

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 23 No.3

SUMMER 1992

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Delmar Development Is a Link to the Future

by Jo Ann Vatcha

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and the Commercial District Planning Committee were recently awarded grants from the City of St. Louis and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company totaling \$60,000. In round figures, about \$7,000 will be used for banners and special events; \$23,000 will be used for trees and landscaping; \$30,000 will be used for matching grants to local businesses on Delmar. Eligible improvements will include sidewalks, awnings, windows and doors, landscaping, etc. Businesses located along Delmar between Skinker and DeBaliviere, as well as those within the Wabash Industrial Triangle, are invited to apply for the matching grants. A written plan and specific costs must be submitted and approved in advance of the work.

Interested business owners may contact Nancy Farmer, Executive Director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, 862-5122.

Delmar area businessmen were informed of the new program at a luncheon meeting held recently at the Wabash Triangle Cafe. Businessmen and women who attended were:

- * Dennis Townsend, Boulevard Cleaners
- * Bill Schiller, Colonial Carpet
- * Robert Parsons, Parsons Beauty Supply
- * Brian Hayden, Attorney
- * Gloria Montana, Happy Taco
- * Pat Papaisilape, Thai Cafe
- * Calvin Case, Wabash Triangle Cafe
- * Vincent Lindwedel, Pawn Shop
- * Barbara Rice, Palomino Lounge
- * Gary Robertson, Robertson Furniture
- * Katherine McGee, 6044 Delmar
- * Lynn Tran, 6100 Delmar
- * Mark Sanford, People's Clinic
- * Vincent Johnson, Johnson Realty
- * Robert & Mark Greenberg, Radiant Products

Director of Urban Design for the City of St. Louis Don Royse brought along several representatives of the City's St. Louis Development Corporation, which assists small businesses and commercial areas in the City, to learn about the neighborhood's and Delmar business owners' concerns and plans.

Architect Carlene Pederson presented a map of the area of Delmar between Skinker and Hodiamont marked with suitable places for trees to be planted this year. Business owners will be contacted prior to any planting, and plans are also being made for the edges of Delmar from Hodiamont to DeBaliviere. Pederson noted the importance of establishing a "vision" of what Delmar might become in the future and working toward that vision. She suggested visiting other commercial areas to clarify further what the desired outcomes for Delmar might include.

Nancy Farmer, Executive Director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, and the Council's President Catherine Forslund and Vice President Lana Stein were among the 25 persons who came to the meeting. Farmer noted that the Delmar Planning Committee, which was also well represented, had included business owners Dennis Townsend of Boulevard Cleaners, and Loretta Lloyd of the Sunshine Academy. Farmer introduced intern Julie Morris, who will work this summer with the business operators on the matching grant applications.

Debra Smith presented the results of her comprehensive surveys of Delmar business owners and of nearby neighborhood residents. Among the results were the following:



SDCC's entry from the "Where We Live" parade on June 7

•• Improve the physical appearance and establish a positive image for the District.

Make it look safer; address the crime issue was the response of 34% of the business operators interviewed.

Improve the public's perception of the District; this should include edge treatments along the street's edge, better street lighting, a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere and visible signs of the City's support through street and sidewalk repair. Fifty-three percent felt trees and flowers were the physical improvements most desired.

•• Capitalize on the volume of traffic through the District.

Vehicular: increase curb appeal through general clean-up of properties and facade improvements, landscaping, more attractive signage and the incorporation of banners.

Pedestrian: Increase public amenities, storefront activity for visual interest and promoting neighborhood-type businesses and services for nearby residents. Metro-Link

Continued on page 6

Richard C. Hart: One Man's Contribution to Urban Living

by Jim L'Ecuyer



Dick Hart would have liked the way the Skinker DeBaliviere area was so graciously portrayed in Robert Duffy's opening article of the "Where We Live" series in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Everyday section of Sunday, May 31, 1992. It shows our neighborhood in wonderful photos and tells stories of a diverse group of people that help to make our part of St. Louis what it is today. I, however, would have changed the opening title from "Skinker DeBaliviere's history goes back to the Chouteaus" to read "Skinker DeBaliviere's history goes back to Richard C. Hart."

From my perspective, I can look back twenty-eight years to a time when this community was threatened by the onslaught of urban blight: massive move-out by white home owners and renters; surge of crime; a very over-crowded and segregated public school; whole blocks of crumbling tenement-like apartments with literally no tenants' services; no enforcement of building regulations or codes; block busting real estate tactics; red-lining by FHA, banks, insurers, real estate brokers, etc.; an over concentration of the ill-conceived HUD 235 program by greedy real estate investors; negative media coverage; the making of another segregated St. Louis neighborhood. Complaints

to police and municipal offices often brought the retort, "Ya better move out of there!" These problems left unchecked would have prevented forever our west end area of the city from developing into the impressive neighborhood depicted in the Post-Dispatch article.

I had just met Dick Hart and was pulled by him into a rush of community action that is still racing forward today. Dick had lived in our Skinker-DeBaliviere community all his life and was planning to raise his family here. Hart was also committed to integration and was not going to move because of the color of someone's skin. Dick Hart was motivated by these simple aspirations.

Still in his twenties, with wife, children, and a law degree, he began to take seriously his part in the existing community organizations. He served at various elected offices over the years in the old Rosedale-Skinker Association. Dick Hart soon had me working in Rosedale-Skinker and its neighbor to the east, the Washington Heights Neighborhood Association. Through these early years of finding alley light captains, controlling dogs upsetting trash cans, and calling the city to enforce building codes, it became apparent to Dick Hart that these part-

time efforts, as noble as they were, could not stem the social and urban decay that had sickened so many large city neighborhoods across the country. I sat with Dick at Ollie's, a little bar at the corner of Delmar and Rosedale, after yet another aimless neighborhood meeting, when Dick said, "This part-time community effort is not working and will not work. My God, we are spending entire meetings keeping dogs out of trash cans, and the dogs are winning! We are not addressing the real problems. We need a full-time staff." From this point in mid-1965, Hart's self-appointed task was to organize a working alliance between two neighborhood associations, the three neighborhood churches, and Washington University, which by March of 1966 incorporated as the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. It is a great oversimplification to condense this incredible undertaking to a few written paragraphs.

