2-5 p.m. participants will create animals from myth, nature, and the imagination or create colorful birds elevated on 8 foot poles. Learn how to make birds of fancy from paper mache, cardboard, cloth, paint, and wire in a two-day six hour workshop.

CARNIVAL! Transform your face with a Caribbean screen mask decorated with paint, feathers, and glitter. Also, create a traditional pitchy-patchy costume decor-

ated with gaudy memorabilia, plastic animals, bottle caps and other interesting junk. This workshop will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 24th and 25th, 2-5 p.m.

These wonderfully fun and exotic workshops are offered to you in preparation for the RiverFaces Parade and Festival, to be held on Saturday, May 19th. Participate in these and be a star in the parade!

Both workshops are for ages 7-11 and will be held at Craft Alliance at 6640 Delmar in University City. Tuition and materials fee is \$30 for each workshop. To register call Craft Alliance at 725-1177.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

St. Roch 6th graders in Ed Martin's class recently learned about parenthood when they were assigned eggs to care for -- buying diapers, arranging day care, and more.



file photo

Rochelle Nwadibia, resident of 5700 Block of Waterman, and new member of the Board of Directors of the Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

Thank You...

The Times gratefully acknowledges the generous gifts from the following people:

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The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editorial Board: Sue Rothschild, 361-0880 or 725-0878
Katie Kurtz
King Schoenfeld

Calendar: Sue Rothschild **Business Manager:** Marjorie Weir, 863-7558

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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Col width, 2 1/4". Minimum ad size, 2" x 1 col: \$24/insertion; (10% discount 5 to 8 issues contract; 15% discount 9 issues contract.) For complete list of sizes and rates, write The Times, 6010 Kingsbury, 63112 or call 863-7558.

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. Signature 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 20th 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 6010 Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 20th of the month.

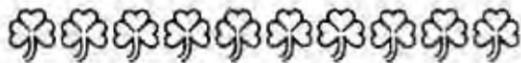
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Calendar

Continuing

Exhibition of more than 100 paintings and drawings by George Caleb Bingham will be on display at the St. Louis Art Museum. Through May 13.

"Burn This"—a romantic thriller by Lanford Wilson will be presented by the Theatre Project Company, at New City Theatre, 5209 Waterman. For information call 531-1301. Thru March 11.

Our City: St. Louis Urban Views: Paintings, prints and drawings from the Missouri Historical Society's collection depict St. Louis from the 1800's to present. History Museum. Thru July.

Prints of Richard Bosman to be exhibited at Washington University Gallery of Art through March 11. Call 889-4523 for more information. Free.

"Down by the Gravois" exhibition at the History Museum. Photographs documenting German South St. Louisians from 1900s to 1930. Free. See related article.

March

- 4 "The Lady Sings the Blues," featuring Barbara Carr and her band. History Museum 2:00 p.m. Free.
- 5 **Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meeting.** 7:30 p.m., 6010 Kingsbury.
- 9 Craft Alliance Gallery hosts the exhibit *Perspective—a view of things in the craft media.* Through April 7.
- "Chamber Works"—A dance concert featuring Burning Feet Dance Company with cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio, at COCA, March 9 & 10 at 8 p.m.; March 11 at 4 p.m. Call 773-0938 for ticket information.
- 10 Spring Celebration—Egg decorations & tree planting traditions used in this celebration of European & Asian spring festivals; 1:00-2:00 p.m. at COCA. For pre-school children, \$5.
- "The Velvetown Rabbit": Stuffed animal becomes real through the love of a child; Wash. U's Edison Theatre, 6445 Forsyth; 2 p.m. For more information call 889-6543. Ages 6-12.
- Improving women's attitudes about themselves is the goal of a one-day seminar called "Self-Esteem Enhancement"; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at YWCA Women's Resource Center, 6665 Delmar. Call 726-6665.
- 11 Young Audiences Presents "A Salute to St. Louis," performed by the Gateway Expansion Project. History Museum. 2 p.m. Free.
- 12 Synchronia—new—music chamber ensemble celebrates Womens' History Month with a concert at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton; 8 p.m. Admission \$10; Students & Senior Citizens—\$4.
- 13 **Parkview Agent's meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Call 361-0880 for location.
- 16 COCA presents a film titled "A Taxing Woman's Return," stars Nobuko Miyamoto. Call 725-6555 for more information. Thru March 20.
- Paul & Win, fiddle & accordion players from Columbia, MO perform Ozark dance and music with clogging demonstration by their daughters. COCA; 7 p.m.; \$7.
- The Kodo Drummers of Japan will perform at Washington University's Edison Theatre, 8:00 p.m. Tickets from \$8 to \$16. Also March 17.
- 18 "Rockin' with Johnnie Johnson," the original Johnny B. Goode, who played piano with Chuck Berry. History Museum, 2 p.m. Free.
- 19 Jeffrey Siegel performs "The Romantic Ballade"—Brahms/Grieg/Chopin at CASA, 560 Trinity at 8 p.m.; Students and Senior Citizens \$6; general admission \$9. Call 863-3033.
- "The Romantic Ballade"—musical storytelling by compositions of Brahms, Grieg and Chopin will be performed by Jeffrey Siegel at CASA, 560 Trinity, 8 p.m. Call 863-3033 for more information.
- 21 The CASA Conservatory Orchestra will perform at 8 p.m.; 560 Trinity. Free.
- 23 CASA artists Maryse and Seth Carlin, duo piano, will perform at 8 p.m. Free.
- The Ships are Sailing—a sampler of ships' logs & journals. With Kevin Burke (fiddle), Jackie Daly (accordion), Terry Corcoran (Guitar & Vocals). COCA, 524 Trinity. March 23-24, 8 p.m.
- 27 St. Louis Classical Guitar Society presents Julian Bream, famed British Virtuoso in a recital to be held at CASA, 560 Trinity, University City. 8 p.m.



