

# The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

VOL. 22, NO. 3

JUNE, 1991

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

## DeGiverville Block Unit Celebrates Renewal

**"We are proud to invite all our neighbors and friends to DeGiverfest, Saturday, June 22, from 11 AM to 6 PM, in the 5900 block of DeGiverville"**

by Darlene Green

At first glance, the 5900 block of DeGiverville appears nice, nothing special, just large brick homes lining both sides of the street, but it's more than that. The striking secret lies buried in the people of the block unit. There are government workers, teachers, nurses, blue collar workers and retirees in this block unit that have a common concern, the concern for a safe, pleasant stable neighborhood. Most of the families have raised their children, but there are also young families and single heads of households.

Being part of a historical neighborhood is a major responsibility for the block unit. It requires diligence in maintaining the tradition and heritage of the area while facing the challenges of urban life in the 90's. Our block unit was reactivated in February 1990, as we faced a possible blight situation. Other concerns included the Metro Link, impending building inspections, and crime. We developed a plan to address our safety concerns by inviting police officials to our meetings to discuss ways that we could fight crime in our area. We joined the City-wide Neighborhood Watch Program, the Federation of Block Units of the Urban League and became active participants on the advisory board of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, by appointing Aaron Johnson as a representative.

The building inspections in our neighborhood were completed as scheduled. That episode encouraged the block unit to inform our neighbors of what would be inspected and how to comply with the city. With the help of the Urban League, we received paint and grass seed. We also acquired bedding plants from Operation Brightside. We've participated in the Brightside Blitz for the past two years, cleaning the alley on the south side of

DeGiverville. With the help of Alderman Dan McGuire and Nancy Farmer of SDCC, we have been in contact with nearby property owners and merchants encouraging them to maintain a neat appearance of their property as well. Carl Bernard, a member of our block unit and retired mailman can be seen in the early morning hours, removing debris from not only the 5900 block, but Westminster, Hamilton, and McPherson, etc. Joining him in his effort is John Austin and William McReynolds who keep the empty lots and southside alley spotless.

As our first year drew to a close our thoughts went to the less fortunate families in our area. We contacted Hamilton School's social worker, Dr. Fred Smith, who lead us to two needy families that we helped, by providing Thanksgiving food baskets. Our year ended with a bang, with our annual Christmas party at the Salad Bowl.

Many of the programs we started last year have continued into our second year. We have strengthened our resolve to maintain our neighborhood, enjoy our families and stay informed about the things that will affect us. *We are proud to invite all our neighbors and friends to our first annual DeGiverfest. It will be held Saturday, June 22, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm in the 5900 block of DeGiverville.* We will be selling booth space for those of you who have items to sell. The cost of each "booth" is \$15.00 and the seller keeps the profit. There will be hot dogs, hamburgers and soda for sale. Please contact Sheryl Davenport 721-4137 or Darlene Green 725-6940 for more information.

Please come and visit us. Come see your old friends and meet some new ones. "Taking care of business in the 5900 block of DeGiverville is our goal," says Jesse Brown, block unit president.

## "Fastest Thimble In The West" Returns June 22

THEY'RE BACK. JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THE THEATER WAS SAFE !!! Mark your calendar. Practice booing, hissing and cheering. Melodrama returns to Skinker DeBaliviere. June 22, 1991 at New City School the "Never Say Never, Just one More Time, Last Chance to Dance, Melodrama Players" appear in a classic revival of THE FASTEST THIMBLE IN THE WEST directed by Rita Sweets with a cast of thousands. That's right a revival. First performed in

November 1974 under the direction of Rita Sweets and brought back by popular demand. Many of you will remember "Fastest Thimble." Others of you know it only by reputation. Critically acclaimed at the time for its "fresh" approach to melodrama, now you can enjoy the true spirit of the old west and have a great evening of entertainment.

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with a cash bar cocktail hour. This will be followed by the Last Chance to Dance Players' performance along

## Sister Leo Ann Leaving St. Roch's



Sister Leo Ann Bub with several students on the St. Roch School grounds.

Photo by King Schoenfeld

by Jean Eberle

Sister Leo Ann Bub, C.S.J., long-time principal of St. Roch's School and fervent booster of the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood, is leaving that post now that the school year is ending. Also leaving will be Sister Charles Helaine Fecker, retired from full-time teaching but part-time tutor to students needing assistance. Asked about her plans for the future, Sister Leo Ann replied that she had received several attractive offers but would wait until classes were finished before making a decision.

Sister Leo Ann first served at St. Roch's when she taught first grade there from 1951 to 1957. At that time it was an all-white school with classes overflowing as the first wave of the baby boom entered school. She returned as school principal in 1967 when white flight and neighborhood changes threatened the school.

Realizing that her students needed a safe and stable area, she and former pastor Msgr. Robert M. Peet threw their support behind efforts to integrate the neighborhood successfully. At present St. Roch's enrolls students of many races and nationalities. When the Block Watcher movement began, Sr. Leo Ann's daily walk with her dog made her not only a block watcher but a neighborhood watcher. She has three citations from the Police Department for her assistance in fighting neighborhood crime.

"I know a whole generation of students will remember Sister," said one long-time resident, "but I hope our newer neighbors realize how much of their current stability is based on her work in the school and the area."

Other residents recall that the children were always Sister's prime concern. She

began her tenure at St. Roch's when lay school boards were new to the parochial school system and worked successfully with a series of boards to improve education at St. Roch's. Under her supervision the library was expanded, regular art classes became standard, and physical education classes pointed toward the goals of the President's Fitness Program. The Junior Great Books Program was available to students and other innovations like the parent-student handbook, the all-day kindergarten, optional mini-courses for students and parents began during her administration.