By this time in Dick Hart's life, his friends and neighbors knew him by his integrity, fairness, sharp logic, wit, and humor. It was these attributes of leadership that allowed Dick to move

Continued on page 7

Candidates 1992

In past years, the Times has attempted to provide information to its readers regarding candidates in upcoming elections. This year, the Board has tried to do the same. Because of the sheer number of races and candidates, the effort involved in acquiring data, costs, and the lack of regular support staff, **The Times** limited its inquiries to three Democratic primary contests presumed to be of interest to its readers.

We do not mean to demean the concerns of Republican voters. However, in recent elections in St. Louis, Democrats have been dominant and the Democratic party has been decisive in selecting all elected officials save one. We have listed the names of Republican candidates who have filed below. In addition, we will cover both parties' candidates prior to the November election.

Inquiries were sent to candidates for Circuit Attorney, State Representative-57th District, and State Representative-64th District. Most of Skinker-DeBaliviere lies in the 64th District. The north-northeastern section lies in the 57th District. Each candidate was asked for a biographical sketch and a photograph. Following are the responses **The Times** received. (The names of candidates that did not send material are also included at the end of this article.)

Continued on page 4

Editor's Notebook by Lana Stein

Sometimes it takes an event of almost cataclysmic proportions to wake Americans and their government up to the extent of problems afflicting a segment of their community. Surley the aftermath of the verdict in the Rodney King beating case qualifies as such an event. Yet, even a brief passage of time can eclipse its importance.

The Kerner Commission warned of two nations in our country, separate and unequal. The quarter century since the report has proved commission members to be very accurate predictors. Many Americans are unaware of the less than equal society, except for unpleasant segments on the local news.

The hope for betterment of our condition if not for us, then for our children is an important part of our national legacy. Yet, that hope is ephemeral, especially for many African-Americans.

A life without stability, adequate education, and, most of all, employment should be unacceptable. Yet, many endure such an existence unnoticed and unmentioned until events such as the disturbances following the King verdict take place.

The particularly acute need for jobs in central cities—jobs that can support families—should have been made clear in recent commentaries. Those factory positions that supported so many new arrivals to American cities in earlier eras are no longer there. A substitute will not arise of its own accord.

The effects of joblessness on family life and values have been well-documented. In recent years, William Julius Wilson described the strong correlation between young adult male unemployment and crime, welfare case rates, and out-of-wedlock births. In 1940, Bakke's Citizens Without Work described the effects of joblessness during the Depression on white working class families. Here too the result was breakdown with rising alcoholism, divorce, and abuse.

The greatest irony in this tale is that the very size of the budget deficit—which has increased manifold since 1981—may prevent any significant effort to bring jobs to central cities. Without

decent employment opportunities, two nations, separate and unequal, will continue to exist.

Anheuser Busch Aids Yahoo Program

The Young Artists Hands on Opportunities (YAHOO) program's trial project in Skinker DeBaliviere has received a \$1,000 gift from Anheuser Busch. This program, administered by the West End Arts Council and funded in part by the Regional Arts Commission, consists of special classes taught by sculptor Bill Christman. Six neighborhood teenagers currently participate and are working on their own three-dimensional sculptures.

Contribute to Our Times

The "Where We Live" program, sponsored by the Missouri Historical Society, and Richard Hart's untimely passing have focused attention on the neighborhood's recent history. The *Times* welcomes articles from neighbors and institutional representatives who would like to relate their memories of Skinker-DeBaliviere. These articles would be used in future issues. Send to: The Times, 6010 Kingsbury, or call 721-7532.

Unique Workcrews

The Employment Reintegration Project, sponsored by the Shamrock Club of St. Patrick Center, can perform tasks such as building/grounds maintenance, painting, plastering or gutter cleaning. The purpose of the project is to enable homeless clients of the Center to build a work history. Bob Becker, the director, personally supervises every project and has over 25 years of construction experience. Call 621-1259 for more information.

SUMMER CALENDAR

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

July 13

June/July SDCC Board Meeting, 6010 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.

July 26

28th Ward Regular Democrats Annual Picnic, Forest Park, noon-6:00 p.m. Call Rose Storey at 727-1727 or Bruce Yampolsky at 454-1863 for details.

September 14

SDCC Board Meeting, 6010 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Now - July 15

19th Century African Art, St. Louis Art Museum.

June 24- July 3

Summer Youth Classes at St. Louis Art Museum, \$38.

June 30

Gospel concert. History Museum lawn, 6:00 p.m.

July

Four 4-day workshops in history for children of different ages. Fee \$25. History Museum. Call 361-9265 for information.

July 8-17 and 22-31

Summer youth classes at St. Louis Art Museum, \$38. Call 721-0072, ext. 298 for information.

August 3-7

History camp, grades 4-6. History Museum. Fee \$70. For information, call 361-9265.

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- 28th Ward Regular Democrats
- Neville and JoAnn Vatcha
- Brad and Marj Weir

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein
Business Manager: Marj Weir
Production Manager: Venita Lake

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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For complete list of sizes and rates, write

The Times, 6010 Kingsbury, 63112 or call 863-7668.

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 be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned or mailed to 6010 Kingsbury. Deadline for all copy is the 15th of the month.