Singer, movie maker, sculptor, entertainer and "stand up chameleon" Laurie Anderson will appear at 8 p.m. April 20 and 21 in Washington University's Edison Theatre.

- 28 Classical archaeologist Emily Vermeule, will speak at 4 p.m. in the May Department Stores Company Auditorium in Simon Hall. The title of her talk is "Ancient Warfare."
- Alice Erh-Soon Tay, Challis Professor of Jurisprudence at University of Sydney, will deliver the Lewin Lecture; Wash. U's Graham Chapel; 11 a.m. For information on lectures 889-4620.
- "More Fun Than Bowling" will be performed at the New City Theatre in the New City School, 5209 Waterman. For more information call 531-1315. Runs through April 15.

April

- 1 Paintings, prints, sculptures, ceramics and glasswork by students of Wash. U's School of Fine Arts will be on exhibit during April. Call 889-4523 or 889-4643 for more information.
- 2 **Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meeting.** 7:30 p.m., 6010 Kingsbury.
- 3 The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio will perform at CASA as part of the Great Artist Series; 8 p.m. Single tickets are \$25; \$21; \$17; \$12; \$10; \$8. Call 863-3033 for more information.
- 5 Stephen Greenblatt a Shakespearean scholar will speak on "Resonance & Wonder: The New Historicism in the Representation of Cultures"—Room 110, January Hall; 4:15 p.m.
- 7 The CASA Artists will present Opera Scenes—April 7 & 8; 8:00 p.m. at CASA, 560 Trinity Ave. Call 863-3033 for more information. Free.
- 9 Performance by the CASA Percussion Ensemble artists will be held at 8 p.m.; 560 Trinity. Free.
- 10 **Parkview Agent's meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Call 361-0880 for location.

Garage Seminar

The Parkview Agents and the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council have arranged a seminar for 7:15 P.M. at Grace Methodist on April 18th to discuss the cost and feasibility of repairing and renovating garages. We have arranged this seminar because the fastest area of crime growth in metropolitan St. Louis is car theft and car vandalism. Many of the vehicles which are stolen are not taken for parts, but rather for joy rides.

Thefts from cars are also increasing dramatically. In addition to radios and tape decks, child safety seats have become a sought after commodity on the black market (because of the fines levied for failure to use an auto safety seat).

Keeping your car in a locked garage would reduce the potential for vandalism and theft. The seminar is designed to present homeowners with an idea of what the potential cost is for undertaking such renovation. If you would like to obtain a free cost quote for installing automatic door openers in your garage, please contact Nancy Farmer at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 862-5122. The Birdsong Company, the garage door experts who will be putting on the seminar, are looking for several examples of garage door installations which they could cite as examples in their presentation. One of the reasons the Birdsong Company was selected is because they can install openers for older existing doors, thus not altering the historical aesthetics of the neighborhood.

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Continued from page 1

For exterior repairs only, these loans generally have a 6% interest rate and up to 60 months to repay. The staff also gives technical assistance in finding a contractor and reviewing bids for the work. The Program insures follow-up by the building inspector, to close out the code violation.

Senior Home Security: Call 531-9779

Minor home repairs for safety and security are available through this service. Employees provide some electrical, plumbing and carpentry repairs, smoke alarms and locks. The fees are low, with a sliding scale, based on income.

Senior Home Security also offers furnace and A/C installation and service, room additions, siding, storm and replacement windows, tuckpointing and roofing, burglar alarms, and more, at 0% financing for clients below median income level. Other services include accessibility for the disabled at 0% interest, and a range of energy services to help reduce utility costs.

MHDC HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

Funded by the State (Missouri Housing Development Commission) and offered through area banks, these home improvement loans carry a reduced interest rate of 9 1/4%. Up to \$15,000 can be borrowed to repair your roof, paint, put in a new sidewalk, upgrade wiring, add a room, remodel your kitchen, and more.