Some of her happiest memories, she said, are of visits from former students, invitations to their class reunions, letters and cards keeping her up-to-date on their lives. Asked about a difficult problem, she instantly named her first bouts with the computer in her office. "I've always had to be my own secretary, so I couldn't pass that chore on to someone else. I had to learn to use the computer for records and class lists. Now I can enter information on new students in the right categories with no problem and wonder how I got along without it."

A native St. Louisan, Sr. Leo Ann attended St. Luke's Grade School and St. Joseph's Academy. She is a graduate of Fontbonne College and received her Master's in Education from St. Louis University. She taught at a number of local elementary schools, as well as in Chicago and Ste. Genevieve, Missouri before coming to St. Roch's.

The current pastor, Msgr. Salvatore Polizzi, recently announced the hiring of Mrs. Gloria Openlander as the school's first lay principal.

with olio performances by past and future stars. After the performance (with your help) there will be dinner and celebration on into the night.

This should be a stellar event but there is still much to do to make the evening truly spectacular. Many people are needed for activities on

and off stage. People are needed to work on sets, cook, bring or serve food, sell tickets and so on and so on. The last two productions were not dinner theater because there were not enough people involved. This will be the last SDCC community theater production for at least two

Continued on page 6

## Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

As part of my agenda to revitalize the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council's level of pro-active work, I have made a commitment to resurrect the Council's committee structure. This will create a vehicle for neighborhood involvement in the work of the Council.

All the SDCC board members have agreed to serve on at least one committee, demonstrating their dedication to improve and advance our area.

Many residents have voiced interests in becoming involved in neighborhood activity, yet they don't know how. These committees offer the way. Each committee will begin working from applicable sections of the neighborhood plan, recently developed by neighbors, which will form a basis for their work. They will start with any parts of the plan within their reach and then strategize implementation of the larger, long range portions. Nor is the plan intended to be static; committees are encouraged to re-evaluate the plan and develop new goals, amend old ones, etc.

I wholeheartedly encourage all neighbors to review the following list which describes proposed committees and some of their proposed activities:

**Beautification**—address issues relating to the physical enhancement and clean up of the neighborhood, such as establishing an "urban gardeners" group to work on creating and maintaining area plantings and investigating the creation of a neighborhood garden.

**Education**—review the role of neighborhood schools and make recommendations to the Board of Education.

**Recreation**—evaluate and publicize existing resources and develop and implement programs to meet resident's needs.

**Social Services**—evaluate, coordinate and publicize available services from neighborhood agencies and develop and implement additional programs to meet identified needs.

**Traffic and Transportation**—evaluate traffic volume and flow; review and make recommendations regarding traffic patterns, signs and signals.

**Safety**—examine existing needs and work with Operation Safestreet and area police to develop and implement any needed programs.

**Recycling**—develop and implement an area wide recycling program for as many recyclable materials as possible.

Please contact the SDCC office at 862-5122 or me at 725-7144 to join us or if you have questions. Choose an area where your interests lie; something to which you'd like to devote a little energy. None of these committees require a major time commitment; they need your interest and enthusiasm most. So give something back to your neighborhood, get involved, meet new people and feel great about yourself while improving your quality of life!

Sincerely,

Catherine Forslund  
President, SDCC

Dear Neighbor,

What is the safety of a child worth?

You have probably observed some of the same unsupervised and unsafe conditions in our neighborhood that we have. Children congregating with nothing special to do, no where special to go, and no one who seems to care. And you, like we, have been concerned and a little frightened.

While we cannot solve all the social ills that contribute to the unsafe environment many children must survive in, there is something that we can do each summer to make things a little better. For several years now, the Breitmayer Community Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church and the Hamilton Community School have combined resources and efforts in a special summer program. Our target has been to provide 60-75 children from 3 to 13 a safe and enriching summer program. We have been able to provide breakfast and lunch, creative and fun experiences, remedial school help, field trips, strong positive role models and **safety** for children for 8 weeks of all-day programming. We have tried to do this at as low a cost as possible to the families. Unfortunately this is becoming more and more difficult, and this year for the first time we must ask for help.

Would you please consider providing a scholarship (\$200), sponsoring a field-trip (\$100-\$300), underwriting a craft project or day of snacks (any amount), sponsoring a teacher (we use certified public school elementary teachers and assistants), or making a donation toward the purchase of playtime equipment? We can make a small amount go a long way, and we have some wonderful plans, but we really cannot do it alone. A contribution from your business or office could make an enormous difference.

If you are able to contribute, please make checks payable to "Breitmayer Community Ministry" and send to Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman, St. Louis, 63112. This program is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

You can make a huge difference in the welfare of our children. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Bruce Yampolsky  
Chairperson,  
Hamilton Community School  
Advisory Board of Directors

Lionelle Elesser  
Chairperson, Breitmayer  
Breitmayer Community Ministry  
Board of Directors

## Housing Conservation District Meeting June 13

Alderman Dan McGuire, 28th Ward, invites Skinker DeBaliviere neighbors to an informational meeting about Housing Conservation Districts:

Thursday, June 13  
7:00 p.m.

SDCC offices, 6010 Kingsbury.

Housing Conservation Districts are established by Ordinance for specifically designated areas in the City of St. Louis. They are intended to "preserve the quality of housing inventory and protect citizens and neighborhoods from deterioration which threatens health, safety and welfare."

Within Housing Conservation Districts, a Certificate of Inspection (COI) is required for structures containing a dwelling unit when: a residential building is sold; or, when a residential unit has a change of tenants and a COI has not been issued within the last 12 months.

COI's are issued by the Building Division after the unit is inspected by specially trained inspectors and the unit meets minimum requirements established by the Housing Conservation District enabling ordinance. These inspections and requirements apply to items on a Housing Conservation District checklist—they are not as strict as city code.