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

Any pictures of illustrations submitted should be black and white.

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

Send all correspondence to 6010 Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 15th of the month or call 721-7532.

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Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir

The month of the rites of passage is upon us and we have congratulations to convey.

Laurel Meinig and Bob Brewster will be married on June 6th. They will make their home in the 5800 block of Nina Place. (Yes, we know that you are reading this after the 6th, but this isn't an invitation to the wedding anyway!)

On the same day Mary Frances Reilly, daughter of John and Joanne Reilly of Parkview, will wed John Daniel. Mary Frances is also the niece of Kathleen and Alan Hamilton. The Hamilton's son Dan will be home from Washington for the nuptials.

We are pleased to be able to announce the birth of Megan Elizabeth Cunningham, 7 pounds 11 ounces, on May 27. She is the first child of Maureen (Green) and Dave Cunningham, the first grandchild of Lu and Sam Green (61XX Westminster), and the fifth great grandchild of Lucille and Vincent Schoemehl (61XX McPherson). Megan kept Maureen waiting an extra twelve days past her scheduled arrival date, perhaps just to let her know who is now in charge.

Jill and Dan McGuire have welcomed home their eldest, Danny, from the Army at last. His tour of duty from April, 1989, to this May took him to Kitzegen, Germany. (Just south of Frankfurt) where he was in military air defense. He was qualified to use the Vulcan Air Defense gun (15,000 rounds per minute). He returns just in time to enlist in the political battles shaping up here on the home front.

Determined to make the rest of us feel elderly, a number of local young people have graduated from high school and college. The University of Missouri-St. Louis conferred degrees on three of our own recently. Chanaya Vatcha, of the 6100 block of Westminster, received her degree in elementary education, and both Alex Fox, 61XX McPherson, and Peter McCarthy, formerly of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, received degrees in political science.

Laurie Gotway, of the 6300 block of McPherson in Parkview, received her

Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Interior Design from Maryville College this spring as well. Her sister, Katie Gotway, and Chanaya's sister, Dina Vatcha, also commenced to a new level. They were 1992 graduates of Rosati-Kain High School. Katie is bound for Rockhurst College in the fall and Dina is entering the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Ben Breun (61XX McPherson) has graduated from Priory and plans to attend the University of Houston. Danielle Fanson (Parkview) received her diploma from Visitation Academy and Patricia Chavez (60XX Washington) earned hers from Incarnate Word.

Jason Dulick of the 6000 block of Pershing graduated from St. Louis University High School and has earned a scholarship to the University of Illinois. He had a celebrated high school football career; watch for word of his achievements at the U. of I.

To all those who have graduated this year but are not listed above: First, my apologies. Second, why didn't you call us? Third, and most important, tell us now and we'll put you in our September issue. Better late than never!

In other university-related news, Jim McLeod, 61XX McPherson, has been named the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Washington University—an excellent choice as anyone who knows Jim will attest. He has been a stalwart supporter and leader in the neighborhood, having served on the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council as a representative and as its president for several years. Congratulations to him and to the University.

There are signs of life in the real estate market again. We on 61XX Westminster have some new neighbors. Jim Ackerson and Ann Jabusch will move into the former home of the Gornetts and Louise Cunane and Lee Brammer will settle in the former home of the McAuleys. We welcome them and offer good wishes to those who are moving on.

As usual, we of The Times will be on hiatus until September. However, you should still pass along your news for inclusion in this column then. Send your items to Marj Weir, 6120 Westminster, 63112, or call 863-7558.

5700 Block of Waterman Wins Grand Prize in 1991 Block Is Beautiful Contest

by Rochelle A. Fortier Nwadia



5700 Waterman residents Cody Haynes, Co-chairperson Benona Haynes, and Chairperson Victor Saunders

Once again, the residents of the 5700 block of Waterman have captured the grand prize in the Block Is Beautiful contest. The contest is held annually and is sponsored by the Urban League, Anheuser Busch, and the Sentinel Charities.

Mr. Victor Saunders, block unit captain for the 5700 block, accepted the grand prize on behalf of the block unit. Mr. Saunders enjoyed a trip to the 1991 Urban League annual conference held in Atlanta, Georgia.

The 5700 block participates annually in the contest and has previously won the Grand Prize. The city is divided into various "areas" for judging. Front and back yards may be included. Grand Prize winners must not only win for their area, but for the entire city. The 5700 block has traditionally won for "area A", with few exceptions. Area winners compete against each other for the Grand Prize.

The contest is held annually in June. The judging takes place the week of June 14. This year the grand prize will be \$500. Block units interested in participating in the contest must register with the Urban League.

The awards will be given out at a reception on June 29.

Mary Ann Shickman Retires from Library

The closing of the Kingsbury Kiosk on May 13 coincided with Mary Ann Shickman's last day of work for the St. Louis Public Library. It was somehow fitting, as Mary Ann was the only librarian the Kiosk had ever known. On Friday, May 20, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council hosted a reception to honor Mary Ann and to thank her for her devoted service and her many kindnesses over the years to both readers and their pets.

Lois Schoemehl presented Mary Ann with a Proclamation from the Mayor. Bill Christman, resident artist, gave Mary Ann a unique trophy. The Council's Executive Director, Nancy Farmer, organized a lovely buffet for council members and friends who came to say thank you and to wish Mary Ann well.



Where Art Thou, Romeo?

Notice: Information Sought in the Strange Disappearance and Return of Romeo, longtime houseguest of the Weirs, 6120 Westminster.

On April 30, 1992, Romeo did not return from evening rounds for his breakfast. This was immediately viewed as suspicious as Romeo values food as highly as does Paul Prud'homme and has thereby achieved a comparable girth. It has long been suspected that he maintains a bigamous relationship with another family in the neighborhood, which might account for the extra calories he appears to have taken in somehow.