To qualify, your household income must not exceed the state's guidelines for "non-federally targeted census tracts."

See chart below for maximum levels.

Total # in household	Maximum income
1 person	\$29,900
2 persons	34,270
3 persons	38,525
4 persons	42,780
5 persons	46,230
6 persons	49,680
7 persons	53,015
8 persons	55,465

Other qualifying criteria include the following:

- You must own and occupy the home
- You must have a good credit history and the ability to repay the loan
- The property must be a single-family home (no 2- or 4-family buildings)
- No more than 15% of the building can be used as a business
- Loan funds cannot be used for refinancing or to pay off other home improvement loans

If you want to take advantage of this limited-time offer, you may contact any one of the participating banks, listed below. First, get bids from contractors or, if you are doing the work yourself, get cost estimates for the materials you will need. You can do the specific improvements you want, with your own choice of contractor(s), or the cost of materials only. Most participating lenders charge an appraisal fee only if the loan is for a large amount, and most will allow you to include the fee in the loan if you wish. No application fees are charged.

Participating Lenders	Office Closest To Us	Contact Person & Phone
United Missouri Bank	7911 Forsyth	Mary Leopold -621-1000
Roosevelt Bank	7905 Forsyth	Ron Beckmann -532-6200
Mercantile Bank	Lindell at Grand	Ask for information on MHDC Loans -289-9600
Boatmen's Bank	4625 Lindell	Any personal banker-367-4700
Gateway National Bank	3412 Union	Loan Dept.-389-3000
Lindell Trust Co.	Clayton & McCausland	Ann Lewis-645-7700

This low-interest rate loan program is available state-wide, with varying eligibility criteria, depending on whether an area is a targeted census tract. Overseeing the program is David Maslen, in MHDC's Kansas City Office. Maslen says, "The program (provides) families with another avenue of maintaining their homes... definitely more advantageous than helping them rehabilitate their homes down the road." By reducing interest rates and allowing for a ten-year payback, the program allows people to receive loans who normally might not qualify. According to Mary Leopold, Vice President of United Missouri Bank, "the people that apply for these loans really need them." Leopold, whose work in 1989 accounted for over 39% of the loans made statewide, also feels that the program is straightforward for the lenders, thereby encouraging more lenders to participate. Good news for the consumer, because application and processing are not burdensome or time-consuming.

Ron Beckmann, Vice President of Roosevelt Bank, suggests that homeowners who wish to apply for the loans contact any one of their branches for an application packet. (Nancy Farmer of Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council also has a few.) Then, after getting bids, simply mail the packet to Roosevelt. Closing of the loan can be done at any convenient Roosevelt branch office, and any questions can be handled over the phone.

If you are eligible for this special financing, don't delay, because the state agency has funds through a bond issue which expires in October. The program has picked up momentum and may be extended, but 1990 is your best bet.



file photo

A "model home" in Skinker-DeBaliviere

CONVENTIONAL LOANS:

Home equity loans are popular because interest is still tax-deductible for those who itemize deductions. Check with all the banks we mention in this article for specific rates and procedures. Ask, too, about any "specials." Offering loans with reduced or no closing costs during limited time has proved to be a sound means of bringing in new banking customers.

If you're confused about what this new type of loan means or how it works, you may wish to view the videotape mentioned in another part of this article, or attend a Home Equity Loans Workshop, to be held during March at the Hamilton Community School. Date had not been set as of press time, but you can call 367-6996 for information.

Banks which offer Home Equity Loans, as well as other Home Improvement loans, include Boatmen's, Mercantile, Gateway, Lindell Trust, United Missouri Bank, Roosevelt, and many others. Both Commerce Bank (6630 Delmar, 726-2255) and Landmark (968-4000) are offering home equity loans with no closing costs, for a limited time.

Also check with: Central West End Bank, 415 DeBaliviere, our neighborhood bank. According to Kathleen Hamilton, Vice President, the Central West End Bank offers three kinds of loans tailored to meet the needs of homeowners who desire financing for repairs:

1. FHA loans range up to \$17,500, with up to 8 years to pay back. Currently the interest rate is 12 1/2%, fixed rate.
2. For loans of more than \$17,500, you can apply for a "Second Mortgage", meaning simply that the loan is secured by the property, second in line to the first mortgage. To apply for this type loan, you will need bids on the work to be performed.
3. Refinancing/rehab and Purchase/rehab Loans. CWE makes these loans specifically for new purchasers or homeowners who wish to make major renovations. The maximum amount that can be loaned is either 80% of the purchase price + the bids for renovations OR 80% of the appraised value of the property after rehab, whichever is less. CWE handles disbursements for contractors, with a 1% disbursement fee. However, the escrow account for the rehab funds pays interest at the same rate as the loan payment interest, thereby assuring that no additional funds are being paid out while the work goes on. The interest rate for these loans is currently 10.63%, with terms of 15-, 20- or 25-years. These are adjustable rate loans which may fluctuate as much as 2% per year, up to a maximum of 6% additional over the life of the loan.