Generally, the COI checklist covers very basic safety and sanitation items: plumbing in working order; doors and locks operable; heating equipment operable; unit not overcrowded, etc. Based on exterior appearances, the majority of properties in Skinker DeBaliviere would pass these interior inspections with only a few, if any, citations. The benefit to the neighborhood is that those properties which do not meet these minimum standards would have to be improved before they can be occupied.

Applications for COI's are the responsibility of the owner or manager of rental properties, and generally the purchaser in a sales transaction. Applications and appointments for an inspection can be made in person or by phone at City Hall. The cost per inspection is \$40 for a single unit, plus \$10 per additional unit in the same building, or \$10 each for up to three additional scattered site units owned by the same person.

Alderman McGuire has introduced a Board Bill that would establish Skinker DeBaliviere as a Housing Conservation District. Several sub-committees of the Skinker DeBaliviere Planning Committee recommended that such an ordinance be enacted. McGuire wants to meet with neighbors who have questions or concerns before proceeding with this legislation.

Housing Conservation Districts have been established in several other neighborhoods in St. Louis and very few complaints have been registered by property owners or residents in these areas about the program. Neighborhoods have found that it is a good tool for combatting substantially sub-standard housing and overcrowding in units.

### The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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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# June Calendar

## Continuing

*America Worked Exhibit*—Images of people in offices, factories, farms and families living in wealth & poverty during the 1950s. Photographs by Dan Weiner. History Museum in Forest Park.

"Washington University Art Collections"—Steinberg Hall, Gallery of Art, upper and lower galleries; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays. Through May 1992. Free.

European Glass Invitational exhibit at Craft Alliance. The show opens June 1, 4-7 p.m. and will be on view to the public through June 29.

*St. Louis on the Home Front*—Exhibition of posters and photographs from the home front in St. Louis during World War II at the Jefferson Memorial Building/Forest Park. Free.

## June

- 2 **The Willis Akins Ensemble**, first in a concert series at Four Corners Plaza, Kingsbury at Des Peres. 4-6 p.m.
- 5 Annual Summer Symposium for older adults held at St. Louis Community College, Forest Park; 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.; registration fee of \$12 includes lunch. For more information call 644-9175.
- CASA Recital—performance by Angela Horn, mezzo soprano; 8 p.m.; 560 Trinity, University City. Free.
- 7 An exhibit by Theresa Disney titled "Here Comes A Disney" will be held at Componere Gallery, 6509 Delmar. Reception for the artists on June 7, from 7-9 p.m.
- "The Bad And The Beautiful," 1952 (film)—Kirk Douglas, Lana Turner, Walter Pidgeon, Dick Powell; St. Louis Art Museum Auditorium; 1:30, 7:00, 9:15 p.m. Admission \$3, \$2 seniors & students
- 8 *Pow Wow and Native American Fest*—Native American groups dance on lawn, teepee is set up; storytelling, face-painting, booths, much more. Jefferson Memorial, Forest Park. Call 361-9265. Free
- Opera Theatre presents "The Other Boheme" at the Loretto-Hilton Center, Webster University; 8 p.m. Call 961-0171 for ticket information.
- "Little Me" presented by Theater Factory of St. Louis; Edison Theatre, Wash. U.; Call 832-1919 for performance dates, times and ticket prices. Through June 23. A jazzy musical comedy.
- Stella Maris Child Center Parent Organization** is sponsoring a garage sale from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on their DeBaliviere parking lot. This year's sale has been expanded and includes many items.
- 9 Burning Feet Dance presents—"Dancing in Unusual Places" at COCA, 524 Trinity; 8 p.m.; \$8 general admission, \$6 students and seniors. Call 773-0938 for more information.
- Doc Terry and the Pirates**, West End Arts Council Concert Series, Four Corners Plaza, Kingsbury at Des Peres. 4-6 p.m.
- 10 Registration for CASA's Summer Session. Call 863-3033.
- 11 "An Unmarried Woman" (film)—with Alan Bates and Michael Murphy; St. Louis Art Museum Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. only. Admission \$3; \$2 senior citizens & students; \$1 friends.
- 12 "A Little Vicious Sea Of Oil" (film)—COCA's theatre; 8 p.m. Free.
- 13 **Informational meeting about Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Conservation District**, SDCC, 6010 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.
- The Dept. of Civil Engineering presents the Central United States Earthquake Consortium; Wash U's. Lopatta Hall, Room 101; for more information call 889-6303. Free.
- 14 An American In Paris, 1951 (film). Starring Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron, Oscar Levant and Nina Foch at St. Louis Art Museum at 1:30, 7:00, 9:15 p.m. \$3; \$2 senior citizens & students
- The Festival of Animation film festival at COCA through June 23. See 1990 Oscar nominees. Call 863-1004 for information.
- 15 Alfred Leslie: The Killing Cycle-special exhibit at St. Louis Art Museum, Special Exhibition Galleries. \$3.50 adults, \$1.50 children, \$2.50 students and senior citizens. Through July 21.
- Lori Diefenbacher** will perform specially for families and children, West End Arts Council Concert Series, Four Corners Plaza, Kingsbury at Des Peres. 10:30 am.
- 16 Lee Hoffman, soprano, performs at 4 p.m. at CASA, 560 Trinity, University City Free.
- Curtis Buckhannon and the ILL-MO Boys**, West End Arts Council Concert Series, Four Corners Plaza, Kingsbury and Des Peres. 4-6 p.m.
- Mae Wheeler jams with St. Louis musicians in a concert of jazz, blues, gospel and popular tunes at 2 p.m.; History Museum, Forest Park Free.
- 17 Lunch at Craft Alliance—features an informal gallery talk on "European Glass and the American Aesthetic" 12-1 p.m. For more information and reservations call 725-1177
- 18 *The St. Louis Home Front: World War II in Remembrance*—features demonstration of popular dance during the era. History Museum's Children's Summer Series, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Free.
- 20 *Summer Children's Series—Fads and Fashions of the Forties*—the History Museum education staff members show what well-dressed young people wore during the era. 10:30 am. and 1:30 p.m. Free.
- 28th Ward Meeting—Place to be announced.
- 21 City Players of St. Louis presents "Laughing Stock" by Romulus Linney. Productions are in The Old Coronado, 3715 Lindell. For reservations and performance dates call 361-2211. Thru July 7.
- The Gateway Festival Orchestra's summer concert season begins at 8 p.m. in the Brookings Quadrangle at Washington University. For information on other concerts call 727-6876.
- 22 **First Annual DeGiverfest**, 5900 block of DeGiverville. 11:00 am to 6:00 p.m. See front page story.
- "Fastest Thimble in the West"—SDCC Dinner Theater, New City School, 7:45 p.m. Call 862-5122.
- 23 "The History of Forest Park and Its Institutions"—Karen Goering explores the history of the institution founded in 1866 at 2 p.m.; St. Louis Art Museum, Forest Park, Free
- Michael Johnson and Zella Jackson Price**, West End Arts Council concert series, Four Corners Plaza, Kingsbury at Des Peres. 4-6 p.m.
- 25 *Poster Propaganda*—The History Museum's education staff show examples of the colorful propaganda posters displayed in the U.S. during the 1940s; 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Free.