True alarm did not set in right away with his hosts, however, as occasionally even a cat whose amatory urges have been surgically curtailed will take a two or three day vacation.

After a few days, concern grew to anxiety and the alley-to-alley search began. Shamelessly calling his name at garage doors, over fences, and even into the sewer opening, the mother-figure combed the neighborhood describing the absent lodger and seeking wit-

nesses to his activities on or near the day of his disappearance. Though several were helpful and all were sympathetic, no one could shed any light on his whereabouts.

The inquest turned then to the authorities who deal with the four-footed orphans of the storm. The Humane Society and the Animal Protective Association were gracious, taking a description of the missing fursion and comparing it with their current list of detainees. The city and county Animal Control agencies were too overloaded to do anything but suggest an in-person visit. By this time, an overactive imagination was spinning nightmares of biological experimentation, satanic devotions, and entrapment. When a week and a half had passed without so much as a ransom note, hopes began to die.

On the 14th day, two weeks exactly from the morning on which he first failed to appear, Romeo returned. There was hardly more fanfare when MacArthur returned to the Philippines.

Scarcely an ounce had been shed from his ample frame. His health seemed unaffected, his attitude unfazed. He had a few more drinks of water than is customary, but otherwise was the soul of composure.

He sticks determinedly to one explanation for his

absence. He insists that he was taken by aliens into their space ship where they performed several non-invasive physical and psychological experiments on him. He was quite frightened at first as he had watched many episodes of ALF and knew the snack uses to which felines were put by such beings. Fortunately it turned out that these aliens were not Melmackians and had selected him as a superior intelligence out of respect for his ability to supply all his needs and desires without work of any kind. (It always seems these aliens pick the smartest ones to abduct and interview.)

The Weirs harbor a doubt that this is the real explanation. If there is anyone who can help account for Romeo's disappearance/vacation during this time, please contact the Weirs (any of them will do) at 863-7558. To help you determine if you saw him, here is his description. He is a BIG, orange and white cat, orange tiger-striped on his upper body and tail and white on his belly, all four legs and throat. His face is mostly white with a blotch of orange on his mouth which gives him the appearance of having a "VanDyke" mustache and goatee. He is generally extremely friendly.

Whatever happened during those two weeks has made a real homebody out of him. He is currently commuting only between the couch and the kitchen.

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Candidates: (Continued from page 1)

CIRCUIT ATTORNEY

Jack Garvey is a graduate of St. Louis University and Rutgers University Law School. He served as Assistant St. Louis prosecutor from 1988-1991. He is currently Alderman from the 14th Ward and is in private practice at the firm of Sestric and Garvey. He also was the 14th Ward Committeeman from 1988-1991. Garvey's principal aim is the creation of a neighborhood liaison office with a prosecutor assigned to each neighborhood. This prosecutor would work with political and neighborhood leaders to pinpoint crime and go after the "neighborhood terrorist." He also would fund a witness protection program that would provide security and minimal relocation costs to witnesses to murder.



Bill Haas

Bill Haas is a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School. He spent 20 years in corporate law practice. He also served as Assistant Law Director in Cleveland, Ohio from 1977-79. He was a founding member of the Guardian Angels in Cleveland.

Haas' principal campaign proposal is to have a permanent special prosecutor to investigate all alleged instances of police brutality. He has declared that he will unofficially withdraw from the Circuit Attorney race in July because there are already too many candidates.



Dee Joyce Hayes

Dee Joyce Hayes is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and St. Louis University Law School. She has been a prosecutor in St. Louis for 11 years and is currently the First Assistant Circuit Attorney. She obtained the indictment against Edward Post in 1986, won life without parole sentences for the murderer of a TWA stewardess outside Talayana's in 1989, and obtained the conviction of Zein and Maria Isa for the murder of their daughter in 1991.

Hayes emphasizes the delivery of quality trial work that will ensure that criminals are convicted and sentenced appropriately. She wants the Circuit Attorney's office to help empower neighborhoods to make them safe again.



Nels Moss

Nels Moss is a graduate of St. Louis University and the Washington University School of Law. He has been a prosecutor in the Circuit Attorney's office since 1968. He has won 80% of his cases, including the conviction of Jerry Little who murdered Sister Pat Kelley.

Moss favors a diversion program for first offenders with no criminal history, identifying and specially pro-

secuting gang members who deal in drugs and street violence, and using the professional staff of the Circuit Attorney's office to advise and assist the juvenile court in certifying violent juvenile offenders for trial as adults.



Edward Sweeney

Edward Sweeney received his Bachelor's and Law Degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master's in Business Administration from St. Louis University. He was in private practice from 1981 to 1986. From 1986 to date, he has been Assistant Circuit Attorney and Special Assistant Circuit Attorney in St. Louis. He is also Democratic Committeeman from the 8th ward and a member of the Legislative Committee of the Missouri Bar Association. He is a Vietnam veteran.

In 1989, Sweeney secured the most convictions in the Circuit Attorney's office and his record was the best in 13 years.



Elbert Walton

Elbert A. Walton, Jr. is a member of the Missouri House of Representatives and a practicing attorney. He has also taught at the college level and worked as an accountant. In addition, he served as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of St. Louis. He has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, a Master's degree in Business Administration, and a Law degree.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE-64TH DISTRICT



Nancy Farmer

Nancy Farmer, a graduate of Illinois College, has been the Executive Director of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council for the past 7 years. She has directed a neighborhood-based housing corporation, assisted businesses locating in the area, increased community access to the arts, and improved safety through citizen-police interaction.