For information and applications, call Kathleen Hamilton or Lyn Minniss at Central West End Bank, 367-8800.

Classified

Found: Woman's bike, alley between Westminster and Kingsbury. Call 727-4105 with description of bike which was lost or stolen during January.

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In need of a building inspector . . .

SDCC Endorses Westmoreland Restaurant

by Catherine Forslund

While continuing its opposition to the proposed Walgreens, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC) lent its support to condominium and restaurant proposals for the Pershing-Union area.

In attendance at the February Board meeting were: Brenda Davis, Frank and Flossie Driscoll, Nancy Farmer, Mary Fleener, Victor Frankel, Georgi Fox, George Genung, Lou Hamilton, Amy Harris, Karleen Hoerr, Paul Kurtz, Rich Lacaille, Al Levine, Steve Lewis, Bob Mahon, Guy McClellan, Dan McGuire, Gary Mestman, Ron Norris, Agnes Quinn, Phil Roberts, Roy Roncal, Roy Tagger, Neville Vatcha, Arline Webb, Kathy Wobus and Jack Wright.

The minutes of the January meeting were corrected and approved. The treasurer's report was discussed and approved.

A presentation was made to the Board by Levine, architect for the proposed Walgreens. Since their initial design was rejected by the Heritage and Urban Design Commission (HUDC) the size of the building was reduced, the loading dock and trash collection site were moved to the south side of the building (making it on the Forest Park Parkway side), the building was moved forward on the site and additional landscaping was included for the rear and north side of the building. Their aim was to orient all traffic toward DeBaliviere, and away from the DeGiverville residences. They will be duplicating the architectural details of that building. The signage is being reduced almost 50% and will be white instead of Walgreens traditional red to match the other center. Lacaille, Mestman, Frankel and another Walgreens representative answered questions about traffic flow, the prescription computer network satellite dish, area youth hiring, local target market area and liquor sales. With respect to liquor, they have eliminated the separate liquor department, but would like to still have beer and wine sales. They would exclude hard liquor if the neighborhood desires, and any liquor sales would be done within the regular retail area. They still need a zoning variance and a liquor license both of which require public hearings. SDCC will monitor the situation.

McClellan requested that the SDCC enter into a Performance and Neighborhood Agreement in order for him to receive previously approved Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Grant Funds are used as For Sale Incentive Program monies to help buyers for the Chelsea Condominiums at 5381 Pershing. The Board is needed as a channel for the funding to go to the developer, and even though this program was approved a few years ago, the documents were never executed. The Board authorized Farmer to execute the Agreements to help McClellan's development.

Norris described a new restaurant that will open in the recently renovated Westmoreland on the Parc apartment building. To be called "An American Brasserie," it should be opening this spring and will be operated by the Mariner Hospitality Group. They want a full-drink license, but no packaged liquor sales. There will be off-street parking behind the building for this mid-range priced, well-varied-menu establishment. The Board voted to send a letter for the zoning hearing, indicating that SDCC supports the location of this restaurant in the Westmoreland.

McGuire reported that the expansion of the Rosedale Square Redevelopment Area is proceeding as previously described in this column. McGuire will be meeting with residents and a public hearing has been scheduled on the area plan. The Board voted to support the Aldermanic proposal, contingent on the support of the block residents.

McGuire also reported that there is progress on the implementation of zoning changes originally proposed in the original Skinker DeBaliviere historic district ordinance passed over 10 years ago. The south side of Delmar from the City limit to Des Peres will be rezoned from general commercial to local business. The commercial zoning that exists on Des Peres (except at Kingsbury and Pershing) will be rezoned for multi-family. These changes do not affect existing business, but would restrict future owners or operators from continuing the "higher" zoning use. SDCC voted to support this downgrade in zoning to improve future development in the neighborhood.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Farmer reported on a meeting with Community Development Agency (CDA) Director, Tony Williams. They toured the area and discussed increased funding.

The Shell station at Delmar and Skinker is being renovated into a mini-market store. The SDCC historic district review, beautification and commercial district committees all made requests for changes in the design plans and all requests were answered. Shell's design plan has been approved by the City.

Operation ConServ will soon be including Skinker DeBaliviere in the upcoming group of neighborhood brochures being prepared as part of the City's marketing program which will eventually include all City neighborhoods. Farmer has examples of the brochures already done for other ConServ districts. Neighbors interested in this program can contact Farmer.



Photos by King Schoenfeld

An interested crowd learns about the proposed light rail stations.

The St. Louis 2004, Inc. group will be having an organizational meeting in February. They are working toward a world's fair and possibly the Olympics here for the 100th anniversary of our first World's Fair and the first United States Olympics.

The Community Theater production organizers will have an initial planning meeting March 1 to start planning their late-May program.