# Summer Camps

## About In Area

### Breitmayer Summer Camp Opens June 17

The Breitmayer Community Ministry Summer Camp will begin on June 17 and will continue through August 9. The Summer Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Extended hours are available until 5:50 p.m. for an additional fee.

Planned activities include music, arts and crafts, storytelling and exercise.

Registration is open to ages three through thirteen. Call Laura Wright, 863-8900 for more information.

### COCA Camps For Performing And Visual Arts

Registrations are being accepted for summer performing and visual arts programs offered at the Center of Contemporary Arts (COCA), located at 524 Trinity Avenue in University City. Full day and half day camps for children ages 6-14 include *Hurray for Hollywood!*; *Circus Flora Comes to COCA*; *Myth Magic: An Exploration of the Cahokia Indian Culture*; *Theatre Arts*; and *Ballet Arts*. In addition, weekly classes are offered in dance, theatre and the visual arts.

Camps are offered Monday through Friday in two-week segments throughout the summer, beginning June 17. Tuitions range from \$95 for half-day programs to \$195 for full-day programs. After care activities are offered until 5:30 daily for children of parents who work outside the home. Classes are offered daytime, evening and weekends throughout the summer. For further information, or to receive a brochure, please call 725-6555.

The Center of Contemporary Arts (COCA) is a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization committed to the creation, presentation and display of visual and performing art. COCA provides office, rehearsal, performing and exhibition space to artists, and performances and educational programs for the community. COCA is dedicated to encouraging the development of new and original work by local and national artists.

- 27 Summer children's series: *Everyday Life on The Home Front*, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. History Museum, Forest Park. Free.
- 29 Lynn Rubright, storyteller, dramatizes the 1939 sharecroppers' protest in Missouri; History Museum, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., also June 30, 2 p.m. Reservations requested—call 361-9265. Free

## July

- 1 "Between The Light And Me," color photography by Tiffany Sutton will be exhibited at Componere Gallery, 6509 Delmar, U. City Loop. Reception for the artist July 5 from 7-9 p.m.
- Pet Photo Contest** begins at the St. Louis Public Library Kiosk. See related article.
- Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meeting**, 7:30 p.m., 6010 Kingsbury.
- 5 Theatre Factory St. Louis presents "The Philadelphia Story"; Edison Theatre; 8 p.m.; Call 832-1919 for ticket information, dates and times of performances. Through July 21.
- 22 "Crossing The River"—Commissioned by KidsPlace: St. Louis in partnership with CASA Teen Performance Workshop. Call 863-3033 for performance times, locations & ticket information.
- 27 **28th Ward Picnic**, Forest Park, pavilion near the bike trail.

### YWCA Offers Summer Day Camp

While most area schools prepare to break for summer vacation, many parents find themselves searching for that ideal, safe and affordable summer youth camp.

The YWCA of Metropolitan St. Louis offers just that—the Summer Day Camp Derricotte program for children ages 5 through 12. These co-ed day camps provide children with educational fun as they make new friends and learn skills that build self-esteem.

The Summer Day Camp Derricotte program is held at various YWCA's and other off-site service centers. A staff of well-trained, qualified YWCA counselors supervise the campers to assure their well-being.

Activities include arts & crafts, dramatics, swimming, sports, games, field trips, videos, roller skating and more. A nutritious lunch will also be provided. A YWCA membership is required from all day camp participants. For more information on the dates, fees and locations of the YWCAs summer camp please call 531-1115.

### Vacation Bible School At Grace And Peace Fellowship

Grace and Peace Fellowship, 5574 Delmar, will be having a Vacation Bible School Saturday, June 15 and Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Children ages kindergarten through 6th grade completed are welcome.

This year's theme is "Summer Seaquest," the story of Jonah. Some of the activities in each fun-filled, fast-paced day's voyage are singing "seaquaster chancies" during "casting off and docking," participating in the "perils of Jonah contest," and listening to the "probing the depths" story-teller.

The program is free, though donations are taken at the closing Celebration Friday night. For more information call Mary Wimmer-Brown, 726-1848.