Farmer wants to strengthen the local-state partnership in economic and housing development, assure that every Missourian has access to affordable health care and insurance, supports strong enforcement of environmental protection measures, and believes that schools, primary through university level, should be adequately and fairly funded.

Caroline Burke Burke attended Mineral Area Commu-

nity College and St. Louis Community College. She lives in Tiffany/McRee Town and has performed secretarial and computer work on a contract basis. She has done volunteer work with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Mullanphy Community School, St. Margaret's Church and School, and St. Vincent's Home for Children.

Burke wants to set up a special telephone line and neighborhood forum to enable every citizen to talk with his/her representative, supports statewide health insurance, and tougher laws against drunk driving. She wants to create jobs for more stable neighborhoods and wants to give teachers more authority in the classrooms. She also wants lower student/teacher ratios and a coordinated effort to prevent dropouts.



Gaylard Williams

Gaylard Williams holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Rolla, a Master's in Business Administration from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and a law degree from St. Louis University. He practices law and was legal council to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for three years. He is active in a number of community organizations, including the St.

Louis Public School's Career Education Program, Northside Preservation Commission, and the Industrial Development Authority. Williams wishes to address major problems such as education, crime/drugs, affordable housing, rights of the elderly, the environment, employment, and the right to privacy.

Candidates Who Did Not Respond:

State Representative-57th

- O.L. Shelton
- Fred Williamson

State Representative-64th

- Al Belakhnoa
- Tim Cusick
- Tom Stoff

Circuit Attorney

- Michael Sheehan
- (Three candidates withdrew after our queries were sent out.)

Republican Candidates:

Circuit Attorney

- Curtis Crawford
- Kurt Schultz
- Richard Swatek

State Representative-64th

- Kevin Copeland

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting Minutes
May 11, 1992

Attending the meeting were: Directors A. Carr, F. Driscole, L. Hamilton, R. Johnson, S. Johnson, S. Polk, L. Stein, and A. Webb.

Guests were F. Driscole, D. Twellmann, B. VonBehren, and Operation Con-Serv officer J. Waits.

Stein called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.; a quorum not being present, the meeting was adjourned. Those present informally discussed the following items:

Treasurer's Report: G. Hayes has contacted Grace Methodist concerning becoming a contributing member. Those present discussed new ways of raising funds including holding fundraisers and asking for individual contributions.

S. Polk suggested that SDCC honor Central West End Bank for its efforts in

the community.

Beautification: D. Twellmann discussed the Blitz Day special project at Four Corners. Approximately thirty planters were planted with flowers and ornamental grass donated by residents and Operation Brightside, or purchased with donations to the committee. There is a schedule for watering the planters. Volunteers are needed.

Commercial District Planning Committee: There was a meeting today to decide how grant funds could be spent. The Committee has requested that the \$60,000 be allocated for banners, a 50/50 program for businesses to make capital improvements, and landscaping. A meeting with business owners within the next few weeks will cover the grant situation

as well as encourage business owners to create a business association.

Housing Corporation: 6036 Washington—This property is a high priority. A contract with Mark Gorman will be signed shortly which will begin the rehab.

Rosedale: The Rosedale Association held a meeting at New Cote Brillante Church of God. There was a good showing; thirty people with 15 who had not attended previous meetings. F. Driscole is resigning. Elections need to be held.

Director's Report

Library Kiosk: The library is moving to Skinker. The Kiosk will close May 22 to prepare for the move. Mary Ann Shickman, librarian at the Kiosk since it opened, is retiring at that time. There will be a reception honoring her May 22 in the SDCC offices. The new library will have more services including a fax and upgraded computer systems.

"Where We Live": The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere will have a float in

the parade, June 7. Those present discussed possibilities for a SDCC float.

Richard Hart Memorial Fund: Richard Hart, a founder of SDCC, recently passed away. The Hart family asked that donations be made to the SDCC for a special fund to honor his memory. This fund will be held separate from the general SDCC budget. It will be used for special projects such as the planting of trees.

Recreation Committee: A Recreation Committee has just been formed. Bill Collins, 57XX Waterman, will be the chair. The Committee's first project will be to support Operation Teamwork in its efforts to recruit children and adults to participate in sporting, educational, and cultural activities for the summer and beyond.

There followed a discussion of Lucter Park. There were complaints of broken glass and confrontations. N. Farmer will look into what the Parks Department can do to clean up the park.

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Delmar (Continued from page 1)

commuters: Target the needs and interests of the 2000+ estimated daily riders.

****Target residents of adjacent neighborhoods more actively.**

Resident Surveys indicate that 58% of the respondents could use business in the District, but choose not to, primarily due to building appearances and lot conditions.

****Form an organized Merchants Association specifically to address the concerns and goals of the District.**

A common denominator among most successful commercial areas is the involvement of a formal Business Association to make the voices of the businesses heard.

The Residents' Survey highlighted some of the reasons businesses are not better patronized and indicated ways this could be improved. For example, 2/3 of

those who responded said they used specific businesses because of "convenient location." But over half said there were other businesses they could go to but chose not to because of "dirty and unattractive building conditions" or because they "look dangerous." Sixty-one percent said the businesses could "do something to win the residents' business." Forty-four percent said businesses could do that either by improving building conditions/appearances or improving the image and sense of security.

To the question "Are there types of businesses that would be detrimental to future improvements?" 44% of the residents responded "alcohol-related." This was particularly interesting, because 58% of the business owners on Delmar felt that alcohol-related businesses (where that is their primary source of revenue) were to be discouraged. "The main com-

plaint was directed toward the results of that use, i.e., loitering, litter, late-night hangouts and broken glass." Again, both the business owners and the neighborhood residents agreed that the plan should discourage additional alcohol-dominated businesses on Delmar.