The Metro Link and Arts in Transit programs are sponsoring a neighborhood informational meeting to discuss plans for the Forest Park Station at DeBaliviere in Mid-February.

Committee Reports

Beautification

Forslund discussed the February neighborhood survey the committee was organizing. This will look for missing street trees, damaged curbs and sidewalks, clogged storm sewers, damaged trees and other items related to improving the look of our area. The Board also approved a

resolution commending Andy Cross's recycling efforts on the 61XX Kingsbury block and his plans to expand this work.

Rosedale

Roncal said Rosedale would be co-sponsoring the HUDC program (discussed above).

Parkview

Fleener and Genung reported that the center gate is broken and closed. There have been some problems with barking dogs and the lights are working on and off.

Housing Corporation

They are working on getting heat in the basements, frozen pipe problems and lateral sewer line problems in the Rosedale Square Project.

Errata

Last month's story erroneously reported that the new Board member Lou Hamilton lives on 62XX McPherson. He lives on 60XX McPherson. Sorry!

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Mention

The TIMES of Skinker DeBaliviere

When You Use Our Advertisers

Portrait of a Kiosk Patron: Lois Schoemehl



Photo by King Schoenfeld

by Mary Ann Shickman

When the old Des Peres Branch Library burned down in 1983, three people from the neighborhood began a campaign for another library to be built on that site. They worked very hard to organize the support needed for the construction of the Kiosk and, at the dedication ceremony, all three were on hand to cut the ribbon: Cal Stuart, David Schmidt and Lois Schoemehl.

Lois, as well as the others, have remained loyal patrons. She extended her activism by joining the Board of Directors of the Friends of the St. Louis Public Library and is described by workers at the main library as a tireless and dedicated volunteer who puts in many hours.

She is a tall, attractive woman with wonderful blue eyes, the mother of Joey and Tim, and the wife of St. Louis Mayor Vincent Schoemehl, Jr. Lois grew up in Normandy where she attended Normandy High School and then went on to U.M.S.L. where she graduated with a degree in English, and met her husband. Lois became the first Alumni Director at U.M.S.L. and held that position for nine years. She also has volunteered extensively at the library of St. Roch's School

and is also on the board of directors of the Woman's Self Help Center.

Lois has always been available to help at the Kiosk, most recently handing out certificates to winners of the Kiosk Pet Picture contest on Art Exposed day. (This year one of the winners was 12 year-old son Tim.) Besides giving her time, Lois also helps with refreshments for Kiosk children's parties and has participated in the Kiosk summer reading programs.

Her reading taste is broad, ranging in fiction from Toni Morrison's *Beloved* which she described as a fine book, to John Irving whom she began reading this past year. She has read *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *The Cider House Rules*, and *Hotel New Hampshire*. Her choices for mystery writers include Ed McBane and Ruth Rendell. For light reading she likes Danielle Steele and Sidney Sheldon; among Catholic writers, she prefers Father Andrew Greeley. Currently she is reading *Fatal Vision* by Joe McGinnis.

We at the Kiosk appreciate the dedication of Lois Schoemehl who has proven to be a strong advocate for the public library system, as well as a special friend to the Kingsbury Kiosk.

A Carr Insight

by Ray Breun

William C. Carr was one of the most important legal minds in St. Louis early in the nineteenth century. Originally from Albemarle County, Virginia (just like Meriwether Lewis), Carr came to St. Louis on March 31, 1804. Just three weeks earlier, on March 9-10, 1804, Captain Amos Stoddard had completed the Louisiana Purchase with the transfer of Upper Louisiana from Spain to France and then to the United States. Carried out on the Place de Publique where the Gateway Arch now stands, that transfer doubled the size of the fledgling United States. A couple months later, May 14, 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition departed for its 28 month trip of discovery into the new frontier after spending the winter of 1803-4 putting supplies together from St. Louis merchants.

In short, William C. Carr came to St. Louis at a most exciting time—from our viewpoint. He apparently found St. Louis less than thrilling. Within one month he had decided Ste. Genevieve would be the seat of power and had moved there. He married Miss Anna Maria Elliott, daughter of Dr. Aaron Elliott of Ste. Genevieve soon thereafter. It took him a full year to realize that St. Louis was really in the better location and would soon outstrip the much older and more exposed to flood community of Ste. Genevieve. He moved back to St. Louis at the same time that the Louisiana Purchase Land Commission was appointed by President Thomas Jefferson. Only when St. Louis became the legal center of the land questions left from French and Spanish grants did the decision emerge that it would also be the economic and political center of the West.

Carr's indecision reflects nearly 100 years of attempts to locate a power center for the opening of the West. The history of the fur trade reveals part of this problem, and it was this earlier history which influenced Carr and other Yankees moving into the new frontier along the Mississippi's west bank.