# \*\*\*\*\* Neighborhood Festival of Music \*\*\*\*\*

Friends and neighbors! Dust off your lawn chairs and picnic baskets and mark your calendars for the month-long festival of music at Four Corners Plaza, Kingsbury at DesPeres. On four consecutive Sundays from 4-6 p.m., the West End Arts Council, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and radio's KDHX will sponsor music on the plaza by a wide variety of St. Louis musicians. The festival is designed to celebrate the talent and diversity of our city with music ranging from jazz to bluegrass, to gospel and blues. In addition, Lori Diefenbacher, celebrated children's recording artist will give a special performance for children and families on Saturday, June 15 at 10:30 a.m.

The **Willie Akins Ensemble** will perform the first concert on June 2nd. One of St. Louis' foremost jazz musicians, Willie Akins plays tenor and soprano saxophone. For many St. Louis jazz listeners, Akins is the master jazz stylist in the city. He always plays with remarkable consistency, leading the listener through a demonstration of his wide-ranging versatility on the saxophone. He moves easily from a lyrical interpretation of Ellington's "Sophisticated Lady" to hard bop, a bubbly bossa and the blues. Most importantly, Akins performs in a style that is distinctly his own, in a voice ever graceful, helping to keep the rich tradition of this music alive in our city.



Willie Akins.

On Sunday, June 9, the Plaza will echo with the distinctive blues of **Doc Terry and the Pirates**. Born in Sunflower, Mississippi in 1921, Terry Adail, more commonly known in the blues world as Doc Terry, started to play the harmonica at the age of 12. He has been active in the blues scene since the late 40's playing at times in his career with blues legends: Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, Yank Rachel, and Henry Townsend. He has written and recorded such songs as "Things Can't Stay the Same," "Dr. Boogie," "Rock with Doc" and "Hoo-Do Blues." Doc currently performs with his band Doc Terry and the Pirates which features Patti Thomas, vocals, Thomas Johnson on lead guitar, Nathaniel Thomas on drums, Johnnie Coleman on Keyboard and Don Westerholt on bass. Doc has been playing blues in St. Louis for over 40 years and is today considered an integral part of our St. Louis music heritage.

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The ILL-MO Boys.

**Curtis Buckhannon and the ILL-MO Boys** will set your feet tapping on June 16th with traditional old-time fiddle and ragtime tunes. Buckhannon was born and raised in Ferguson. He and his brother, Dennis, formed one of the earliest and longest-lasting old-time string bands in the area, "Cousin Curtis and the Cash Rebates." They have performed throughout Missouri from the early 70's and have become popular radio and TV entertainers appearing on Channel 9, KDHX, KCLC and KWMU. Buckhannon now plays a lot of mandolin with the "ILL-MO Boys" and the June 16th performance promises to be a lively combination of the two groups. Rick Hibbs from the original "Cash Rebates" will be playing the banjo and guitar. Geoff Seitz, once of the "Cash Rebates" and now with the "ILL-MO Boys" will play fiddle. Geoff is also an accomplished violin maker with his own shop here in St. Louis. Buckhannon will round out the trio for some foot-stompin', down-home string band music.

On June 23rd recording artist and gospel vocalist **Michael Johnson** will perform with guest artist **Zella Jackson Price**. Minister Johnson is a St. Louis native who released his first album in 1985 entitled "The Michael Johnson Singers, A Worldwide Singing Ministry." This recording received national and international recognition from the "Midem Music Festival" in Cannes, France and magazines such as *Cashbox*, *Black Radio Exclusive*, and *Billboard*. He has worked musically and vocally with such artists as Luther Ingram, Lois Snead, The O'Neal Twins, and Zella Jackson Price. Recently Michael Johnson rehearsed his first solo recording entitled "I'm Happy With Jesus Alone."

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## Art Doors To Open September

The West End Neighborhood Arts Council unlocks Art Door Day for Skinker DeBaliviere residents this September. It's designed to bring families and neighbors together. On Art Door day, families will turn their front doors into works of art. Everyone is then encouraged to stroll up and down the blocks looking at their neighbors' art and socializing. Food and fun is also planned. The exact day and times will be announced later. If you're interested in helping open Art Door Day, please call Nancy Farmer at 862-5122.

Off. 367-6100  
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Doc Terry and the Pirates.

## Skinker DeBaliviere Homes Featured In Post-Dispatch

by Rochelle A. Fortier Nwadibia

Recently the homes of two Skinker DeBaliviere families were featured in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*—the Ellerson's and the Hoerr's.

Skinker-DeBaliviere residents Sharon and Anthony Ellerson of the 5700 block of Waterman were featured on Sunday, May 5th, in the Style section, and again in the Postscripts section later that week.

Anthony Ellerson felt that his wife had done an excellent job of decorating their home, and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* apparently agreed. The article featured several photos of their home, including one of the Ellerson family, Sharon, Anthony and Tony, in their beautifully decorated living room. The article did not state that the Ellersons reside in Skinker-DeBaliviere, however many neighbors recognized the picture of their home.

The Ellersons have proven themselves to be true urban pioneers. They've repainted, stripped wood, replaced windows, and landscaped their home since moving into the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood in 1985. Sharon Ellerson is a nurse, and Anthony a computer analyst. Their son Tony attends Mason Magnet school.

Longtime residents Tom and Karleen Hoerr were featured in the Real Estate section on April 26. Displayed were photos of their sun room, the "unique" kitchen, and interesting clock collection.

Karleen Hoerr is a real estate agent for Feinberg Realty and past president of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Her husband Tom is the headmaster at New City School, and noted "In Your Ear" columnist for the *Times*.