Of the specific desired physical improvements, over 60% of the surveyed neighborhood residents felt trees and plantings were first priority—again agreeing with business owners along Delmar. Over half mentioned the desirability of landscaping vacant lots as well. And a majority mentioned restaurants, more commercial retail stores, and a grocery store as desirable businesses which would help create a "positive impact on the revitalization efforts of the District."

Developing a vision of the type of shopping activity people want to see on Delmar east of Skinker will be the goal of

the expanded Businessmen's Group in the coming months. Working together with residents from both sides of Delmar, as well as consultants from the City's Development Corporation, the Delmar Business Owners will be forming a new association to increase communications among all the businesses and potential customers.

The Metro Link station, now under construction, will bring the focus of the larger community on "our" Delmar in the months—and years—to come. Delmar business owners recognize that this is the time for action, and neighborhood residents are eager to participate. To find out how to become involved in the planning, or for information on the upcoming grant program, call Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Executive Director Nancy Farmer, at 862-5122, or contact Charles Wilson, Jr., at 367-9726.

Times Past: An Historic Look at Delmar East of Skinker

by Ray Breun

I wrote my first piece on Delmar Avenue for what was then THE PAPER in the spring of 1981 (Vol. 12, #2). I concentrated on the area in the main part of town. This time I want to look at what used to be near Skinker and see if some lessons can't be learned there.

I received a yellow form requesting thoughts about the current Delmar Avenue expansion in our neighborhood like everyone else. I turned it over and read it several times. I find it hard to look at a current situation without realizing where it came from. The yellow form offered no opportunity to learn from the past. It only offered the chance to comment on the present. Well, I guess the past comes out no matter what we do, so let me rehearse some of it and see what emerges.

When Truett Polk and John Hogan named the road which divided their properties west of Grand Avenue in 1855, they had no idea of extending the name they gave it beyond Kingshighway. Since Polk was from Delaware and Hogan from Maryland, the name "Delmar" came to these two friends and neighbors easily. The City of St. Louis had just expanded its boundaries to Grand Avenue. Morgan Street was the way into town they were

used to using although Olive Street Road ran just to the south of Hogan's property. Just to the north of Polk's property ran the Road to St. Charles—historically the most significant road and street in St. Louis, now called Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard, and still called St. Charles Rock Road in the County.

The Bonhomme property is noted in the early St. Louis archives. Numerous transactions were made in that land by those who lived in St. Louis prior to the Louisiana Purchase. It was along the Missouri across from and south of St. Charles. The Bonhomme Road went out to that property from St. Louis. There were quarries, farmlands, and vinelands out there before 1800. The early Americans renamed almost all of the major roads. Bonhomme Road was renamed to Olive Street Road. It was the Road to Olive Street in St. Louis.

Olive Street Road now ends (or begins) at Skinker Boulevard north of Delmar. The coming of the railroad and the end of the World's Fair of 1904 caused that. Originally Olive Street Road went west to the Missouri on the high ground north around the wetlands at the River Des Peres. After the River Des Peres was encased beginning in 1896 and

the wetlands filled in by the debris from the World's Fair, only the railroad was left at the historic level of the land north of Forest Park.

Delmar, as laid out by Hogan and Polk, went as far west as Walton Avenue—three blocks east of Kingshighway. At that location a jog in the road took the traveler to Olive Street Road to continue west to the River Des Peres where the Road turned slightly northwest, crossed the river, and then turned west again. What is now Delmar from about Hamilton west was only put in after the World's Fair to hook up with the development begun in University City just prior to the Fair. There are some great old photos showing the mud on Skinker Road (the road to John Keith Skinker's farmhouse, Ellendale) when it ended at what is now called Delmar. It did not even go through to Olive Street Road which was a plank road paved at the time except via a turn toward the old River Des Peres channel on the north side of the swamp filled in after the Fair.

This means the area of Delmar from the Wabash Station west was originally Bonhomme Road which became Olive Street Road. From this comes the suggestion made at the Skinker-DeBaliviere

Council in 1984 that Delmar should again hook up with Olive Street Road. The stretch of Delmar west of Hamilton should be looked upon historically as a pedestrian area with local traffic only, all through traffic historically going to Olive Street Road.

The suggestion to return Delmar to its original location was made nearly 10 years ago. With the current look at the businesses on Delmar, it is clear they come from a slower and a more pedestrian mode. Rather than undoing this, it may perhaps be time to learn from the past.

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A Leader For A Change

IN YOUR EAR

by Tom Hoerr

Sarah was getting more frustrated each minute. Now she was in the lane behind a Bi-State Bus! The bus seemed to stop at every corner and always took up both lanes. She couldn't pass and she felt like the watch on her wrist was shouting the time to her.

She was supposed to be at Mary's house by 12:30 for lunch. Sarah was always a bit late, so Mary knew not to expect her before 12:40 or maybe even 12:45. But it was already 1:04 and the bus was stopping again!

She hit her horn out of frustration. It wouldn't make the bus move any faster, but it made her feel better. She was still at least five minutes from Sarah's. No doubt Sarah had a gourmet lunch for her. Some people could garden, some people were wonderful with their children, and some people could do just about anything. Mary knew that she was good with legal matters. She was one of the better young attorneys in the office, but that was about it. She was still single so she didn't know how she'd be with children of her own, and she had to admit, other people's kids made her nervous. And she couldn't cook at all. But Sarah was a wonderful cook.

She'd known Sarah for almost a year now. They had met at an exercise class. Two women going downhill towards thirty, fighting to be something they never were. They had gone together to aerobics three times a week for six months. After a while they realized that it really wasn't making any difference. Mary remembered the night that she and Sarah both admitted to one another that the only reason they were putting themselves through the grind was that they were afraid to let the other down! They'd laughed and opened a bottle of wine to celebrate. Sarah even took their leotards and burned them in the barbecue pit on the balcony. She called it their "liberation bonfire!" And then Sarah's husband, Ed, had died suddenly. Mary hadn't really known him well. He had a job where he traveled quite a bit. He mostly was home on Mondays and weekends. He seems like a nice sort, Mary thought. But she also noticed how much quieter Sarah was when he was around.