The very year that St. Louis was founded, 1764, saw the closing of what was thought by many in the French economic and military circles to be the answer to English expansion across the Mississippi. Over twenty years earlier, on December 18, 1743, plans were drawn for Fort de Cavagnial—on the Missouri River about two miles above what is now Fort Leavenworth. This fort was to be the major western arm of the French fur trading efforts in the West, which efforts were coordinated at Fort de Chartres and Ste. Genevieve. On April 25, 1746, at the court of Louis XV in Paris, Jean Frederick Phelipeaux, comte de Maurepas and minister of colonies, personally ordered the completion of Fort de Cavagnial and the appointment of military and commercial leadership. Fort Cavagnial was to be the center of French efforts to stem the English fur traders, the Northwest and Hudson Bay Companies, coming from the north over the historic voyageur routes originally blazed from Montreal in the seventeenth century.

The hopes for Fort Cavagnial were dependent upon French financial fortunes in Europe. The British were doing their level best to thwart the French, and the result was the Seven Years War in Europe, called the French and Indian War in North America. With so many military and financial resources going to active war in other locations, Fort Cavagnial was never able to mature to the expectations of the French imperialists. By 1763, it was all but abandoned. In that year, Pierre LaCede received his monopoly to trade with the Osage Indians on the Missouri River, and this was the final undercutting of potential revenue in that direction. Fort Orleans, at the mouth of the Osage River, was likewise falling into disrepair. All French interests fell back to the Mississippi line at Fort de Chartres and Ste. Genevieve. As St. Louis was beginning, the French forces on the Missouri River were withdrawing to the east. By 1770, when the Spanish took over the French imperial posts west of the Mississippi, including St. Louis, it was clear the British had carried the day in the opening fur hunting areas of the American West. Attempts to stem the British were carried on by Jacques Clamorgan, Manuel Lisa, and Pierre Menard. Only when the Americans came in full force after the Louisiana Purchase were the British really challenged.

It was this sense that all the fur trade posts were fighting a losing battle which William C. Carr shared. He saw St. Louis as just another one of those fur trader forts which would eventually succumb and not amount to anything. What changed that was the appointment of a land commission to be housed at St. Louis along with the movement of the governorship of the Louisiana Territory from Vincennes to St. Louis. William Henry Harrison was replaced by General Wilkinson, and the latter was stationed at St. Louis. Immediately the locus of power and influence moved upriver from Ste. Genevieve. William Carr moved again also, eventually building the first brick building built solely as a house in St. Louis at the corner of Spruce and First Streets in 1815. When his first wife died in 1826, Carr married Dorcas Bent in 1829, daughter of Silas Bent, Sr., then clerk of the court. Silas Bent was the father of Charles and William Bent, the partners of Cyran St. Vrain, and the builders of Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River along the Santa Fe Trail. Thus William Carr married into one of the most active families in the westward expansion of the United States. Not only was he shrewd enough to follow the legal center of the frontier movement; he was also wise enough to choose his family connections and stay in the middle of the westward movement.

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Vicissitudes

by Terry Vanicelli

Well folks, you saw it here first. I'm gonna scoop my own paper. Blame modern electronic miracles; my computer setup can put out a disk that our printer's typesetter can read. So I can push a tighter deadline than the person assigned a story that you'll see in the next issue of *The Times*.

The story in question is about the talk Kate Shea of the Heritage and Urban Design Commission gave at the SDCC offices on February 22. Her slide presentation to a crowded meeting room was full of good reasons why you really don't want to mess around with the outside of your house before checking with the HUDC folks.

They are as concerned with saving you from mistakes as they are with preserving the appearance of the neighborhood. I wish all of you could have seen the slides on Tragic Blunders in Tuckpointing. She certainly convinced me that her office can help you with subtle tricks that will make your job look better and enhance the value of both your property and the neighborhood.

I had always thought that Kate's office was dedicated to protecting you from having any fun with your house. I recently did some exterior modifications to my house and I was delighted to find out that they are really rather reasonable. Or if you don't believe me, ask the *St. Louis Sun*.

You may remember the Polks of 57XX Le Guiverville. I mentioned them a few months ago in reference to the big picnic they throw in Forest Park every year for the neighborhood. They have also been very active in SDCC and the Washington Heights neighborhood organization. Please join us in extending our condolences to them over the tragic death of their son last month.

Be sure to drop by St. Roch church on Sunday, April 1 at 7:00 P.M. The Camerita Singers will be returning for another of their free concerts. The featured work this time is *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Theodore Dubois. Several orchestral works will round out this Easter program. There will be a reception following the concert.

The Fina station on Skinker and Westminster opened on February 23 as M&W Fina. The new owner is Milt Woods. He is determined to fix the place up and make into a place where children can visit in safety. He even plans to rent videos and Nintendos to make the station more of a family place. It's good to see this establishment in caring hands.

THIS JUST IN: St. Roch had a Jail House Roch dance in the gym (of course!) on February 24. I always applaud people who throw parties in February, as it's the crummiest time of the year. So I am pleased to report that this dance was a resounding success. The gym was packed and Tony Tocco was spinning some great records. So many folks fixed themselves up with '50's outfits and hairdos that Brylcreem is going to declare a special dividend. Kudos to Mary Wright and the School Association for throwing this affair.