Whatever your tastes in music may be, there is something for you in June on the Four Corners Plaza (Kingsbury at DesPeres). Bring your friends and neighbors to hear some of St. Louis' finest musicians. Bring your picnics and lawn chairs to relax and enjoy Skinker-DeBaliviere on summer Sunday evenings. All concerts are free and open to the public. Donations to help us raise required matching funds will be greatly appreciated. For more information call 862-5122, weekdays.



Michael Johnson.

In addition to the four Sunday concerts, **Lori Diefenbacher** will perform specially for families and children on Saturday, June 15 at 10:30 a.m. Lori is an entertainer and singer who has two cassette tapes out for children: *These are My Shoes* and *Nature Sings!* Her musical background started in her early years and today she sings and plays a variety of unusual musical instruments including the guitar, musical saw, jaw harp, and spoons. Lori also has a Master of Arts in Teaching and has taught Spanish and Environmental Education for all ages.

She just finished teaching a course, "Making Music in the Classroom" for a graduate program at Webster University. And she is writing a book with her sister, Wendy Hyman, for Harper and Row entitled "Singing USA: A Springboard to Culture." When asked about her work she says, "What sets me apart from other children's songwriters is that I don't try to pretend I'm a kid or that I know what's going on in the minds of kids. I try to present music to kids in what I consider a mainstream or adult way."



Laurie Diefenbacher.

  
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# Once, Twice, Three Times A Lady



Photo by Mary Ann Shickman

Half-Time Bender strutting her stuff.

by Mary Ann Shickman

The attractive young lady pictured here is Half-Time Bender who invites all of you to submit your best photo of your pet to the annual Kiosk contest. Half-Time received her name after being born during the half-time of the Super Bowl.

The pet picture contest begins July 1, 1991. Bring a photo of your dog, cat, bird or aardvark to the St. Louis Public Library Kiosk. This year a new category has been added: the best pet and person picture. Other categories are: best looking dog (male and female), best looking cat (male and female), funniest dog and cat, and most unusual pet.

## "Fastest Thimble In The West"

Continued from page 1

years and it should be the best ever, but it will take many volunteers to make it happen. The 1974 production was successful, but the 1991 production should be a smash. You are needed. There are jobs for those who have just a little time to give and there are jobs for those with a little more time to give. Get up right now, go to the phone and call 862-5122. Volunteer your time and help to make this production one that carries on in the tradition of "Last of the Ghastleys (1975), No Opry at the Opry House Tonight (1976), Virtue Victorious (1977), Penelope, Pride of the Pickle Factory (1986), and West of Pecos (1988). Call 862-5122, volunteer and order tickets for yourself and 15 or 20 of your closest friends. You won't want to miss the all singing, all dancing, 20, count 'em, 20 gorgeous girls and a great evening of entertainment and celebration with your friends and neighbors.

Remember: 862-5122.

Dr. Stephen Brammeier, owner of the Kingsbury Animal Hospital, and Georgi Fox, insurance agent and animal trainer, have volunteered as judges for the fourth year. Prizes will be mugs from Classical Coffee Company and pet food from Dr. Brammeier.

During June, a collage by Mary Ann Shickman of Firehouse 30 firefighters during work and play will be on display in the Kiosk window. Over the years the firefighters have been excellent patrons of the Kiosk and have donated their time to many sidewalk parties.

The summer reading program will begin June 1st with a kick-off party at the main branch of the St. Louis Public Library at 1301 Olive Street with prizes, outdoor activities and entertainment. Register for a summer reading club between June 1 and August 31. Children may borrow books from any public library location and report reading progress on work sheets. Children must complete fifteen or more books and non-readers must have thirty or more books read to them by August 31. After finishing the program, besides the fun and education received from the books, children will get a certificate and an invitation to a party at the Kiosk.



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# Parkview Agents Elected

Five new agents were elected and five retiring Agents were honored at the Parkview Annual Meeting on Monday, May 20. The twelve Agents for Parkview now are:

- George Genung, President
- Mary Fleener, Vice President
- Bryan Gerard, Treasurer
- Tom Knoten, Secretary
- Linda Arnold
- Ted Fanson
- Jim Guyol
- Karen Keaveny
- Randy Lipton
- Jim Merlo
- Xenia Naert
- Richard Ward

Silver trays were presented to retiring agents Nancy deBettencourt, Lynne Hayden, Bob Horner, and Mary Wright.

Genung announced that in honor of retiring agent Sandy Rothschild's many years of work on behalf of Parkview, the park at Skinker and McPherson was being renamed "Rothschild Park."

Other business at the meeting included presentations by Sgt. James Anderson of the St. Louis Police 7th District and Nancy Farmer of SDCC and standing committee reports. Residents will receive a questionnaire in the next newsletter about Center Gate options, and are asked to return the forms promptly.

Jim Merlo and Sandy Rothschild discussed a proposal to establish a "Neighborhood Improvement District" that would fund replacing the streetlight system. An analysis will be completed by fall and sent to the entire neighborhood then.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Patricia Chavez Wins National Award

The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Patricia M. Chavez, 60XX Washington, has been named a United States National Award winner in English, Science, and Leadership. This award is a prestigious honor very few students attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes less than 10% of all American high school students.

Patricia, who attends Incarnate Word Academy, was nominated for this National Award by her teachers at the school. The Academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusive recommendation

of teachers, coaches, counselors or other school sponsors and upon the standards of selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, and dependability.

Patricia is the daughter of Juan and Kiki Chavez of 60XX Washington and the granddaughter of Bill and Pat Schiller of 63XX Waterman.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Crystal Wilson Leaving Kiosk

Crystal Julienne Wilson, shelver at the St. Louis Public Library Kiosk at Des Peres and Kingsbury, will be leaving the Kiosk after this summer. Crystal is graduating from St. Elizabeth's Academy with honors, and will attend Northwest Missouri State University next fall. She has received two academic scholarships, the Regent's Scholarship and the Minority Achievement Scholarship, and plans

to major in Computer Information Systems.