"Damn," she thought, "here's my chance." The Bi-State bus had actually pulled over to the curb to pick up an older lady. Mary gunned the Saab and shot past the listing bus. She made a left turn on Union Avenue, two more turns, and she was there.

Panting from frustration, without even locking her car, Mary ran up the steps to Sarah's apartment. It might have been her imagination, but she could smell something wonderfully spicy wafting into the stairwell. She tapped on the stained glass panel in the door.

"Just a minute," Sarah's voice called from inside the apartment. Mary sighed and leaned against the wall. There was something funny about Ed, but she could never put her finger on it. Sarah and he were happy, but something wasn't right.

The door opened and there was Sarah, perfect as ever. She was wearing a red apron that said, "At these prices, don't complain." Her black hair was pulled back

in a bun, just like she used to wear it for exercise class. "I'm sorry, L..." Mary began.

"Say no more," said Sarah, pulling her inside the apartment. "I knew you'd be late so I've had the casserole warm. Now I'll go turn it up. We'll eat in no time!"

Mary relaxed and gave Sarah a hug. She felt a bit guilty for not having come to see her sooner. Mary had been out of town when Ed died, and as soon as she heard the news she called Sarah, but the funeral was already over. It had been a private service, Sarah said, and they hadn't even published Ed's death in the papers. Mary remembered Sarah's comment, "We're from out of town, so no one really knows us, except you. Ed's business is still really stationed in Atlanta. Besides, it'd be too depressing to be at a funeral home and not have anyone even come." Apparently there wasn't any family for either of them. Mary hadn't understood all of this, but that's what friends are for, she thought, to accept even when they don't understand.

"Now have a seat on the couch, and I'll be back in a minute. I've already poured you a glass of wine." And Sarah was gone. Mary could hear her rustling around in the kitchen, and she took the opportunity to lean back on the couch and close her eyes.

"Why hadn't she gone to see her sooner?" she wondered. Growing up, she'd never really knew anyone who had died. In her early twenties there were a couple of family deaths, old relatives, and a young cousin who had tragically died in an auto crash. There were rumors that he was drunk. The car had gone off of the highway at three-something in the morning, and there were four empty beer cans in the front seat, but nothing was ever proven. At least Mary hadn't heard about it.

After Ed's death, Sarah had called her twice to chat, and they had talked quite a bit the second time, but Mary had felt awkward coming over to visit. She had asked Sarah about starting up exercise class again, but Sarah didn't want to do that.

Her thoughts were broken by the sound of a small bell. Sarah was in the doorway, without her apron, beckoning her to the table. "Why this is beautiful," Mary said, and it was true. The place settings and food looked like something out of a magazine. Sarah was an extraordinary cook.

They sat and began to eat, two friends who hadn't seen enough of one another lately. They talked about the tasty dinner ("one of my favorite recipes," said Sarah), the weather, clothing, politics, and their true common interest, Mel Gibson.

Afterwards, Sarah cleared the plates and it was time for some decaf coffee. Finally, Mary could stand it no more. She blurted out, "Sarah, how in the world can you go on like this without Ed?"

The silence grew louder with each passing second. Sarah said nothing. She swallowed, and gently wiped her lips with a pink napkin. "It's as if he never left. That's because he really hasn't."

Mary felt terribly awkward and started to apologize, but Sarah cut her off. "No, I'm glad you brought it up, Mary," she said. "You've been distant lately, and I know that Ed's death has bothered you. You haven't known

how to treat me, have you?"

Mary nodded, unable to say anything. Sarah continued, almost in a whisper. "Ed and I were very close, even though he wasn't here much. While his death was sudden, we were prepared for it. While we were dating we spent lots of time talking about death and how to go on when the other person wasn't around. We actually made a pact of things to do to keep the other's memory alive. I never told you this," Sarah took a deep breath, "but we used to fool around with Satanism when we first met. The Night Church believes in preparing for and accepting death in a different way than you're probably used to." Sarah suddenly stood and grabbed Mary's arm.

"Here, come with me," she said, and pulled Mary forcefully to the hall and into a room. "This was Ed's room. See!" Mary looked and saw a room that was clearly masculine: pennants from athletic teams, a couple of old clocks, and a soiled light blue sweater on a chair in front of a computer.

"That's Ed's sweater," Sarah said, "I haven't cleaned it, I haven't moved anything in this room since his spirit left." Sarah paused, but Mary said nothing. Sarah continued, her speech coming a bit more rapidly. "Each-morning I bring Ed his juice and toast, just like I did the days that he was home. Of course, he doesn't eat or drink it, but that's ok. I feel good bringing it to him. His flesh is gone, but his spirit is still here in this apartment. Can you feel him now?" Mary didn't know what to say, but Sarah wasn't waiting for an answer.

"Come look at our bedroom," Sarah went on, "I have his pajamas laid out like I used to do, and . . ." but Mary could hear her no more. Sarah had her arm in hand and was steering Mary down the hall, talking, but the words were a blur. This was a side of Sarah that she'd never seen, and it scared her.

They were almost running down the hall now, and suddenly Mary knew she couldn't go on. "Stop. STOP!" she shouted at Sarah. They both froze and then Mary began to back away very slowly.

Moving towards the door, Mary spoke to Sarah: "I know that you're under a great deal of pressure. And I'm sure that all of this helps you, but it makes me very uncomfortable. Ed's dead and I don't want to see his clothes or hear about food you prepare for him."