Ottie's Corner

Mea Culpa Department. Alas, I am guilty of editorial and typographical errors regarding Officer Edwards, his employer, and his famous patrol vehicle. Ottie straightened me out with a curt note:

This is it; the moment everyone has been waiting for, when I reveal the inside data on the Parkview Pursuit Chevette. I hate to upset the kids after what you guys wrote, but its top speed is 80 mph, not 800. And it needs a good tail wind to go that fast. Just goes to show you that you don't need top end in a good pursuit vehicle. As long as the wheels stay on, the engine doesn't blow and the driver has both more courage and more brains than the guy he's chasing, it works just fine. And nothing, I repeat nothing, can outrun the PPC's radio! Whelan Security owns the PPC, not the old stagecoach outfit that also dabbles in security!

Get it straight, Terry, or I'll have to take over this end of the column!
Ottie



Photos by King Schoenfeld

Greg Weil of the 6100 Block of Westminster was one of 6 winners in the High School Art Competition sponsored by the Washington University School of Fine Arts. His portfolio of photographs was displayed with the work of other finalists and semi-finalists in the competition at the university's Bixby Hall from February 4-20. The awards ceremony and reception provided an opportunity for students to meet with representatives from art schools around the country to discuss educational programs and scholarship opportunities available to them.

Scales

by Christine Smith

Have you ever met an urban snake? Bet not!! But you are probably benefiting from one, or more! They are small, shy creatures that avoid dogs, cats, and people—if they can. They feed on mice, insects, grubs, and spiders, not people.

Our first contact was about 15 years ago. Fatso McMitten kitten brought a play thing to our second floor landing. "Fatso, where did you get the shoestring? Let me see!" Then: "Bruce, it's a snake!" I nearly went through the roof. (Saved re-roofing the house).

Dead, of course. When we saw sister/brother of same snake creeping through our iris bed, we got out the field guide: "Worm snake, max. 13 in., dark above, pink below, head not distinct from neck, small eyes." (Italics mine—I've seen longer night crawlers). Bruce called it just a "slow worm" and called it a gardener's friend.

Our next encounter was the 1985 "mouse epidemic." A neighbor found a nest of snakes and killed them all; that summer my plethora of cats brought in one to six mice to the hearth rug weekly...all except Fatso's sister, Sister Sue! She brought in snakes, frightened into catatonia, to lay before the Great God Refrigerator.

We retrieved one of these fellows, put him in a plastic jar (improvised herpetarium) with grass and a twig, and went to the

grocery. The surprisingly strong fellow was curling down the table leg, trying to escape, on our return.

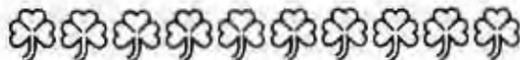
"Oh, put it out in the garden!" said I. Bruce tried to comply by unwinding its 14 inch coils and taking it up—and it peed all over his hands. Smelled like a skunk, and snake got released (flung) into the iris bed.

We have never been sure if this was a ribbon snake, ("which when first caught often releases a strong smelling fluid from its anal glands"), or a common garter snake ("which makes a good pet.") Both are "dark, 3 stripes above, paler below, head distinct from body, can rarely reach 48 inches," although I have never seen one over two feet long.

Both varieties of urban snakes in our area—the slow worms or the ribbon/garters are non-toxic, non-pesticidal and non-poisonous, free, self-sustaining ecological controls for pests such as mice, grubs, and bugs.

If you meet one, put him in your garden under the tomatoes. He will try to eat every cut-worm he sees, shyly and reticently!

Source: Collins, H.H. Jr., *Complete Guide to American Wildlife*, 1959, New York, Harper's Row.



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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

For months now, he had been planning how he would do it. He really didn't care about who he did it to; the subject was quite immaterial, although necessary. She—and it needed to be a she—would be a tool, that's all.

As long as he could remember he had thought about it. The perfect crime, that is. Whenever he wrote about it in his diary, he always put it all in capitals. THE PERFECT CRIME he would write. Sometimes he would use a marker to write it on the wall of public restrooms. "Are you ready for THE PERFECT CRIME?" he would write. Once, a couple of years ago, he sent a postcard to the police station on Union Avenue with "THE PERFECT CRIME is coming—are you ready?" written on it.

After he mailed the postcard, though, he grew very afraid and didn't leave his apartment for almost a week. He was smarter than to write on the card; his handwriting could be traced, he knew. Instead he had cut out letters from magazines and glued them together to form his message. But then he worried that maybe they could trace the magazines to him or find his fingerprints in the glue.