Crystal is the daughter of Tyrone and Gabrielle Wilson, 61XX McPherson. In addition to her year's work at the Kiosk, she also works at Naugles Restaurant.

Mary Ann Shickman, Kiosk librarian, said, "Crystal has been innovative and creative in her work here. We really will miss her."



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## Crossroads JV Chess Team Victorious At National Tournament



Members of the Crossroads junior varsity chess team, which won a first place trophy for novice division three.

The junior varsity chess team at Crossroads School returned victorious from the 1991 national chess tournament with a first place trophy for novice division three.

Individual honors went to JV eighth grade team members Tom Robinson for placing 12th, Matt Barrett for placing 14th, and Josh Frank for placing 33rd and ninth grade team members Justain Vliestra for placing fourth and Harley Wieselthier for placing 20th, out of 300 participants in their division.

Over 750 participants representing schools from across the U.S. played in the tournament held in Atlanta, May 3-5. Other members of the Crossroads JV chess team include seventh grade students Walter Street, David Tucker, Justin Bisher, Ande Wilson and Josh Ryan.

Crossroads School, located at 500 DeBaliviere, is the only private, non-parochial high school in the City of St. Louis. It provides college preparatory education for grades seven through 12.

## Gateway Festival Orchestra Presents Summer Concerts

The Gateway Festival Orchestra's summer concert season begins with a benefit performance at 8 p.m. June 21 in the Brookings Quadrangle at Washington University. Baritone Jay Willoughby and pianist Paul Laubengayer will be featured in selections to be announced. Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students, senior citizens and Washington University faculty and staff.

The remainder of the season will include four Sunday evening programs, free and open to the public, at 8 p.m. July 7, 14, 21 and 28 in Brookings Quadrangle; and chamber music presentations in the university's Graham Chapel at 8 p.m. July 8, 15, 22, and 29. Admission to the Monday concerts is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students, senior citizens, and Washington University faculty and staff.

## Festival Of Animation At COCA

The Festival of Animation will have its St. Louis premiere showing June 14 through June 23 at COCA. This traveling film festival is the only animation package featuring all of 1990's Oscar Nominees for "Best Animated Short" as well as the 1989 Oscar winner.

Veterans of the animation industry, Mike and Spike of Mellow Manor, Inc., and Blake Vonder Haar (a Webster Groves native) and her Los Angeles based Mondo Movies have gathered over fifteen films from eleven countries.

Ticket prices range from \$4.00-\$6.00 and are available in advance through Metro Tix outlets or by phone at 534-1111. For showtimes and schedule call 863-1004. For further information call Blake Vonder Haar at 962-5251 or David Kinder at 968-7487.

## Macho Menus: East Coast Grill Corn Bread

Howard Nathanson lives in the 62XX block of Washington, with his wife, Anne Patz, and two daughters. He can create other good menus beside the one below: Howard teaches computing at UMSL. He also performs consulting services for Macintosh users.

### by Howard Nathanson

The calendar says June but the thermometer says we are knee deep in Summer. Why talk about corn bread? I want to talk about corn bread because I love to eat barbecue in the Summer, but I can't stand the white bread many restaurants serve with it. The wonderful sauces we concoct deserve a better fate than that! In scouring through many cookbooks I discovered a wonderful recipe for corn bread that serves as a perfect accompaniment for barbecue. It is moist and very flavorful and can sop up any sauce you can dish out. The fact that it is simple to prepare is secondary. The following recipe comes from *The Thrill of the Grill* by Chris Schlesinger and John Willoughby (William Morrow, 1990). Suggesting a bread to serve with the barbecue is much less dangerous than suggesting how to cook the barbecue itself (although if you're interested, there is a delicious

"Missouri Style" recipe in the same book). The recipe follows, I never said it was lo-cal, but it sure is tasty!

- 4 Cups all purpose flour
- 2 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 Tablespoons baking powder
- 4 eggs
- 2 1/2 Tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 cups milk
- 1/2 cup melted butter

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F.
2. Lightly oil a 2" x 12" x 8" pan.
3. Sift together the flour, cornmeal, sugar, salt, and baking powder.
4. In a separate bowl, mix together the eggs, milk, and vegetable oil.
5. Pour the wet ingredients over the dry ingredients, then add the melted butter. Stir until just mixed.
6. Bake for approximately 1 hour or until a cake tester comes out clean. The corn bread should be brown on top when done.



Beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, a Pow Wow and Native American Fest will be sponsored by the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the Missouri Historical Society. The event, on the grounds of the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park, will feature performances by Native American groups, traders selling in booths, storytelling, face-painting, and craft activities for children. For more information call 361-9265. Above, a Native American in traditional costume.

## Stella Maris Sponsors Garage Sale June 8

The Stella Maris Child Center Parent Organization will be sponsoring the Second Annual Garage Sale, Saturday, June 8, 1991 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on their DeBaliviere parking lot. This year's sale will be expanded and will include clothing, small appliances, books, toys, elec-

tronics, furniture, kitchen accessories, garden equipment and decorative arts. Stella Maris, located at 5654 Delmar, has been serving the St. Louis community since 1944. Stella Maris is proud to be a member of the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

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# Mary Ann Shickman, Organizer At The Kiosk



Mary Ann Shickman.

by Linda Pryor

The tiny structure at the corner of Kingsbury & Des Peres seems intimidating from the outside by the very smallness of the structure; one pictures oneself inside sneezing from the dust of too many books packed too tightly together and tripping over other patrons to cramped for easy browsing. All this is presided over by a harassed librarian who frowns darkly at anyone who stays too long.