Sarah interrupted, "But his spirit is still with us and the flesh doesn't matter."

"I know, I know," said Mary, leaving the apartment. "I'm sure I'll be fine in a couple of days, but this is just more than I can take now. I never really knew Ed and that's the way I want to leave it."

The door slammed and Sarah sat on the couch. This evening certainly hadn't gone the way she'd hoped, she thought. She had felt that there was something special about Mary and this was to be her introduction. Maybe she'd wait a week or so and try again. But then she smiled, because the evening wasn't a total loss. Mary had gotten to know Ed more than she could ever imagine, thought Sarah. After all, Mary had asked for a second helping of her "family recipe" casserole. That was good, because there was lots more of Ed in the freezer in the basement.

Hart (continued from page 1)

In founding the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, Dick Hart changed the road to decline, and began our renaissance, providing our neighborhood with the conduit, forum, meeting place, and table at which a legion of community leaders have met and shared their inspirations and ideas on how to make Skinker-DeBaliviere a very special place to live. One such community leader is John Roach, who served on the early council for three years. Of Dick Hart, Roach recently said, "What is so remarkable in these very transient times is that one man can make such a unique contribution to his neighbors and neigh-

borhood and live his entire life in that same neighborhood."

Thank you, Richard C. Hart, for being a good neighbor.

Jim L'Ecuyer was the first Executive Director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and lives with his wife Glori at 5777 DeGiverville.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council has established the Richard Hart Memorial Fund, which will be used for special projects such as the planting of trees. Contributions may be sent to the Council office at 6010 Kingsbury.

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Learning About Our Neighbors: Richard Beitler Educating Against Many Odds

by Lana Stein



I first met Richard Beitler in early 1989 at a barbecue for new and soon-to-be residents on Nina Place. I was a little surprised when he told me he taught in East St. Louis. Although he acknowledged problems there, he was upbeat about his work and I admired his spirit.

Administration and Supervision at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. He receives this degree in August.

Richard Beitler works with at-risk students who come from low income backgrounds. They tend to utilize school as the focal point in their life. He feels that his job is "to help create an atmosphere of learning so that they can stay in school and not drop out." He noted that there are many hardworking, dedicated educators in East St. Louis working under tremendous hardship. Yet, that city may be at a turning point. "There are visible signs of clean-up in the city and new hope and vitality." He attributes this to the new mayor, the state's help with the restructuring of the city's finances, the expansion of the Jefferson Memorial, and riverboat gambling.

Richard calls the kids he works with in East St. Louis "throw-away kids." Throw-away because there is no national commitment to put resources in the cities. The tax base in St. Louis has to be improved in order to improve schools and other conditions. He wants greater parental involvement and is working on it, but it is hard to achieve. More than anything else, he says "East St. Louis needs jobs. Then comes economic security and self-esteem which transfers to the kids and makes them more positive about education."

Beitler chose to buy a home on Nina Place because of the central location. He earlier had rented a unit on DeBaliviere Place for 10 years. His home in Skinker DeBaliviere places him "only 5 or 10 minutes away from all points of interest." He had admired the care given to homes on Waterman and DeGiverville and wanted to be part of that tradition of city home ownership. He participated in one of the famous SDCC plays, "Too Many Nights in a Barroom," right after moving to the neighborhood. As time permits, he joins in neighborhood and ward activities. But, his major extracurricular activity is serving as vice-president of the condominium association. He is looking forward to the completion of the development and its being well-integrated to the neighborhood. He intends to "work closely with the developer and the alderman" to secure this end.

Richard grew up just outside Pittsburgh and attended a Catholic military high school, St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He received a B.A. in speech, theater, and English from Washington State University. He then traveled to Bitburg, Germany, where he taught speech and English to Army and Air Force dependents. He spent two years there and traveled extensively throughout Europe.

He then came to the St. Louis area in 1975. From 1975 to 1978, he taught English in the East St. Louis schools during the day and speech communication to adults at night.

From 1979 to 1990, Richard taught eighth grade remedial reading at the Hughes-Quinn Junior High School. In 1990, he became a Reading Teacher Monitor for a federally-funded Chapter I Reading Program at the Board of Education's central facility.

In the meantime, he earned a Master's in Education (Reading Specialist) from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1984. In 1990, he began a second Master's in

Don't Put BOATs in the Trash Dumpsters

Boats being put into the trash dumpsters wouldn't seem to be a major problem in the St. Louis area, even with our proximity to the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, but when we say, "Don't put BOATs in the dumpsters," we have something else in mind.

**BOAT stands for
Batteries
Oil
Appliances
Tires**

For these items to be recycled or otherwise disposed of properly instead of going into the landfill, they should be placed in the alley approximately four feet away from the dumpsters. The law prohibiting disposal into landfills and imposing fines will go into effect next year.

Remember also that large "bulk" items are picked up the first week of each month. Wait until the first of the month to put those old chairs and bed frames out into the alley. These items also should be placed far enough away from the dumpster that the truck can empty the dumpster and replace it without them falling over.

We seem to be getting better about separating the yard waste from the "landfill refuse," but some folks are still tossing plastic trash bags into the yard waste dumpsters. Empty the bags into the container and use them again—and again—and again. That's recycling at the simplest level.

Crossroads School Appoints New Head

Crossroads School has appointed Anne R. Spencer to serve as Head. Spencer is on the history faculty and has served as Associate Director of Admissions at Mary Institute and St. Louis County Day School. She is a graduate of Wellesley and holds Masters degrees from Columbia University and Washington University.

Nancy Farmer

is a proven neighborhood advocate who has led the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council for seven years.

Let's send Nancy Farmer and her experience to the Missouri State Legislature

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