Twice, he was sure, he had seen unmarked cars, solid color Chevrolets with men in wide-brim hats riding inside, driving down his street. He was really scared then. He was sure that they were looking for him. He was worried about being caught and sent back to the hospital, but he was more worried that he wouldn't get a chance to do it. Being in the hospital again wouldn't be so bad if he had done it.

He had first thought about THE PERFECT CRIME when he was in the hospital for the second time, or maybe it was the third time. There was some program on television, some kind of cop show, and he remembered the cop, a tall thin man, saying, "They all think they can accomplish THE PERFECT CRIME, but they're wrong."

That seemed like a long, long time ago, even though he was only released four years ago. Now he didn't work, and spent most of his time watching television, especially police shows. He also thought a lot about THE PERFECT CRIME. THE PERFECT CRIME, he had decided, needed to be simple. There couldn't be any motive, besides committing it. He wasn't interested in robbing anyone or hurting anyone, just a quick murder.

He had identified his victim. She was a college student who lived up the street from his apartment. He sat on his porch and watched her coming and leaving throughout the day. He knew that the times that she walked to and from school were fairly predictable, and she didn't seem to have any friends. Earlier he had selected two other candidates, but one had a boyfriend and one moved away, so he was left with the girl in the black coat. He didn't know her name, but that was just as well.

He wished that he could kill the girl in the black coat without injuring her, but that was impossible. At least he wanted it to be painless. Being painless meant that it had to be quick. That pretty much ruled out a blunt instrument. Loud noises scared him and attracted a lot of attention as well, so that meant that a gun was out of the question. He wasn't very big—she was at least as big as he was—and all of the years of being tied to the bed had weakened him, so he was not going to let himself get into a fight with her. He walked to the university library and tried reading about poisons, but he couldn't understand or remember all of the odd-sounding names.

A wry smile crossed over his face as he realized that this was one of the reasons why it was so hard to commit THE PERFECT CRIME. He became even more excited about the idea.

For four days in a row he had gone to the university library. He went to the sociology section and looked through the books

and journals on criminology. With all of the articles about crimes, criminals, and crime detection, he was sure that he'd find a way to commit his PERFECT CRIME. Besides, he enjoyed reading about all of the horrible acts that others had done. But everybody that he read about had been caught and he knew that he wouldn't be.

On Thursday he was sitting at a big table, looking at the pictures of electric chairs, when a voice whispered, "Can I sit here beside you?" He quickly closed the book, he was always afraid that others would see what he was reading and know what he was up to. He looked up and saw her. It was the girl in the black coat.

Dumbly he nodded yes, and she sat down next to him, her coat draped over her arm. "I've been watching you," she began. "I'm a soc major and I'm really into criminology, so I notice when someone new is in this section of the library. Are you a plainclothesman or what?" she asked.

"No, uh, no. I just like to read," he responded. At first he could not handle the flood of emotions and thoughts that were washing in his brain. The girl in the black coat was here, talking to him. Part of him wanted to run so he wouldn't get to know her, and part of him wanted to grab her now and do it. He was thinking a thousand thoughts but couldn't think.

"Well yes or no?" she asked with impatience in her voice.

He realized that he had not been listening to her. "I'm sorry, what did you say?" he asked.

"I said that I'd like to know what you've been reading. How about a Coke?"

"Oh, sure," he said. She went to the door and he followed her, still trying to put all the pieces together.

They walked across the campus into the Student Union Building and sat at a table. She went to get the sodas and he excused himself and went into the restroom. He closed the door and, now alone, began to shake and gasp for air. Slowly he walked to the basin, the room was deserted, and splashed cold water on his face. This must be fate, he thought, he must be getting closer to it.

He returned to the table and found her looking through a book she had been carrying, *Criminology and Criminals*. He decided that knowing more about her would make it easier, so he asked her where she was from.

"Lawrence, Kansas. At least that's where I went to college," she said, sipping her Coke. "And how about you?"

He didn't know what to say, he surely couldn't tell her about his time in prison or the hospitals, so he took a drink of his soda to give himself a moment to think. "I'm from here," he said, "tell me about your book."

She smiled and sat back in her chair, and slowly opened the text. "Here's an interesting part. Would you like me to read it to you?" she asked. He nodded and waited. After what seemed like a long time she continued, "This is called 'The Search For The Perfect Crime.' You'll find it most relevant."

He began to have difficulty swallowing and everything seemed to be getting very bright. He started feeling numb and could no longer see, but he could hear her voice as she read, "There is some debate whether or not there can be a perfect crime. Most experts believe that it is not possible." He heard the book close and she whispered, "But the experts are wrong. Did you enjoy your soda?"

Everything became very dark and quiet.

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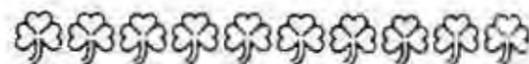
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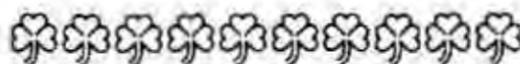
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Operation Brightside BLITZ is May 5.



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