This image is quickly dispelled once inside the Kiosk. It seems to have the proverbial rubber walls that stretch to accommodate as the library fills up. The Kiosk is indeed full of books, and patrons which are directed as needed by the librarian, Mary Ann Shickman. Mary Ann brings a warm, vibrant presence to the Kiosk. On any given day a typical scene may include children sitting on the floor, looking through the large selection of picture books; someone else may be at the computer ordering books (which will be delivered to the Kiosk from other city libraries), while other patrons may be discussing new books or asking questions about one of the upcoming Kiosk-sponsored events.

Mary Ann believes, "A library should be a busy, happy place." To promote reading and to keep the neighborhood residents coming back, Mary Ann keeps a full calendar of library events. Every spring there is a Kiosk Carnival and birthday party on the sidewalk in front, extending onto the ample lawn on the south side of the building. Members of the local police and fire departments, themselves regular patrons, will be there. The firemen will have a "hook 'n ladder" for the children to investigate, and the policeman will be mounted on the horses which city children find so fascinating. In addition to the Carnival-Birthday Party, Mary Ann organizes a Christmas Party and a party for the children in the Summer Reading Program. All parties feature refreshments, dancing, games, story telling and prizes donated by local merchants. In July comes the pet photo contest. Throughout the year, Mary Ann writes for the *Times*. Her regular column features stories about Kiosk patrons, book reviews and upcoming library events.

Mary Ann attributes her enthusiasm for her outreach program to her college mentor, Sister Mary Dawling, the librarian at Maryville College during the period when Mary Ann was a student there. Mary Ann worked under Sr. Mary for 4 years until her graduation in 1954. Mary Ann describes Sr. Mary as a "real character, full of life, investigative and curious."

Following graduation, Mary Ann worked for the Welfare Department for a short period, then seized a job lead in California which allowed her to fulfill her dream of living by the ocean. While there Mary Ann continued her education at the University of California Campus at Berkeley.

Returning to St. Louis in the early 60's, Mary Ann became involved in the fledgling civil rights movement, participating in demonstrations with the Congress for Racial Equality. A highlight was meeting Dr. Martin Luther King, whom she describes as a warm, brilliant man.

During these years Mary Ann taught English at the junior high school level, then was hired as a librarian at St. Louis University. The University sent her to graduate school at Washington University where she eventually earned 18 graduate hours in library science.

Mary Ann supplemented her income and fed her interest in the arts by dancing in the chorus line at the Murry Opera and doing bit parts at the now extinct Empress Theatre. Mary Ann shared the stage with "past their peak" movie stars such as Margaret O'Brien who played there in "Peg O' My Heart."

In 1964 Mary Ann married Allan Shickman whom she accompanied to Iowa City, Iowa where Allan taught Art History. Mary Ann developed a career in real estate, eventually becoming a member of the Million Dollar Club. The Shickman's designed and built a beautiful home on a bluff overlooking the Cedar River. During the summers the Shickman's traveled extensively in Italy, Germany, Austria, England and Ireland. Mary Ann spent two years studying French at the Institute Catholique in Paris.

When Mary Ann returned to St. Louis in 1983 to attend her mother's funeral, she realized how much she had missed the diversity of urban life. Mary Ann says her years in Iowa have given her a deeper appreciation of the beauty of St. Louis. She particularly recalls being struck one evening by the charming picture made by an equestrian policeman riding down one of the lamp lit Central West End streets.

Mary Ann was hired by the St. Louis Public Library and assigned to the newly opened Kingsbury Kiosk. Divorced in 1987, Mary Ann currently shares her home with Octopussy, a Turkish long hair cat and Tyrone an alley cat—very large.

In addition to her pets, Mary Ann says the library patrons have become her family. She does not feel claustrophobic spending her days in the Kiosk, but she is "always looking out, watching people go by and thinking of ways to bring them in."

# 5700 Block Of Waterman Prepares For Beautification Contest



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Victor Saunders (left), current block captain of 5700 Waterman, and Charlotte Simpson, past block captain, display their Urban League Block Beautification Award.

by Rochelle A. Fortier Nwadibia

Once again, the residents of the 5700 block of Waterman prepare for the 1991 *Block Is Beautiful Contest*, and not without good reason. The 5700 block of Waterman has won the Grand prize and has a history of winning First prize for our area. Ms. Charlotte Simpson has continuously motivated the residents to participate in the contest. She was Block Chairperson the year the block won the Grand prize.

The grand prize is an all expense paid trip to the National Urban League Conference, which this year is being held in Atlanta, Georgia in July. Trophies are presented to the first, second and third place winners.

During the years 1987, 1988, and 1989, the Block won second, and third place, respectively, for the Area "A" Council. According to Ms. Simpson, first place for Area "A" Council has been awarded to other blocks to encourage their efforts. "The residents of the 5700 block of Waterman need no longer make the

efforts of others because their yards are established and well maintained year round," she states.

Each year around this time, the block takes special care to spruce up its already well manicured lawns for the beautification contest. Many of the residents enter their front and back yards in the contest. The judges look for cleanliness, green lawns, green back yards, painted houses, originality, flowers and other items that promote the general attractiveness of the yard.

"The yards should be ready by the first week of June, because the yards will be observed during the first three weeks of June," says Mr. Victor Saunders, current block Chairperson. The contest is sponsored by the *St. Louis Sentinel Newspaper*, Anheuser-Busch, and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. All block units in the city of St. Louis, East St. Louis and in St. Louis County that are actively affiliated with the Urban League are eligible to participate.



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